



Summary of Te Rarawa Historical Claims Manukau Blocks

The Manukau blocks are situated on the northern side of the Herekino harbour. Like the Te Karae block, alienation of the Manukau lands from the local hapū are another example of historical land loss through the operations of the Tokerau Maori land Board.

The Manukau blocks contained approximately 9240 acres. In 1904 it was partitioned into three blocks and titles issued for each:

- Manukau was the largest block, containing 6040 acres. Its 653 named owners were recorded as belonging variously to the hapū: Parewhero, Kaangaahi, Ngāti Wairupe, Ngāti Patutu, Tahukai, Popoto, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Kaha, Matangahoro, Ngāti Hinepahero, Ngāti Te Ao, Ngāti Kaihoru, Whanaupani, Ngāti Kiriwai, Ngāti Takoto, Patukainga, Ngāti Tawhiu, Te Rarawa, Patupinaki and Kaingamata.
- Manukau 1 contained 3000 acres and its 56 owners were identified as belonging to Ngāti Parewhero.
- Manukau 4 was the smallest block, containing 200 acres. Its 26 owners were of Ngāti Wairupe.

Manukau 2 Partitioned from Manukau Block

As a result of appeals regarding the initial title investigation, the Native Appellate Court cut Manukau 2 block from the original Manukau block. (142:3:23) block and awarded it to 58 named individuals

The remaining area (5897:0:17) became the new Manukau block, vested in 626 named individuals and later partitioned into Blocks A to G.

Manukau Lands Transferred to Private Purchasers

While being managed by the Tokerau Maori Land Board, the Manukau blocks caught the attention of private purchasers from the early 1910s.

Throughout 1912, approximately 6000 acres in Manukau transferred out of Maori ownership. The transfers were largely facilitated by the Board. Therefore certain rules governing meetings of owners and subsequent resolutions would have applied.

Summary of Individual Transfers

Four people, usually acting in concert, were the main purchasers of the Manukau lands: Fergus Gale Dunlop, Iris Frances Dunlop, Alice Quarterly and Arthur Gilbert Quarterly.

The individual transfers to the Dunlops and Quarterlys are detailed below. There are some gaps in the information discovered by the research so far, which may in part be a reflection of the poor record-keeping practices of the Crown.

In summary:

- Manukau 1A, of 2878 acres had a government valuation of 5/- per acre, though its sale price is yet to be confirmed;
- Manukau 2 (142:3:23) had a sale price of 15/- per acre and a valuation of 10/- an acre. It sold on condition that the owners retained 40 acres;
- Manukau 4 contained 200 acres and sold for 15/- per acre, in the face of three of its 26 owners registering their opposition;
- Manukau B sold for 10/- per acre and two owners registered their opposition;
- Manukau D had a sale price of 25/- per acre. The Crown record shows everyone who attended the meeting agreed to the sale. But details of the number of owners present and proxies are sketchy;
- Manukau E of 568 acres sold for 22/6 per acre, with the agreement of ten owners recorded;
- The 2000-acre Manukau F block had a sale price of 17/6. Many of the owners were represented by proxy, and the interests of the dissenting owners were cut out; and
- Manukau G of 238 acres transferred for 12/6 an acre. The express opposition of three owners was recorded, and it seems several owners became landless as a result of the transaction.

Evidence of Opposition and Reasons for Concern

The research completed for the Manukau blocks to date is considerably limited and it is clear that further information could contribute greatly to understanding the detail of the individual transactions.

The few details known about Manukau blocks E, F, and G reveal some concerns about the nature of the transfers.

Of particular importance is evidence of owners' opposition to the sales, coupled with the Crown's tendency to deal with it by cutting out the interests of the dissenting owners and thus sever their points of view and undermine the collective will of the owners.

Also, the Crown appears to have allowed the transactions to proceed despite knowing that the results might be detrimental to the owners. Finally, there is some evidence of poor notification of meetings and significant levels of voting by proxy.

Manukau E

In the sale of Manukau E, the owners were able to urge an increase in sale price from 17/6 to 22/6. Some owners insisted on the exclusion of 800 acres for Hemi Hapakuku and others, and records show that at least one owner received no notice of the meeting called to discuss the sale.

By 1940, the social and economic strain on one of the remaining areas of Manukau E – Manukau E2B – was made clear in a report to the Minister of Native Affairs that noted there were 'too many people settled on a small area of land'.

The Native Land Court's said it could do little to alleviate the problem. It was difficult to know what to do apart from purchasing 'other lands on which [Manukau Maori] could settle and so relieve the strain on the area which they are at present occupying'.

In this case, which indicates a much wider trend, permanent piecemeal alienation of the Manukau block had left local Maori with insufficient land for their needs – the very situation the Board had been formed to prevent.

Manukau F

Several Maori attempted to use the Supreme Court to prohibit the Board from alienating Manukau F, but the court actions were by-passed by an arrangement to withdraw an area of land from the sale for the dissenting owners.

Manukau G

While the sale of Manukau G was being negotiated, the Board was advised that at least 20 owners did not wish to sell. Instead, they wanted their shares (263 1/2) calculated and partitioned out.

Subsequently, in February 1913, Manukau G1 was cut out from Manukau G for two owners who owned 35 shares between them, which equated to

29 1/2 acres. It is unclear how the other 18 dissenting owners fared.

Reserves and Other Manukau Lands in Maori Title

Several reserves that remained intact following the 1912 transfers are still in Maori ownership today, including:

- the large Manukau A block, consisting mainly of sand hills;
- the wahi tapu Waingae, Aotea and Poneke (Manukau A1, A2 and A3 respectively);
- Manukau D1, the Catholic church site;
- And the marae on Manukau E2B1.

Currently, a total of approximately 4000 acres of the original Manukau blocks is still in Maori title. The majority of this land consists of the Manukau A sand hills and Manukau 5 which comprises approximately 1068 hectares.

Potential for Further Research

What has been discovered so far about Manukau is contained in chapter six of Te Rarawa Historical Overview Report, available online at terarawa.co.nz.

After the initial 1912 transfers, the alienation of Manukau lands continued throughout the 20th century, though the details are yet to be fully researched and documented. Ultimately, it appears that about 6000 acres of the original 10,000 acre Manukau block were permanently alienated from local Maori.

Additional investigation of the loss of Manukau lands seems an obvious priority for any further research that may be undertaken on Te Rarawa claims.