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**TE MŌREHU WHENUA
TE MŌREHU TĀNGATA**

**Māori Land Incorporations
and
Tribal Imperatives**

**Morikaunui Incorporation
Atihau-Whanganui Incorporation**

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2005

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment
of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts
in
Māori Studies

at Massey University, Palmerston North,
New Zealand.

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2005

Abstract

Land retention to advance matters of importance to the tribe is the focus for this research. In particular, this thesis will investigate the effectiveness of Maori land incorporations as mechanisms to achieve tribal development aspirations. In order to answer this question the history of the lands in the Morikaunui and Atihau-Whanganui Maori Incorporations are used as case studies. Primarily, the reflection of tribal imperatives as the goal for land retention and utilisation is examined in two stages. The first stage investigates the pioneering years of the 20th century during the time that the lands were held under the paternalistic control of the Aotea Maori Land Board (AMLB). The second stage analyses the ability of the Incorporations to reflect tribal imperatives since their establishment.

During the first stage it will be demonstrated that the primary focus for Whanganui tribal groups was the protection of their estate. The use of legislative measures to achieve this succeeded to some extent but removed the ability of the Whanganui tribe to exercise any control over the management and administration of leasehold land and the Morikau Farm. Campaigns to return the lands to their management were successful upon the establishment of the Morikaunui Incorporation in 1955 and the Atihau-Whanganui Incorporation in 1969.

The second stage begins by highlighting how the resources of the Morikaunui Incorporation were utilised by the Whanganui leadership to contribute to tribal development initiatives and the protection of tribal land interests. It is proposed that the Incorporations were set-up to reflect the tribal conscience of Whanganui iwi, hapū and whānau groups by supporting tribal imperatives. Furthermore, arguments are introduced to demonstrate that in contemporary times this has been less evident in the practices of the Incorporations. In reality, commercial and individual goals have prevailed. While the Atihau-Whanganui Incorporation has inherited an expensive legacy of paying compensation upon the resumption of leasehold lands, the thesis contends that tribal imperatives should form the basis for the future direction of the Morikaunui and Atihau-Whanganui Incorporations.

Acknowledgements

Writing a thesis is as much about spending long periods of time alone in your thoughts as it is about spending time with those who give you much welcomed respite when you need it. These are also the people who offer their support willingly and constantly provide encouragement. Had it not been for these people, reaching the completion of this thesis would have proved all the more difficult.

My first acknowledgement is to my parents, Regina and Meterei Tinirau who nurtured us (my sister and brothers) with their unwavering aroha while at the same time ensuring that we all received an education that would carry us through life. To lose Mum during the writing of this thesis was a major low point and had it not been for the support of my father, my sister Rachael and my two brothers, Raphael and David, I doubt whether this thesis would have been written. Ki a koutou katoa, ka nui te aroha. Ki a koe e Mā, he aroha te aroha, nāu i whakatinana i roto i ngā tau. Moe mai rā.

Secondly, I am indebted to two woman of Ngāti Kahungunu. My supervisor, Margaret Forster critically read the draft chapters, offered objective advice and more importantly kept me on track. Annemarie Gillies provided solid support in the background as a friend and was another stalwart in providing encouragement. Tēnā rawa atu kōrua e ngā wāhine manaaki i te tangata. Ka nui te mihi.

To the committees of management and staff of both Morikaunui and Atihau-Whanganui Incorporations, I extend my gratitude for your assistance. I am particularly grateful to Alan Horsley, Whatarangi Murphy-Peehi, and Lex Moody for sharing their knowledge on the history of the Incorporations.

Te Tiwha Puketapu was an important mentor throughout and was always willing to discuss various aspects of the study, despite his own heavy workload. E te tungāne, tēnā koe.

Particular acknowledgement and thanks to Professor Robert Jahnke and staff at Te Putahi-a-Toi who provided support by carrying extra responsibilities in my absence. Tēnā koutou katoa.

Several organisations contributed to the study by granting me scholarships and awards - the Whanganui Trust, the Massey University Research Fund, the Maori Education Trust and the Massey University Advanced Degree Award. . This assistance relieved me of duties and expenses associated with the research component for which I am appreciative.

Hei kupu whakamutunga māku he mihi tēnei ki taku tamāhine. I roto i ngā tau kua noho ia me tana kotahi i a au e tuhi ana. Ahakoa tēnei he kaha nōna ki te akiaki mai kia tere whakaoti i a au tēnei mahi. E Noti, tēnā koe. E kore e mutu te aroha.

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Abbreviations

AGM	Annual General Meeting
AJHR	Appendices of the Journals of the House of Representatives
AMLB	Aotea Māori Land Board
AWI	Atihau-Whanganui Incorporation
AWIMB	Atihau-Whanganui Incorporation Minute Book
COM	Committee of Management
MI	Morikaunui Incorporation
WhMB	Whanganui Minute Book (Aotea Maori Land Court)
WTMB	Whanganui Trust Minute Book