



DESPATCHES

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUEEN'S REDOUBT TRUST

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TE WHEORO'S PA and SIGNAL STATION

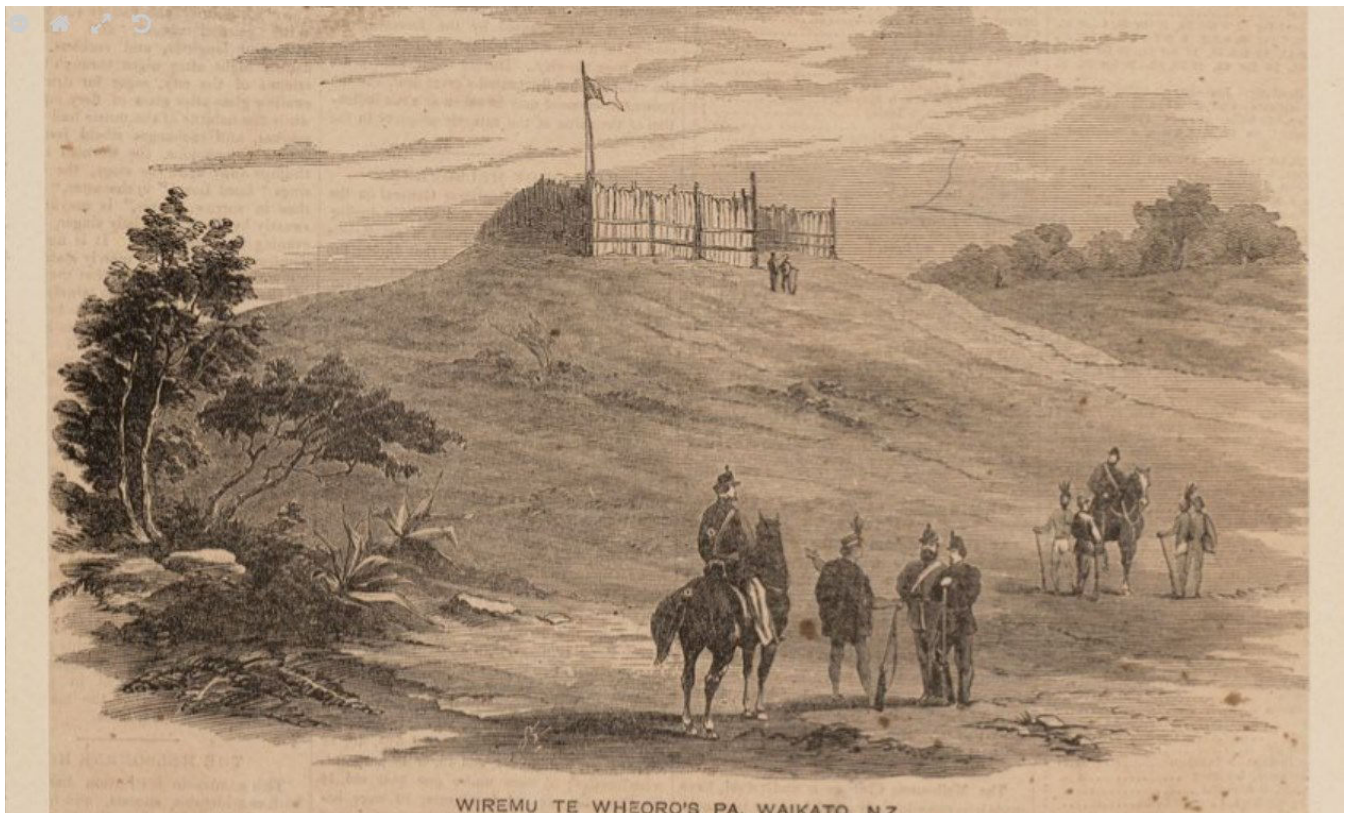
Led by Dave Wilton, a private research project is under way, to locate Te Wheoro's pa and signal station, on the high ground south-west of Queens Redoubt. Although historically well documented, the exact location has never been determined. The signal station was a semaphore repeater station which was intended to relay messages between Queen's redoubt at Pokeno, and Bluff Stockade, on the bank of the Waikato River, during the 1863 Waikato campaign. The pa site was a living area (kainga) occupied by the hapu of prominent chief Te

Wheoro, who sided with the British forces and operated and defended the signal station.

As the site was used for visual signaling and/or had observation to several known locations, the approach used was to identify likely signal sites from the map and to test their line-of-sight (LOS) communications properties using the Elevation Profile tool in Google Earth. One likely, and a few marginal, sites were identified and have been analysed. Historical data has also been utilised. A ground reconnaissance (recce) was conducted, but was very limited in scope, due to private property and a projected real estate development.

The projected locations of the pa and signal station were recorded in 2023, as two separate sites in Archsite (the NZ archaeological site recording system): R12/1219 (signal station) and R12/1220 (pa). Since the time of recording, other historical information has come to light, as has a set of Lidar data for the area. The Lidar data, at 0.25m contour resolution, assists in visualising the terrain, in the absence of a detailed ground recce.

The image below shows the pa as being on a small knoll, probably not far from a well-travelled road or track, with a forested ridge to the right rear. This fits



WIREMU TE WHEORO'S PA, WAIKATO, N.Z.

Sketch of Te Wheoro's pa

[Illustrated Melbourne Post (25th January 1864) (Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections 5-0940B)]

TE WHEORO's PA and SIGNAL STATION (Cont)

well with other historical descriptions and maps, and the locations on the Google Earth view below.

An extract from an article in the Melbourne Herald of 11th November 1863, page 3, is as follows:

"A few days ago I paid a visit to Te Wheoro's Pa, which is situated in the bush about a mile from the [Queens] redoubt. ...

The pa consists of a stout fence formed of tea-tree stakes bound together, with the inside of stout ake-ake, or iron wood. Around this fence a deep trench is cut, so as to form a sort of redoubt and rifle-pits, as this pah is in danger of being attacked by hostile natives at any time. Within are a number of whares built of raupo, or swamp reed, thatched with nikau, which is a sort of palm pith. The inhabitants of this place consist of some twenty five males and females. ... [Emphasis added, by means of bolded italics]

From Te Wheoro's look-out place, a splendid view of the surrounding country is to be obtained, and the landscape stretches away for miles over hill and dale. ...

The article gives a good description of the construction and layout of the pa (not previously available) and the reference to '...Te Wheoro's look-out place' implies that it was separate from the palisaded living

area (which is consistent with the report of a Daily Southern Cross correspondent, who visited in August 1863, as quoted in the original site report).

It is hoped that the LOS modelling and historical information gathered to date will assist in locating these important sites and ensure that they will be suitably marked and protected in any ensuing development. A map which shows the projected sites of the signal station and pa is below. Please note that these require confirmation by a detailed ground recce and archaeological investigation. That has not been possible to date, due to the land ownership and proposed development issues.

Dave Wilton

Dave Wilton has worked in several fields, including as an Army signals officer, an IT professional and senior lecturer in Information Systems at Massey University. He is now retired. He has been involved with archaeology as a hobby for nearly 20 years, and specializes in finding and recording historic telecommunications sites. Hence, locating Te Wheoro's pa and signal station was a worthy challenge!

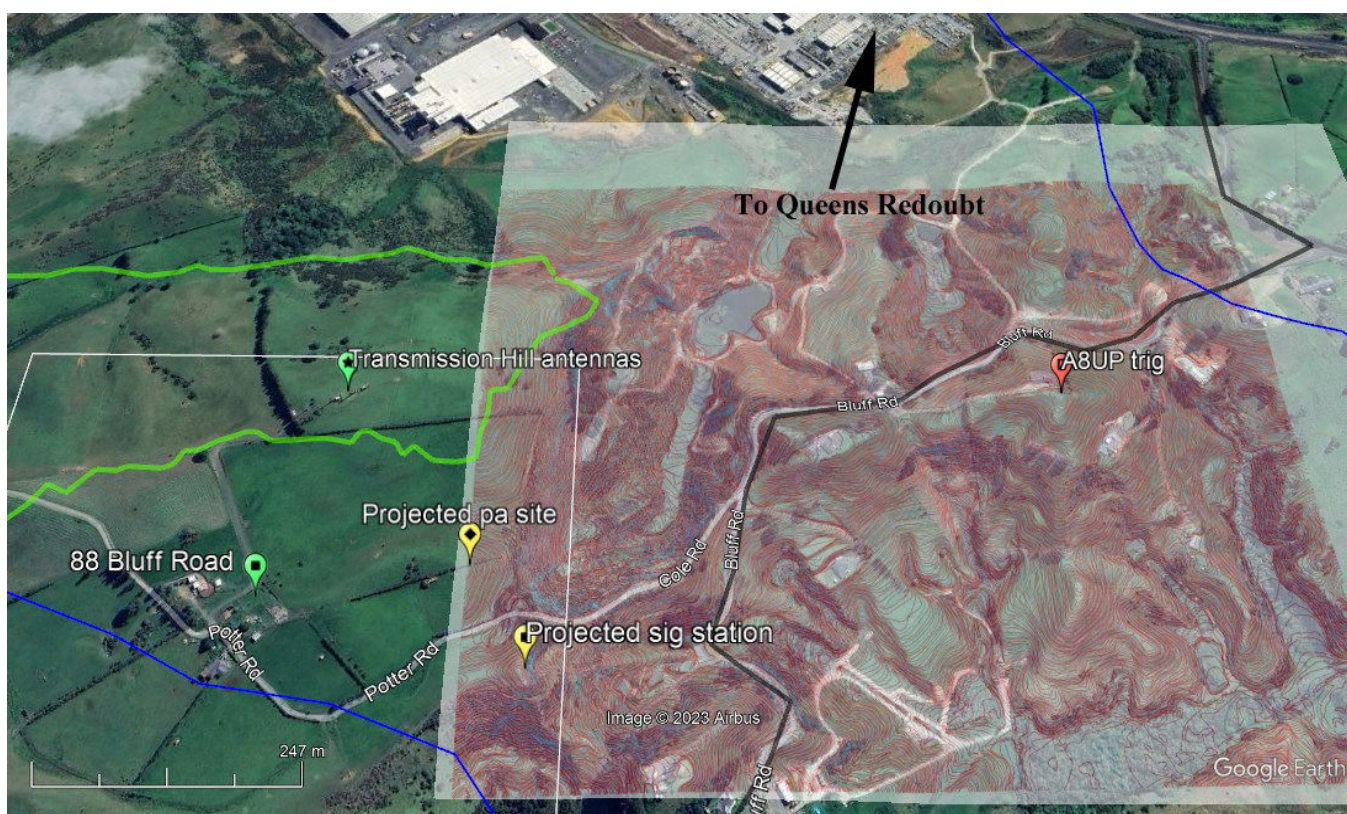
WIREMU TE MŌREHU MAIPAPA TE WHEORO

Te Wheoro, was born in Waikato. His mother was Ngāpawa, and his father Te Kanawa. Te Wheoro succeeded Hariyata Te Pō as chief of Ngāti Naho, who were closely connected to Ngāti Mahuta. Little is known of Te Wheoro's early life, but his lineage, character and intelligence clearly

gave him mana amongst Waikato people. At a great meeting at Paetai, near Rangiriri, in May 1857, the proposal to install Te Wherowhero of Ngāti Mahuta as Māori king was discussed, Te Wheoro spoke in favour of the Pākehā governor, and against the title of 'King' which gave the impression that Te Wherowhero would be above the governor. He supported F. D. Fenton, who was sent as resident magistrate to Waikato by Governor Thomas Gore Browne, until Fenton was recalled in 1858. He attended the conference of Māori leaders at Kohimarama in 1860, and spoke strongly and optimistically in favour of government policies.

Te Wheoro quickly adapted to Pākehā economic concepts and institutions, seeing great advantages, particularly in the former. Gorst described him as a very intelligent young man, attached by more than just pecuniary interest to the British side, and Tamehana described him as the best man the British had ever enlisted. Gorst thought him to have been the only native of his acquaintance who had the slightest notion that loyalty implied some obligation to obey. In 1862 he became the chief assessor, who acted as local magistrate and chief of police, in charge of the official rūnanga at Te Kohekohe, on the west bank of the Waikato River, south of Meremere.

When war seemed imminent, Te Wheoro moved his young men to Te Ia (Havelock) and established a pā there.



Google Earth View of (projected) Te Wheoro's Pa area, near Potter Rd, Pokero



Te Wheoro -probably mid 1860's

This, would probably have been the pa shown in the illustration on page 1. However, when the British army invaded the Waikato in July 1863, he could not prevent many of his followers from supporting the Māori King. Lieutenant General Duncan Cameron appointed him a captain in the colonial militia, and used him as a guide. Te Wheoro and his remaining men also provided an important link, joining with Ngāti Tipa Chief, Waata Kukutai, collecting supplies from steamers at the Waikato Heads and paddling them upriver to the Cameron town redoubt, until the supply line was severed by the Ngāti Maniapoto attack in September 1863.

After the battle at Rangiriri in November 1863, Te Wheoro began to act as intermediary between the government and the King movement. He went to Ngāruawāhia, under Governor George Grey's authorisation, to negotiate peace with Wiremu Tāmihana Tarapipipi and Ngāti Maniapoto. Te Wheoro became an assessor in the Native Land Court in 1865, but resigned in 1872, dissatisfied with what he later described as the corruption of a court that conferred title on

those whom it thought most likely to sell the land. O'Malley notes that, from about 1870, Te Wheoro was becoming more and more disillusioned with the New Zealand government, mainly because of the confiscation of his own lands. Eventually, according to Ward, becoming Kingitanga's principal advisor.

In 1875 he was appointed a native commissioner, and continued to assist in negotiations between the King movement and the government. In February he met and escorted Donald McLean, the native minister, to meeting at Waitomo with Tāwhiao, arranged by Te Wheoro at Tāwhiao's request. In February 1878, also at Tāwhiao's request, Te Wheoro arranged a meeting with Grey (now premier) at Te Kōpua. He escorted Grey and John Sheehan, the native minister, on the final part of their journey, and spent some time at Tāwhiao's side, but the meeting was largely unsuccessful in settling the King's grievances over confiscation.

In 1878. Te Wheoro had lengthy but inconclusive discussions with F. D. Fenton, now chief judge of the Native Land Court, about the return of his own tribal land Ngati Naho, which for some reason had been a part of the Waikato confiscations.

In December 1878 Tāwhiao and his chiefs embarked on a tour of Waikato and Whāingaroa (Raglan Harbour), Te Wheoro accompanying them as a government representative. Tāwhiao and Rewi had arranged another meeting with Grey at Te Kōpua in May 1879, and it was there, that Tāwhiao reasserted that his title and descent gave him the right of guardianship over the whole of the North Island, not only Waikato. This was to be the last opportunity for any reconciliation between Grey and the King.

Feeling that he was not being listened to and that his people were treated unfairly, Te Wheoro resigned as a native commissioner in 1879, to take a different approach and, on 8 September 1879 was elected to Parliament as the representative for Western Māori. The parliament to which he was elected was led by Sir George Grey. But when Grey lost the election the following month and John Hall took over as premier, Te Wheoro refused to join his ministry because Māori members were not to be given responsible portfolios. But he did become a member of the Native Affairs Committee and was soon in conflict with the native minister, John Bryce.

In 1880 Te Wheoro attacked the working of the Native Land Court, government attitudes towards the Māori, and the structure of the Native Affairs Committee itself. He voted for a new land court bill, which, he felt, though imperfect, must be an improvement on the old. The next year he opposed the Crown and Native Lands Rating Bill as being contrary to the Treaty of Waitangi, labelling it the 'Mortgage and Confiscation of Native Lands Bill'. On its second reading in 1882 he accused the government of racial hypocrisy and blatant land-grabbing. In September Bryce threatened to disband the Native Affairs Committee. Te Wheoro replied that as the committee was powerless and of no help to the Māori he did not care. He challenged anyone to name a Māori application to government that had been granted.

Te Wheoro was well informed and ever mindful of the interests of his constituents. He succeeded in having the government translate the Hansard reports of the speeches of Māori members back into Māori for distribution among the constituents. He was a supporter of the temperance movement and entreated the government to ban liquor from Māori districts. He favoured local self-government for his people, and Māori retention of their lands. He petitioned the Native Affairs Committee three times in 1881 and twice in 1882 for the return of the confiscated land of his hapū.

Throughout his time in Parliament (1879–1884) Te Wheoro remained closely associated with Tāwhiao, acting as his envoy to government. In 1882 Te Wheoro accepted the task of representing Tāwhiao's position to the government; ie, that land dealing, surveying and roadmaking be stopped, and the court at Mōkau abandoned. In February 1883, when the government, with the support of Ngāti Maniapoto, began a survey of Kāwhia, where both Te Wheoro and Tāwhiao claimed much land. Te Wheoro protested vigorously and was told by Bryce to take his claim to the Native Land Court. He fought for an inquiry into the validity of the government purchase, unsuccessfully opposed the bill proposing sale of sections in the township. From the frustration of this defeat was born the idea of making an appeal to Queen Victoria herself on behalf of her Māori subjects.

EDUCATION CENTRE -OPENING TIMES

Every Sunday 10 am until 2 pm,

Telephone Peter Moy 027 393 3326. Email: gailandpetermoy@gmail.com

For information about visits by groups, at other times, **contact Peter Moy.**

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PURPOSE OF THE TRUST

The Queen's Redoubt Trust was established in February 1999 with the intention of acquiring this nationally significant historic place and ensuring its protection; with the long term vision to restore and develop the site into a nationally recognised visitor attraction and education centre. In February 2001 the Trust completed the first major phase of the project, raising the funds to acquire the property in Pokeno which contains much of the site of the Queen's Redoubt.

OBJECTIVES of the TRUST

1. To acquire the Queen's Redoubt site at Pokeno to preserve it for future generations.
2. To make Queen's Redoubt accessible to the public by development and interpretation of the site as appropriate.
3. To restore the massive earthwork 'ditch and bank' walls of the fort (they were leveled after the war) as a key interpretive feature.
4. To promote education about the Queen's Redoubt and all the New Zealand Wars between Maori and European.
5. To establish a premier visitor and educational facility on the Queen's Redoubt site. This will be carried out in conjunction with an archaeological excavation programme to maximize knowledge of the site for future exhibition and interpretation purposes, and to promote public participation in the project. At the same time, historical research will continue into Queen's Redoubt itself, the Pokeno District, the Waikato Campaign of 1863-64 and the New Zealand Wars as a whole.

On Te Wheoro's initiative, a letter signed by the four Māori MHRs was dispatched to the Aborigines Protection Society in London, in July 1883. The letter suggested a visit to England by Tāwhiao the following year to petition the Queen, a party to the Treaty of Waitangi. Te Wheoro was a member of the party which departed for England on 1 April 1884.

John Gorst, now a British MP, introduced Te Wheoro to the House of Commons, as a loyal chief who had lost all his tribal lands and, despite repeated promises, had never received compensation, nor had any land been returned. Te Wheoro made a fluent and forceful speech, outlining his appointment to positions which he had hoped would enable him to help his people, and his eventual disillusionment. He maintained that the Māori members carried no weight in the House of Representatives and were therefore appealing directly to the Queen for redress.

The petition included the point that Te Wheoro and his people, despite being loyal to the Crown and directly helping the British forces, had been deprived of almost all of their land. But despite being received well in London, the delegation was not permitted to see the Queen, probably because of intense lobbying against this by the NZ Government.

He arrived back in Waikato late in January 1885 and at a meeting at Alexandra on 7 February he informed the native minister, John Ballance, that he hoped the government's policies, especially with regard to Kāwhia, would change. He asked for local Māori self-government, and control over lands on which railways were being built.

He also requested that bills concerning Māori be submitted to the British government. A few days later he unsuccessfully sought a rehearing on his Maungatautari land claim

Te Wheoro was devoted to restoring the mana of the King, and cited the Maungatautari case, where his claim about land ownership had failed, as a clear indication of the corruption of the land court. (Apparently the native assessor was accepting bribes.)

Te Wheoro had accompanied Sir George Grey to Taupiri after the Rangiriri battle, and thereafter both sides used his services on an unofficial liaison basis. For many years after the war finished, **he was almost the only person who possessed the confidence of both Tāwhiao and European leaders.**

Ian Barton

References (Te Wheoro article)

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Belgrave M. 2017. Dancing with the King. Auckland University Press

Gorst J E. 1864. The Maori King. (1959 Ed) Paul's Book Arcade

O'Malley V. 2016. The Great war for New Zealand. Bridget Williams Books

THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW CHANGES IN TRUST OFFICERS!

Ian Barton has resigned as Secretary/Treasurer and his place taken by **Jann Peachey**. Details in panel above.

Ian still produces the 6 monthly newsletter and the Sunday Duty Roster.

Peter Moy now does all bookings for visiting groups and either speaks to them himself or arranges for another Trustee to do that.

For any arrangements re booking contact Peter.

Teleph: 027393 3326

Email:

gailandpetermoy@gmail.com

Dr Neville Ritchie continues as Trust Chairman.

Ward A. 1974. A Show of justice. Auckland University Press