

Mary Stewart
Evidence to TTPP

Firstly. Thank you for allowing me to follow up my submission to take off the title of land of Maori significance from my land at a neutral location where I feel safe and supported in doing so.

My original Submission.

My name is Mary Stewart. I own a small lifestyle block at 39 Maori Pt Road, Karamea. I do not support the current claim placed on my property and I would like the TTPP's sites and areas of significance removed from my property for the following reasons.

- 1:- I have researched via a long standing Karamea person who has studied Maori history for many many years regarding the (Karamea) area and whom has informed me that there is no evidence to support your claim. There is no evidence or published documentation or literature, no physical evidence of any Pah sites, burial grounds, artifacts, human bones/remains or in fact anything that supports your claim.
- 2:- Pre European this area was never settled by Maori. Maori passed through the Karamea area from Golden Bay to Arahura on the greenstone trail and utilised an area to collect pippis from an historical pippi midden at ? the old wharf area (on the other side of the river). However this was not a permanent site as Maori ate out all the pippis so it was no longer a viable food source. No other evidence of other food sources collected and consumed has been found.
- 3:- It is well known that the mapped overlays of areas of significance have been incorrect which appears to be the case regarding my property and indeed the Karamea area.
- 4:- The whole process in TTPP's methods and instigation of the plan is marred, and the communication with individuals has been appalling, distressful, and with inadequate information available to the public. "Hence" the extension for the submission process to 28th Oct 2022.
- 5:- The property that I own has been bought and sold several times as a freehold unencumbered property with no mention of any clauses pertaining to significant historical sites or areas.
- 6:- It is highly probable that prior to European settlement that the status of original make up of my property would have been swamp, scrub and scrubby bushland that would not have supported a settlement site.

On further investigation and further to this:-

Maori on their treks, travelled on the Karamea township side of the river (opposite my side), travelled further up the Karamea river and crossed over, climbed up the South Terrace and walked along the top of the terrace and down the other side, by passing my property.

I request that if the TTPP want to continue with this false claim that they prove and provide physical evidence to back up their claim.

It has been assumed by locals that Maori Pt Rd was named after an old Maori man that lived on one of the estuary islands, not the mainland, in a whare not a Pah, whose name was known to be Karamea Jack. I was also told by a local that it was their European ancestors that actually named Maori Pt Road.

Staff at our local Museum also informed me that prior to the Murchison earthquake 1929 there was actually a lake on my side of the river which became silted up as a result of the quakes damaging movement.

Dulcie (nee) McNabb informed me about the pippi midden that was on the North side of the Karamea river by the wharf estuary area which appears to have been the only midden in Karamea. This is where the original Karamea river came out. This original site where the river flowed out has

now moved over 2 kms south and which now flows out just on the North side of my property. This is backed up with the final report to the NZ Historic Places Trust 29 May 2009 re Excavations at the Karamea Midden Site L27/4 September 2004 by Richard Walter, Chris Jacomb, Srey Muth and Emma Brook of the Department of Anthropology University of Otago.

The Karamea Wikipedia Site states that Maori were seasonal travellers through Karamea.

An historical essay written by George Johnston re Karamea Early History states that before White man arrived they had a Pah up on the terrace (? the North terrace on the northern side of the Karamea river) where they had a good view of the sea along the Karamea Bight. He also mentioned a lagoon (now known as the duck pond) that Maori kept their Canoes conveniently placed for immediate use if required. This article can be obtained from the Karamea Museum. He also stated that below the Pah was a large lagoon and a mile to the right of the Karamea river is where Maori Women could get shellfish. At that time the Karamea river flowed out 2kms to the north of my property on the Northern side of the Karamea River. This corresponds with the inaccurate map overlaying as I have stated. There is no Pah on my land or any physical or written evidence of any kind to even suggest that Maori had even passed through my land. All the information I have managed to gather supports the fact that Maori passed through Karamea on the North side of the Karamea river, crossed over and transversed the South Terrace across the top and down the other side. My land was not able to be crossed due to its make of swamp and scrubby flora. Therefore as per my submission you can not claim my land as land of Maori significance.

My suggestion to you is that you re check your information and revisit overlaying the maps you use on the correct location 2 kms North of the current location where the original Karamea River Mouth existed Pre European and at the time of European settlement. The movement of the Karamea river mouth is factually attributed to the Murchison earthquake in 1929 and also to naturally occurring events such as storms, flooding and tides. I therefore request that you reassess your word of mouth and poor mapping strategies to elicit an accurate and detailed document suitable to provide actual facts to rectify your process in claiming land of Maori significance. It is absolutely your responsibility to prove with out a doubt your claim that my land is of Maori significance and not my responsibility to prove that it is not.

Furthermore your methodology, your communication and the non availability of facts not to mention the extremely poor communication and mislabelling of my land has made the whole process absolutely appalling. It has caused me a great deal of angst; anxiety and used a great deal of my precious time researching and compiling information for my submission and the hearing that was absolutely unnecessary.

I want the title of land of Maori significance removed from my property asap. There have been absolutely no traces either physical or written that I have been able to find pertaining specifically to my land. No artifacts, Pahs, burial sites, Tapu sites , middens, buildings, fire pits, bones or food source relics that have been found on my property to back up or evidence your claim. The only information you have is heresay and poorly laid over mapping. Further more the whole process has not been of a neutral process from woe to go. The name Maori Point Road should not be used to assume your wrongful claim. Nor should it be used to lay entitlement to unsubstantiated identification.

I also acknowledge in this hearing that many people like myself have probably been affected in much the same way as I have . Distressed, anxious and angry about your blatantly disrespectful process. For all those ill equipped to to actually take up the challenge as I have done, I speak for you as well and hope that my submission will make the process more diligent and methodical in its approach and its process in the future.

Lastly, apart from my discontent and disbelief in the way these claims have been processed and managed I actually do support the legitimate inclusion and return of Tapu sites and acknowledgement of areas of Maori significance when they have been based on legitimate historical facts and physical evidence. I have always believed that Tapu sites should be returned to and culturally cared for by Maori as part of our heritage and our history.

I now respectfully request again that you now remove the label of land of Maori significance from my land and I submit further supporting evidence from Hamish Macbeth who lives near this site as proof to refute your claim.

Mary Stewart
Evidence from Hamish Macbeth

Introduction

Kia ora

Ko Hamish Macbeth toku ingoa.

I am Hamish Macbeth. I call Mt Stormy, behind Karamea, my maunga. I call the Karamea River my awa, and I call the Otumahana Estuary my moana. I have lived in Karamea and Little Wanganui since 1985. I now live at 4545 Karamea Highway, on the shore of the Otumahana Estuary, about two kilometres south of Maori Point Road. When I die I intend to be laid to rest beside my wife Margaret in a newly created natural burial ground beside the Karamea River

Our property of 3 hectares is about 400 metres long and borders the estuary, about 40 metres from our back door. I walk on the estuary regularly. In our 30 years at this property, we have developed the sandy and peaty soil into a horticultural block. We have never found any Maori artifacts.

I have been on the Buller District Council as a councillor for twelve years. I was on the committee which developed the original Buller District Plan. I was also on the West Coast Conservation Board for nine years and chairman for two while the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) was brought into being.

My wife Margaret had a keen interest in local history and has oral recordings of Little Wanganui residents from the 1990s who remembered back to the 1929 earthquake. I was helicoptered in to the Heaphy River mouth with iwi to observe the erosion of the pa site there.

I am interested in local history and sensitive to cultural issues. When on the Conservation Board, I attended a week-long Pukenga Atawai course at Te Tauraka Waka a Maui marae at Bruce Bay, which was a life-changing and privileged event for me.

My evidence

I refer to the SASM 6 intended designation referenced in the Officer's Report, page 175.

I have never heard this area referred to as 'Pa Point'. It has been called 'Maori Point' as far as I know because an old Maori lived alone in a whare somewhere in the middle of the lagoon area on an island.

The report states: 'It is evident that there is a long history of Poutini Ngai Tahu in Karamea, and indeed has been recorded on Topo maps of the area ...'

I have seen no evidence of any Maori occupation or activity on the land identified in the map. No evidence has been provided except the name on a map.

I am unable to access the map identified by Paul Madgwick (his attachment, page 1). When I try, it states – 'Forbidden: You don't have permission to access/on this server' so I am unable to comment on the map of the 1860s.

The map on the WCRC website which shows Karamea and three proposed SASM sites (4, 5, and 6) is very big scale and indefinite. It seems to me that the area encompassed by SASM 4 is very small and the area encompassed by SASM 6 is very large, and that SASM 4 is actually the area of significance to Maori, whereas SASM 6 is not.

I am not aware of any permanent Maori habitation on the south side of the Karamea River. The

closest single dwelling in European history was somewhere on an island probably out from the current river towards the sea, in the middle of the estuary. In my view, the designation is a case of mistaken identity.

The main and most convincing evidence of occupation is on the northern side of the river on Ross Scarlett's farm, where the midden site is (SASM 4). This has been excavated and studied (Sept 2004 by Richard Walter and others, University of Otago). I understand there is aerial evidence of house piles between the midden site and Wharf Road.

The Otumahana Lagoon, like all unprotected river mouths, is subject to constant change over time. It has quite clearly changed in the past 30 years since I have lived here, in spite of modern man's attempt to keep it in a confined channel with the use of excavators and bulldozers. The river mouth has varied in that time at least two kilometres north and south. In early European times, ships sailed in over the bar at 'Flagstaff' to service the town. This is about 1.5 kilometres north of its present exit to the sea. Therefore, in European history, the river mouth has moved at least 3.5 kilometres north and south.

Looking at the NZ Topographic map online illustrates how variable the lagoon or estuarine area is. It bears no resemblance to the way the estuary is today. Granite Creek (earlier known as Otumahana) is shown to have a separate exit to the sea. This is not currently the case. Granite Creek flows into the Karamea River before they exit to the sea together. The map shows an island in the middle of the stuary. This is not there..

The point to make here is that this area is very low lying and mobile. The area around Ray Street on the northern bank of the Karamea River, where the midden and known pa site are located, is much less mobile, and is known to have Maori habitation.

I believe 'Maori Point Road' is a reference to the single Maori resident who lived there in early European settlement days. It bears no evidence that there was a pa site there.

I believe that the circle designated as SASM 6 is arbitrary and bears no correlation to any significant Maori activity in this exact area. I have seen no evidence to convince me that it is of particular significance to Maori.

This afternoon I had a conversation with two of the TTPP planners. They were very busy. I attempted to outline the concerns that Mary Stewart has in relation to her property, and wondered if they could actually define the area from the map. From my reading of the map, Mary Stewart's property now lies to the east of the circle designating the area of interest. It may be that her property is no longer in the affected area. This should alleviate her concerns.

However, the principle still remains; that in my mind, there is no evidence of any particular significance to Maori in the proposed parcel identified as SASM 6. In my view, unless there is compelling factual evidence otherwise, I believe SASM 6 should be withdrawn.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Hamish Macbeth
30 April 2024
Otumahana
Karamea
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