

Renata Paora Tuhokairangi Te Huki (Uncle Lenny)

born at Aohanga ... March 9th 1938....

My parents Ned (Pikitia Tuhokairangi) and Rosie Te Huki along with the Kauri Family, Mason Family and Rautu Family lived at Te Hika Papauma in big white canvas tents. During the time we lived there it was very tough going, Dad worked cutting scrub, often they stayed out where they were cutting.

Buying your food, you had to go over the hills to Mataikona and on to Masterton by horseback. The families left behind at Aohanga had to wait a week for them to get back with the groceries, making do with what food they had left but mostly getting by on tea or water.

Some died on these journeys and were buried where they lay.

After a few tough years at Aohanga and many kids getting sick the family decided to make a move back to Dannevirke. We had another brother Podge, who died and is buried at Whiti Te Ra. My older sister Ngamotu was also born at Aohanga. We were not sure where we were

going to live when we returned to town so decided to go to Whiti Te Ra meeting house – Mum, Dad and the Kauri family. I was nine when we came to town.

While we were at Whiti Te Ra our family grew by five sisters and two brothers and we went to Te Rehunga School. After schooling years, I worked at Dannevirke Hospital as an Orderly where a lot of our extended families worked in the laundry. This is where I met Jane Ackroyd a trainee nurse, we were married and had five sons.

I continued to work as an orderly in the Patea and Palmerston North hospitals for the next 45+ years.

Having recently returned to Dannevirke, it is good to be enjoying Aohanga and all its beauty with family.

Len Te Huki



Son Paul, Len and grandson Matthew 2017