

LOWER KAIWHARAWHARA STREAM, ESTUARY AND RECLAMATION STUDY

BACKGROUND PAPER ON MAORI INTERESTS

Maori involvement in the Wellington area has been widespread in the past both within the harbour and up the Kaiwharawhara valley to various places north including Ohariu. The Kaiwarra (as originally spelt) had one of the first Kainga in 1824/25 occupied by Ngati Tama and Ngati Mutunga Nihoputa – migrants from Taranaki. By 1840 two fortified pas were established on the Wellington side of the stream. A well used track ran from Kaiwarra to Porirua (now the Old Porirua Rd) as well as an earlier Bridle Track to what is now Khandallah.

With a road in place from Wellington, the area was regarded as a plum site in the 1840s for Pakeha development by the New Zealand Company – initially for farming and ship building. Later other small commercial activities including a flour mill were developed. The Maoris objected to their land being sold with none reserved for them. In 1842 some relocated to the Hutt but then moved back. In 1846/47 Governor Grey arranged a settlement – involving some repurchasing of land from settlers- giving them land north of the Kainga as well as some upstream. Part of one pa later became a slaughterhouse and then a soap factory. By 1850 only 44 Maoris lived at Kaiwarra – the settlers were gradually taking over..

Various applications for title investigations were made by Maori to the Native Land Court – in 1868, 1888, 1893 and 1894. Some land was granted to them but today none of it is in Maori ownership.

Apart from earlier natural changes to the estuary itself, eg loss of a small lagoon, reclamations were instigated along the sea edge in 1904, 1960s and 1970s. The large 1960's reclamation was approved between the Crown and Wellington Harbour Board on both sides of- and including- the stream as well as out to sea, but some of it was not undertaken although remaining on titles. The stream has been constrained in places by concrete walls in its lower reaches.

In 2009 the Crown negotiated a Statutory Acknowledgement with the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust which covered sites of significance on Crown owned land in the Wellington area as well as certain waterways. These rights included the Kaiwharawhara Stream bed (from the estuary and up to Crofton Downs railway station). Local authorities accepted obligations to the claimant group to notify it of provisions under the RMA 1991 by ensuring awareness of all relevant resource consents.

(Ngati Tama may have settled some relevant negotiations with the Crown).

(the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust has been asked to comment on current cultural values of the area).

_Treliissick Park Group 19 April 2012