

Waitangi Tribunal - Korero Tuku Iho
Whakarongotai Marae – April 22, 2015

Tena koutou katoa –

My name is Queenie Rikihana Hyland – ko Ngati Raukawa ki te tonga,
ko Te Ati Awa ki Waikanae ko Ngati Toa Rangatira.

I have been asked to address the Tribunal today on behalf of my aunt
Gabrielle Mary Rikihana who was brought up by Ehae John Ropata and
her aunt Maraia (also known as Peach) Rikihana.

Ehae was raised by Mahia Parata the daughter of Wi Parata te Kakakura.

My Parata filial connections are through Winara Te Whitu Parata the ^{eldest}
~~eldest~~ ^{Wi Parata te Kaka Kura,} ~~son of Metapore and George Simbs.~~ His eldest daughter was our

grandmother - Dina Paioke Parata and she married Akuhata Joe Eruini.

Through our mother Ra Awatea daughter of Dina Paioke Parata Eruini I
have secured one of the last remnants of Parata land the Ngarara West
79A land block – once part of a 100 acre farm owned by Winara. My
siblings and I now have possession of a 26 acre (13ha) land block off
Greenhills road. It took 18 tough years and the pro bono help of Otaki
solicitor James Simpson to retain the land. I have written of the account
in a book to be called *Te Whenua* – The Land and will be published by
Penguin Books later this year.

My aunt has asked me to read on her behalf the following

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- Her home was always busy, Tiro was always with her, but it flowed there was never any hustle or bustle because Ehae, Hihi and Tiro knew what they needed to do and enjoyed running the home (my feelings). In later years Tiro told me about (“her (Mahia’s) greenstone bank”). She spoke some English when required but I think she much preferred Te Reo.
- Her house today has it’s entrance on the opposite (Tararua) side of the building, in my day there was a deep drain outside the entrance where eels were sometimes seen and caught but I cannot remember where the garage was.
- I am not a whakapapa person but I think Tiro was from the Heperi family, Hihi of Katihiku – Mahia had been a Mrs Hawea I think. Ehae and Rangihiroa were two of Joe and Sophie Lukes children. Sophie took Ko their baby brother with her when she left for Spring Creek when Joe began a special family with Rewa. They, Joe’s family, enlarged our lives with their generosity and kindnesses – especially Ada.

No-one in our family explained any of this but my sister Mary and I always tried to figure out our relatives.

We lived in a continuous stream of Maoridom which was entwined with Ngati Toa, Te Ati Awa and Raukawa completely.

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Ehae and Peach were part of the family who lived in Otaki with our grandparents and their five living children in Mill Road. A small house but full of loving kindness. I lived there and in Levin with Peach and Ehae from 1927 onwards and in 1932 we returned to Otaki and Michael (Ropata) was born ^{alive}. At least two earlier babies were buried in Rangiatea.

In 1935 Uncle Tom Parata decided Ehae must go to work and play rugby in Wellington and our lives changed dramatically. Hard work but who cares. Our lives were magic until WW2 and our loss of Ehae 26.10.42 @Alamain.

So I came to [live on] Ngarara Block (190 Moana Road, Waikanae) when I retired.

Postscript notes:

- Mahia did not have children but left her land to those she raised. G.V.R
- I have not have contact with Rangihiroa Ropata but Mike (Michael Ropata) knew his children