

Collected - Keita Hudson

Date - 21-3-1990

As told by - Dan McCormack, Bill Rewiri, Tipi McCormack,
Ned Wikotu, Pake Tewhenua, Harold
Helmbright.

Rongopopora is a wharehau up the Kahikatea, Waiotaha Valley. It is situated on land that the Wikotu family own. Ned and Kewe Wikotu live there now. (1990)

Rongopopora was built December 24th 1942, and named after the tipuna Rongopopora.

It was built mainly to cater for the families that were living there then. The Kaumatua living there at the time were Oketopa, Pomare, Ngataiwi Pomare, Paku and others.

Previous to Rongopopora being built, these Kaumatua use to come out to Maromahu (Waiaha) for the twelfths firsts and Huamata (blessing of seeds). Now they were able to alternate with Maromahu in observing these days of the Ringatu.

Rongopopora did not have any carvings, it was used solely for Karakia. (Ringatu) As far as Dan and Bill could remember there was never a tangi there. The last tangi they could remember there was before Rongopopora was built.

Paripari is the name of the urupa, which is situated by the river opposite Pake Tewhenua house. It is not used now.

Te hau-pua-nui was the name of the wharekai that stood alongside Rongopopora. It was a Nikau shelter.

There is no sign now of the wharekai ever being there. Rongopopora also stands there in bad need of repairs. It has become a storage place for farm equipment and the like.

TE UPOKOREHE

MARAE		NAMES
ROIMATA	- Urupa	-
	- Wharenuui	- TE AO MARAMA
	- Wharekai	- TE UMU TAO-NOA-O-TAIRONGE
	- Haki	- Raumoā
Kutarere	- Wharenuui	- TAMATERANGI
	- Wharekai	- ANI-I-WAITO
	- Urupa	
	- Haki	- Raumoā
MAROMAHUE	- Wharenuui	- TE POHO-O-KAHUNGUNI
	- Wharekai	- POUWHAREKURA
	- Urupa	-
	- Haki	- HINEMANUHIRI

These marae mentioned below have connection to the above.

KAHIKATEA	- Wharenuui	- Rongopopoiā
	- Wharekai	- Te hau a pūnui
	- Urupa	- Paripari
	- Haki	- NIL
CHEDDAR VALLEY WAINUI	- Wharenuui	- Turanga-piki-Toi
	- Wharekai	- NIL
	- Urupa	
	- Haki	- NIL

Collate - Keita Hudson

Date - 21-3-90

As told by - Tipi McCormack, Dan McCormack, and
Bill Rewiri.

Moekahu - was a wharenuī which stood
in the paddock just below Pouwharekura,
(Maromahue wharekai)

The carvings on this house were of a dog.
(Moekahu one of Taneatua's dogs.)

This wharenuī was taken down, when Ne
Haunui, one of Tipi and Dan's granduncles
became possessed by evil spirits.

Tipi and Dan told of how Ne used to have
to get tied up to a big pinetree that was
growing then, to protect himself from himself.

And his hands had become raw from
the ropes that held him.

As told by - Tipi (Wiremu) McCormack (collated: Keita Hudson)

28 Mar 1990

He Pakiwaitara

As a young lad growing up at Maromahue (Waioatahe) I remember seeing Rewiata Teupe, He was a Kaumatua at this time. He was a very strict and had a lot of mana. We were told stories about Rewiata.

As a young man growing up Rewiata was told never to go out to sea, but he didn't listen and went anyway. When he got out onto the sea with his friends. They noticed that there were a lot of sharks. They appeared to be trying to capsize their boat. It was then that the shark spirit (Wairua) entered him. So they came back to shore.

Rewiata was a very thin man, the belief is that he had pills under his arms. Rangirewha Teupe is his mokopuna.

Some years later he got sick, he was at Moteko (Rangi's place just before the marae) where he eventually died.

He was then taken to the marae to lie in state. From that day on it rained for days. The river had come up and the water level had risen to about 6ft deep where Reo Bush cowshed is now. No one could get in or out of the marae because of the flood waters.

Now believe it or not, but the sharks came as far as the marae and in fresh water at that. All those there at the time said that the sharks had come to take Rewiata away.

Joe one of Rewiata's sons, managed to get to the urupa to dip the grave. He would get so far and then it would cave in, and close up. They say that's because Rewiata wanted to go with the sharks.

A number of Tohunga had to perform Karakia (prayers) before it was eventually dug. Rewiata was taken by sledge to the urupa where he was finally laid to rest.