

IN THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL

**WAI 898
WAI 1995**

IN THE MATTER OF

The Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

AND

IN THE MATTER OF

Te Rohe Potae District Inquiry

AND

IN THE MATTER OF

a claim by Howard Jerry on behalf of himself, his whanau and for the owners of Awaroa A2B1, A2H1, A2J1 and B4 4B1

BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF GEORGE HEMOATA NELSON

Dated 23 September 2013

RECEIVED

Waitangi Tribunal

23 Sep 2013

Ministry of Justice
WELLINGTON

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MAY IT PLEASE THE TRIBUNAL

1. My name is George Hemoata Nelson. My mother is Hurihia Nelson, nee Maupakanga. Hurihia's tribe is Ngati Hua. It is a sub-tribe of Ngati Tamainu. Her father was Ranui Maupakanga. My grandfather Ranui was a well-known waka builder. At Te Puea's request, he built the waka Te Winika. It is in the museum now and he also helped to build Ngatokimatawhaorua. Through my father, I learnt the karakia that Ranui used when building waka.
2. My father is John Hemoata Nelson. His tribe is Ngati Ngutu. His father was James Nelson, a Pommie.
3. I was born in Rakaunui on 5 June 1933. I am one of many brothers and sisters. I went to school there but school was not compulsory. You could go or you didn't have to go but I wish now that I had gone to school. I was raised in Rakaunui where we had a large 6 acre garden. I used to milk 12 cows by hand. It was a good life.
4. When I was 14, I started working in the quarry. They gave me a light, 12 pound hammer and I set to work breaking limestone rocks. But mostly throughout my life I worked on farms. I could do anything. Shearing, fencing, clearing the land. You name it.
5. I know Mac Jerry, Howard Jerry's father. Mac's grandfather was Wahitapu. He was of the Kiriwai tribe, a sub-tribe of Ngati Mahuta. Wahitapu was high up in Kawhia. He was taken prisoner by the Pakeha with a few others. They put the prisoners on a ship and sailed for the South Island to imprison them there. When the ship was outside of Kawhia Harbour, the prisoners threw a dead goat overboard. The Pakeha sailors thought that it was a man overboard. They stopped and started looking around and while they were doing that, the prisoners jumped them and took over the ship. They killed all of the sailors except the captain. They kept him alive and sailed the ship into Kawhia Harbour to Te Mahoe. There they burnt the ship and held the captain as a prisoner. After a few years, they let him go. Wahitapu was the leader of the prisoners. The anchor and ship's bell at Rakaunui marae is from the ship that they burnt.
6. I knew Kiriwai Jerry, Howard's mother. I used to call her Alice. I went to school with Alice and we were brought up together. My wife and Alice were great friends. She used to help anybody in trouble, especially when it came to land matters. That was her way. Alice was well educated, in the ways of the Maori and of tauiwi. I have heard a lot about what she used to do for people and their lands.

Awaroa A2J1

7. I fenced Mac Jerry's dairy farm along Hikuparia Road, Rakaunui. I started working for Mac when I was 22 years old. I was there for about 3 years. One of my first jobs for Mac was clearing the Awaroa A2J1 block.
8. We cleared that block in 1955. Me and another fella named Taka Salvation. He was from up north and I think he was related to Mat Rata. Taka was about 60 years old at the time but he could work. There was ti tree on the block, punga and rewarewa. We camped right there and the job took us about 2 months to complete. I think it was about September when we started the job. After we cut it, Mac burnt everything and then he put grass seed on. After that, I spread manure on it by hand. We did a lot of work on that block. We never did the fencing though. I think Mac and his boys did that part of the job.
9. It's a pity that the place has gone back to the same as what it was before. All the money that Mac spent on the block went to waste. Mac had the money at the time to fix that block up. He was milking about 100 cows then and he used to have a mob of sheep as well. He was a very good farmer because he knew everything about it. He could do anything on a farm and he was a good man himself. A very straight talker. No mucking around.
10. Once we got the block set up, Mac used to bring all his dry stock through there to graze it. That was the plan. Although the A2J1 block was some distance from Mac's dairy farm, he could still use it for grazing.

GEORGE HEMOATA NELSON