

IN THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL

**Wai 2180, Wai 1705, Wai 647, Wai 588,
Wai 385, Wai 581, Wai 1888**

IN THE MATTER OF

the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975 and the
Taihape: Rangitikei ki Rangipo Inquiry
(Wai 2180)

IN THE MATTER OF

a claim by Isaac Hunter, Utiku Potaka,
Maria Taiuru, Hari Benevides, Moira
Raukawa-Haskell, Te Rangiangoa
Hawira, Kelly Thompson, Barbara Ball and
Richard Steedman on behalf of themselves,
the Iwi organisations who have authorised
them to make this claim and the Mōkai
Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust (**Wai 1705**)

AND

a claim by Maria Taiuru and others for and
on behalf of Wai 647 Claimants (**Wai 647**)

AND

a claim by Isaac Hunter and Maria Taiuru
and others for and on behalf of the Wai 588
Claimants (**Wai 588**)

AND

a claim by Neville Franze Te Ngahoa
Lomax and others for and behalf of the
Potaka Whanau Trust and Nga Hapu o
Ngati Hauti (**Wai 385**)

AND

a claim by Neville Franze Te Ngahoa
Lomax and others for and behalf of Te
Runanga o Ngati Hauti (**Wai 581**)

AND

a claim by Iria Te Rangi Halbert and others
for and behalf of the Wai 1888 Claimants
(**Wai 1888**)

**Statement of Evidence of Richard Steedman
20 February 2017**

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1. Tena koutou katoa.
2. My name is Richard Steedman. I am a direct descendant of Winiata Te Whaaro of the Ngāti Paki hapū of Ngāi Te Ohuake.
3. I am currently employed as a Strategic Advisor to the Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust.
4. I wish to file with the Waitangi Tribunal a series of whakapapa that provide a clear basis for the mana whenua claims of Ngā Iwi Nui Tonu o Mōkai Pātea:
 - 4.1 Ngāi Te Ohuake
 - 4.2 Ngāti Hauiti
 - 4.3 Ngāti Whitikaupeka
 - 4.4 Ngāti Tamakōpiri.
5. Mōkai Pātea claimants rely on a wide range of oral tradition and documentary sources to support our presentations. We hold whakapapa books, waiata and mōteatea, and considerable material prepared by our Mōkai Pātea ancestors in preparation for, or outside of, the formal Native Land Court hearings.
6. Native Land Court minutes must be treated with considerable caution given the circumstances of the Court's processes, and the accuracy of recording. Therefore, Mōkai Pātea claimants rely on a painstaking process of verifying all kōrero against multiple sources to ensure accuracy.
7. A key source (among many) is the Blake series of whakapapa. Attached and marked **A** is a document bank of those sections of the Blake whakapapa that are relevant to our Iwi.
8. I have also researched extensively the significant period in our history, whereby the Iwi Rūnanga of our people made it abundantly

clear to the Crown officials what was required in order to affirm and recognise their tino rangatiratanga. I consider that this period is the basis for the deep sense of injustice and pain that is held by the whānau, hapū and Iwi of the Mōkai Pātea confederation, as we seek redress for the historical claims against the Crown. The Crown did not pay heed to the cry by our tūpuna. Key examples, such as:

- 8.1 The proceedings of the Kokako Hui of 1860;
- 8.2 In the 1867-68 period ‘Te Runanga katoa o Ngāti Tama(kōpiri) raua ko Ngāti Whiti(kaupeka)’ wrote a series of letters to Sir Donald McLean setting out their boundaries, and asking that these be protected. The letters were signed by their Rangatira.¹
- 8.3 The letter from Te Poihipi Tukairangi (who appears to have been an informant to McLean) dated 5 July 1867 reiterating the aspirations of Ngati Whiti and Ngati Tama to exercise their mana to their lands;²
- 8.4 Evidence of the Turangaarere Hui of 1872;
- 8.5 Our tūpuna objecting to the Native Land Court processes during the Repudiation movements between 1872-1878;
- 8.6 Telegrams in 1890 from Erueti Arani and Winiata Te Whaaro for Ngāti Whitikaupeka to the Native Land Court requesting that Awarua hearings be convened at Moawhango because of the terrible effects on our ancestors;
- 8.7 The minutes of Out-of-Court settlement discussions of our rangatira at the Awarua hearing in 1891 regarding the division of land interests based on the rangatiratanga of the Iwi;

¹ Alexander Turnbull Collection MS-Papers-0032-0691C-05. Object #1032324

² MS-Papers-0032-0691D-02. Object #1030020

- 8.8 The evidence of Hiraka Te Rango in 1891 to the Rees-Carroll Commission regarding the administering of our lands;
 - 8.9 Letters in 1892 and 1895 from our rangatira to the Crown seeking development assistance for land blocks and setting out how those blocks would be structured and allocated;
 - 8.10 The proceedings of the Kōtahitanga hui held at Kaiwee in 1893 which included specific measures and initiatives of our rangatira for the redemption of our people from the distress caused by colonial systems;
 - 8.11 Statements from our rangatira made to Premier Seddon at a hui at Moawhango in 1894;
 - 8.12 Ngāti Paki protests at their forced eviction from Pokopoko.
9. It is my view that the failures of the Crown to listen to the cry of our tūpuna resulted in the subverting of our tino rangatiratanga. The losses that flowed from that have been immeasurable to our people.

Richard Steedman
20 February 2017