

Te Urewera 4182-page report published

THE WAITANGI Tribunal has published its complete Te Urewera report into the claims of the Urewera region.

Although the report had previously been released in pre-publication parts on the Tribunal's website, to assist Treaty negotiations, this is the first hardcopy publication of the extensive 4182-page report.

The publication of the report is the culmination of a 30-year process of receiving claims, commissioning research, holding public hearings, and writing the report. It also marks the end of the Tribunal's formal inquiry into the Urewera claims. The report can be bought from publishers Legislation Direct.

The history of the relations of the peoples of Te Urewera — Tuhoë, Ngati Haka Patuheuheu, Ngati Whare, Ngati Manawa, Ngati Hinenui, Ngati Rangitahi, and Ngati Tamaterangi (Ngati Kahungunu) — with the Crown has been a profoundly unhappy one. The claims that they brought before the Tribunal focused on issues that had long been a source of anger and bitterness.

These claims included the confiscation of much of the best Tuhoë lands in 1866 when they were

caught up in a confiscation aimed at punishing not Tuhoë but those iwi that the Crown held responsible for the murder of the Reverend Carl Volkner.

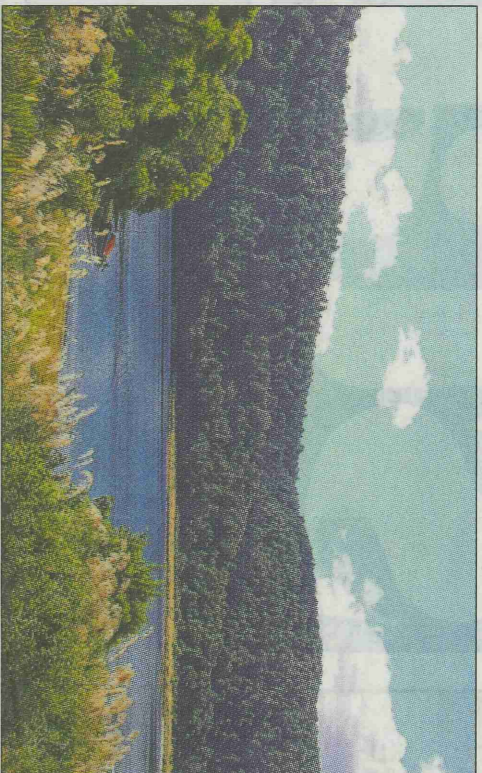
The claims also concern the widespread military conflict with Crown forces in upper Waikato, Waikaremoana, and the heart of Te Urewera from the mid-1860s through to the early 1870s, in which non-combatants were sometimes killed, and people were starved out of their villages, or driven from them, with wholesale destruction of kaima, crops, and taonga.

A deeply held grievance was the failure of the Crown to give real recognition to mana motuhake/ tino rangatiratanga.

Tuhoë were marginalised in their homeland and denied the arterial roads and state-of-the-art land titles that the Crown had promised to assist their farming development.

Crown to give real recognition to mana motuhake/ tino rangatiratanga. Premier Richard Seddon's government finally engaged in negotiations with Te Urewera leaders and passed a law unique in our history, the Urewera District Native Reserve Act 1896, which granted the peoples of Te Urewera powers of self-government and collective tribal control of their lands.

But, before long, the Tribunal found, the Crown presided over the collapse of the Urewera District Native Reserve, deliberately undermining the autonomy of the iwi and the protections the Act



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contained for tribal lands.

The Crown embarked on the aggressive purchase of thousands of small interests in reserve land blocks, and then in the 1920s it consolidated them into one vast block of Crown land in the centre of Te Urewera. This was the land that would become Te Urewera National Park in the 1950s. Tuhoë were marginalised in their homeland and denied the arterial roads and state-of-the-art land titles

that the Crown had promised to assist their farming development.

Their resentment of the national park was huge. And, during the same period, the Crown refused to recognise the Maori Land Court's award of title to the Maori owners of Lake Waikaremoana, a tribal taonga, while it exercised the rights of an owner itself. It developed hydro-electricity works, permanently lowered the level of the lake, and did not agree to lease the

lake from its owners and pay for its use until 1971.

Some of the best known Te Urewera claims are those that have left the most painful memories.

The Waitohau fraud deprived Ngati Patuheuheu of 7000 acres of their ancestral lands. The Crown failed to protect an entire community, and in 1907 they were evicted from Te Houhi, their sacred sites, and their best farmland.

Nine years later, the community of Maungapohatu suffered invasion by an armed expedition of three contingents of police, who burst onto their marae to arrest their leader Rua Kenana for minor liquor supply offences and also (in time of war) on suspicion of sedition.

Two young Maori, one of them Rua's younger son, were killed in a badly planned and brutal operation.

After a lengthy trial, Rua was acquitted of all but one of the charges against him.

The 20th century experience of the peoples of Te Urewera was generally one of hardship, poverty, and lack of opportunity, relieved only somewhat by the impact of the welfare state and the forestry industry.

The Tribunal found that the poor socio-economic position of the peoples of Te Urewera over many decades was largely a prejudice arising from the Crown's repeated Treaty breaches. But their sense of betrayal by the Crown arose from its broken promises.

QUICK News ...

A MAN in his 60s was rescued by the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter after feeling chest pains at Maharuru Hut on the Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk just before 1pm on Thursday.

The rescue team responded to a personal locator beacon activation for the man who experienced chest pains when walking the popular track.

By the time the helicopter arrived at the hut, the Department of Conservation staff had retrieved the patient by boat and returned him to the hut where he was assessed by a St John Paramedic before being transported by helicopter to Hawke's Bay Hospital for further assessment and treatment.

Waikato's St John Ambulance treated 12 people at the Waikato A and P Show on Saturday. Of the 12, three people were transported to Waikato Hospital. Ambulance staff were also on standby as part of Rocket Lab's test launch procedures.

Meanwhile, the fire service responded to a private fire alarm at 1am on Saturday morning where no action was required and were called to a medical assist on Sunday at 6pm but were stood down.

Police are yet to locate an offender who ran from the police during a vehicle check last Wednesday. A warrant to arrest was issued for the man who fled from the police on foot after being stopped in a vehicle on Queen Street.

Police investigations are ongoing into a burglary in Frasertown which took place earlier this month.

The Goldsmith Street house was broken into between around 3pm on Saturday January 13 and 2pm the following day.

Several items were reported stolen.

Police received several calls in relation to disorders at the Waikato A and P Show on Saturday. No arrests were known at the time the Star went to press.

A Marine Parade business was broken into around 2pm on Friday.

Two women reportedly entered the property and stole pairs of sunglasses.

Police are continuing investigations into the incident.

Waikato River a health risk, not suitable for swimming

A SWIMMING and paddling ban in the Waikato River followed a water quality test last Monday by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

The weekly sampling is at the Waikato Waterski Club and a sign was put up advising caution because of last Monday's reading. The site was considered a health risk and not suitable for swimming.

Cafe live stream popular

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CAFE owner Janey Bowen said they welcomed around 45 people throughout the first two days of the launch window, Saturday and Sunday.

"The screen is a permanent fixture now and I am very pleased with it," she said. "We had good feedback from people who came to see it, they enjoyed themselves. We were very pleased with the reception and plan to show the live stream of future launches."

Waikato Mayor Craig Little said it was just awesome to watch the second test launch

on live stream.

"I couldn't believe it. It was great," Mr Little said. "I sent Peter Beck a text afterwards congratulating him on the success."

Mr Little says once the Waikato District Council knows more about Rocket Lab's future operation, he had a good feeling it would be able to secure funding from the government to expand on rocket tourism.

"For me, I shake my head at the technology involved, even getting it off the ground, it's amazing. I urge people to go online and watch the video of the launch."

Mr Little says it is great to have Waikato out there and being talked about, for good reasons.

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