

7th July 2020

Robert Brunswick Robertson

Submission number 3194

Stream 16 Wahi Topuna

Good Morning Everyone our submission this morning asks of the Council the following Questions.

Why Is our land of significance interest to Iwi ?

Why Now ?

In the very early days Maori passed through this area on their way to collect Pounamu (Greenstone)

Possibly attempted to gather food however the bitter winters and lack of sun even to this day does make growing food here difficult

We have lived on our land 32 years and still have no winter growth due to the frost and little sun.

For many years less than three Maori families lived here.

Skyline opened the Kiwi Haka concert to give tourists a taste of our culture at times there were insufficient numbers of Maori in town to run the show 7 nights a week

How do I know ? I have been selling New Zealand and sightseeing since 1958 and I still do.

In 1998 Ngai Tahu were gifted 170 million and proceeded to purchase businesses here in Queenstown

With the land also gifted to them and the high rentals paid they are a highly successful business group

We fail to understand the need for this further money gathering exercise.

Who was the clever person who in 2020 pulled a plan out of the air so we could be told what portion of our land was of significance to Iwi ?

When asked for evidence of Maori here or any where the answer is usually Aroha (Love)

The consultation with Iwi in our case Ngai Tahu. Will; be at the land owners cost Having attended Iwi meetings their karakia (Prayer) discussions thinking processes and food prior to any conclusion takes a great deal longer than our business meetings and would certainly be more costly than the usual business meeting.

Our submission is Our Land is of significance interest to our Robertson Family.

Our ancestors rest in the Queenstown cemetery

Our Great Grandfather was the first Mayor James William Robertson 151 years ago.

Hallenstein (Clothing Merchant) were having a beer in the pub discussing the needs of Queenstown, They decided the town needed a Mayor so they tossed a coin Great Grandad Robertson won.

He was a boat builder and built the Antrim then Skippered the Ben Lomond and the Mountaineer and his son skippered the Earnslaw.

Our large family is still working and volunteering here in Queenstown.

Last year Our Mayor Jim Boulton planted a tree in the Gardens to Honour Our Great Grandfather William James Robertson to. celebrating 150 years since Grandfather had opened the gardens.

Our Council holds all the records verifying our family details .Plus our community involvement

As an aside one of the Robertson ancestors owned the left hand side of Thompson St . However he was short of money for a bottle of whisky so he sold the land for 500.pounds Theoretically does that mean that the Council would consider that mistake could be considerable significance to The Robertson family and any time there is to be a change on those 7 or 8 sections we need to be consulted and paid a little gratuity ?

Seriously We do not wish this unnecessary money gathering exercise to pass.

We did not purchase our land 32 Years ago to told we can only proceed with Iwi approval

Hence we ask if it should pass that our land be excluded from the map. On the grounds of our contribution over 151 to our community This land was sub-divided by the Council We have always worked in our community Bob 60 years a volunteer fire man and 27 of those year as fire chief. We believe in Queenstown and like so many others we enjoy volunteering in our community Our community is our extended family

Nagai Tahu Has a wealthy investment in this town

Yet the moment they visualised a loss of income they closed most of their operations and released their staff.

We are and always have been a multi cultural town As we fight hard now to rebuild our town and care for our people so that Queenstown has a future

As any large business in Queenstown We see Ngai Tahu has a role to play not as a collector of monies but a group happy to help us build a whanau of every culture here.

Queenstown has always had a caring heart for it community

For Nagai Tahu to restore Mana to our community it means volunteering to share their stores, their history to the many cultures we have here so never again will history not have meaning and not be recorded.

Are there any questions ?

Presenter Fae Robertson