

7/7/20

My name is Chris Willett.

I farm at Morven Ferry.

My farm is called "Arrowcliff Farm"

I will talk about how this hearing affects my property, (When I say: My Property, or: My Land, I have Legal Title to the land. But, like Maori, I am only looking after it, I can't take it with me....)

But first, I must talk about History, particularly: Maori Oral History.

Oral history can not be trusted. Basically because of Human nature.

I will give a few examples to prove my point.

My land is Waitaha land.

Kai Tahu claim it by "Assimilating Waitaha and Kati Mamoe" In actual fact Kai Tahu Ate them.

Both Kamatua Ellison and Higgins and indeed all the "Expert" witnesses from Kai Tahu refer to Mr Herries Beatie as their main source of reference.

H. R. Beatie was, in the 1830s a passionate historian of Maori. He, and other European people stated that when Europeans first settled in the South Island there were an estimated 3500 Maori in the whole of the South Island : Te Wai Pounamu.

Maori were spread very thinly, there were very few people living in this region and indeed most of them were fugitives hiding for their lives, or as Mr Higgins states: "Places to recuperate after a fierce battle" Waitaha oral history has them as being direct from Taiwan/southern China and being Mori Ori and a peaceful people that came here thousands of years before Maori... Mr Higgins called them Moa Hunters.

It is a fact that most Maori lived by the coast, Two main reasons: more food and for the last 200yrs or so interaction with Pakeha Whalers and sealers, with whom they interbred. And also, by the way, got potatoes, other European vegetables and ....STEEL.

Steel made stone tools totally redundant overnight. That is why Maori "Lost the location" of the greenstone for 3 to 5 generations, basically it was useless to them.

There were never any towns or even villages of Maori here, they were purely families, as I say hiding, with a few people passing through to get stone for tools.

When the Kaumatua refer to "Battles" or "Attacks" where some people were killed and some taken prisoner, What they really mean, (And it is part of their Oral history, that they have conveniently left out ) is that they Ate the killed, and the "Prisoners" were in fact Meat on the Hoof that were eaten later. Yes some interbreeding did take place at these times but the pertinent point is that Kai Tahu are manipulating Verbal History. When you read: "Mortally wounded in a domestic incident" perhaps you should consider what really happened. It is there in "Oral" history but certain parts have been left out in Kai Tahu submissions.

Kai Tahu themselves were fugitives from the North Island...Had to get out...

I will now refer to: The "Spiritual" and "Sacred" places of Kai Tahu.

In New Zealand we have complete freedom of Religion.

In fact, it is illegal to force your religion or beliefs upon anyone else.

When I look out that window, I see a beautiful Lake, and fantastic Mountains...

I have a pretty good Idea how they got there.

I know that the Lake was not made by a Maori Gentleman with a Ko! (Wooden Stick)

The Girl swimming across the lake guided by the stars of two mountains very likely happened. But since then numerous people have swam across there, Indeed, at least two people have swam from Glenorchy to Kingston! I cannot remember their names, and I will not worship them either.

The two most "Sacred" rivers : Shotover and Dart... We have heard how the Dart, (Must be the most sacred) was forgotten for "3 4 or 5 generations" Coz they did not need the stone any more.. It is interesting that Kai Tahu own both the Shotover and Dart River Jet Boats... also: Funyacks, rafting , and other tourist operations on these rivers. Driving Buses onto the gravel bars in the rivers, disturbing the peace and tranquility and also polluting not only the rivers and Air but the sacred area itself. They are harvesting the greenstone once more for tourist trinkets.

Are they just trying to keep other operators out of Te Koroka? It is already "Protected from the general public"

I think it is Good that Maori have " rediscovered their connection to this area" but for a very long time they not only did not need it but did not know it was there.

Queen Victoria... Did not only stop Maori from eating each other, She gave us the "Queens Chair".

New Zealand is one of the very few countries in the world that has this wonderful thing. A reserve (Now 20m wide ) on most Navigatable (Over3m) waterways lakes and coastline, there are a very few places where there are Riparian rights.

Everyone, regardless of race has free access to this reserve, why have an "Overlay" up the rivers?

We have heard how Maori followed up rivers from the coast in search of food, now I want you to imagine a typical Maori family... Mum Dad kids baby, Kuri (Hunting dogs also used for eating) Back packs: Pikau made from Flax with rocks in them, (Tools) These people did not wear shoes and socks, mainly they were barefoot, with the occasional use of sandals that lasted a few hours before wearing out. They where not in a hurry, they took the easy route, Say they came up the Kawarau River, it is known that they used both banks. If they were on the left side going upstream, they would come to about Chard farm after climbing over the hill to the south of the bungy bridge, from there it is an easy route up that side of the river to the outlet of Wakatipu.

There was no way they were going to swim across the mighty Kawarau and climb the 40m cliffs of my property: Arrowcliff farm.

If they came up the right bank going upstream, About opposite Gibston valley winery they would have done the easy traverse up on to the crown terrace and thence onward over the rolling downs. The alternative was to clamber around the bluffs of the Judge and Jury, climb down into the Arrow

River gorge and then, proceed with the kids, dogs, long bird spears, sacks with rocks in, and Mum and baby to climb the 40m cliffs that gave Arrowcliff farm its name.

Come on chaps ... keep your lines off my land, it was never your road..

Ms Sarah Picard stated that all landowners were notified in 2019.

Not me...

I heard by word of mouth from another affected person. and had a "Late" submission allowed when contacted Council..

It would seem that Ms Picard is Blindly accepting Kai Tahu claims and this whole thing has been poorly handled, She states: "There is no clear mapping of Wahi Tupuna Areas"

There MUST be clear mapping...nothing less will do. Certainly not some "Overlay" applied to a computer screen in a flash office in Dunedin by somebody who has never been off the tar seal...

By putting those lines over peoples properties you will make criminals of some.

If you allow those lines you may as well draw them right around Te Wai Pounamu...

Being a Farmer I have a real problem with the constraints such as earthmoving.. it is what we do

Run Holders did not "Ban ManaWhenua" they did not need to go there for 3 or4 generations! It is not fair for Kai Tahu Kaumatua to say that.

I loved reading Edward Ellison " Our Traditions do not take to being constrained very well" How Very British!! Edward.....You could be a Pom!!!

Commissioner...

When you visit Arrowcliff Farm I suggest you approach from the East. Take your shoes and socks off, You should really just wear your underpants and when you have swum the rivers and scaled the cliffs call by the house and I will give you a cuppa Tea and a wee Dram.

I have Spoken...

Ake Ake Kia Kaha