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Te Poihipi Tūkairangi: te poutokomanawa o Ngāti Ruingārangi

Te Poihipi Tūkairangi: the central support post of his hapū Ngāti Ruingārangi



Submitted in fulfilment of the requirement of the degree of
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Tupu Mark Norman Williams

2014

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Ngāti Ruingārangi, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Te Atihaunui-ā-Pāpārangi, Te Arawa, Tainui, Ngāti
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ABSTRACT

This thesis explores the leadership of Te Poihipi Tūkairangi of Ngāti Ruingārangi from the northern shores of Lake Taupō in the mid to late nineteenth century. Drawing on Native Land Court minutes and other historical sources, the study broadens the focus of Ngāti Tūwharetoa history to include Te Poihipi's contribution to leadership during a period of considerable change in the *rohe*.

The study shows Te Poihipi on his own terms and illustrates how he dealt with various challenges by taking the initiative, in seeking to acquire a mission in the district, in charting a path between Te Kīngitanga, conflict, and cooperation with the government, in choosing carefully who to support during armed conflicts, in encouraging Pākehā involvement in the district, and in selling land and supporting tourism. Te Poihipi provides an *excellent* example of a chief, in consultation with his people, adjusting leadership roles to benefit the *hapū*.

The study seeks to show how at least one Ngāti Tūwharetoa *tūpuna* and one Ngāti Tūwharetoa *hapū* have been misrepresented in an historical context by exploring the ways they used a variety of strategies, including so called “loyalism”, to maintain their *mana* and their autonomy, and to utilise Pākehā to retain their *rangatiratanga*.

The study has wider ramifications beyond Ngāti Ruingārangi and Ngāti Tūwharetoa, because the approach adopted in this thesis may be taken up by Māori scholars whose *tūpuna* have been labelled as “*kūpapa*” or “loyalists” or pro-Pākehā, and can, using this study as a starting point, to look at the complexities of how their *tūpuna* made decisions and alliances to maintain their own *mana* and *rangatiratanga*.

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 Ki te taha o te wainui, ki te taha o te wairoa,
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 Ka whakakikī, ka whakakakā
 A, nāu mai taku manu, tau mai.*

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Koro's response still resonates with me today, when as an 11 or 12 year old, I proudly announced to him that I had just completed reading Grace's book *Tūwharetoa*, cover to cover, for the first time. Expecting accolades and praise for my mammoth 535 page effort, all I got was "why did you waste your time doing that for?" Bearing in mind that I was at least reading, and reading a book that was possibly thicker than my thighs were ever likely to be anyway. I was stunned. As I reflected on his response, I realised he was right. The book, after all, did not talk about Te Poihipi, and Ngāti Ruingārangi, and Hohepa Tamamutu, and Taupō, and Ōruanui, and Puketarata and so on, but rather focused on southern Ngāti Tūwharetoa history and not our northern end of the Lake history. Hopefully, *koro* and *kui* this thesis contributes in some small way to redressing that imbalance. *Moe mai i ō kōrua moenga roa. Ka kite kōrua i te Rangī Tūhāhā. Ka nui tōku nei aroha mō kōrua.*

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If you know who you are and where you are from, then you will know where you are going.

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Abbreviations

AD	Army Department
<i>AJHR</i>	<i>Appendices to the Journal of the House of Representatives</i>
ANZ	Archives New Zealand
APL	Auckland Public Library
ATL	Alexander Turnbull Library
AU	University of Auckland
CMS	Church Missionary Society
CN	Correspondence of the Church Missionary Society, New Zealand
<i>GBPP</i>	<i>Great Britain Parliamentary Papers</i>
HBP	Hawkes Bay Province
Jnl	Journal
<i>JPS</i>	<i>Journal of the Polynesian Society</i>
Mico	Microfilm
MS	Manuscript
<i>NZG</i>	<i>New Zealand Gazette</i>
<i>NZJH</i>	<i>New Zealand Journal of History</i>
RM	Resident Magistrate
<i>RNLC</i>	<i>Rotorua Native Land Court</i>
<i>TKM</i>	<i>Te Karere Māori</i>
<i>TNLC</i>	<i>Taupō Native Land Court</i>