

Whakatohea Hui-A-Iwi

10:15am, Sunday 18 June 1995

at Terere Marae

This hui is a hui-a-iwi only and not a negotiators hui. The Claim Manager agreed to a request from Tairongo Amoamo when in Wellington on Wednesday that the negotiators meeting be postponed until 8 July 1995 at Ngati Ira.

karakia	Teriaki Amoamo
mihi	Teriaki Amoamo, Charlie Aramoana, Hira Papuni, Tenga Biddle, Wiremu Rewiri, Tuhakia Keepa, John Delamere
chairman	John Delamere chaired on behalf of Claude Edwards
apologies	John Hata, Tairongo Amoamo, Ranginui Walker, Kahukore Baker, Lady Delamere, Bishop Vercoe
Ngai Tama	John Delamere confirmed that Tu Williams is definitely a negotiator for Ngai Tama replacing Muriwai Jones. A letter of resignation from Muriwai is now on record.
report	by John Delamere, "the meeting with Hon Doug Graham on Wednesday, 14 June 1995 at the Beehive". <ul style="list-style-type: none">• meeting had been postponed at request from letters by Ranginui Walker and Tu Williams to Hon Doug Graham claiming Claude Edwards was acting without proper authority in scheduling such a meeting;• Doug Graham agreed to the meeting going ahead after approaches by Claude Edwards, in writing and by telephone. Letter from Claude read to hui.• Those who travelled to Wellington attended the "Nga Kuia Moko" opening/powhiri at the Dominion Museum. A number of the paintings are Whakatohea kuia.• Travelling to Wellington. Claude Edwards, John Hata, Frank Matchitt, Tahu Taia, Tenga Biddle, Wiremu Rewiri, Oke Huriwaka (for Ngati Ira), Adrianna Edwards (caregiver for Claude) went on behalf of negotiators with travel paid by WMTB. Paku Edwards, Tuirenga Mekomoko, Kahukore Baker, John Paki, Kevin Were went on behalf of Te Whanau Mekomoko. John Delamere attended while in Wellington on other unrelated business matters.• The meeting with Doug Graham also attended by Tu Williams, Tairongo Amoamo and a number of Whakatohea currently resident in Wellington.

- To a request/statement from Tairongo Amoamo concerning the need for further research Doug Graham's position was, "it is not for the Crown to tell Whakatohea how much research they should do.....the Crown is ready to acknowledge, apologise and compensate for the wrong done to Whakatohea as a result of the raupatu and possibly other actions of the Crown.....the Crown can never put right the wrongs that were done to Whakatohea, does not have the capacity or resources.....if Whakatohea wish to look under every stone to determine every detail of history that is up to Whakatohea, however, it is unlikely to change the quantum of any settlement that the Crown is willing and able to today.....believes it is time to settle and try and put the past behind us and get on with the future"
- in response to a question on claims by hapu rather than iwi, Doug Graham responded "while hapu certainly have the right to lodge individual hapu claims he hoped this would not happen. To date there are 500 claims. It will be very difficult just to settle on an iwi basis. Will be almost impossible to do it on a hapu by hapu basis."
- in response to funding Whakatohea invited to send someone to Wellington to discuss further with Office of Treaty Settlements. Should be no problem and Cabinet likely to agree quickly.
- in response to changing the terms of the proposed landbank to allow for non Crown owned assets to be purchased for the landbank Doug Graham gave an emphatic NO!
- Doug Graham said he had approved 2 persons from OTS to negotiate on behalf of the Crown. He suggested that he believed it would be practical for Whakatohea to consider a small team of 2 or 3 to do the actual face to face negotiations. His experience to date with large teams of negotiators was that they just did not work.

Mokomoko whanau John Delamere reported that concerns had been raised by some negotiators on what rights, obligations the representatives of the Mokomoko whanau had on the negotiating committee.

General discussion followed. John Paki confirmed that the intent was that the representatives of the Mokomoko whanau claim and the Whakatohea raupatu claim work together as much as possible. In general it was hoped and expected that decisions would be made by mutual consensus but acknowledged that at the end of the day decisions specific to the Mokomoko claim would be made by Te Whanau

Mokomoko and decisions specific to the Whakatohea raupatu would be made by the Whakatohea negotiators.

settlement

General discussion on implications of how any settlement would be "divided up". A number of people expressed support for Tuhakia Keepa's position that "while the mana of the hapu must be recognised we should not be stuffing around and that we should look to settle right now on an iwi basis. Once we have the putea we can then decide what to do with it. It must be managed properly and professionally.

Claim Manager

A number of concerns were raised as to the responsibilities and concerns of the Claim Manager. This arose from concerns expressed to the Crown by Tu Williams and Ranginui Walker in their letters to Doug Graham that Claude Edwards was exceeding his mandate and authorities.

Matiu Taia read out the MLC order appointing Claude as Claim Manager and a letter from Judge Hingston further clarifying the rights and obligations of the Claim Manager.

A lot of discussion took place on this issue. By consensus and korero the hui strongly affirmed Claude's position and expressed great concern that people living out of the rohe were trying to control things and "fire bullets" without having the decency to do so at home. Strong sentiments were expressed by some that those individuals who did not wish to work with the majority should reconsider their position as negotiators.

doing a deal

Concern was expressed that people were going to Wellington doing a deal with Doug Graham without consulting with the people.

Wiremu Rewiri spoke strongly on this matter. No deals were discussed with Doug Graham. None had ever been considered and never would be without first consulting with Whakatohea whanui. It was explained that the hui with Doug Graham was primarily to clarify the need for research and obtain funding for negotiations. It was clear that further research was not needed to settle the claim and certainly no need to research back to Nukutere. What year was the confiscation? 1700? 1750? no it was 1866! Why should we spend our money researching something that has no relevance to the settlement of our claim? It would be better if some of those academics got some common sense.

letter to Minister

John Delamere read Claude's letter to Doug Graham in response to the letters from Tu and Tairongo.

negotiator numbers John Paki raised the issue of the number of negotiators. 14 was too many to front up at the table. Nothing would ever be achieved with that number. Only necessary to have a couple who negotiate under instruction from the negotiating committee. No decisions would be made by them and they would have to come back to the committee. Doug Graham had similar sentiments. He was also looking to appoint an intermediary who would work with OTS and all the Mataatua raupatu tribes.

Tuhakia talked about our tipuna who negotiated the settlement of 40,000 pounds to start the Whakatohea Maori Trust Board. There were only a couple of them and they had very limited korero Pakeha, yet they did it. We only need 1 or 2.

General consensus expressing strong support for Claude as Claim Manager.

Ngati Ira John Kameta stated the principles for negotiation of Ngati Ira. The treaty was signed by hapu not iwi.

Deputy Claim Manager Paku Edwards talked about the need for his teina (Claude) to have someone him to assist in managing the claim because of Claude's health. He talked about the difficulties for Claude in making progress because of the various obstructive actions of Tairongo, Ranginui and Tu. Consequently Paku moved that this hui confirm John Delamere as the choice of the Whakatohea people to be Deputy Claim Manager as he had been the one who was working with Claude and making sure everything happened.

John Delamere responded that he would be honoured to accept the position if the negotiators confirmed such at the 8 July hui.

There was very strong korero from Tuhakia, Hinehou and others supporting Paku's motion insisting that John Delamere should accept if this hui-a-iwi said so. Those living out of the rohe must get back here and stop undermining the people at home. We must not be seen to be fighting among ourselves.

At this point John Delamere left the hui saying he felt uncomfortable being present while this korero was taking place.

There was much support for the motion. Teriaki said he felt uncomfortable unless this issue was discussed by Ngati Rua.

Stated that this was a hui-a-iwi for all of Whakatohea and properly and widely advertised as such.

Ahi kaa is what we need! The claim must be run by people who are at home.

The hui-a-iwi confirmed John Delamere as Deputy Claim Manager. Teriaki asked that his abstention be recorded.

John Delamere returned to continue chairing the hui.

Settlement proposal Tenga Biddle talked about what he felt he was looking to achieve as a negotiator. Basically he had 3 major points:

- that the mana, the mauri, the reo of Whakatohea be restored
- return of our land
- compensation for our tipuna who were murdered

General discussion took place and it was generally agreed that it was time the negotiators started focusing on what type of settlement Whakatohea wanted.

Lunch

adjourned at 1:00pm

Hui concluded at 2:10pm with karakia and poroporoaki by Teriaki. No further substantive discussion took place.