

**IN THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL**

**WAI 2490**

**IN THE MATTER**

of the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975 (as amended)

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER**

of the Ngāpuhi Mandate Inquiry (Wai 2490)

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**BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF ANNETTE JUNE KAIPO FOR TE KUMU TU**

**Date 14 November 2014**

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## **BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF ANNETTE JUNE KAIPO**

**Ko Nukutawhiti te whenua nohonga o matua tūpuna**

**Ko Parahaki te marae**

**Ko Te Kumu Tu me Ngāti Te Rino ngā hapū**

**Ko Ngāpuhi te iwi**

**Ko Tutamoe te maunga**

**Ko Mangakahia te awa**

**Ko Pou Te Rata toku tūpuna**

### **Introduction**

1. My name is Annette June Kaipo.
2. I am presenting this evidence on behalf of my hapu Te Kumu Tu.
3. I am a Kuia of our Hapu Te Kumu Tu, which is located in Nukutawhiti, Mangakahia, North West of Whangarei.
4. I am a mother to six tamariki and Nan to twelve grandchildren.
5. Professionally I am a Whanau Education Co-ordinator for Te Ringaatawhai who provide health promotion and education programmes for whanau hapu Marae and communities in Ngāpuhi nui tonu, I also assist Victim Support to support our whanau hapu and Iwi members through times of great crisis.
6. I am also a Trustee of Parahaki Marae, Nukutawhiti, Mangakahia, the home of Te Kumu Tu hapu.

### **Tuhoronuku**

7. On 29th August 2011 two hui were called with elders of Te Kumu Tu Hapu where hapu Kaikorero were appointed.
8. Erana Poulsen and Wikitoria Keane were appointed as Tamawahine kaikōrero and Heke Pou was appointed as Tamatane kaikōrero to Tuhoronuku.
9. Subsequently Erana Poulsen stood down due to work commitments, and Wikitoria Keane was given the full role as hapū kaikōrero. Heke Pou has since passed away.

10. Separately many hapu members were canvassed and informed and supported the appointment of Wikitoria Keane as hapū kaikōrero.
11. Most hapu members support Tuhoronuku and direct negotiations.

#### **Current status of Te Kumu Tu Hapu**

12. Our Marae is deteriorating, because of lack of funds, our whenua is undeveloped and under-utilised, housing options for most is rental – buying a home is mostly unachievable - our people largely are unemployed due to lack of employment, consequently most survive day to day the best they can, poverty is rife.
13. Most Hapu members and their whanau live and work elsewhere and do not often travel home, due to work commitments and affordability. Those that do live at home, largely, are widows and single mothers, surviving on benefits.
14. Because of their health needs, the need to move to the city for health services and to be closer to the hospital becomes essential for those few Kaumatua Kuia we have with us today.
15. Local school rolls are reducing severely, tamariki still living at home will need to travel further and longer to become educated.
16. There is no public transport or medical services in the Nukutawhiti or Mangakahia region.
17. Because of these issues and more, our young families are relocating to Auckland and Australia in large numbers in order to provide a better quality of living for their families through employment opportunities, which they can't living at home..
18. We mourn the loss of our tamariki and our mokopuna, our young families, who now live in other places and other countries. We no longer have a close day to day relationship with them, watching them grow, guiding them along the way, telling our stories, teaching them our tikanga, we rarely see them other than photos on social media. They are now manuhiri living in another country.

19. In contrast, while all these issues are impacting on the wellbeing of our whanau hapu Marae and community, vast tracts of land, worth tens of millions of dollars, in our region, are being sold by international tender. Seven dairy farms and three support farms totalling 3.300ha, milking 3,900 cows will shortly be sold, and most likely to overseas investors. We remain powerless to prevent this substantial sale of land which once belonged to our tupuna.

### **The Future**

20. As Tuhoronuku Independent Mandated Authority has the mandate and hearings are progressing, it seems apparent that settlement can occur seamlessly and expeditiously.
21. Meantime, delay in settling is causing more and more anguish within whanau hapu, Marae, communities, and Iwi. Whanau and hapu are becoming more disconnected by relocation, for every day, week and month that goes by.
22. Our tamariki and mokopuna want to come home, to restore and rebuild their whanau hapu Marae and Iwi. They are the descendants of our great chiefs who were dishonoured in every way, but they remain focussed on building a better future for our mokopuna, they are our true legacy.

**DATED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November 2014

  
**Annette Kaipo**