

**In the Waitangi Tribunal**

**Wai 207**

**Wai 785**

Under **the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975**

In the Matter of **the Northern South Island Inquiry (Wai 785)**

And

In the Matter of **a claim to the Waitangi Tribunal by Akuhata Wineera, Pirihira Hammond, Ariana Rene, Ruta Rene, Matuaiwi Solomon, Ramari Wineera, Hautonga te Hiko Love, Wikitoria Whatu, Ringi Horomona, Harata Solomon, Rangi Wereta, Tiratu Williams, Ruihi Horomona and Manu Katene for and on behalf of themselves and all descendants of the iwi and hapu of Ngati Toa Rangatira**

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**BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF TE ARIKI KAWHE WI NEERA**

**Dated 9 June 2003**

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## BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF TE ARIKI KAWHE WI NEERA

### Introduction

- 1 My name is Te Ariki Kawhe Wi Neera. I was born in Wellington on 12 September 1960 and I live in Karehana Bay, Porirua.
- 2 My parents are Ariki Paraaone Toaaingaa Wi Neera of Ngati Toa Rangatira and Aneta Nihipora Hiraina Pou of Nga Puhi me Ngati Kahungunu/Scottish and Welsh ancestry. I whakapapa predominantly to Ngati Toa Rangatira.
- 3 I am a direct descendant of Te Rauparaha. I am going to give evidence today relating to his illegal kidnapping and detention by the Crown, and the huge effect this had on Ngati Toa Rangatira as an iwi.
- 4 My Ngati Toa Rangatira whakapapa is as follows:

*Toa Rangatira*

*Marangaiparaoa*

*Kimihia*

*Te Maunu*

*Werawera*

*Pikauterangi*

*Te Rauparaha*

*Toitoi*

*Karoraina Tutari*

*Te Peehi Kupe*

*Ria Te Uira*

*Te Hiko o Te Rangi*

*Wi Neera Te Kanae*

*Matenga Te Hiko*

*Wiremu Pere Wi Neera*

*Paraaone Te Hiko*

*Te Ariki Wi Neera*

*Ramari Pirihiira Te Hiko*

*Ariki Paraaone Wi Neera*

*Ariki Paraaone Wi Neera*

*Te Ariki Kawhe Wi Neera*

*Te Ariki Kawhe Wi Neera*

## **Te Rauparaha**

- 5 Our tupuna Te Rauparaha was probably one of the most feared and hated Maori by Europeans throughout the country. But to Ngati Toa Rangatira and Ngati Raukawa, he was the most senior rangatira, and he was greatly respected by Maori throughout Aotearoa.
- 6 He was a master strategist and built very strong political allegiances with other iwi groups throughout his lifetime. He must have had amazing powers of persuasion, such that he was able to convince his people and a number of other groups to follow him from their homelands at Kawhia and Taranaki to a place they had never seen, purely on the strength of his word. He had a marvellous vision for the future of Ngati Toa Rangatira and would not be swayed in carrying out his goals for the iwi. He also knew that the future would involve contact with the pakeha and was extremely clever in establishing an extensive trading empire. It was his strength and his authority within Ngati Toa Rangatira, an iwi whose interests were constantly expanding under his leadership, that led Governor Grey to kidnap him in order to undermine his own and Ngati Toa Rangatira's authority.
- 7 His kidnapping at the hands of Governor Grey was in effect the catalyst of decline in the mana and rangatiratanga of Ngati Toa Rangatira, in terms of customary control over its conquered territories of Te Tau Ihu and Te Upoko o te Ika.
- 8 I will speak more about Te Rauparaha in my oral evidence on the site visit.

## **Kidnapping of Te Rauparaha**

- 9 My family has always retained a sense of great grievance and injustice over the events surrounding the kidnapping of Te Rauparaha, but we do not have a detailed understanding of how the Crown achieved this. My knowledge today comes from various secondary sources.
- 10 The oral traditions surrounding his kidnapping have unfortunately been lost to our whanau and Ngati Toa Rangatira, which I think may possibly be due to religious influences, as religion became the focus of some of the younger chiefs at the expense of their Maoritanga. I regret that I have to research my

whanau history in secondary sources, most of which are written in English by pakeha researchers.

- 11 Te Rauparaha was kidnapped from Taupo Pa by Governor Grey on 24 July 1846.
- 12 The kidnap operation was well-planned and carefully designed to prevent other Ngati Toa Rangatira from coming to assist Te Rauparaha. It must have been meticulously coordinated otherwise Grey would not have succeeded in outwitting Te Rauparaha, whose strategic thinking and prowess in battle was renowned. Speed and stealth were key features of the operation.
- 13 Grey ordered the *Driver* to race past Taupo Pa during daylight on 23 July, in order that the Ngati Toa Rangatira there would think the boat was heading south. Instead, it returned after nightfall and anchored off Porirua harbour. Te Rauparaha, who was believed to be 77 years of age, was living in a kainga close to shore.
- 14 At dawn on 24 July, Grey sent 200 armed men ashore to capture Te Rauparaha.
- 15 Te Rauparaha and his wife were in their whare when Grey's men reached him. He had been on reasonably good terms with Grey and did not immediately suspect that something was wrong. When told that he was a prisoner, he immediately rushed at his wife, thinking that she had betrayed him. He was grabbed by four of Grey's men, who held him down and dragged him to the waiting boat.
- 16 Te Rauparaha was apparently yelling "Ngati Toa! Ngati Toa!" throughout this ordeal, hoping that others in the kainga would be able to come to his rescue. But Grey's troops, all 200 of whom were armed, ensured that the Ngati Toa Rangatira were unable to even come close to their chief.
- 17 Four other chiefs were kidnapped along with Te Rauparaha: Wiremu Te Kanae, Hohepa Tamaihengia and two others. Apparently a young slave also insisted on accompanying Te Rauparaha.
- 18 They were taken onto the *Driver* where they were kept as prisoners. Grey is often said to have 'arrested' Te Rauparaha but in fact he was simply kidnapped – at no stage was he ever formally charged or put on trial. To this

day Ngati Toa Rangatira do not know why he was taken nor has there ever been any evidence of any crimes committed by our tupuna that would warrant such drastic action.

- 19 I will speak more about Te Rauparaha's kidnapping in my oral evidence on the site visit.

### **Military campaign against Ngati Toa Rangatira**

- 20 Te Rauparaha's kidnapping was only the first event in the Crown's military campaign against Ngati Toa Rangatira. It was followed by an attack on Ngati Toa Rangatira's other principal chief Te Rangihaeata, and Crown enforcement of public punishment for "rebel" behaviour. Finally Governor Grey effected the sale of lands in the Wairau and Porirua through coercion of younger Ngati Toa Rangatira chiefs. We believe that these events cannot be seen in isolation, rather that they were part of a strategy that was deliberately designed by the Crown to undermine Ngati Toa Rangatira authority on both sides of the Cook Strait.
- 21 Te Rauparaha's kidnapping was followed by a two pronged attack on Te Rangihaeata's base at Pauatahanui. Te Rangihaeata and his supporters, barely escaping in time, were then pursued up the Horokiwi Valley. Te Rangihaeata eventually had to take refuge at Poroutawhao with his Ngati Raukawa kin.
- 22 This was then followed by the coercive imposition of the law. Grey had one of the "rebel" chiefs publicly hanged at Porirua, and others were transported to Van Diemen's Land.
- 23 Once it was more certain that the senior leadership of Ngati Toa Rangatira had been undermined, the Crown then embarked on a scheme to purchase lands at the Wairau and Porirua. In the absence of both Te Rauparaha and Te Rangihaeata, Governor Grey was able to persuade the younger Ngati Toa Rangatira 'mihanere' chiefs to sell a huge block of land at the Wairau, land that Te Rauparaha had vowed he would never sell. They were coerced into signing this Deed without being able to take advice from their most senior rangatira, which makes it questionable whether the sale document was legally binding. I have also read that Governor Grey may have promised to release Te Rauparaha from captivity if the Wairau Deed was signed.

- 24 This loss of land, coupled with the effects of the Wairau Incident on Ngati Toa Rangatira, were the two major factors leading to the gradual decline of Ngati Toa Rangatira influence in Te Tau Ihu. It is interesting to note that neither of these events resulted from inter-iwi relationships, rather they were clashes between Ngati Toa Rangatira and the Crown.
- 25 I will speak more about the context of Te Rauparaha's kidnapping in my oral evidence on the site visit.