

TAPE TRANSCRIPTION REFERENCE NUMBER FOR TAPE CASSETTE:

R.T 91.16 SIDE ONE

The following transcription was recorded in the Research Room
Whakatohea Maori Trust Board on the 17th July 1991 between
Porourangi Porter (Roherohe) and the Research team, Kate
Hudson, Corrina Biddle, Tracy Hillier and Julie Williams.

Speaker: Kate

Now going back to what we were talking about in the kitchen ... ne, when
you came in, you were talking about a meeting you fellows had up at
Omarumutu ... ne ... was that the very first one, concerning the Raupatu?

Speaker: Roherohe Porter

Yeah ... that was one of several, but that was the first one to meet the
people, before that they had a ... delegates meetings ... nga delegates from
the committee that were formed. And ah te mea nei ... I think he was an
uncle to Claude ... fella he was a ... the other one that was with the

committee, they went several times to Parliament, to meet members of
parliament there aye. And this old fella, this old Renata didn't give in, the
other fellas gave in, a ... because of the history of Waakana aye ... Volckner
and the history of that other fella who dug his eye out and swallowed it.
Well it was there they gave up ... they thought oh yeah our ancestor sinned,
oh well, we deserved getting punished ... but he wasn't one of them ... he
wasn't one of the tribe

Speaker: Kate

A wait?

Speaker: Rōherohe Porter

This fella ... Kereopa ... yeah ... he came from no where, and become one of the tribe, sort of ... and nga Mōkomoko ... on Mōkomoko side but a ... the tribe paid for it ... sort of thing confiscated their land was for that reason. But they couldn't really prove who he really was ... who he really was, because of the religions ... several religions aye. The only people that had the true maori religion was Tuhoe, well they reckon that he came from Tuhoe. They put it that way so he'd be responsible sort of ne ... oh when they prove him to come from Tuhoe, of which ... he didn't ... he might of come from Tuhoe area, but he didn't belong ... kaore ia no Tuhoe ... or where did he belong to ... so this sin became Whakatohea's. So anyway a ... just for one man's sin they took all ... a ... Whakatohea's (things). And that's what this old fella was against aye ... oh you have another look at it ... place where he came from ... no whea?

Speaker: Kate

You were at those meetings?

Speaker: Rōherohe

Yeah ... I was at some of them, they had formed ... in those days tribal committees aye. And some of the tribes were reluctant to be in with the tribal committee ... ah ... Executive committees aye. So I reckon that ... three other tribes that didn't agree to be formed in ... I represented old Fred Amoamo and I represented Ngai Tama, Ngai Tama is the Opape lot, Ngai Tama ah ...

Speaker: Kate

Ngati Ngahere

Speaker: Rohenrohe

No. Ngati Ngahere had representative on

Speaker: Kate

Pehea a Ngati Patu?

Speaker: Rohenrohe

Ah ... Waiuaa lot

Speaker: Kate

Aye ... Ngati Patu

Speaker: Rohenrohe

Ngati Patu ... Ngati Patu and ah ... there was a new lot being formed,

because Whakatohea had only five tribes ... but lately when they cut out

the boundary, they found out ah ...

Speaker: Kate

Upokorehe?

Speaker: Rohenrohe

Upokorehe ... Upokorehe was included, so we represented Upokorehe before

they became part of Whakatohea. We were delegates to those other three

as well as our own. Our own was Ngati Rua. So that's how we begun aye,

we start from there. From there on well I don't know what happened To

matau first chairman was Peter Baker.

Speaker: Kate

Braker

Speaker: Rohenrohe

Baker

Speaker: Kate

Baker

Speaker: Roherohe

Peter Baker. When I was on well kolia te chairman aye, and later on it became Ross ... I think ... or what the hang was his name...

Speaker: Kate

And this Warahika did he have anybody else helping him, you know going against him, or was it just him by himself.

Speaker: Roherohe

aye ... who?

Speaker: Kate

Rewita ... was it Rewita did you say ... or Warahika (laughter) Wara

something.

Speaker: Roherohe

Rewita

Speaker: Kate

Yeah.

Speaker: Roherohe

Rewita

Speaker: Kate

Was he the only one that um ... disagreed with it.

Speaker: Roherohe

Disagreed with a ...

Speaker: Kate

With the other ... with the other hapu ... about the raupatu land.

Speaker: Roherohe

Disagreed

Speaker: Kate

Yeah ... with being compensated. Did he disagree?

Speaker: Roherohe

Ah .. no ah ... They ... they ... they ... they couldn't get the majority to ah ... to agree, to agree on the majority ah ... purpose. Those days the Maori Purposes I think it was invoved then aye. Tilll it became ah ... the Maori Tribal Committee, and then we had to have an Executive. And with the Executive, after ten, ten ah ... what's a name on the Executive there became twelve, twelve people on the committee, because Upokorehe came in later. And Upokorehe was from Waitotaha back ... back the other way. Before that we only went as far as Waitotaha. Waitotaha just goes far back as ah ... And because of some of the Whakatonea people was up there. One of the Amamos was there ... married a bloke from there ah ... I forget her name. He was from there, from Tuhoe. We didn't think it was a losing fight, we just thought oh one of these days we will win out. So long as we got this land in bulk he gave us the poorest land he could think of and threw it at us sort of thing, and ah ... I said to my Tipuna, oh if they ask all those in favour say æ put your hand up and I said to my old man don't you put your hand up, because your not satisfied. I was the only one that he could read my lips I think aye ... he turti hoki aye ... he couldn't hear. He aha tena boy, oh yeah ... all the others agreed he didn't. And ah ... what about you old koro they said ... and I said you tell him, you tell him what good is the land ...

Speaker: Roherohe

nothing on it ... give us some ah animals ... animals you can
make money from right away ... and they off with it ... ah hiahia ou ho ...
hoki mai whenua homai ah ... give us some cows cows to milk ... so we ...

Speaker: Roherohe

... that ah I think they gave ah something like a 100 cows, got a cow shed
and 100 cows and just next to the factory ... so we put this share-
milk there, share-milk for whakatoha and then ah after the first
season there I think we got enough money together to get another share-
milk and reason ... what was your reason of doing that ... tell him ah
we want to buy the land back ... can't get back we'll buy it back ... so any
way ah

Speaker: Roherohe:

... impossible to get the funds from it, we'll set on it for a while waiho
kia paopao te heki ... till the eggs hatched and then we'll buy back all that
... that's what I hope they are doing ... they being doing, buying back what
ever land possible to buy back ... in time, in time, thanks to Norman Perry
... Norman Perry in time I hope they'd be able to buy Opotiki back. The town
to pay because that's where it happend. At that Church House. Buy that
back, and for the sin of the other fellia nga Mokomoko. And these
Mokomoko's didn't like it they said I was an agitator, I said, you go ...
there's an old saying aye ... a proverb saying ... If you can't win join them.
To me it I can't win, I'll look for some other way. (laughter) I'm not going
to join them. (laughter) I'll be giving up ... I'll be giving up if I join them.

Speaker: Røherøe

So as time went on, I'll be watching closely from out there. I was suppose to watch it closely, however ... and now when they had the clothing factory here, Norman brought me along here, I said far is this going to go Norman. Oh I hope these people will grow up knowing who they are where they belong. Because the majority of them are looking for jobs, and this is the best thing to do, get them to have a job at their own back door. Well I ... don't know what happened since then aye. But this was a clothing factory one time or other. Well at that time we looked ahead aye ... to the coming generation, the likes of you people, how are you going to fair out if we going to join them, if we gonna join those fellas who confiscated our lands and they get no where. So the only other thing is to try and make them understand aye, or what they should be aiming at, that kind of thing aye. I was for one ... of the younger people that go on to marae, and listen, to me they were all talking bull shit sort of thing. Ka haere ia whakarongo a ia, those kind of talk is alright for then, kia mate he tangata. I was the one probing away at them, this pakeha fella was probing, and I always had that proverb in the back of my mind. "When the cat is out the mice will play" That's the way it was, you know when your not looking the other fella will rob you. So it's never to late aye ... well it's getting on in my time. This fella that was at Omaramutu he was one of the heads, as far as Claude concerned was Jimmy ... Jimmy Edwards. I don't know ... I think Jimmy was an uncle to him because (long pause) ... There was this women ko wai nga uri a this woman. They went to a ... just trying to think of that marae ... there was a marae not far from the school, where you fellas grew up at ... Otanemutu. This Otanemutu aye, is the name of the marae.

Speaker: Kate

Otanemutu.

Speaker: Roherohe

Otanemutu ... Otanemutu aye ... and this woman ... they got a house, a

meeting house ... the meeting house was down here.(Pakowhai Opotiki

Township) The meeting house was down here, and they moved the meeting

house from here to Otanemutu. And she lived in this Otanemutu for ... I

don't know for how long. And I think your mother Urukeiha ... Urukeiha was

your mother aye. (looking at Tracy Hillier) (great grandmother). Well they

were related (cough) and they are (muffled) who? (muffled) well she was

the one who lived in there. Mauria atu te wharenui up on here, Otanemutu.

I don't know what happened to it later on.

Speaker: Tracy

They took it back to Terere.

Speaker: Roherohe

To Terere Oh ...

Speaker: Tracy

It was the first dining hall.

Speaker: Roherohe

Yeah yeah yeah. See I helped to take that meeting house from here

(Pakowhai) This fella had a truck ... Pi Tairua ... Ah Pi Tamati. Are there

any Tamati's around here.

Speaker: Kate

Ae

Speaker: Roherohe

Ko wai

Speaker: Kate

I only know the young ones, Eddie Tamati, ...

Speaker: Roherohe

... Well he had the truck for us, we put it on his truck. Ka mauria atu matau

te meeting house ki Otanemutu. And ah ... ah ... at the time Pi Tamati was

ah ... married to Kate ... another relation of Claudie's. Kate ah ... oh I forget

who their kids were. They were ... had two kids aye. And this Kate had

another kid from ah ... Kingi from Te Whanga. (muffled) Kingi I did

remember his name. Anyway he was one of the young fellas who gave us a

hand to cut the logs, at Waioapu ... Waioapu. Now how many of Whakatohea

still got Waioapu? Does Waioapu read in there.

Speaker: Tracy

Um ... that's changed to Opape isn't it.

Speaker: Roherohe

Oh ... it's changed to Opape I suppose aye, Waioapu it's just passed Toatoa,

this place is. (pause) We went up there, cutting these logs, to bring down

to George what's his name?

Speaker: Kate

Where no help at all. (laughter)

Speaker: Roherohe

You know Takaparae Papuni?

Speaker: Kate

No

Speaker: Roherohe

Takaparae ... Takaparae well he was also known as Jack Papuni. Well he was with this George er ... Edwards. Hori Pararau, what's his name knows him, (Claude) ... uncle I think. They had the run of the mill here, timber mill, so we bought the logs there, for them to cut up into timber, and we were building just a dining room for Omaramutu, we had just enough land to put this dining room on, and when we got this timber, they built a hell of a lot of timber from it aye, all those boards. They had to build a kitchen, so some of the women got bit greedy then, they wanted to build it this way and that way, and they forgot to tell Pete, big as it is, this woman I was talking about, well Whatora was one, and she hit the roof, Ropotini aye. And she said build it, and I said oh you haven't got enough land, unless you build it overhanging the other fellas land. She built it up here and this is where your property is overhanging on to the other fellas land. They wouldn't agree with that, but this Waikapu ... Waikapu oh yeah will donate you this other bit of land. That's how it stretched on to a wee bit more ... wee bit more and then as they ah ... donated this bit of land and it got that big, that we could fit two dining rooms, but er ... to er ... relieve us from the cost we went and sold some of the timber, we sold some to Torere, sold some to er ... somebody else and we could pay our expenses that way aye. So ah ... Torere got some and they extended their church, with the timber they got from us aye. That was with the logs we got from ah ... from our bush at the Waioapu. And this relation he had to come from Te Kaha, and these relations was ah ... what's a names Wait's and them's relations. (Roherohe's daughter in law) after the King's, it was Whatora's ah ... father I think it was well he came and gave us a hand at the

Speaker: Roherohe

bush. And we were asking for help everywhere sort of thing, and we got this ah ... I don't know whether you know this fellia he had a factory run

here, one time and he finally he had a truck run to Gisborne I think. And he was a ... I don't know whether he is still here or not. We called him Kiwi ...

... while he was here. Kiwi er ... taxi ... cabby ... he had a taxi. He was the one who helped us, we had to go and help him cart the log out. And he was

the only one to help the maori's, you know the Whakatonea out aye. He'd come along and pull me out if I get stuck through the river bed aye. Had to cart it out through the river bed out there, and it get stuck few times. We go out there and give him a hand to get out here to where our logs. What we actually wanted was the logs. So that's how we got that Hineikaia. It's a long way from that generation to now aye, get lost alright.

Speaker: Kate

(muffled) ... Where working on it. We've got the Opotiki minute books here, you know those old court cases, where all those people your talking about, there all in there giving evidence in court ne. And um we been going through all those. Makes you sad, to hear what they have to say.

Speaker: Roherohe

I think that's very good ... very good ... you know you people having interest in that kind of thing, because the people today whakarerea ... dead and gone ... dead and gone. But still that's your future aye

Speaker: Kate

Aye. The past is our future. Gotta look back to see where your going.

Speaker: Roherohe

Yeah nga painga. That's for your interest. No good growing up not knowing.

Speaker: Kate

See we were sort of interested in ah ... the meetings we were talking

about in here. Cause it doesn't mention anything in these court minutes

that there were meetings before the main court ... main court but we know

Speaker: Kate

... that there must of been some meetings, the iwi must of held some

meetings before they went to court ne.

Speaker: Roherohe

Yeah yeah

Speaker: Kate

Hei korero mo nga whenua nei.

Speaker: Roherohe

Yeah we use to have a meeting every month er ... is there a Richard St.

Speakers:

Ae

Speaker: Roherohe

Richard St. Is that the one that the Royal ... coming across ... Church St.

down that way aye.

Speaker: Kate

King St.

Speaker: Roherohe

Ah King St. That's where we had the meeting there was a hall there.

There was a hall there, belonging to some er ...

Speaker: Kate

Mission Hall ne.

Speaker: Roherohe

Ah ... we always had the meetings there. Other than Omaramutu. In those days, I don't know what the people thought of in those days aye. A lot of jealousy was brewing, Ngati Rua has a meeting ... oh yeah that's Ngati

Rua's business they can er ...

Speaker: Kate

Row their own boat.

Speaker: Roherohe

Instead of trying to get ...

Speaker: Kate

Unite ne.

Speaker: Roherohe

Yeah unite with them, and see what their meeting about. And then er ... the one time there we sat all night, this is when Pi Tairua a fella Pi Tairua he was the secretary to the ... he was as deaf as a post. And er ... he was the secretary had to crawl up to him and bloody yell at him aye, and pass over what you think aye. (laughter) Anyway we had an all night meeting I was still young aye. Na wai tenei kainga hui ... that's the trouble with you maori sit down all night ... poheahaea noaiho nga minds. Anyway he was the secretary to this tribal committee. And there purpose was coming together and trying to get to be one hapu, one hapu, I said to them 5 hapu you can never get them to be one. So that's how they went, they were from tribal committee, and they had to have two representatives, delegates

Speaker: Roherohe

from each ... So there was two of us from Ngati Rua we were acting on behalf of two other committees, until finally they saw the benefits. Put it that way, unless you saw where the butter was sitting on the toast, well you'll have butter on it. (laughter) Well that's the way we thought in those days. Kia kite rano koutou kai tewhea taha te pata then ... then it took along time, it took two years as far as I was concerned, till they formed a ... some delegates from ... the first delegates that came through

was Matiu Te Rito was one, if you know any Te Rito's. Matiu Te Rito ...

... married ah ... ah ... Walker one of Wiki Walkers, I think he was Wairata's sister Maria ... Maria Walker. Well he was one and ah ... I forget who the other one was. So anyway that's how we kicked off. We even got the

Pakohai one, Pakohai committee, and we got the Hudsons. One Hudson and one Mokomoko, and there was this Aramoana ... Aramoana and somebody

else from a Upokorehe. Although I knew alot of people from a Kutarehe, well Upokorehe were strange to me, that time aye. Some of my relations were there living at Kutarehe, they were the Colliers, nga Colliers aye all

lived at Kutarehe. (pause)

Speaker: Kate

Pirangi kaputi koe?

Speaker: Roherohe

Oh ... Kei te pai. (long pause) Pai rawatu ta koutou mahi.

Speaker: Kate

Yeah where doing ... where doing ... there's heaps in here for us to do ... but what we want is korero a waha ne. Like you fellas.

Speaker: Roherohe

Ae ae,

Speaker: Kate

Just to support our stories that we found.

Speaker: Roherohe

One fella he was a mea, a ... for Ngai Tama he was good for Wairata ...

Wairata Apanui, you didn't know him aye? he had several children, one was a ... married a Biddle, one of the girls, married a Tori Biddle. And Manu

was another boy and er ... Jimmy. I think Manu and Jimmy are both dead!

... think only this other, not so very long ago she was still around. Te

wahine that married the Biddle.

Speaker: Julie

Te Paea

Speaker: Roherohe

Te Paea yeah. Kei te ora tonu (ae) She used to live in front of the meeting house, he whare toa ko mai te kitchen, and they built a new kitchen, flat paku nei on that other side of the ... She was living just right in front

there. Aha koa, te papa o Te Paea was er ... he was the mouth piece for

Ngai Tama, he was good. But they didn't like him vey well, ka haere ka

haurangi aye. Haere haurangi, there was one corner, not far away, they

call it Wairata's corner. Haere atu te rori, and it went like that, and it

went along the Hukawai beach there. He went straight across, he drain kei

reira. (muffled) truck sort of thing, straight across there, landed over the

other side he was alright, drove around got through the gate back on to the

road. And then there's this Wairata, coming on this ...

Speaker: Kate

When you were a little boy were there plenty people?

Speaker: Roherohe

Yeah ... there were plenty of people. No where to live though. No where to live. Put it this way, they didn't live as a tribe. Some lived way over

there, some lived way over here. They were sort of a ... let a mob of sheep into a paddock, they rush around looking for the right grass. Well that kind of a thing aye. I don't know e kare, saying to Claudie here, this woman had a ... I forget her name, she was suppose to be my grand aunt, this woman ... here, she was a Mrs White. And er ... between her and this other great grand aunt of mine, which was Rahari Renata, she lived at the ... not far from the marae, where the Mareroa's live, that's where she lived.

End of R.T.91.16 Side A