

IN THE MATTER of the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

ANO

IN THE MATTER of the Hauraki Inquiry District

AND

IN THE MATTER of a claim by **Florence Te Paea Watene Gurnick; Mita Eparaima Watene; Billy Wi Te Koha Williams; Bill Wiremu Te Moananui; Ropata Te Wharetoitoi Rare; Harata McCaskill Williams; Toi Te Akeake and Aporo Hikitapua Reedy** on behalf of themselves and all the descendant whanau and hapu and the constituent whanau and hapu of the ancestor **TAMATEPO** of the **MARUTUAHU TRIBAL CONFEDERATION**

**STATEMENT OF CAROLYN WILLIAMS
IN SUPPORT OF WAI 970 CLAIM
Dated 10 June 2002**

1. My Name is Carolyn Williams.
2. I Descended from Tamatepo on my Father's side.
3. I was born in Coromandel.
4. My Nanny was Hera Maraea Tauteka.
5. I am 3rd child born to my Father Billy Wi. I came along after the war when dad worked on a farm in Waikawau Bay were my oldest sister and I were bom.
6. While I was growing up in the Colville area, I had my Nana, Aunties, Uncles and extended whanau, who told me of my Whakapapa, to Ngati Rongo-U iwi. As a child in the company of my elders I had freedom to gather kai moana, hunt on the land, camp and enjoy the use of our Whenua.
7. From the age of 15 my family lived and worked in Auckland. I married and had children. At various times I brought my children home for Holidays. Access to the whenua was not free as it was when I was younger but the holidays were still enjoyable.
8. In Auckland as my older children married and left home, I felt the need to return home as did my Father, Mother, Sister and older brother also returned home.
9. When my whanau returned to the Coromandel, we felt like strangers in our own whenua as there were no records or memory of our extended whanau being here.
10. An example of which was a planned family reunion at Waiaro X-mas 2000, at what used to be our favourite holiday place when we were children. It was at Ngati Rongo-U Reserve. 8 of our whanau group arrived from Auckland to join the Coromandel whanau for the reunion.
11. After being at Waiaro for several hours, Marcus Ward who's Father had happily let us stay there since I was a child, arrived with the police to have us evicted which caused loss of mana to our elders who had organised the reunion.

12. Since then I have gone out to find out what happened to stop us from using places we had always used.
13. I felt intense anger and deeply hurt that ancestral land no longer belonged to the whanau. Nothing in the past prepared me for this.
14. For the first time I experienced what it felt like to be Maori.
15. This single event galvanised me into action. I contacted other Rongo-U whanau and this is why I stand here today for my iwi.
16. I hope the crown recognises the pain that the loss of whenua in the 1870's is still causing today for our hapu of Ngati Rongo-U

CAROLYN WILLIAMS

DATED: