

Mr H.P. Martin,
Deputy Registrar.

1. You will recall that at Opotiki the other day Boris Black made accusations against the Opotiki County Council. From memory, he referred to what he called Waioeka Blocks that had been leased to Pakehas by the County and the name of one, D. Pennington, as lessee, was quoted.
2. Mr Black also referred to receivership leases at Matapihi, where he said the owners again were not getting any rent.
3. You will remember that at the County we found out some valuable facts about the Waioeka Blocks. Would you please ring Mr Reweti at Tauranga and get him to tell you the facts about Matapihi; then please prepare a full draft reply for my signature to Mr Boris Black with a copy to Mr Stainton, and a copy to the Opotiki office and a copy to the County Clerk.

Rangy Miskewiti

J.H.W. Barber
(J.H.W. Barber)
District Officer
13/5/65

- (1) NO Receivership leases by County at Matapihi
- (2) Numerous leases by private arrangement to Europeans - paying rates & nominal rental to one or two owners.

Reweti has already suggested 431

James Patterson orientated 3 etc
Dr Richard Smith

J.P. Stainton
17/5/65-

247
HPM:MAL

Waioatahi Ct. Corr

18 May 1965


County Clerk,
Opotiki County Council,
OPOTIKI.

Dear Sir,

WAIOTAHU 393E

... Enclosed for your information is a copy of a letter written
to Mr Boris Black following his reference at our recent meeting
to the occupation of the block.

Yours faithfully,


(H.P. Martin)
Deputy Registrar

Encl.

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HPM:MAL

Waiotahi Ct. Corres.

18 May 1965


Mr Tipiwai Stainton,
Post Office,
HOPOTO.

Dear Tipi,

WAIOTAHİ 393E

... Enclosed is a copy of a letter written to Mr Boris Black in relation to the questions he asked during the meeting at Opotiki on the 6th May.

Yours faithfully,


(H.P. Martin)
Deputy Registrar

Encl.

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Waioatahi Ct, Corres.

HPM:MAL

18 May 1965


Mr W. Maxwell,
Woodlands,
OPOTIKI.

Dear Mr Maxwell,

WAIOTAHU 393E

... Enclosed is a copy of a letter written to Mr Boris Black in relation to the questions he asked during the meeting at Opotiki on the 6th May.

Yours faithfully,


(H.P. Martin)
Deputy Registrar

Encl.

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Waioatahi Ct. Corres
Misc 88

HPM:MAL

18 May 1965


The Chairman,
Committee of Enquiry,
30 High Street,
ROTORUA.

Dear Sir,

WAIOTAHU 393E

... Enclosed for your information are four copies of a letter
written to Mr Boris Black in answer to the questions he asked
during the meeting held in Pakohai Hall on the 6th May.

Yours faithfully,


(H.P. Martin)
Deputy Registrar

Encl.

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HPM:MAL

Waioatahi Ct. Corres.

18 May 1965

Mr Boris Black,
Ranginui,
OPOTIKI.

Dear Boris,

During the meeting between the Maori people of the Opotiki district and the Committee of Enquiry into Maori land and the Maori Land Court held on the 6th May, you suggested that land at Matapihi has been leased by the County Council to Europeans, and that the owners are not receiving rent. You also said that there was a similar occurrence with Waioatahi blocks in Opotiki and referred particularly to some land being occupied by a Mr Pennington. I promised to look into these matters and to write to you setting out the position.

Enquiries from the Tauranga office of my Department reveal that there are no Receivership leases granted by the Tauranga County Council in or around Matapihi; in fact there are no lands there vested in the County Clerk to lease. There are however a number of Europeans occupying land by private arrangement with the owners, or some of the owners. In most of these cases the European occupiers are paying the rates plus a nominal rental to one or two owners, and it is no doubt true that most of the owners are not receiving rent and their land is not being properly farmed.

The Waioatahi block you are concerned with appears to be Waioatahi Lot 393E containing 61 acres 3 roods owned by Mehaka Rangiaho, Ati Wi Rakuraku and 27 other owners including several members of the Ross family. The valuation and rating roll showed Mr Ross as being the occupier but he disclaimed liability for rates which were written off by the County Council up to the year 1961. Rates for the years 1961/2/3 totalling £23.19.0d are still owing, and Mr Pennington has paid the rates since 1963. He approached the Opotiki County Council and advised them that he is occupying and grazing the land and asked that his name be entered on the rates card and the demands sent to him. It is clear therefore that the County Council cannot be blamed in any way for the fact that Mr Pennington is occupying the land and that the owners are not receiving any rent; all the Council is doing is demanding rates from the person who on his own admission is occupying the land.

We agree that these informal occupations at Matapihi and at Waioatahi are not in the interests of the owners because they will not produce a proper rent for all the owners nor will they produce good utilisation of the land. The remedy however lies with the owners who should move to have the land vested in the Maori Trustee, or if they wish in private trustees, under the provisions of Section 438 of the Maori Affairs Act 1953, to lease for them to the best advantage.

Yours faithfully,

H
(J.H.W. Barber)
Registrar

Maori Welfare Officer,
OPOTIKI.

1. Copy referred for your information.

J
(J.H.W. Barb-
Registrar

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Lang of Wake County - Block in Winston 293 L

His full name occupies as Ross - back Ross &
Bros. Blake disclaimed liability for sales.

~~Remington~~ paid rates to W. Winston off. Rates
61-2-3 1933-1934 still owing. Remington has paid
rates since - is occupying and grazing the land. Asked
that his name be entered on rates card & demand
sent to him.

J. M.

14/5