

Rangahaua Whanui District 11c

WAIROA

JOY HIPPOLITE

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Working Paper : First Release

WAITANGI TRIBUNAL
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FOREWORD

The research report that follows is one of a series of historical surveys commissioned by the Waitangi Tribunal as part of its Rangahaua Whanui programme. In its present form, it has the status of a working paper: first release. It is published now so that claimants and other interested parties can be aware of its contents and, should they so wish, comment on them and add further information and insights. The publication of the report is also an invitation to claimants and historians to enter into dialogue with the author. The Tribunal knows from experience that such a dialogue will enhance the value of the report when it is published in its final form. The views contained in the report are those of the author and are not those of the Waitangi Tribunal, which will receive the final version as evidence in its hearings of claims.

Other district reports have been, or will be, published in this series, which, when complete, will provide a national theme of loss of land and other resources by Maori since 1840. Each survey has been written in the light of the objectives of the Rangahaua Whanui project, as set out in a practice note by Chief Judge E T J Durie in September 1993 (see app i).

I must emphasise that Rangahaua Whanui district surveys are intended to be one contribution only to the local and national issues, which are invariably complex and capable of being interpreted from more than one point of view. They have been written largely from published and printed sources and from archival materials, which were predominantly written in English by Pakeha. They make no claim to reflect Maori interpretations: that is the prerogative of kaumatua and claimant historians. This survey is to be seen as a first attempt to provide a context within which particular claims may be located and developed.

The Tribunal would welcome responses to this report, and comments should be addressed to:

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Figure 1: Location map

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PREFACE

The Rangahaua Whanui project

This report is part of a series of district reports written for the Waitangi Tribunal's Rangahaua Whanui project. As described in a practice note of 23 September 1993 the project was initiated by the Tribunal in order to provide an historical overview of relevant Crown policy and actions which contributed to Maori land loss and Treaty grievances (see app i).

The area covered in this report is approximately 315,000 hectares or just over three-quarters of a million acres. In 1840 the whole of this area was owned, occupied, and utilised by Maori. Today, the amount of land still remaining in Maori ownership is approximately 14,900 hectares. This report is designed to act as a general overview of the major ways in which this land was alienated from Maori. Its first task, then, is to describe when the land was alienated. The second, to provide an explanation of how it was alienated.

The report commences with a brief description of the iwi and hapu of Wairoa. It provides the reader with a snapshot of those Maori groups that occupied the Wairoa district at 1840. This provides some link between the groups of 1840 and those who have claims before the Waitangi Tribunal today. Chapter 2 looks at the Crown purchases between the years 1864 and 1868. By 1868, the Crown had purchased approximately 186,794 acres. This chapter describes some of the methods used by the Crown in obtaining this land, and offers some explanation of the motives of Maori during this period. Chapter 3 mainly covers the period 1867 to 1877. It focuses on raupatu, or confiscation, and post-confiscation Crown purchases. Alienation through the Native Land Court is the topic of chapter 4. Chapter 5 looks at public works takings.

The Rangahaua Whanui district reports were to be written as much as possible from existing secondary research. This reports reflects that directive. The most useful source was the research of Angela Ballara and Gary Scott for the Wai 201 umbrella claim to the Waitangi Tribunal, on behalf of iwi of Wairoa ki Wairarapa. Ballara and Scott were commissioned by the Waitangi Tribunal to provide block alienation histories of Crown purchasing in the early Hawke's Bay provincial period. These reports, and the documents that were filed with them, were relied heavily upon, particular for chapter 2. Chapter 3 was based on an earlier report I did for the Waitangi Tribunal, 'Raupatu in Hawke's Bay' (Wai 201 ROD, doc I17). It was supplemented by the documents supplied by Ballara and Scott. For chapter 4 it was necessary to go back to the primary sources as there is a paucity of secondary sources which provide information on the alienation of Maori land through the Native Land Court in Wairoa in the nineteenth century. Alan Ward's thesis on the East Coast Maori Trust was the most useful source for the second part of this chapter. Chapter 5 was based on a general report on public work takings of Maori land, written by Cathy Marr for the Treaty of Waitangi Policy Unit (now the Office

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of Treaty Settlements) in 1994. Specific examples were provided by Maori Affairs and Works files in National Archives. One secondary source which proved particularly useful was Thomas Lambert's *The Story of Old Wairoa and the East Coast*, even though he was a product of his time. It goes without saying, though, that the interpretation of their work in this report, and the conclusions arrived at, are my own.

I have worked full-time on this district report from mid-January to the end of June 1996, with a further two weeks in September for revisions. As a result of the time-frame, and the nature of its goal, to provide an overview based wherever possible on published sources, it must be noted that the findings of this report are often preliminary in nature. It is hoped that the claimants, in particular, will use this report to make submissions which add to the accuracy and breadth of the information so far written. Further research would be necessary before the Waitangi Tribunal could proceed to a major hearing of claims from the Wairoa district.

The Wairoa district

The Wairoa district takes its name from the main river flowing through it. From this river comes the name not only for the entire district but the town itself, despite the efforts of Pakeha to call it Clyde in the nineteenth century. For the purposes of this report the Wairoa district covers that area from the Waihua River, extending back to Lake Waikaremoana. From that lake, running along the southern boundary of the Urewera National Park, then across the top of the Hangaroa valley to Maraetaha on the East Coast. An area of approximately 315,000 hectares or just over three-quarters of a million acres. This area includes some of the land involved in the adjacent Gisborne district report. It was necessary to include this area because of the various hapu of Ngati Kahungunu who have interests in it.

This large expanse of country, which is mostly hilly, is drained by the Wairoa, Waihua, Nuhaka and Tahaenui Rivers, and numerous small streams. Along the various rivers there are alluvial flats, with the city of Wairoa situated on the alluvial flats on the southern bank of the Wairoa River, about two miles upstream from the mouth. The Wairoa River, about 50 miles long, is a continuation of the Ruakituri and Hangaroa Rivers. The Waikaretaheke flows from Waikaremoana and joins the Wairau, which is about 50 miles long. In 1966 the minimum flow of the Wairoa River was less than 500 cubic feet per second. It enters the sea about two miles below the town and there it is choked by a sand-bar. In the nineteenth century this sand-bar made navigation very difficult which served to help limit the progress of European settlement. In 1921 Wairoa still remained relatively unsettled by Europeans with no railway and only a marginal harbour.

In 1840 William Williams judged the Maori population of Te Mahia and Wairoa to be 3000.¹ In 1851 Donald McLean estimated the population of the Wairoa River settlements to be 2000.² He mentioned a Maori community of 280 residing at Te Mahia.³

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1. *The Turanga Journals*, p 101, cited in Ballara, 'The Origins of Ngati Kahungunu', pp 54–55
 2. Donald McLean, Diaries and Notes 1851–56, 31 January 1851, ATL
 3. McLean, Diaries and Notes, 28 February 1851

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The first European to set eyes on this district appears to have been Captain James Cook, who anchored westwards of Mahia Peninsula in October 1769 and noted the mouth of the Wairoa River on his chart. The first European visitors to the Wairoa district were flax traders and whalers. Barnet Burns, who claimed to be an agent of a Sydney firm and had settled at Mahia in June 1829, was possibly the earliest. Captain John William Harris is said to have arrived in the *Fanny* in 1831 and placed two men at points near Wairoa and Mahia to act as his trading agents. In 1837 two fisheries were established, one by the Ward brothers at Waikokopu and the other by a Mr Ellis at Mahia. The two fisheries employed about eight or nine five-oared boats, carrying six men in each, besides look-out men. Initially, black oil was the chief harvest, until sperm whales began showing up in 1842. Whaling continued in importance till 1853 at which time there were 50 boats engaged in the occupation. Wairoa itself was not a whaling success and most of the stations were near Mahia or south of Mohaka. Captain William Barnard Rhodes visited the district in December 1839 in the *Eleanor*. He established a trading station for the Sydney partnership of Cooper and Holt. Rhodes did not take up residence but left William Burton in charge as his manager.

In the wake of the whalers and traders came the missionaries. William Williams was the first missionary to visit the district, performing several baptisms at Wairoa in 1841. Later in that year Father Baty, a Roman Catholic missionary, visited Wairoa in the course of a journey to Lake Waikaremoana. The Reverend W C Dudley, who came to New Zealand in May 1842, with Bishop Selwyn, was apparently sent directly to Wairoa. He celebrated a number of baptisms in the district. Mr Dudley's health failed and on the visit of Bishop Selwyn in November 1842 he accompanied him back to Auckland. His residence at Wairoa extended to only a few months.

The next record of missionary activity at Wairoa is the establishment there, in December 1844, of Mr and Mrs James Hamlin of the Church Missionary Society, who had accompanied Mr and Mrs Colenso from Auckland in the brig *Nimrod*. Hamlin remained at Wairoa till 1863, when he retired to Auckland, where he died in 1865. His work was apparently not made easy by the conduct of the whalers, with whom the local Maori lived, until the whaling practically came to an end in the early fifties. With the demise of whaling Wairoa, during the 1850s, developed a sea trade with Napier (then called Ahuriri) in flax, fruit and timber, and several areas were leased from Maori for sheep and cattle runs. But generally, throughout the 1850s and well into the 1860s, the Wairoa district remained a back-water as far as European settlement was concerned.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AJHR	<i>Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives</i>
AJLC	<i>Appendices to the Journals of the Legislative Council</i>
app	appendix
ATL	Alexander Turnbull Library
BPP	<i>British Parliamentary Papers: Colonies New Zealand</i> (17 vols, Shannon, Irish University Press, 1968–69)
ch	chapter
doc	document
DOSLI	Department of Survey and Land Information
encl	enclosure
fn	footnote
fol	folio
JPS	<i>Journal of the Polynesian Society</i>
MA	Maori Affairs
MA-MLP-W	Maori Affairs – Maori Land Purchase Department – Wellington
NA	National Archives
NZPD	<i>New Zealand Parliamentary Debates</i>
OLC	old land claims series
p, pp	page, pages
pt	part
ROD	record of documents
s	section (of an Act)
sec	section (of this report, or of an article, book, etc)
sess	session
vol	volume
Wai	Waitangi Tribunal claim