

# TE KARAUNA HOU: THE SENIOR NGATI RAHIRI RANGATIRA

Philip Hart

**Te Aroha Mining District Working Papers**

**No. 30**

**2016**

Historical Research Unit  
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences  
The University of Waikato  
Private Bag 3105  
Hamilton, New Zealand

ISSN: 2463-6266

© 2016 Philip Hart

Contact: [prhart@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:prhart@waikato.ac.nz)



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

## TE KARAUNA HOU: THE SENIOR NGATI RAHIRI RANGATIRA

**Abstract:** *Te Karauna Hou, the principal Ngati Rahiri rangatira living at Te Aroha in 1880, had a distinguished whakapapa linking him to several hapu. Before settling permanently at Te Aroha in the 1870s he lived in several places, especially at Kaitawa, on the southern outskirts of Thames. One of the principal rangatira in Hauraki, he was loyal to the Crown during the Waikato War, and later assisted Pakeha settlement. To emphasize his mana and that of his hapu, he held big festivities at Kaitawa and at Omahu pa at Te Aroha.*

*In 1871, when Ngati Haua won a (temporary) victory in the land court over the ownership of the Aroha Block, Karauna took control of it on behalf of the Marutuahu confederation, and subsequently kept Ngati Haua at bay. For a time he opposed road-making on this block, but later agreed to it, for financial reasons. Like all rangatira, he sought to maximize his ownership of as many blocks of land as possible, sometimes having his lies exposed through his contradicting his earlier evidence. He also denied receiving money for land when his denials were easily disproved. Despite leasing and selling land, selling timber and gum, and opening his land to miners, he often struggled financially.*

*Karauna claimed to have found gold in Hauraki in 1852, and was willing to open his land at Thames to miners, but did not invest in any claims before the Te Aroha rush, when he attempted to extract a bonus of £1,000 from the government for opening the field. After his death in 1885, Pakeha remembered with gratitude his friendly attitude to them, but they also remembered his drunkenness, which meant he lost the respect of both Maori and Pakeha in his latter years.*

### WHAKAPAPA

Te Karauna Hou, sometimes referred to as Karauna Koropango, was the principal rangatira of Ngati Tumutumu, a hapu of Ngati Maru.<sup>1</sup> Pakeha commonly called him ‘Crown’.<sup>2</sup> Mokena Hou<sup>3</sup> told the land court in 1871 that, after the death of Hou, Karauna had replaced him as the chief of Ngati

---

<sup>1</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 10, p. 384.

<sup>2</sup> For example, *Thames Advertiser*, 23 April 1877, p. 2, 28 March 1882, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> See paper on his life.

Tumutumu.<sup>4</sup> Karauna was also a member of the hapu of Ngati Ngaungau,<sup>5</sup> of Ngati Kotoko, a branch of Ngati Hinerangi,<sup>6</sup> of Ngati Matau,<sup>7</sup> and the chief of the Ngati Ua hapu, all of Ngati Maru.<sup>8</sup> He described his 'principal tribe' as Ngati Tumutumu and Ngati Maru.<sup>9</sup>

Karauna had a distinguished whakapapa. As given by Tamati Waaka in 1869, he traced his descent from

Marutuahu

Te Matapu (a woman?)

Rauakitua

Ringomai

Puha

Te Rukau

Miriana

Te Maunu

Tuwhakauhou

Rangiea.<sup>10</sup>

In 1870 he gave another line of descent:

Kiwi

Matau

Taiparoro

Pareuwa

Riki

Taha.<sup>11</sup>

Also in that year, he gave a similar whakapapa, with changes to the spelling of some names, and additional information about his parents:

Kahurautao

Kiwi

Matau

Taiparoro

Parena

---

<sup>4</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 345.

<sup>5</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 4, p. 66.

<sup>6</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 10, pp. 243, 319.

<sup>7</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 3, p. 383.

<sup>8</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 11, p. 39; *AJHR*, 1870, A-11, p. 5.

<sup>9</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 318.

<sup>10</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 4, pp. 69-70.

<sup>11</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 3, p. 382.

Riki

Taha, a woman, who married Hou, who lived at Te Aroha.<sup>12</sup>

In 1871 he again named his father as Hou.<sup>13</sup> In 1877, Mokena Hou confirmed that Hou was born at Te Aroha.<sup>14</sup> In the following year, Karauna gave his ancestry again:

Tangata

Ranga

Pariaotana

Tukoro

Hou.<sup>15</sup>

In another land court case, he traced his ancestry from Ua and his descendent Tamariki.<sup>16</sup> After his death, his whakapapa was given as follows:

Tamariki

Te Atua (whose elder brother was Te Tumutumu)

Puke

Motu

Kurakura

Tuatini

Ronu

Te Poupou

Te Urumahinga, who married Wakamara

Hou.<sup>17</sup>

In 1900, Rewi Mokena gave the whakapapa of both his father Mokena and of Karauna:

Tangata

Hikahaere

Roniu

Te Popou

Te Urumahina, who married Tukoro. They had two children, Hou, whose children were Karauna and his younger brother Kau (otherwise Kau Hou, or Piahana Hou),<sup>18</sup> and a younger son, Kiriohu, father of Te Mokena.

---

<sup>12</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 6, p. 127.

<sup>13</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 311.

<sup>14</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 10, p. 80.

<sup>15</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 10, p. 269.

<sup>16</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 11, p. 39.

<sup>17</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 24, p. 55.

He also traced the whakapapa in another way:

Tangata

Ranga

Kaihaka

Pareantana

Tukoro, who married Te Urumahina.

And in a third way:

Tokotoko,

whose child Irihanga married Tawhange, child of Kura;

Wharaurangi

Waiheruata

Hiku

Kautu;

his elder son, Rangihaua, had a daughter Taha, who married Hou and became the mother of Karauna; Hou's other wife, Ngarima, was the mother of Kau.

Kautu's younger son, Koropanga, married Kiriohu; their son was Te Mokena.<sup>19</sup>

Piahana Hou described himself as Karauna's elder brother; they had a sister, Mei Hou.<sup>20</sup> He later clarified that Karauna was his half-brother; Piahana and Mei Hou were the children of Hou and his first wife, Ngarima, whereas Taha was the mother of Karauna, her only child.<sup>21</sup> Piahana Hou died in 1910, aged either 55 or 60,<sup>22</sup> making him a much younger brother, not an older one. Mei Hou died at Tui Pa in 1915 'in about her 80th year'; she was 'well known in this district where she had lived all her life'.<sup>23</sup> When Karauna died in 1885, his age was estimated as 83, giving 1802 as his date of birth.<sup>24</sup>

---

<sup>18</sup> See paper on his life.

<sup>19</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 52, p. 354.

<sup>20</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 19, p. 38.

<sup>21</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 28B, p. 180.

<sup>22</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 28 April 1910, p. 2; Church of England, Maori Burials, Piako 1902-1910, Burial of Piahana Hou, 30 April 1910, Anglican Diocesan Archives, Hamilton; Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 60, p. 56.

<sup>23</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 22 March 1915, p. 2

<sup>24</sup> Church of England, Coromandel Register of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials 1874-1904, Deaths, no. 103, 1090, Anglican Archives, Auckland.

## HIS LIFE BEFORE PAKEHA SETTLEMENT AT TE AROHA

Before Pakeha encroached on Hauraki, Karauna lived in various parts of the district, as can be traced through his evidence to the land court. Like other Maori, he could not provide precise dates about when and where he lived. In 1871 he listed the intertribal battles fought during his lifetime:<sup>25</sup>

The fights came in this order

1. Taumatawiwi
2. Matamata and Kawehitiki
3. Haurahi
4. Waiharakeke
5. Te Uira
6. Ongare

He had not been present at Haurahi, but had been at Taumatawiwi, 'the affair at Te Uira', and at Ongare, which was 'five years perhaps' after Haurahi.<sup>26</sup> In February 1869, after unsuccessfully 'objected to the land being investigated', with Pineha Marutuahu he was the principal Ngati Maru counter-claimant to Ngati Haua at the Matamata hearing about the Aroha Block.<sup>27</sup> He first gave evidence about the battle of Taumatawiwi, near Maungatautari, in 1831.<sup>28</sup> During it and the subsequent flight '5 of my own party were killed'.

We fled to the pa at Haowhenua – the Ngatihaua followed us and we killed two of them – they retreated – We fled because we had no ammunition – it was expended before we fled from Taumatawiwi – We lived two months at Haowhenua after the battle and the Hauraki tribes came to fetch us.... When the Hauraki tribes came to fetch us we came as far as Horotiu [near Cambridge] in canoes – we separated at Cambridge – Ngatimaru, Ngatitamatera, & some of Ngatiwhanaunga returned by way of Piako – Ngatipaoa & some of Ngatimaru and Ngatiwhanaunga went in the canoes to Te Awaroa, dragged the canoes across to Manukau [and] then across to Waiuku and thus returned to Hauraki.<sup>29</sup>

---

<sup>25</sup> For details of the sequence and dates of battles, see paper on Mokena Hou.

<sup>26</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 313.

<sup>27</sup> Maori Land Court, Waikato Minute Book no. 2, p. 211.

<sup>28</sup> See paper on Maori land in Hauraki.

<sup>29</sup> Maori Land Court, Waikato Minute Book no. 2, pp. 223-224.

He did 'not know anything of the party who returned by way of Waihou', and repeated that 'We saved ourselves at Taumatawiwi, we retreated to our pa', and lived at Hauraki again.<sup>30</sup> In February 1871, when the Aroha Block was reconsidered, he gave further details, revealing that he had been 'in the Haowhenua pa' but 'did not go to the battle'. Whilst admitting that Ngati Maru had retreated to the pa after the battle, he insisted that it was 'not true that the N. haua conquered us and led us out of the district'.<sup>31</sup> When the Ngati Haua counsel cross-examined him about whether he had been in the pa, because at Matamata he had said he was outside it, Karauna described this record as 'an error of the clerks'. Asked how big he was at the time, he replied: 'Kua Kaumatua', meaning becoming an adult.<sup>32</sup> He had remained in the pa because he was too young to fight: 'Why should a youngster go out with a weapon?'<sup>33</sup> When later asked whether he had been a baby at the time of this battle, he replied, 'A Kaumatua, or I could not have escaped at the murder of Takurua'<sup>34</sup> (at Tawahitiki or Kawehitiki, a settlement seemingly on the Piako River that cannot now be located). In 1878 he said he was 'growing up at the time of the battle'.<sup>35</sup> 'We remained a long time in the Haowhenua pa after Taumatawiwi', and the boundaries of Ngati Maru land had not been altered after it.<sup>36</sup> Despite persistent questioning, in 1871 he continued to assert that Marutuahu could hold their own at the time of the battle and afterwards had left for their own land because 'there were no Pakehas' at Maungatautari. Asked why he had not returned to Hauraki by way of Kawhia or Tauranga, he asked, 'Why should I when that land did not belong to me'.<sup>37</sup> Asked, 'Was not Tauranga nearer?', he replied, 'Why should I go to that bad land. Hauraki had been made rangatira by Pakehas'.<sup>38</sup>

'When we had remained 2 years at the Thames' after Taumatawiwi, 'we came back with Ngapuhi' in two war parties, 'one consisting of

---

<sup>30</sup> Maori Land Court, Waikato Minute Book no. 2, p. 226.

<sup>31</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, pp. 311-312.

<sup>32</sup> P.M. Ryan, *The Reed Dictionary of Modern Maori*, 2 ed., revised (Wellington, 1971), pp. 100, 131.

<sup>33</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 318.

<sup>34</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 319.

<sup>35</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 10, p. 270.

<sup>36</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 312.

<sup>37</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 319.

<sup>38</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 320.

Ngatipaoa & portion of the Ngapuhi by way of the Piako – the other by way of Waihou – the party by Piako went to Te Kawehitiki and the Kumete was killed there<sup>39</sup> but the pa was not taken.<sup>40</sup> Two years later he stated ‘I was at Kawehitiki when Takurua was murdered. I escaped. Parakauere’s wife was eaten there by N. haua. She was a N. maru’.<sup>41</sup> After this battle, ‘our party came to Matamata the Ngatipaoa party joined us and we killed Te Maunutu & Te Wharekohe - the pa was not taken. We lost two – we surrounded the pa, but did not take it – we went back to Hauraki, a treaty was made and we returned to Hauraki’.<sup>42</sup> He later gave more details: ‘I was at the Matamata fight. Our people did not come away on that occasion from fear. The N. haua were shut up in the pa. We did not come away because we heard the Waikatos were coming to join them. Had we heard it, we should have waited to receive them’.<sup>43</sup>

In 1869 he stated that after the skirmish at Matamata a ‘treaty was made’, and they lived for ‘a long time at Hauraki after the Matamata fight when the affair at Waiharakeke took place – It was after Christianity had been introduced into the country. A war party consisting of 140 men of Ngatitamatera & Ngatimaru tribes - (I do not know how many there were of Ngatihaua) fell on Ngatihaua at day light – some were killed some escaped’.<sup>44</sup> They had gone to Waiharakeke because ‘we were on the war path – we found them living there and we killed them because we were at enmity’.<sup>45</sup> Under cross-examination he stated, ‘There were no men at Waiharakeke – only one old man & some women, no fighting men – according to our Native custom we found something to slay and we did so’.<sup>46</sup> Subsequently, ‘we came by way of Piako (200 men of the Hauraki tribes) we came and surprised them at Horotiu. We killed Te Manu, Kaukiuta & Te Uau – Karaka his wife and children – there was no pa – they were killed outside’.<sup>47</sup> Immediately after this killing, ‘we immediately returned to

---

<sup>39</sup> As a kumete is a wooden food bowl (Ryan, p. 22), the sense of this statement is obscure.

<sup>40</sup> Maori Land Court, Waikato Minute Book no. 2, p. 224.

<sup>41</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 318.

<sup>42</sup> Maori Land Court, Waikato Minute Book no. 2, p. 224.

<sup>43</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 312.

<sup>44</sup> Maori Land Court, Waikato Minute Book no. 2, p. 224.

<sup>45</sup> Maori Land Court, Waikato Minute Book no. 2, p. 225.

<sup>46</sup> Maori Land Court, Waikato Minute Book no. 2, pp. 225-226.

<sup>47</sup> Maori Land Court, Waikato Minute Book, no. 2, p. 224.

Hauraki and did not attack the pa of Ngatihaua'.<sup>48</sup> Afterwards, 'peace was permanently established' between the Waikato and Hauraki tribes.<sup>49</sup>

In 1878, he was the first to give evidence in the Ngati Tumutumu claim for Te Aratiatia, upriver from Te Aroha. 'I lived on Waiharakeke', an adjoining block, 'when I was a child. I left there shortly before' Taumatawiwi,<sup>50</sup> 'We were living there with N'Hinerangi'.<sup>51</sup> He did not live on this land between the battle of Taumatawiwi 'and the fight with the Europeans at Waikato'.<sup>52</sup>

I heard what was said about Taraia's raid at Waiharakeke.<sup>53</sup> Hou and a part of that party did not return by way of Manawaru but went on to Waiharakeke. Hou was the man who offered the Sacrifice to the Gods in respect of this War, N'tamatera and we killed pigs that was running on the Waihou river that belonged to us, all the pigs were eaten except one that was set aside as Tapu, I was present myself at that time.<sup>54</sup>

In 1871 he said that he 'was at Hauraki when the Waiharakeke affair occurred', and explained the circumstances:

Te Waharoa went there to cut flax by permission of Hou. I heard so from Hou. Taraia was angry at it, and he afterwards went to Waiharakeke. The first time the Missionaries sent his army back. He went a second time. Hou went with the "ape" [crowd]<sup>55</sup> but not to fight. I don't know what this army went to fight. I know Pinenga was captured at Waiharakeke. I saw her. She was a daughter of Hikairo's.<sup>56</sup>

He knew 'about the peacemaking' after the battle at Ongare of 1841, proposed by Ngati Haua, held at Ngahinapouri, a Ngati Tamatera

---

<sup>48</sup> Maori Land Court, Waikato Minute Book no. 2, p. 226.

<sup>49</sup> Maori Land Court, Waikato Minute Book no. 2, p. 225.

<sup>50</sup> Recorded as Tamatawhiwhi.

<sup>51</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 10, p. 269.

<sup>52</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 10, p. 270; see also p. 271.

<sup>53</sup> For summary of Taraia's life, see Angela Ballara, 'Taraia Ngakuti Te Tumuhua', *Dictionary of National Biography. Te Ara: The Encyclopedia of New Zealand*.

<sup>54</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 10, p. 271.

<sup>55</sup> Ryan, p. 32; H.W. Williams, *Dictionary of the Maori Language*, 7 ed., revised (Wellington, 1971), p. 13.

<sup>56</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 322.

settlement belonging to Taraia.<sup>57</sup> He described leaving Turua, where he was living with his father,<sup>58</sup> to be present, and quoted Ngati Haua leaders seeking peace. ‘After this I went to Ngapuhi’, the place not the tribe, but returned after a month.<sup>59</sup> Again confusing the date, he then stated that ‘after Matamata’ Ngati Haua leaders ‘came to Hauraki. The Governor had arrived at this time’, a misunderstanding of the date that prompted either the clerk or the judge to inscribe ‘(!)’ in the margin.<sup>60</sup> Once the peace arranged at Ngahinapouri was confirmed, Ngati Haua did not claim the Aroha Block. ‘Our people were not beaten at Taumatawiwi, they were beaten by us. We were not enslaved. I have cultivated on the Aroha – after Taumatawiwi’, along with others.

I did not live there permanently. I used to go there and work and come back. I remember getting mussels at one time. We brought seed potatoes with the mussels, which we planted on Te Aroha – at Mataura and other places. I myself helped to plant them.... We bought the seed from the Hauraki people – Whakatohea, N. Koe and others. The Governor had not come at this time. It was after Taumatawiwi. We dug the potatoes, and put them on a scaffold. It was before Ongare. Shortly after we came back from Haowhenua. I planted potatoes again after Ongare at Wapuaka, Totoro, Omahu, Manawaru. These potatoes were dug by our people. There were plenty to do the work. I remember the time of the measles. Parakauere, Te Kirikau, Paramihia and other of N. Koe were cultivating at Te Aroha then. After I left Manawaru the N. Maru planted on the Aroha. I heard so from them. I never heard that the N. Haua ever pulled up any of the N. Maru crops. We have been in the habit of receiving eels &c from the Aroha – brought to Hauraki – caught on the West wide of [the] Waihou down to Te Ruapa.<sup>61</sup>

He had caught eels in four rivers on the block ‘between the Taranaki and Waikato wars’. ‘I went up from Hauraki to Totoro to plant potatoes, a flood came and I went to catch eels’. He had also caught eels when on the way to the Matamata hearing of the block.<sup>62</sup> He had travelled up the

---

<sup>57</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, pp. 312-313, 318, 321.

<sup>58</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 321.

<sup>59</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 313.

<sup>60</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, pp. 313-314.

<sup>61</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, pp. 314-315.

<sup>62</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book, pp. 322-323.

Waihou with other Ngati Maru, staying at the Ngati Rahiri settlement of Omahu on the way.<sup>63</sup> He was evasive about who were the witnesses for Ngati Haua, explaining that he did not hear Paratene Te Kaharunga's evidence (given immediately after his) because he was 'outside smoking'.<sup>64</sup> A Pakeha Maori, William Nicholls,<sup>65</sup> said, 'I never saw Te Karauna cultivating on the Aroha, but I heard of his being there before the Taranaki war'.<sup>66</sup> Nicholls had been told he had pigs there, 'but I don't know about it'.<sup>67</sup>

In 1869, Karauna claimed ownership of Whakatete, to the north of Thames. 'I have lived on the land, at Mairorio and Parawarahi in the 1st Gov time (i.e. I was there) I had companions with me my hapu of N. Ua', some of whom he named. He had taken Karepuha there 'to cultivate'.<sup>68</sup> Under questioning, he said that he had first gone to Parawarahi 'perhaps two years' before the first Governor arrived.<sup>69</sup> They 'did not ask permission of Te Waaka to cultivate the ground because the land belonged to me'. He cultivated Parawarahi for a 'considerable time', both during Hoani Heke's war '& a long time after',<sup>70</sup> which if true meant that he could not have been a small boy at the time of the battle of Taumatawiwi, ten years later; probably he meant his hapu cultivated there. After leaving Parawarahi he went to Puriri and then to Waiotahi, but afterwards returned to Mitikaia, part of Parawarahi.<sup>71</sup> He lived at Mitikara for a 'considerable time. We went in the time of Mr [Donald] McLean<sup>72</sup> & left it in the time of the Waikato war', meaning 1863 or 1864; after the war, neither he nor anyone else had lived there.<sup>73</sup> Later, referring to an earlier time, he stated that he 'left during Gov Grey's time before the measles came – I was at Moehau when the measles came. I went with a war party'. He lived for 'four seasons' at Puriri before cultivating at Waiotahi 'for a long time – many years I don't

---

<sup>63</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 315.

<sup>64</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, pp. 323-324.

<sup>65</sup> See paper on his life.

<sup>66</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 3, p. 343.

<sup>67</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 3, p. 345.

<sup>68</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 4, p. 180.

<sup>69</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 4, p. 182.

<sup>70</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 4, p. 181.

<sup>71</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 4, p. 181.

<sup>72</sup> Land purchase officer and then Native Minister.

<sup>73</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 4, p. 182.

know how many'. While his 'permanent residence was at Waiotahi', he 'used to go to Mitikara to cultivate'. Asked whether he lived there permanently, he replied, 'I did not live permanently at Mitikara I used to go to and fro'.<sup>74</sup> In 1868 he was living at Kaitawa, adjacent to Shortland, at the southern end of Thames, and in 1870 negotiations took place for a new rifle range behind his house.<sup>75</sup> The following year he said that, after leaving Turua, he lived first at Puriri and then at Shortland, where he was still living.<sup>76</sup>

In 1870, when claiming part of the Tongarewa Block, he claimed that he had 'lived and cultivated at Wharahoe', having settled there 'after the termination of the Waikato war'.<sup>77</sup> This was a reference to Taumatawiwi, for Hoterene Taipari, a counter-claimant who denied that Karauna had cultivated this land, said he did 'not know where Karauna's party resided before the flight to Waikato' from Ngapuhi, 'but since their return from there they have lived at Te Poka'.<sup>78</sup> Another counter-claimant said that 'Karauna and his party's principal settlement is on the Waiwhakauranga river',<sup>79</sup> later known as the Kauaeranga. Karauna confirmed this later in the year when seeking Te Poka No. 2, of 30 acres: 'We are residing and cultivating on the land now our houses are now on it'.<sup>80</sup> In 1872 he stated that he resided 'at Korokoro', and claimed to have 'lived and cultivated on' the Te Hohuroa Block, for which he successfully applied.<sup>81</sup>

#### A LEADING RANGATIRA

Karauna was one of the leading figures in Hauraki. According to his 1885 obituary, he was

always a good friend to the Europeans, remaining loyal through the great Waikato war, when all the tribes in the Thames left their homes for to wage war against the Europeans. He also assisted the earliest settlers, viz, McCaskill and others when they

---

<sup>74</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 4, p. 183.

<sup>75</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 2, p. 83; *Daily Southern Cross*, 6 October 1870, p. 7.

<sup>76</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 321.

<sup>77</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 3, pp. 382-384.

<sup>78</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 3, p. 387.

<sup>79</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 3, p. 388.

<sup>80</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 6, p. 55.

<sup>81</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 6, pp. 391-392.

first came to settle on the Thames River, nearly fifty years ago, and protected them.<sup>82</sup>

He would then have been in his late teens or early twenties. In 1872, Lachlan Allan McCaskill said that, during the Waikato War, a runanga of Ohinemuri chiefs had told him to leave his farm at Hikutaia. As he had a mill and other property there, ‘they agreed that a party should go and reside there to protect my things. Karauna proposed to undertake the duty, but I selected Herewini’.<sup>83</sup> In 1867 he was described as one of the ‘chiefs of the friendly tribes’.<sup>84</sup> That Karauna was permitted to purchase ammunition in April 1872,<sup>85</sup> a time of official concern about Hauhau, proves he was indeed regarded as ‘friendly’. As an example of his friendship with Pakeha, when a journalist was returning from Wairakau to Ohinemuri in 1871 Karauna ‘was kind enough to save me all the trouble as to my own boat, by taking me on his’.<sup>86</sup> And as an example of his support for government policy, late in the previous year he negotiated with officials to set up ‘a new rifle-range on the ground situate at the back of Te Karauna’s house, near Shortland’.<sup>87</sup>

Karauna was a leading figure at most important occasions involving Hauraki hapu. In about 1842 he attended a meeting to discuss the adulterous behaviour of Hoterene Taipari’s wife.<sup>88</sup> At an unstated date he was one of the Ngati Maru rangatira who went to Paeroa ‘in the war party at the time of [the] misdemeanour of Taraia’s wife’.<sup>89</sup> After the first hearing of the Aroha case, in April 1969 he signed (with a cross) the petition of 73 ‘principal men’ of Hauraki for a rehearing.<sup>90</sup> Later that year he was the second of eight rangatira who wrote to the government protesting at the

---

<sup>82</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 31 January 1885, p. 7.

<sup>83</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 7, p. 330.

<sup>84</sup> Thames Correspondent, *Daily Southern Cross*, 28 September 1867, p. 4.

<sup>85</sup> Thames Magistrate’s Court, Licenses for Arms, Gunpowder, and Warlike Stores Butt Book, no. 4133, BACL 14287/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>86</sup> Special Correspondent, ‘The Opening of Ohinemuri’, *New Zealand Herald*, 13 May 1871, p. 3.

<sup>87</sup> *Auckland Weekly News*, 8 October 1870, p. 4.

<sup>88</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 2, p. 217.

<sup>89</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 16, p. 50.

<sup>90</sup> Petitions, Legislative Department, LE 1, 1869/133, ANZ-W.

Crown taking the Thames beaches.<sup>91</sup> In 1871, Hikerero Pureo said that, after the Waikato War, Karauna had attended a large meeting at Ohineroa about landless Ngati Haua that agreed to allow the latter to camp at Te Aroha.<sup>92</sup> After 1868, when Hori Tukarawa, a great chief of Ngati Maru, died, he attended his tangi at Manaia and helped to settle a land dispute there.<sup>93</sup>

In 1870, Karauna attended the Governor's Levee at Thames.<sup>94</sup> He gave evidence to the land court about the ownership of the Opitonui Block, on the Coromandel Peninsula.<sup>95</sup> When Te Totara, site of the 1821 massacre by Ngapuhi, was before the court, with himself claiming one portion, he said that he wished 'to have the claim withdrawn on account of the "tapu," this is the wish of the whole tribe', and the case was adjourned sine die.<sup>96</sup> Later that year he attended a meeting at Kerepehi to discuss the debts incurred by Aperahama Te Reiroa.<sup>97</sup> At a subsequent Ngati Maru meeting about this issue held at Kaitawa, he was one of the principal speakers.<sup>98</sup> He asked who was to repay the money provided to relieve the rangatira of their financial troubles. Informed that they had consented to one speculator, John Lundon,<sup>99</sup> paying the debt, 'in an excited and spirited manner' he asked: 'Why was not the money paid sooner? Why did he (Lundon) not bring the money to us before our eyes, in order that we might take it to the other people. Had this been done my mind would have been easy and this trouble ended. I do not believe the money is paid. I believe it's all humbug'. Assured by Daniel Pollen, previously a government minister,<sup>100</sup> that the money had been paid, he asked, 'Why did you not consent this matter when I came to you at first? I offered you the mudflats to settle the question. I came to you as the representative of the Government. Why did you not help me?'. Told

---

<sup>91</sup> Letter from 'the council of Ngatimaru' to 'the Council at Wellington', 5 August 1869, translation printed in *Daily Southern Cross*, 18 August 1869, p. 6.

<sup>92</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 256.

<sup>93</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 27, pp. 32-33.

<sup>94</sup> *Auckland Weekly News*, 15 January 1870, p. 11.

<sup>95</sup> Maori Land Court, Coromandel Minute Book no. 1, p. 256.

<sup>96</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 3, p. 290.

<sup>97</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 1 October 1870, p. 2; see paper on Aihe Pepene.

<sup>98</sup> *Auckland Weekly News*, 15 October 1870, p. 5.

<sup>99</sup> See paper on the New Zealand Exploration Company.

<sup>100</sup> *New Zealand Parliamentary Record 1840-1940*, ed. Guy H. Scholefield (Wellington, 1950), p. 62.

that Pollen was not a member of the present government, he asked who would repay the £50 paid to cover another rangatira's debts. 'I have money in [Robert] Graham's bank.<sup>101</sup> To whom shall I pay it? If you say to yourself, meaning Pollen, 'I will do so gladly, but never to Lundon. (Here the spirited gentleman treated his audience to a pantomimic display of his opinion of Mr Lundon, and subsided)'. Pollen left at the end of the meeting, 'but not before he had been seized several times affectionately by the "spirited" gentleman referred to above (Mr Karauna)'.<sup>102</sup> The clear implication was that Karauna was drunk.

In 1871 he led Ngati Maru to take possession of Te Aroha and keep Ngati Haua at bay.<sup>103</sup> He was responsible for the erection of a meetinghouse at Omahu, later Tui, pa.<sup>104</sup> Later in the year, with nine other rangatira he signed a petition asking the government 'not to deal with or legislate for Grahamstown, so as not to interfere with their alleged rights under agreements made with Government', as a Thames newspaper put it.<sup>105</sup> When Donald McLean, the Native Minister, visited Thames in March 1873, Karauna was one of the rangatira who made a brief speech of welcome.<sup>106</sup> After surveyor Timothy Sullivan was murdered near Cambridge the following month, he addressed a meeting of Maori held in Thames: 'Let no person rush into the fight at Waikato, but let everyone in Hauraki stop at his own place. If anyone of you goes, I will seize his property for the wrong in going'.<sup>107</sup> Later, with other rangatira, he filed onto the stage at a public meeting convened by Pakeha to discuss responses to this murder.<sup>108</sup> At a subsequent meeting of Maori, he nominated a former member of parliament for Thames as chairman and criticized Ngati Haua as well as condemning the murder:

I am pleased with what the Europeans have said respecting the murder, and other transactions which have occurred, My word is, that the European side should search out this murderer, but the work is for the whole of us, Europeans and Maoris. It is also for

---

<sup>101</sup> He had purchased Grahamstown, the northern portion of Thames.

<sup>102</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 10 October 1870, p. 3.

<sup>103</sup> *Auckland Weekly News*, 8 April 1871, p. 5.

<sup>104</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 65, p. 62.

<sup>105</sup> *Thames Guardian and Mining Record*, 20 October 1871, p. 2.

<sup>106</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 31 March 1873, p. 3.

<sup>107</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 1 May 1873, p. 3.

<sup>108</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 14 May 1873, p. 3.

the law to look after that murderer. My word to the Europeans is, first ask the King – persist in asking him – if he refuses, then close up the land. If he keeps that man, and will not give him up, the land should be taken. Those persons are the Ngatihaua, their chief formerly was William Thompson [Wiremu Tamihana], and his children are here. Those children of his and the King are one. It is for the Europeans to search after the blood which has been shed. All I have to say, is to avenge your blood. For myself, I am not going. Leave me to look after my own district. (Cheers).

When asked by a Pakeha whether, in the case of a ‘general war’, the ‘friendly natives’ would supply ‘rebel natives’ with provisions and ammunition, he replied that he would ‘not give them clothing, food, powder, or anything else. That would be death to myself were I to do so’. At the end of the meeting,

Te Karauna again spoke, and said he thought they should have a supply of arms in case of fighting. He suggested that the Armed Constabulary should be sent up to fight, instead of being kept going about catching dogs that have no collars, and taking up women who are only partially intoxicated. When they had shown their bravery then he would welcome them back if successful. Then they could resume their former work of catching dogs so as to get money for the Government.<sup>109</sup>

The *Thames Advertiser* clarified the latter allusion:

It might have surprised some people to read Te Karauna’s observation about the dogs, but the fact is, that the Shortland dog-kennel is conveniently near Butt’s corner, where the natives must do congregate, with their following of curs, and the police find it exceedingly handy to run the latter into the kennel.<sup>110</sup>

Later in May, Karauna led the party of Ngati Tumutumu and Ngati Hinerangi that drove cattle off the disputed Waiharakeke Block. Ngati Haua had placed them there after receiving payment from Henry Alley, thus provoking intertribal conflict over its ownership.<sup>111</sup> Karauna later said that Alley ‘told me that the N’haua had given him permission to place them

---

<sup>109</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 16 May 1873, p. 3.

<sup>110</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 17 May 1873, p. 2.

<sup>111</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 20 May 1873, p. 3, 23 May 1873, p. 3, 27 May 1873, p. 3, 4 June 1873, p. 3, 14 June 1873, p. 2, 1 July 1876, p. 3.

there'.<sup>112</sup> Early in June, when he was living at the Ngati Maru settlement at Wairakau, Alley threatened him with prosecution for driving his cattle away.<sup>113</sup> Two years later, as part of an investigation into Alley's complaints that the authorities' failed to support him, a statement was taken from Karauna, 'chief of the Ngatimaru':<sup>114</sup>

I took part in driving Mr Alley's cattle off Waiharakeke. I did so because the land was mine and I had given no permission for the cattle to be there. I heard that Wm. Thompson's [Wiremu Tamihana's] children had given this permission, but they had no claim to the land. I had heard previously that Wm. Thompson's children wanted to sell the land to Sir Donald McLean, and on account of that I told them not to sell, or lease, or put cattle on this land. I did this of my own accord, and was not advised to do so by Mr [Edward Walter] Puckey [the Native Agent] or any other European; nor did I head any other Natives say that any Europeans had advised them to drive these cattle away. I heard from a Native named Tupara, of the Ngatihinerangi tribe, that he had sent a telegram to McLean at Wellington regarding these cattle, and the answer was that the cattle could be turned off by the Ngatihinerangi. This was a short time before they turned them off. Tupara is now at Te Puna, Tauranga. I did not send the telegram, but I heard Tupara made the statement. "We should not have allowed the cattle to remain, even if Sir D. McLean had asked us to do so."<sup>115</sup>

When Ngati Haua protested and said that they would settle on the block, he was quoted as saying, 'You have got your right hand full with the Europeans; take care you don't get your friends in your left hand'.<sup>116</sup>

Karauna returned from the Aroha district to attend a meeting at Taipari's house in October 1873 to welcome the Governor, and made the last speech:

TE KARAUNA said: O Governor, do not give any money to Ngatihaua for Te Aroha.  
Here Mr MACKAY interposed, and objected to Karauna talking business in this way.

---

<sup>112</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 10, pp. 269-270.

<sup>113</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 9 June 1873, p. 3.

<sup>114</sup> 'Mr Alley's Charges Against Officers in Native Department', *AJHR*, 1876, H-14, pp. 7, 8.

<sup>115</sup> 'Mr Alley's Charges', p. 8.

<sup>116</sup> 'Mr Alley's Charges', p. 7.

KARAUNA, however, said: O Mr Mackay, you clear out; you have nothing to do with it. I know all about you. The Governor is the authority.<sup>117</sup>

In January 1874, Karauna welcomed the Superintendent of the Auckland Province, John Williamson, to a meeting in Thames. When Williamson urged sobriety on the gathering, Karauna interrupted:

Do not talk to us about drinking. It is you Europeans who brought the drink. Te Karauna then proceeded to complain of the recent proceedings of the Government, which had taken the power from the Maoris of selling their land to private individuals, from whom they could get higher prices than from the Government.<sup>118</sup>

He signed a Maori petition opposing the removal of the magistrate's court from Shortland to the Grahamstown end of Thames.<sup>119</sup> In August, a large gathering of Hauraki Maori was held at Whakatiwai, on the western side of the Firth of Thames, to discuss the opening of the Ohinemuri and Aroha lands to mining and settlement. Before it began 'the head of the Aroha natives, Karauna, took umbrage' when told to move his tent:<sup>120</sup>

But now a most unlikely contretemps occurs, which nearly ends this great meeting before it was properly commenced. Some of the Thames natives, one of whom was Te Karauna, had pitched their tent in a place that was intended to be reserved for an entrance way into the encampment. Mr Mackay seeing this, at once ordered them out of that, and on their not obeying as quickly as he wished he forcibly pulled one of their tents down (Karauna and others). This was a great mistake on his part, and would not be suffered with impunity, as the result showed, for the chiefs of the Ngatimaru rose as one man, and with loud shouts ordered their people to strike the tents at once and return, saying they did not come here to be insulted. Some of them were for striking him down. In the twinkling of an eye the place was bare again, and they were all on their way along to their boats.

Only when two Ngati Paoa rangatira followed them to the beach and, 'by taking hold of Karauna, enticed him to return with his people', did the

---

<sup>117</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 27 October 1873, p. 3.

<sup>118</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 16 January 1874, p. 3.

<sup>119</sup> Auckland Provincial Government Papers, ACFM 8180, 1394/74, ANZ-W.

<sup>120</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 12 August 1874, p. 3.

crisis end.<sup>121</sup> Later, Karauna left the talking to others, apart from interrupting Mackay to deny taking money for the Aroha block. Mackay ‘told him that he has receipt for a large sum of money taken on account of Te Aroha’, without providing details.<sup>122</sup> Karauna had indeed received £155 for his interests in the previous year, and would receive more in 1877 and 1878.<sup>123</sup> Later on the same day he briefly contributed to the discussion again, clearly after partaking of liquid stimulants. ‘Te Karauna (who was slightly elevated) [drunk]:<sup>124</sup> Although Ohinemuri may be closed, the Aroha shall be opened; I will open the road’.<sup>125</sup>

When Sir George Grey arrived in Thames in July 1875, Karauna’s name was the first rangatira listed of those who greeted him.<sup>126</sup> When Grey told them that he would provide compensation when their land was taken for roads, ‘Te Karauna said that he would not allow any roads to go over his lands at Te Aroha’. Responding to a comment by Wirope Hoterene Taipari<sup>127</sup> that those who received money from the government for their land had spent it on rum, ‘Karauna here said that he had received two pairs of trousers for his land, but they must not think they were to get all his land for that’.<sup>128</sup>

A feast was provided at Parawai in May 1876 to the Whakatiwai and Piako Maori in return for the feast provided by the latter the previous year. ‘Great quantities of food had been prepared for the event, and everything proceeded harmoniously until a jealousy arose between Te Karauna and his adherents and those of Taipari. This led to a split, but it is none the worse for the visitors, for they will now be entertained at two feasts instead of one’. After this split, a large part of the food was moved to the northern bank of the Kauaeranga River ‘and stored near Karauna’s house’; Taipari’s house was on the southern side. ‘The origin of the division was gossip, a

---

<sup>121</sup> Special Correspondent, ‘Whakatiwai: The Native Meeting’, *Thames Advertiser*, 14 August 1874, p. 3.

<sup>122</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 24 August 1874, p. 3.

<sup>123</sup> Register of Payments to Individuals for Purchase of Lands, 1873-1880: Te Aroha, Maori Affairs Department, MA-MLP 7/7, ANZ-W.

<sup>124</sup> Eric Partridge, *A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*, 8 ed., ed. Paul Beale (London, 1984), p. 363.

<sup>125</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 24 August 1874, p. 3.

<sup>126</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 3 December 1875, p. 3.

<sup>127</sup> See paper on Maori and goldfields revenue.

<sup>128</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 6 December 1875, p. 3.

trait in which Maori character is by no means deficient. Some person told Karauna that Taipari had spoken disparagingly of his people, and he took the huff.<sup>129</sup> For two days the visitors were entertained with ‘ample kai’ at Karauna’s settlement, and then crossed the river to Taipari’s settlement.<sup>130</sup> The breach between the two factions was ‘settled amicably, each party agreeing to have nothing more about it. Singing and gesticulations of course ensued, the burden of the song being that there should be no split between them, that they were all one skin, one race, and one colour, and that they had all come together in the same canoe’.<sup>131</sup>

When a Maori and Pakeha delegation visited Te Aroha in April 1877 to end the conflict between Ngati Rahiri and Ngati Tamatera,<sup>132</sup> ‘Te Karauna, the head chief ... was inside the pah, but as most of the men were out at the cultivation ... he was unable to appear, for it would have been a breach of Maori etiquette to have appeared without his followers’.<sup>133</sup>

### THE AROHA BLOCK

According to an obituary, ‘it was through Karauna chiefly that the government was able to purchase Te Aroha block’.<sup>134</sup> At the time, he was seen as creating difficulties for Pakeha. Early in 1877, he was one of the Ngati Rahiri ‘who enforced payment of a sum of £5’ on a settler ‘before allowing him to drive a small herd of cattle through from the Waikato to the Thames market’.<sup>135</sup> In September that year, a surveyor, Alfred James Thorp,<sup>136</sup> sought £50 from ‘Karauna and others’ for ‘conversion of goods’. Karauna gave evidence that in mid-year he had gone to the boundary of this block.

The majority of the tribe went up the river before he did; he never saw a tent, but heard that the plaintiff’s tent had been taken by his tribe. Witness recollected Mr A.J. Thorp going to his village.... Witness asked plaintiff why he had surveyed some ground which

---

<sup>129</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 4 May 1876, p. 3.

<sup>130</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 5 May 1876, p. 2, 6 May 1876, p. 2, 9 May 1876, p. 3.

<sup>131</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 6 May 1876, p. 2.

<sup>132</sup> See paper on this conflict.

<sup>133</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 24 April 1877, p. 3.

<sup>134</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 31 January 1885, p. 7.

<sup>135</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 4 May 1877, p. 3.

<sup>136</sup> See paper on Maori land in Hauraki.

he should not have done. Plaintiff did not ask witness who had taken his things.... Witness had a double-barrelled gun in his hand at the time.

Thorp described starting to survey the boundary of the block, and tenting at the base of the range. On the second day, he sent a Maori, presumably of Ngati Tamatera, on whose behalf this survey was being made, 'to put a flag on the boundary, and he returned and said the flag had gone. They heard guns firing. They worked all day, and slept at a Maori settlement'. When he went to Karauna's settlement 'and asked for the stolen things', Karauna 'came out with a gun and ordered him back. Witness asked who it was had taken the things, to which he replied that they had all taken the things'. Threatened with the law, Karauna 'said that he did not recognize any law, but the law their guns gave them'. Hiriwani Te Moananui deposed that he had heard Karauna say to Thorp, 'Go back; I don't want you'. In responding to this and other evidence of the conversation,

Karauna deposed that the tent was not removed by his order. Before it was done he did not know that it was going to be removed. He did not see the tent pulled down. When the tent was pulled down he was some distance down the Waihou River. Plaintiff had camped his tent on witness's ground. It was through persons surveying the land that stopped it going through the court.

Thorp was non-suited;<sup>137</sup> but once Ngati Rahiri won its court case, Karauna was willing to permit surveying. In February 1878, before the case was heard, Karauna welcomed a delegation from the council to Omahu. After 'the preliminary compliments and food had been disposed of', Alexander Brodie,<sup>138</sup> its chairman, explained that Grey had provided £500 to make a road through the block, to be constructed by Ngati Rahiri. 'Considerable discussion ensued', Karauna speaking first and with Tutuki as the main opponent. After giving assurances that their land would be exempted from paying rates, the delegation explored the local scenery for two hours while Ngati Rahiri considered the offer.

---

<sup>137</sup> District Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 7 September 1877, p. 3.

<sup>138</sup> See paper on the Aroha Block to 1879.

On re-assembling the chief Karauna said the matter was sealed. They would allow the road to be made where the Council liked; but they would make the road for the payment, and presented to Mr Brodie a flat stick, representing the road from Shortland to Te Aroha, the Parawai portion being smooth, the Te Aroha portion rough. Te Karauna was at the rough end, Brodie at the other; all that was to be done was to make it smooth alike.<sup>139</sup>

This report prompted Joseph Harris Smallman,<sup>140</sup> a Pakeha Maori living near Te Aroha, to deny that Tutuki was the only dissentient.

If it had been stated that the old grog-loafer Karauna, the man who (to obtain a nip) handed the stick to Mr Brodie, was the obstructionist, it would have been correct. I was told by Karauna the survey should not proceed until they (Ngatirahiri) were paid, not only for the land, but also for the opening of it.

Instead, Tutuki had proclaimed that the road was open for surveying. ‘Since then Karauna and others have attempted to stop it, but could not prevail over old Tutuki’.<sup>141</sup> Smallman’s comments were confirmed by the report of three ‘influential’ Maori working with the magistrate to determine the value of land taken for the road. ‘Te Karauna, who had given them so much trouble heretofore, was left out in the cold in that selection’, and a ‘very small’ sum was agreed upon.<sup>142</sup> Eight days later, ‘Karauna was much annoyed’ by a press report that he was opposed to roads. ‘He wished it contradicted, and states he is strongly in favour of roads, and will exert his influence to have them made through the Aroha country’.<sup>143</sup>

When the third hearing of the Aroha Block was held, in July 1878, Karauna was living on it. He explained that, at the Auckland hearing, ‘three of us suggested to Court the awarding of this land to Marutuahu I did this because I alone am descended from Marutuahu’. He admitted that Ngati Tamatera, Ngati Whanaunga, and Ngati Paoa were descended from the children of Marutuahu ‘but his “Mana” descended to the Children of Te Ngako of whom I am a descendant.... I say it has descended to me because I

---

<sup>139</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 22 February 1879, p. 3.

<sup>140</sup> See paper on his life.

<sup>141</sup> Letter from Joseph Harris Smallman, *Thames Advertiser*, 9 March 1878, p. 3.

<sup>142</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 8 March 1878, p. 3.

<sup>143</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 18 March 1878, p. 3

have taken the names of the Ancestor, Marutuahu'.<sup>144</sup> He had been 'present at the meeting at Pukerahui', Taipari's meetinghouse.<sup>145</sup>

It was for payment of money by Mr Mackay on account of Te Aroha – many of us objected. These people received the money but I returned and built a pah at the Aroha to hold it against them. The only one of these tribes who came up to me in this pah was N'Tamatera and we fired on them, no one was hurt.

After the hearing in Auckland, Ngati Tumutumu went to live at Te Aroha. 'Not on account of the Judgement of the Court I went to reside – but being a descendant of Te Ruinga's'.<sup>146</sup> Cross-examined, he denied being present when Haora Tipa gave evidence in Auckland, and did not hear him lay off the boundary of the block. 'I did not say at that time that Haora Tipa's evidence about the boundary was correct (Evidence Book shows that he did say so)'.<sup>147</sup> (The minute book did indeed record him saying 'Haora Tipa's evidence is correct about the retreat to the pa' after the battle of Taumatawiwi and 'the getting of the supply of powder and their rushing out on the N. haua.... I know the boundaries of Hauraki described by Haora'.<sup>148</sup> He was not recorded as agreeing that Haori Tipa had correctly delineated the boundaries of the block.) According to the newspaper summary of the hearing,

The witness [was] cross-examined at some length as to what took place at the Court in Auckland, and as his replies contradicted the records of the Court (Minute Book produced), Mr Preece suggested that the Court should caution him to be more careful.- Judge Symonds said that such statements would cause the Court to look with suspicion on other evidence given by the witness.<sup>149</sup>

In other evidence given in 1878, Karauna said he 'did not hear Haora make any lengthened statement to the Court'. He explained that, at the last hearing, Haori Tipa supported the case of Marutuahu, and Ngati Rahiri had 'opposed to a certain extent', angering Taipari and James Mackay. 'I stated

---

<sup>144</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 10, pp. 384-385.

<sup>145</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 12 July 1878, p. 3.

<sup>146</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 10, p. 385.

<sup>147</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 10, pp. 385-386.

<sup>148</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 312.

<sup>149</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 12 July 1878, p. 3.

there that I objected to N'Tamatera, N'paoa & N'Whananga at that time (Evidence Book produced that the Court may see if Karauna Hou's statement just made is correct).<sup>150</sup> A newspaper recorded that 'the Court cautioned the witness that his former statements, as recorded, would stand against the statements now made'.<sup>151</sup> He then gave evidence of the resettling of Te Aroha by Ngati Maru. 'We went there to turn N'haua off – that is what the whole of the tribes went there for, the bulk of us returned but some remained to plough, I was amongst the latter'. He could not remember in what year the meeting at Pukerahui was held, but thought (incorrectly) that it was after the opening of the Ohinemuri goldfields.<sup>152</sup>

I received no money at that meeting, I took no money on account of Te Aroha. I received small sums of money & food from Mr Mackay. The land on which I received money from Mr Mackay was Kaitarakie, I did not receive £150 in 1873 on account of Te Aroha I did for Hauraki lands. Five different pieces of land on the Waiwhakarunga river went to Mr Mackay for advances to me. I did not in December 1873 receive £5 from Mr Mackay on Account of Te Aroha or £75 in April 1874, nor £100 in 1877.<sup>153</sup>

These false statements were not rebutted. The following day Karauna stated that at the Auckland hearing the block 'was adjudged to all the people of Hauraki under the name of Marutuahu, I did not try to prevent these people going to Court at Auckland'. All the evidence on that occasion was about Taumatawiwi, not Te Aroha. 'I do not consider that those who gave evidence in this Case by which the land was awarded to Marutuahu would therefore necessarily have an interest in it, because they might not have any previous "take" [literally 'root; base']<sup>154</sup> to it'.<sup>155</sup>

After Hoterene Taipari died in 1880, Karauna was listed as one of the 'notable personages' who attended his funeral.<sup>156</sup> The following year, he attended a luncheon aboard the river steamer 'Patiki' to honour its first

---

<sup>150</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 10, p. 386.

<sup>151</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 12 July 1878, p. 3.

<sup>152</sup> For date of this meeting, see paper on Maori land in Hauraki.

<sup>153</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 10, p. 387.

<sup>154</sup> Ryan, p. 41,

<sup>155</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 10, pp. 388-389.

<sup>156</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 30 August 1880, p. 2.

visit to Te Aroha.<sup>157</sup> Later that year he was invited by Tawhiao to attend the meeting at which the opening of the King Country to Pakeha was announced.<sup>158</sup> In 1882, Ngati Rahiri rangatira were angry that John Bryce, the Native Minister, did not stop to meet their delegation. ‘Crown, one of the principal chiefs of the Aroha, remarked in disgust that “Mr Bryce would stop and listen to the dogs and rats of the Thames, but when he came to the real rangatiras he would pay no attention to them”’.<sup>159</sup>

## LANDOWNER

Because of his ancestry, he was part owner of many blocks of land, although to be recognised as such by the court sometimes required hard argument. As a leading owner of the Aroha block, before 1867 he gave permission for a Maori family along with Charlotte Nicholls, ‘half-caste’ daughter of William Nicholls,<sup>160</sup> to feed their pigs at Ruakaka.<sup>161</sup> In 1868, with nine others he claimed Kauaeranga East No. 9, otherwise Taikarainihi.<sup>162</sup> The following year, when living at Korokoro, at Shortland and close to the mission station, he was granted Korokoro A, just over 46 acres, receiving a Crown Grant for it early the following year.<sup>163</sup> His freehold of this block, where he lived, meant that he was included on the Thames electoral roll.<sup>164</sup> In 1869, when the ownership of Korokoro D was determined, according to a newspaper report ‘Karauna said he objected to Mokena going in, because he had on one occasion said that his father should be put in prison. (Laughter.) He ought to go in himself’.<sup>165</sup> According to the court records, Te Hemopo objected to Mokena, although not on those grounds, and Karauna responded: ‘It is wrong for Mokena to be put out as

---

<sup>157</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 13 April 1881, p. 3.

<sup>158</sup> *Thames Star*, 13 September 1881, p. 2.

<sup>159</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 28 March 1882, p. 3.

<sup>160</sup> See papers on William Nicholls and his children.

<sup>161</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 2, p. 223.

<sup>162</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 2, p. 83.

<sup>163</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 2, p. 165; *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 1 March 1870, p. 103; Thames Electoral Roll, August 1873-September 1874, Auckland Provincial Government Papers, ACFM 8183, 3015/73, ANZ-A.

<sup>164</sup> Thames Electoral Roll, August 1873-September 1874, Auckland Provincial Government Papers, ACFM 8183, 3015/73, ANZ-A.

<sup>165</sup> Native Land Court, *Daily Southern Cross*, 24 September 1869, p. 6.

he is one of the principal claimants he and I are the first the other others follow'. Both men were included as owners.<sup>166</sup>

In 1869, he sued two timber cutters, giving evidence in the first case:

I bring him here for having cut timber on my land at Koro Koro on the Otanui block I hold this land for cultivation & residence – I reside on a portion – This ground has been defined by lines cut and notices posted by Mr [Thomas Goodman] Sandes<sup>167</sup> a surveyor employed by Mr Mackay the then Civil Commissioner.

A Pakeha witness stated that the timber was about 500 yards behind Karauna's house. 'The house and the bush are enclosed by a survey line', and notices were 'posted up cautioning people against removing timber as it has now become private property' under the new ownership of Alexander Hogg.<sup>168</sup> A Maori witness said that Mackay and Karauna laid off the survey together. In his evidence against the second cutter, Karauna denied selling the land, on which he still resided. Sandes had 'cut these lines to distinguish the lands reserved by me from those handed over' to Mackay for mining. 'There were notices put up by me but people who came for timber took them down'. He denied selling the bush. 'The piece I sold to Mr Hogg is above that & I pointed it out to the deft in the presence of Mr [John William Richard] Guilding',<sup>169</sup> an interpreter. Guilding then gave evidence that Karauna had 'sold all the bush', and that he was with Karauna when they saw the defendant cutting timber 'on the portion of the ground Te Karauna sold' to Hogg.<sup>170</sup>

Also in 1869, he was made an owner of Orongo, of 2,099 acres.<sup>171</sup> In March, his wife along with Te Reiti leased land and buildings in Thames for 21 years at £150 per annum.<sup>172</sup> When Whakatete, a block slightly to the north of Thames, was before the court, Eruera Te Ngahue declared that the

---

<sup>166</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 2, p. 177.

<sup>167</sup> See *Waikato Times*, 8 May 1897, p. 2; *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 12 May 1897, p. 2; C.A. Lawn, *The Pioneer Land Surveyors of New Zealand* (Auckland, 1979), p. 23.

<sup>168</sup> See *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, pp. 907-908.

<sup>169</sup> See paper on his life.

<sup>170</sup> Thames Warden's and Magistrate's Court, Notebook July-August 1869, hearing of 5 August 1869, BACL 14457/1c, ANZ-A.

<sup>171</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 4, p. 19.

<sup>172</sup> Deed of 11 March 1869, box 32, 61D, Hesketh and Richmond Papers, MS 440, Auckland Public Library.

land belonged to Karauna, who had put Karapuha on the land to cultivate it, which Karapuha confirmed, adding that Karauna had cultivated it for about three years.<sup>173</sup> After Karauna gave details of his cultivating and visiting the land, he was made the owner of Whakatete Nos. 1-3.<sup>174</sup>

In 1870 he objected to the upper boundary of Parawai No. 2 because Rapana Maunganoa's survey encroached on his land at Waiwhatawhata, but Rapana won this dispute because Karauna's party did not produce an alternative line.<sup>175</sup> In February that year he claimed Taumatini and Tongarewa through ancestry. 'Hoterene [Taipari] and Te Taniwha are taking my land away – I claim one side of Tongarewa – I have lived and cultivated at Wharahoe – this land under investigation will not grow food it is hill country it has not been cultivated'. He gave details of past battles and gifting of land, but the counter-claimants won.<sup>176</sup> In November, with three others, he applied for Te Poka No. 2, of 30 acres. As well as claiming through ancestry, 'we are residing and cultivating on the land now our houses are now on it'.<sup>177</sup> With three others, he was granted this block without restrictions preventing lease or sale.<sup>178</sup> Also in November, he sought to become an owner of land to the west of Totara pa, to the south of Parawai. 'My grandfather Riki used to live in the pa long before Ngapuhi came' in 1821. 'My father's tribe was Ngatirahiri. My tribe and all the other tribes assembled on the Totara pa used to cultivate on Hapuwai'.<sup>179</sup> His claim was rejected in favour of Hoterene Taipari.<sup>180</sup>

In 1870 a draft deed was produced by an Auckland firm of solicitors whereby Karauna and nine others were to sell to Mackay the middle portion of lot 10 of the Kauaeranga E block, receiving 10s for these ten perches. A note was written on the front of the deed: 'This is useless as Mackay has failed', meaning being bankrupted.<sup>181</sup>

---

<sup>173</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 4, pp. 65-66, 149.

<sup>174</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 4, pp. 180-183, 188.

<sup>175</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 3, p. 287.

<sup>176</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 3, pp. 382-384, 390.

<sup>177</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 6, pp. 54-55.

<sup>178</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 6, p. 58.

<sup>179</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 6, pp. 126-128.

<sup>180</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 6, p. 160.

<sup>181</sup> Draft deed of 1870, box 10, 951D, Hesketh and Richmond Papers, MS 440, Auckland Public Library; *New Zealand Gazette*, 21 August 1871, p. 417.

In February 1872, Karauna was one of those receiving a Crown Grant for the Te Auaunga Block, just over 22 acres.<sup>182</sup> Six months later, with three others he applied for Te Hohuroa. 'I have lived and cultivated on this land and my fathers used to dig fern root on it in former times'. With four others he was granted the land, and, as he assured the court that they had an 'abundance of land beside this for cultivation', it was granted without 'restrictions',<sup>183</sup> meaning that it could be sold. Twelve days later he became an owner of Te Rapa, over three acres in extent, and Mangarehu East.<sup>184</sup> In December, he was the spokesman for the nine claimants for Hihi or Piraunui,<sup>185</sup> on the range behind Shortland:

I belong to Ngatimaru. I know the land before the Court and pointed out the boundaries or part of them. I went with the Surveyor as far as Otamarangi and left Waitai to show the rest. There was some opposition to the Survey before I went there, when I heard of the dispute I went with the Surveyor & told him not to go beyond the ridge.

He claimed through his ancestor Matau, 'who got it through conquest', and also because he had 'cultivated south of Piraunui Stream and have bush Clearings near it. I have dug gum on the greater part of this land', the 'I' probably referring to his hapu. Kapihana Te Tuhi, a rival claimant, had told him not to dig gum on the other side of the range.

I was working at the south side of Piraunui at the time when he told me I was not to cross the range to dig. John Guilding was with me the time I was digging gum. Kapihana did not tell me personally but told others of the Ngatimaru. I made arrangements with the Government about digging Gold on this land. Karauria Waitai & myself gave up the piece of land before the Court and before it was Surveyed to the Government.... We received £60 from Mr Mackay – I never heard if Kapihana disputed about our having the money....

I first engaged Mr Berry to survey the land. I was not there when the Survey commenced – but went there afterwards. It was arranged that one person should not dig gum on another person's land. When the Pakehas first came everyone dug gum where

---

<sup>182</sup> *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 13 February 1872, p. 28.

<sup>183</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 6, pp. 391-392.

<sup>184</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 7, pp. 31, 34.

<sup>185</sup> For an account of the dealings with this land, see David Alexander, *The Hauraki Tribal Lands*, vol. 8 part 2 (Paeroa, 1997), pp. 152-158.

the[y] liked but afterwards it was arranged that they should only dig gum on their own pieces.... The Surveyor did desist from Surveying because Kapihana stole his chains &c. A meeting took place here at Shortland in consequence of the dispute of the survey. I was present. Tautoro described the land on the sand. I did not hear that the Runanga agreed to the boundary laid out by Tautoro. I heard that the Runanga decided to go to the land to point out the boundaries there. Our party went but did not see anyone there – Kapihana went in the morning, our party went later in the day.... I do not know why the Runanga was not present. It was not that I was angry with them they did not go there. Kapihana and our party stayed on the ground one night. I never told the Runanga not to go there.<sup>186</sup>

The surveyor stated that, when Kapihana disagreed with the boundaries, he wrote to Karauna, who then came with Guilding; 'Karauna took me up a hill' and pointed out the boundary.<sup>187</sup> Guilding stated that he had seen 'Karauna's people' digging gum 'about Piraunui stream' and had bought gum from them.<sup>188</sup> In additional evidence, Karauna stated that he had 'cultivated potatoes Each side of the Piraunui Stream'.<sup>189</sup> With nine others, he was awarded the land, which in accordance with his request had no restrictions placed on it. 'We have plenty of other land, this land is not fit for cultivation – we have land called Te Puka which has been made inalienable, is flat land and fit for cultivation, wish no restrictions to be placed on this land'.<sup>190</sup> To meet the cost of survey and other costs, Karauna and his party had borrowed £400 from Mackay, which would be charged against the block.<sup>191</sup> An attempt made to rehear the case lapsed.<sup>192</sup>

In May 1873, he and the other owner of Kauaeranga E9B, four acres on the Thames foreshore, sold it for £4 each.<sup>193</sup> That September, when applying for the 20-acre Tahukareko Block, he stated that his ancestors used to occupy the land but 'we have never cultivated it'. After being

---

<sup>186</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 9, pp. 40-42.

<sup>187</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 9, p. 42.

<sup>188</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 9, p. 43.

<sup>189</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 9, p. 57.

<sup>190</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 9, pp. 57-58.

<sup>191</sup> Alexander, p. 152.

<sup>192</sup> Alexander, pp. 155-156.

<sup>193</sup> Auckland Provincial Government Papers, box 26, Session 29, MS 595, Auckland Public Library.

granted ownership with eight others, he said that they wished 'no restrictions to be placed on the land – We have other land'.<sup>194</sup>

In 1875 he was made an owner of Karioi No. 4.<sup>195</sup> As a member of Ngati Hinerangi, he was an owner of Okauia,<sup>196</sup> upriver from Te Aroha. In 1877 he was listed as an owner of Kahe, of 620 acres,<sup>197</sup> The following year, he became an owner of Te Aratiatia, also upriver.<sup>198</sup> Also in 1878 he became an owner of Whakamarekai, of 25 acres.<sup>199</sup> In 1883, he was granted Aroha Block XII Section 46 (also known as Wairere Block II Section 69).<sup>200</sup> In 1884 he was listed as an owner of Ohinemuri No. 20C, of 500 acres.<sup>201</sup> He was also an owner of Arero, 70 acres comprising part of Aroha Block IX Section 20.<sup>202</sup>

## SELLING LAND

In the early 1870s, Karauna and nine other owners of Hiti or Piraunui leased its timber for a total of £1,700 before selling the freehold for £700.<sup>203</sup> In 1875, he sold over three acres of Te Korokoro A Block for £200.<sup>204</sup> Two years later, he sold his interest in Waikawau and Moehou for £25.<sup>205</sup> In his 1878 evidence about the Aroha Block, he denied having received any money 'on account of Te Aroha'. Whilst admitting receiving 'small sums of money and food' from Mackay for Kaitarakie,

I did not receive £150 in 1873 on account of Te Aroha I did for Hauraki lands. Five different pieces of land in the

---

<sup>194</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 8, p. 298.

<sup>195</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 9, p. 157.

<sup>196</sup> Maori Land Court, Auckland Minute Book no. 4, p. 181.

<sup>197</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 9, p. 397.

<sup>198</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 10, p. 271.

<sup>199</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 11, p. 39.

<sup>200</sup> Aroha Block XII Section 46, Block Files, H1073, Maori Land Court, Hamilton.

<sup>201</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 16, p. 406.

<sup>202</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 19, p. 34.

<sup>203</sup> Alexander, pp. 156-157.

<sup>204</sup> Maori Affairs Department, Auckland, BABG MLC-A, box 10, 75/140, ANZ-A.

<sup>205</sup> Register of Payments to Individuals for Purchase of Land 1873-1880, p. 95, Maori Affairs Department, MA-MLP 7/7, ANZ-W.

Waiwhakarunga [later Kauaeranga] river<sup>206</sup> went to Mr Mackay for advances to me. I did not in December 1873 receive £5 from Mr Mackay on account of Te Aroha or £75 in April 1874 nor £100 in 1877.<sup>207</sup>

This evidence was contradicted by vouchers of payments of £150 on 26 November 1873, £5 on 18 December 1873, and £100 on 13 August 1877. With others, he would receive £200 on 4 September 1878 as a special payment 'as per arrangement at time of Sale'.<sup>208</sup> Under this agreement to sell, he was allotted 124 acres at Wairakau, 100 acres at Omahu, and 616 acres at Manawaru.<sup>209</sup> Late in that year he was paid £15 for his interest in Waiharakeke East and £25 for his interest in Waiharakeke West,<sup>210</sup> upriver from Te Aroha. One of four owners of Manawaru, he sold his interest in November 1879 for £285 14s 3d.<sup>211</sup>

For his interest in 195 acres of the Ohinemuri Block, he was paid £34 in August 1880 and £14 15s in September.<sup>212</sup> Two years later he sold his interest in Tamatepo No. 2 for £3 10s; the sale was permitted because he

---

<sup>206</sup> See Zelma and John Williams, *Thames and the Coromandel Peninsula: 2000 years* (Thames, 1994), p. 46.

<sup>207</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 10, p. 387.

<sup>208</sup> Register of Payments to Individuals for Purchase of Lands, 1873-1880, Te Aroha, Maori Affairs Department, MA-MPL 7/7; Native Affairs Committee, Petition 133, Legislative Department, LE 1, 1877/5; Memorandum of 4 September 1878, Maori Affairs Department, MA 1, 13/86, ANZ-W.

<sup>209</sup> Te Aroha Block, 1878, Maori Affairs Department, MA 1, 13/86, ANZ-W; Allotment Book 13, folio 139, Land Information New Zealand, Hamilton.

<sup>210</sup> Register of Payments to Individuals for Purchase of Land 1873-1880, pp. 44, 74, Maori Affairs Department, MA-MLP 7/7, ANZ-W.

<sup>211</sup> Register of Payments to Individuals for Purchase of Land 1873-1880, p. 164, Maori Affairs Department, MA-MLP 7/7, ANZ-W.

<sup>212</sup> 'Statement of the Facts and Circumstances Affecting the Ohinemuri Block', Appendices H, I, Lands and Survey Department, LS 36/25a; Register of Payments to Individuals for Purchase of Land 1873-1880, pp. 221, 223, Maori Affairs Department, MA-MLP 7/7, ANZ-W.

had 100 acres at Te Aroha.<sup>213</sup> In December 1884, he asked to be permitted to sell Wairakau No. 19, 124 acres, of which he was the sole owner.<sup>214</sup>

### FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

From owning goldfield land he received a modest income,<sup>215</sup> and in the early 1870s owned a boat and late in the decade was part owner of a river steamer.<sup>216</sup> Despite owning land and property, on several occasions between 1871 and 1880 he was sued for small amounts. In 1871 he had to pay £6 16s 3d to a storekeeper, and three years later was required to pay £2 19s 6d in rates.<sup>217</sup> Three storekeepers successfully sued him in 1876, for £26 2s 9d, £5 11s, and £1 2s.<sup>218</sup> The following year, an Ohinemuri settler sued him and two other Te Aroha Maori for £50 for wrongfully detaining and damaging his property, but was non-suited.<sup>219</sup> Later in the year, he settled a storekeeper's debt of £6 1s 6d out of court, and when another storekeeper sought a judgment summons to enforce payment of £29 19s 3d no order was made.<sup>220</sup> In the latter case, the magistrate, William Fraser,<sup>221</sup> was reported as saying that 'the circumstances of the case were suspicious, and in this, as in others, he could make no order when the facts were such'.<sup>222</sup> Fraser later said that he had used the word 'unsatisfactory', not 'suspicious', but the reporter responded that he had used the word quoted and also the word

---

<sup>213</sup> Maori Affairs Department, Auckland, BABG MLC-A, box 12, 82/156, ANZ-A.

<sup>214</sup> Petition of Karauna Hou to Native Minister, 21 December 1884, Maori Affairs Department, MA 1, 13/86, ANZ-W.

<sup>215</sup> For example, Te Aroha Gold Field, Native Land Blocks 1880-1893, folio 170, 'Karauna Hou's Block', BAFV 13781/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>216</sup> *New Zealand Herald*, 13 May 1871, p. 3; *Thames Advertiser*, 19 December 1879, p. 3.

<sup>217</sup> Thames Magistrate's Court, Complaint Book 1869-1871, 16/1871, BACL 13737/1a; Complaint Book 1871-1875, 590/1874, BACL 13737/1b, ANZ-A.

<sup>218</sup> Thames Magistrate's Court, Complaint Book 1875-1880, 308, 345, 596/1876, BACL 13737/15b, ANZ-A; Magistrate's Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 5 August 1876, p. 3.

<sup>219</sup> Thames Magistrate's Court, Shortland Complaint Book 1870-1884, 9/1877, BACL 13818/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>220</sup> Thames Magistrate's Court, Complaint Book 1875-1880, 626, 668/1877, BACL 13737/15b, ANZ-A.

<sup>221</sup> See *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 1, pp. 107-108.

<sup>222</sup> Magistrate's Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 29 September 1877, p. 3.

‘fishy’ about such cases generally.<sup>223</sup> The last year that he was sued was in 1880, when all four owners of the river steamer were required to pay £30 1s 7d for coal supplied.<sup>224</sup> As well, he had to pay a storekeeper’s debt for goods received of £8 14s 6d (he only admitted owning £7) and another debt of £10 was settled out of court.<sup>225</sup>

In the last year of his life Karauna successfully sued Taituha Wangaroa for £35 10s, value of goods detained; if the goods were not delivered and the fencing left ‘on the ground within 24 hours’ another £20 was to be paid.<sup>226</sup>

### GOLD AT TE AROHA

Karauna appears to have been associated with Hauraki gold mining since the first discoveries. In 1870 the Goldfields Reward Commission examined a witness ‘as to the finding of gold by Karauna and others in 1852’.<sup>227</sup> In his evidence about the first major discovery at Thames, ‘Pineha states that he had been acquainted with Mr J.E. White for many years, and in consideration of this he pointed out to him the spot where Karauna had discovered the gold in 1851’. Evidence was also given that Joseph Cook had prospected with Karauna and other Ngati Maru long before the goldfield was proclaimed in 1867.<sup>228</sup> At a meeting of Hauraki chiefs after the discovery of gold at Thames in 1857, Te Rarounga Koropango, which sounds like a mistaken recording of Karauna’s name, spoke: ‘I dug this gold, but do not suppose that by digging I wish to dispose of it to the Europeans. I dug without any intention. The arrangement of the land is with you, as I have no place here myself’.<sup>229</sup> In March 1868, along with the other owner, he

---

<sup>223</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 2 October 1877, p. 2.

<sup>224</sup> Thames Magistrate’s Court, *Plaint Book 1875-1880*, 449/1879, BACL 13737/15b, ANZ-A; Magistrate’s Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 10 January 1880, p. 3.

<sup>225</sup> Thames Magistrate’s Court, *Plaint Book 1880-1881*, 270, 304/1880, BACL 13737/11b, ANZ-A; Magistrate’s Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 21 August 1880, p. 3.

<sup>226</sup> Te Aroha Magistrate’s Court, *Civil Record Book 1881-1884*, 229/1884, BCDG 11221/1a, ANZ-A; Magistrate’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 1 November 1884, p. 2.

<sup>227</sup> *Mail* (Thames), 26 March 1870, p. 2.

<sup>228</sup> *Daily Southern Cross*, 29 April 1870, p. 4.

<sup>229</sup> Chiefs of Hauraki to Donald McLean, 27 November 1857, ‘Papers Relative to the Probability of Finding Gold at the Waikato and at the Thames’, *AJHR*, 1863, D-8, p. 3.

opened the Mamaku No. 2 Block at Thames for mining.<sup>230</sup> He and Karauria Waitai made ‘arrangements with the Government about digging Gold’ on the Hihi or Piraunui Block ‘before it was surveyed’, receiving £60.<sup>231</sup> He did not become a shareholder in any claims until Te Aroha opened.

When gold was discovered at Te Aroha, George Thomas Wilkinson,<sup>232</sup> the native agent, spoke to Ngati Rahiri about terms for opening a goldfield.

Te Karauna Hou was the first of the Natives to speak in reply, and he stated that they had no objection to having their land opened for Gold Mining purposes provided the Government paid them a bonus, in money, at once in consideration of them so doing, which bonus was not to be deducted from their Gold Fields Revenue after the field was open.<sup>233</sup>

The bonus was to be £1,000, but as Mokena Hou pointed out that gold had been found on his land, not Karauna’s,<sup>234</sup> this attempt to extract money from the government failed.<sup>235</sup> Three weeks after opening day, he acquired a miner’s right,<sup>236</sup> one day after becoming one of the 13 Maori owners of a claim that was marked out but not registered.<sup>237</sup> His only other involvement was to hold shares in the Bonanza Company.<sup>238</sup>

## ACCIDENTS AND DEATH

Karauna was seriously injured in 1877, when he was ‘encamped with some of his people on the road between Tararu and Waiomu for some days’. When riding along the road ‘he fell down the cliff, and when found was suffering from a broken rib and other injuries, which necessitated the

---

<sup>230</sup> Text of agreement in *AJHR*, 1940, G-6A, pp. 12-13.

<sup>231</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 9, p. 41.

<sup>232</sup> See paper on Merea Wikiriwhi and George Thomas Wilkinson.

<sup>233</sup> G.T. Wilkinson to Frederick Whitaker, 30 October 1880, Mines Department, MD 1, 85/1006, ANZ-W.

<sup>234</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 27 October 1880, p. 3.

<sup>235</sup> For details, see paper on Maori and mining at Te Aroha.

<sup>236</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Miner’s Right no. 793, issued 17 December 1880, Miners’ Rights Butt Book 1880, BBAV 11533/1f, ANZ-A.

<sup>237</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Notices of Marking Out Claims, no. 99, BBAV 11557/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>238</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 20 January 1881, p. 111.

exercise of medical skill'.<sup>239</sup> In May 1882 he was admitted to the Thames Hospital after a carriage accident at Te Aroha. 'The old rangatira is progressing favourably', a newspaper announced.<sup>240</sup> Five months later he attended the opening of Hori Matene's Kirikiri Hotel, south of Thames,<sup>241</sup> reflecting his love of drink which according to Wilkinson was the cause of his death at Puriri in January 1885, aged 83.<sup>242</sup> He was living with Akuhata Mokena at Puriri at the time.<sup>243</sup> 'His illness was of brief duration', for he died 'within a few hours of the time when he was prostrated by some unknown complaint'.<sup>244</sup> Maori from all over the peninsula attended his tangi at Puriri.<sup>245</sup> 'In accordance with Maori custom', his 'house and personal effects' at Parawai were burnt.<sup>246</sup>

His wife, Marea Purewa, had predeceased him by ten years. She had received a 'great tangi', also at Puriri, because she was 'of high birth in the Ngatimaru tribe, and the position her husband occupies demands a great cry'. Maori came from Ohinemuri, Te Aroha, and elsewhere, 'and judging from the quantity of provisions that the steam-boats are taking up, the tangi is likely to last over several days'.<sup>247</sup> According to 1869 whakapapa, Karauna had a child, Tiopira,<sup>248</sup> and the following year, when the Governor visited Thames, 'Miss Crown (Karauna)' attended Lady Bowen's reception.<sup>249</sup> After he died it was stated that he left no children, and, it was implied, had never had any.<sup>250</sup> He may in fact have had more than one, for in 1892 Rewi Mokena explained to the land court how his father had once possessed a greenstone named Punohu. 'My father's connection with this

---

<sup>239</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 22 August 1877, p. 3.

<sup>240</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 9 May 1882, p. 3.

<sup>241</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 5 October 1882, p. 2.

<sup>242</sup> Church of England, Coromandel Register of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials 1874-1904, no. 103, 1090, Anglican Archives, Auckland; G.T. Wilkinson to Under-Secretary, Native Department, 25 May 1886, *AJHR*, 1886, G-1, p. 10.

<sup>243</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 52, p. 244.

<sup>244</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 30 January 1885, p. 2.

<sup>245</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 2 February 1885, p. 2.

<sup>246</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 3 February 1885, p. 2.

<sup>247</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 30 August 1875, p. 3.

<sup>248</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 4, pp. 69, 70.

<sup>249</sup> *Auckland Weekly News*, 15 January 1870, p. 11.

<sup>250</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 19, pp. 32-33.

greenstone was because it was buried with a child of Te Karauna's it was then dug up'.<sup>251</sup>

## REPUTATION

The *Thames Advertiser* obituary of Karauna was kind:

Karauna, who was familiarly known to Europeans as Crown, was a rangatira of considerable prominence, in the Ngatimaru tribe, and was well known in all parts of the peninsula as an intelligent and estimable chief of the old school, and one who has always been friendly disposed towards the pakeha.<sup>252</sup>

The *Te Aroha News* agreed that 'he was always a good friend to the Europeans'.<sup>253</sup> In his annual report, Wilkinson was more critical:

Te Karauna Hou was by birth and standing the principal man of the Ngatirahiri Tribe; but his love of intoxicating drink, to which he eventually fell a victim, caused him to be looked up to with less respect than he otherwise would have been, and consequently other and younger men, of perhaps less rank, but with more intelligence and better morals, had taken his place for some years before he died.<sup>254</sup>

In 1868, a mother gave evidence in court against a drunk Maori who had entered her house and assaulted her young children because a little girl had 'remarked how black his face was'. When telling him to leave,

Te Karauna, a native chief, who was outside, heard our conversation, and came in the house. He said to defendant, "You must be mad to go into a European's house and go on in this manner." He told defendant to go home. He said he would. Te Karauna then asked me if I would allow him to drink in my house. I said, "Yes, because you are a good man, and don't make a disturbance in my house."<sup>255</sup>

---

<sup>251</sup> Maori Land Court, Hauraki Minute Book no. 28A, p. 59.

<sup>252</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 30 January 1885, p. 2.

<sup>253</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 31 January 1885, p. 7.

<sup>254</sup> G.T. Wilkinson to Under-Secretary, Native Department, 25 May 1886, *AJHR*, 1886, G-1, p. 10.

<sup>255</sup> Shortland Magistrate's Court, *Daily Southern Cross*, 7 October 1868, p. 5.

So he was ‘a good man’, but, as noted several times, much too fond of alcohol. Sometimes his drunkenness was referred to obliquely, as when he was ‘elevated’ at a meeting.<sup>256</sup> As this meant being ‘slightly drunk’,<sup>257</sup> Wilkinson’s assessment that he lost respect in comparison with the likes of Mokena Hou was highly likely.

## CONCLUSION

Karauna Hou had an imposing whakapapa and was one of the principal rangatira in Hauraki, hence his insistence on his status. He was an outspoken supporter of the interests of Marutuahu against Ngati Haua pretensions. His response to Pakeha intrusion was, in general, to welcome it, and he assisted with the development of Hauraki in general and Te Aroha in particular when he could see the possibility of economic benefits. To boost his income he acquired interests in many blocks of land, but sold many of these (and attempted to disguise how much he had received) and, it would seem, spent much of the proceeds on alcohol, meaning his status in both Maori and Pakeha society suffered.

---

<sup>256</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 24 August 1874, p. 3.

<sup>257</sup> Partridge, p. 363.