

## Maniapoto in the Waikato Settlements

### *Extract from a draft paper entitled - Maniapoto ki tua o te Puniu: Maniapoto beyond the Puniu River prepared by Paul Meredith*

Pei Jones was a key proponent of *The Waikato-Maniapoto Maori Claims Settlement Act 1946*. It purported to effect a final settlement relating to the confiscation of Maori lands in the 'Waikato district' and provided for the establishment of the Tainui Maori Trust Board to receive 6,000 pounds on an annual basis. Initially the Bill did not include 'Maniapoto' in its title. Its inclusion came later subsequent to, and perhaps as a result of, a flurry of protestations by several Ngati Maniapoto parties over the settlement proposals contained in the Bill. Those proposals had been concluded by Te Puea Herangi, Jones and others at a meeting at Ngaruawahia in April 1946.<sup>1</sup> At that meeting Hori Tana (George Turner) voiced Ngati Maniapoto's concerns: "*He wished to express his opinion in regard to the Waikato claim. This is a matter that affects the whole of the Waikato tribes and also the Maniapoto tribe.*"

In May 1946, Tohiopipiri Moerua of Te Korapatu, Te Kuiti wrote to the Prime Minister informing him of the unanimity of the Ngati Maniapoto tribe in respect of several matters, including calling for an investigation of the title of those lands which were confiscated and located within the boundaries of the 'Waikato Confiscated Lands'.<sup>2</sup> He claimed that they were descendents of those whose lands were included in the confiscation. The response from the Native Minister was not unfamiliar. He argued 'in a matter like this it is not possible to please everyone and if every objection has to be taken notice of, the Board will never be appointed... [and claimed] the rights of the people in the confiscated area are sufficiently well known for the purposes of the Act...'<sup>3</sup>

Wi Nikora of Hanganiki<sup>4</sup> also sent a telegram to the Governor General forwarding a resolution of a meeting of the Maniapoto Welfare Committee praying that he use his influence in restraining the carrying into effect of the Waikato Maniapoto Land Settlement Claims Bill. They maintained that they were denied the right to speak when the Native Minister met the 'Waikato Tribes' at Ngaruawahia and sought an opportunity to meet him 'in their own territory'.<sup>5</sup> He subsequently submitted a list signed by 243 persons supporting that resolution.<sup>6</sup>

His brother Reihana Amohanga several days earlier conveyed to the Governor-General the resolutions of a meeting held at Otorohanga which

---

<sup>1</sup> Notes of meeting held at Turangawaewae marae, Ngaruawahia, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 1946 in regard to settlement of Waikato Claim, Raupatu Document Bank, Waitangi Tribunal Vol. 58, p. 22252.

<sup>2</sup> Tohiopipiri Moerua, Te Korapatu, Te Kuiti to Rt. Hon. Peter Fraser, Prime Minister, Wellington, 13 May 1946. Raupatu Document Bank, Waitangi Tribunal Vol. 58, p 22192.

<sup>3</sup> Hon. Rex Mason, Native Minister to Tohiopipiri, 2 July 1946, Raupatu Document Bank, Waitangi Tribunal Vol. 58, p 22191.

<sup>4</sup> The author is a great-grandchild of Wi Nikora's brother, Brownie Nikora, aka Te Rehe Te Amohanga.

<sup>5</sup> The committee represented soldiers World War 1 and 2 of Ngati Maniapoto. Telegram to Governor-General from Wi Nikora, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1946, Raupatu Document Bank, Waitangi Tribunal Vol. 58, p 22108.

<sup>6</sup> Letter to Governor-General from Wi Nikora, Hanganiki, 30<sup>th</sup> September 1946, Raupatu Document Bank, Waitangi Tribunal Vol. 58, p 22099.

he claimed had representation of sixteen Tribes who were directly concerned in the confiscation claims.<sup>7</sup> Amohanga reported that the meeting objected to the proposed Bill as a whole, as well as the membership and name of the Trust Board. The meeting claimed that those 'tribes who fought against the tribes who fought for their rights' which I take to mean 'loyalist tribes', ie. tribes who sided with the Crown, had found representation on the Board. The meeting also claimed that the Trust Board should be called the 'Waikato Maniapoto Trust Board' rather than the 'Tainui Trust Board'. It was submitted that 'That final settlement should be made only to the Tribes concerned and should not include Tribes which lost no lands through confiscation.' While the sixteen 'hapu' listed may have fought in the conflict leading to confiscation, none of their traditional hapu lands were confiscated. Perhaps they were claiming to be directly concerned in the Waikato Maniapoto claims as Ngati Maniapoto *per se*?

A further petition by Tauwehe Noble of Oparure and 46 others, 'being representatives of the Waikato Maniapoto tribes of the King Country', was also sent to the Governor-General fully endorsing the objections raised by their tribal representatives at the Otorohanga meeting.<sup>8</sup> They also wanted the Trust Board to be called the 'Waikato-Maniapoto Trust Board' and not the 'Tainui Trust Board'.

In a letter to Rore Erueti of Ngaruawahia, the Private Secretary to the Native Minister and older brother to Pei Te Hurinui Jones, Mick Jones, provides some insight into the deliberations around the titles for the Act and the Board: 'The name Waikato-Maniapoto proposed by you has been approved but the Board will be called the Tainui Maori Trust Board. This name has been adopted to avoid confusion with the Waikato Maniapoto Land Board. I referred this matter to Te Puea and Hurinui and both approved of it as the name Tainui is applicable to both Waikato and Maniapoto.'<sup>9</sup>

The Native Minister's response to the Ngati Maniapoto opposition adopted a pragmatic flavour. He did nevertheless concede some lands of Ngati Maniapoto had been confiscated but was careful to qualify that concession by limiting it to 'those sections of Maniapoto'.

*"The Act was designed to carry out the wishes of the majority of the people whose lands were actually confiscated and I am satisfied it achieves that object. The Bill has passed all stages and is now an Act of Parliament. The section of the Maniapoto people whose land was confiscated will have a representative on the Board and with the co-operation of every section of the people you need have no fear that the Board will carry out the objects set out in the Act for the benefit of all concerned."*

---

<sup>7</sup> He names them as Ngati Kinohaku, Ngati Hari, Ngati Pakere, Ngati Raerae, Ngati Ihingarangi, Ngati Rereahu, Ngati Hinetu, Ngati Marotaua, Ngati Kaputuhi, Ngati Pou, Ngati Rora, Ngati Porahui, Ngati Taiwa, Ngati Uekaha, Ngati Matakore, and Ngati Paretakawa. These are all Ngati Maniapoto hapu. Reihana Amohanga to Governor-General, 28<sup>th</sup> September 1946, Raupatu Document Bank, Waitangi Tribunal Vol. 58, p. 22113.

<sup>8</sup> Tauwehe Noble, Oparure to Governor-General, 7<sup>th</sup> October 1946. Raupatu Document Bank, Waitangi Tribunal Vol. 58, p. 22085.

<sup>9</sup> Correspondence sent 23 August 1946

The Native Minister drew their attention to Clause 2 and the definition of 'Tainui tribes'<sup>10</sup>.

*"You will see from that, that the people concerned in the Claim are the descendents of the people whose lands were confiscated...The area extends roughly, from Mangere in the North to Kihikihi in the south, so that anyone outside that area of the Maniapoto tribe and who cannot claim descent from the original owners within that area, can have no benefit from the fund"*<sup>11</sup>

The Ngati Maniapoto opponents remained resolute. Reihana Amohanga telegraphed the Prime Minister stating that they: *"will not allow the matter to rest. Further representations from different sections of my people are being forwarded."*<sup>12</sup>

Nonetheless the Waikato-Maniapoto Claims Settlement Act came into effect. Regulations provided for the gazetting of tribal divisions of the relevant Tainui Tribes for representation on the Trust Board. These included

*"12. Ngati Paretekawa and Ngati Ngutu"* <sup>13</sup>

That list of tribes was amended the following year which on this occasion specifically mentioned Ngati Paretekawa and Ngati Ngutu as being sections of the Ngati Maniapoto tribe located in the Puniu district:

*"14. Puniu(a) Ngati Paretekawa ;*

*(b) Ngati Ngutu (sections of the Ngati Maniapoto tribe)"*<sup>14</sup>

The Puniu area included 'Mangatoatoa, Kihikihi, Te Awamutu and Orakau'. Raureti Te Huia of Ngati Paretekawa was appointed as the representative on the Board despite some opposition. Rore Erueti wrote to Mick Jones opposing what he claimed was Te Huia's 'self-appointment'. Jones subsequently advised that Raureti was nominated by Te Pua Herangi but also saw benefit in having him onside (perhaps as opposed to joining the Ngati Maniapoto opposition):

*"In my opinion it is as well to let him remain...the fact that he is on the Board, will keep him from joining those who opposed the acceptance of the compensation."*<sup>15</sup>

It is unclear though to what extent Te Huia considered the settlement as satisfying all his tribe's claims to the area. In 1947 he petitioned the Government for, among other matters, the return of certain confiscated lands in the Te Awamutu district which were awarded back to Maori by the Compensation Court in 1867. He claimed that these lands had been granted to the wrong people. The Maori Land Court sat to hear the petition but it was considered that such a claim came within the ambit of the Waikato-Maniapoto Claims Settlement Act 1946 which covered "all

---

<sup>10</sup> "Tainui Tribes" means the Tainui tribes, or sections of the Tainui tribes, who were the owners, according to Maori custom, of the lands in the Waikato district which were affected by the confiscations...

<sup>11</sup> Waikato Raupatu Document Bank, Waitangi Tribunal Vol. 58, p.22096.

<sup>12</sup> Reihana Amohanga, Hangatiki, to Rt Hon Peter Fraser, Prime Minister, 7<sup>th</sup> October 1946, Waikato Raupatu Document Bank, Waitangi Tribunal Vol. 58, p. 22097

<sup>13</sup> NZ Gazette 710 Tainui Maori Trust Board Regulations 1947 June 5 No 30.

<sup>14</sup> First Schedule Amending Tainui Maori Trust Board Regulations 906-907 NZ Gazette No 47 July 22 1948.

<sup>15</sup> Dated 20 August 1946, Raupatu Document Bank, Waitangi Tribunal, Vol. 58, p. 22152,

*claims in respect of, or arising out of the confiscation of lands in the Waikato district.*"<sup>16</sup>

We know though that the question of the land confiscations was revisited with *The Waikato Raupatu Claims Settlement Act 1995* (no mention of Maniapoto in the title this time). Once again Ngati Paretekawa and Ngati Ngutu were included in the settlement. Notably, however, they are deemed 'Waikato hapu' pursuant to section 8 of the Act. By that section 'Waikato' is understood to mean "*the Waikato descendants of the Tainui Waka who suffered or were affected by the confiscation of their land by the New Zealand Government under The New Zealand Settlements Act 1863.*" Arguably such a definition does not reflect Ngati Maniapoto's interest in these hapu north of the Puniu River.

---

<sup>16</sup> The Court also heard a similar petition by Karena Tamaki of Tamaki. Refer Raupatu Document Bank, Waitangi Tribunal, Vol. 67, p. 25880.