

## **HUNTLY STATION PLATFORM NAMING**

### **RAAHUI POOKEKA**

#### **History**

In the 1870's Raahui Pookeka had its name changed to Huntly after the first Postmaster James Henry arrived in town. Henry had a stamp from previous work he did in the Scottish Village of Huntly which he started to use. Apparently, Henry or his boss, the Postmaster General, did not like Raahui Pookeka, so they called it Huntly instead<sup>1</sup>.

Raahui Pookeka relates to the story of Te Putu, a warrior chief. Eel or tuna was the significant food source and Te Putu put a stake or pookeka in the ground to protect the food stocks and declared a raahui over the resource. Everyday Te Putu came and struck the top of the stick moving it further into the ground. Once the stake was fully submerged, Te Putu<sup>2,3</sup> told his people to perform a haka to free them from the bond not to fish for tuna<sup>4</sup>. After fishing the tuna, they placed their catch in equal shares on the ground to share and feed the community.

Raahui Pookeka is a story of kaitiakitanga, guardianship. It is a story of working together, of sharing and caring for the environment<sup>2</sup>.

### **RECLAIMING RAAHUI POOKEKA**

There are a number of marae in and around Raahui Pookeka. The Tangata Whenua Working Group have representatives from 6 of these marae. As a place rich in Maori history the Tangata Whenua Working Group support the aspiration of reclaiming the name Raahui Pookeka to make what was wrong, right<sup>2</sup>.

With the focus more on Te Reo Maori in these current times it is another significant reason

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<sup>1</sup> Waikato Coalfield Museum

<sup>2</sup> Stuff News 03 Jul 2020 "Call for Huntly..."

<sup>3</sup> Stuff News 20 Mar 2018 "Westside Stories..."

<sup>4</sup> 2012 KEIA – Raahui Pookeka Ki Taupiri – Huntly Section of The Waikato Expressway, Page 24

for reclaiming Raahui Pookeka. To give mana back to our whenua.

### **HUNTLY RAILWAY STATION PLATFORM NAMING**

As representatives of our marae we recommend to the Huntly Community Board, Kiwi Rail and Waikato District Council to name the Huntly railway station platform as Raahui Pookeka.

## SIGNATORIES

We the Chairperson/s for our respective marae-stakeholders agree to the information outlined above by the Tangata Whenua Working Group and its intent to name the Raahui Pookeka section of the Hamilton to Auckland Railway corridor.

Waahi Paa Chair



Kaitumutumu Chair



Te Ohaaki Chair



Matahuru Chair

K. NIKALI

Te Kauri Chair



Taupiri Chair



Waahi Whaanui Trust Chair



Hukanui Amuri Chair



Dated