

*Temuka Leader.* 23 January 1917 (Papers past) [01/11/2016]

In a message to the Christchurch papers of yesterday it was mentioned that among the casualties to members of the Australian Army having next-of-kin in New Zealand, was Reihana, his next-of-kin being his aunt, Mrs Kemara, Temuka. This is apparently a serious mistake in this cable message, as on Saturday Mrs Kemara received the following cablegram from the Base Records office: "Cable received to-day from Melbourne, reports 3418 Reihana admitted 3rd Western General Hospital. Gunshot wounds legs and left arm." The telegram from the Base Records office is in all probability correct as it confirms another message received by Mrs Kemara a week previously, stating that news from Melbourne reported that Reihana had been wounded.

*Temuka Leader.* 26 July 1919 (Papers past) [19/03/2024] (Saturday)

## **SOLDIERS RETURN.**

### **WELCOME AT TEMUKA**

On Thursday evening two more local men returned to Temuka, and were accorded the usual warm public welcome. The names of the returned men were Privates W. J. Whitehead and Tupai Reihana. Private W. Taipana, who was also expected, stayed in Wellington. The Temuka Municipal Brass Band, under Bandmaster Benbow, was at the railway station, and played a welcome home as the train steamed in. A number of soldiers going further south were on the train, and the ladies of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee were soon busy distributing fruit amongst them. As soon as the train had left, the returned soldiers were driven to the post office, the Band preceding them, and playing appropriate music. A large crowd assembled.

The Mayor (Mr Gunnion) said the welcomes were coming pretty often now, but he hoped people would not tire of attending them. There were probably only a few weeks to go now before all the men would be home. Temuka had done well in the past, and he was sure they would do well until the end. The boys they were welcoming had been away almost from the start of the war. It was they and their comrades who had kept us in our homes, and what have we had to go through compared with what they have suffered. The boys who went to the war had done their duty nobly. He only wished he could adequately express what he thought. On behalf of Temuka he thanked them for all they had done, and wished them happiness and success in the future.

Cheers were then given for the returned men, after which Privates Whitehead and Reihana expressed their thanks for the hearty welcome home they had received. It was a great pleasure to them to be home once more.

After further cheers for the returned soldiers they were driven to their homes.

Cars were kindly lent by Messrs Andrews, Kellahan, and Frisby.

On reaching the Arowhenua Pa, Private Reihana was given a warm Maori welcome. After a short service in the little church he was taken to the hall, when the customary ceremonies were gone through, after which he was entertained at dinner, when the usual toasts were honoured and a very happy time was spent by all.

Private Taipana is expected home to-night.

*Timaru Herald.* 31 July 1919 (Papers past) [01/11/2016]

## **AROWHENUA.**

### **MAORI SOLDIERS HONOURED**

On Tuesday evening a welcome was tendered to Private W. H. Taipana, Maori Pioneer Battalion, and Private Tapui [sic] **Reihana**, 6th Australian Light Horse by the Maoris of the Arowhenua Pa, the function taking place in the Maori Hall, Arowhenua. There was a good representative attendance, the hall being comfortably filled. Excellent music was provided by Misses T. Gray and V. Hopkinson, extras kindly played by Mrs Todd and Master Torepe and Mr J. Solomon carried out the duties of M.C.

Just before supper a halt was made for the presentation of gold medals to the guests. Mr James Paiki called on the Mayor of Temuka, to make the presentations.

Mr Gunnion said it was always a pleasure to him to visit the pa. Private Reihana left Temuka about eight years ago, and joined the Australian Light Horse at the beginning of the war. Private Taipana went with the 21st Reinforcements, and both the lads had done their duty well. On behalf of their Maori friends, he had very much pleasure in presenting them with gold medals, and hoped they would live long to wear them. Amidst applause the medals were pinned on the soldiers' coats by Miss Priscilla Pyke and Miss Kaihau Taipana, after which "For They are Jolly Good Fellows" was sung.

Private Taipana, for his comrade and himself, said that he regarded the gift not merely as a personal honour, but it included those who had gone and done their duty, but would not return.

A nice supper was then provided by the ladies, and dancing was resumed and continued for several hours. The promoters, Messrs H Torepe, H. T. Paiki and H. Kemara, are to be congratulated on the success of the evening.

*Temuka Leader.* 31 July 1919 (PP) [17/02/2017]

## **WELCOME HOME SOCIAL.**

### **PRESENTATION TO RETURNED SOLDIERS.**

On Tuesday evening a social was tendered to Private W. H. Taipana (a member of the Maori Pioneer Battalion) and Private Tupai Reihana (6th Australian. Light Horse), in the Arowhenua Maori Hall, and at the same time the opportunity was taken to present them with gold medals. There was a very good attendance, though not quite as large as has been at similar gatherings at the Pa, but this was easily accounted for, there being strong counter attractions and similar socials having been very frequent of late. The Hall was nicely decorated. Excellent music was provided by Miss T. Gray, Miss V. Hopkinson, and Master Torepe, Mrs Todd kindly playing extras. Mr Solomon carried out the duties of M.C., to the satisfaction of all, and a good supper provided by the ladies, handed round about 10.30, was thoroughly enjoyed by all. During the evening sweets were also passed round, and altogether the dancers spent a very pleasant evening.

The presentation took place shortly after 10 o'clock. The Mayor of Temuka (Mr T. Gunnion) said he had been invited to attend and give the boys their medals, and he felt it a great honour. The two boys they were honouring that evening had been to the war, and done their duty well. One of them — Private Taipana — had gone away at the beginning of the war, and while he was away his father — whom he knew — had died, and in his loss he had their

sincere sympathy. The other boy — Private Reihana — was in Australia when the war broke out, and he enlisted there. His people wanted him to come home and enlist in Temuka, but he said No, it would be losing time, and the sooner he got to the front the sooner he would be killing Germans. So he went from Australia. These boys had come back last week, after having served their country well. He could only express their feelings of thankfulness that they had returned safely; they had done for us what thousands of others had done, and he hoped that their services would never be forgotten, and that they will be honoured and respected as long as they live. It was to those who went — those who kept our tanks full — that we owe all that we have. If it had not been for them the German flag would have been flying instead of the Union Jack, and they know what that would have meant. He spoke of the 500 splendid fellows who passed through in the troop train on Monday, on their way to their homes, and to the seven fine boys who stood beside him on the post office steps the same evening to receive a public welcome. These were men that any country could well be proud of, and it was up to the country to look after them. In conclusion, Mr Gunnion called on two little girls, Miss Kaihau Taipana and Miss Priscilla Paiki, to pin the gold medals on the returned soldiers' coats, and the little ceremony was performed, while all present joined in singing "For they are jolly good fellows."

Private Taipaua said, on behalf of his comrade and himself, he had to thank them very sincerely for their reception and presentation. They felt that through them these friends were honouring those who fell in France.

Mr Torepe's Company then sang a pretty welcome waiata, and had to respond to an imperative encore. This brought the presentation ceremony to a close, and dancing was resumed. The social was organised by Messrs H. Torepe, H. T. Paiki, and H. Kemara, and they can well be complimented on its success.

*Temuka Leader.* 11 October 1919 (PP) [01/11/2016]

## **WELCOME HOME SOCIAL. AND PRESENTATION OF MEDALS.**

On Wednesday evening the Nga-ti-huirapa Committee tendered a welcome home social, with presentation of medals, to three soldiers who have recently returned, after serving their country — T. P. Rickus, J. Reihana, and S. Selwyn, but unfortunately the latter was indisposed, and was unable to be present. The function was held in the Drill Hall, and there was a good attendance, about 80 couples being present. Excellent music was provided by Mrs McIsaac, and Mr J. Soloman carried out the duties of M.C. in his usual capable manner. "Extras" were kindly played by Mr J. Rickus. A special feature was made of the supper, which was set out in the Volunteer Hall, the menu including fruit salad and trifle, and this was thoroughly enjoyed. The caterer was Mr A. Anderson, and the spread he provided did him great credit. The floor was in the best of dancing order, and altogether the dancers spent a very pleasant evening.

About half-past 11 o'clock, the presentation ceremony took place.

In the unavoidable absence of the Mayor, the presentations were made by Councillor Street.

Cr. Street said all knew the purpose for which they had gathered there, namely, to welcome home and honour three Maori soldiers. Unfortunately, one was unable to be present, but they had with them Privates Rickus and Reihana. Private Reihana was in Australia when the war broke out, and he joined the

Australian forces, and went to the front with the 6th Light Horse. Private Rickus went away with the Maori Pioneer Battalion, and Private Selwyn, who unfortunately had lost a leg while serving his country, also went away with the Pioneers. They were present to thank and honour these men. Those who had fought side by side with the Maori battalion bore witness

to the way they had fought. Maori and Pakeha had fought together as sons of the British Empire until the enemy was defeated. He had now very much pleasure, on behalf of the Nga-ti-huirapa committee, in presenting Private T. Rickus and J. Reihana with handsome gold medals, and hoped they would live long to wear them. It was not their intrinsic worth that constituted their greatest value, but wishes that accompanied them. (Applause.)

The medals were then pinned on to the soldiers' coats by Misses Hopkinson and Reihana, after which "For they are jolly good fellows" was sung.

Private Rickus and Reihana expressed their appreciation of the kindness they had received. They thanked the Nga-ti-huirapa Committee and Mr Street, and all who had taken part in the welcome.

Cr. Street again expressed his regret that Private Selwyn could not be present. They all appreciated the great sacrifice he had made, and the work he had done. He also expressed his appreciation of the work of the Committee — of which Mrs J. Rickus was president, and Mrs J. Walker chairwoman — in arranging the social and procuring the medals. They had given all a very pleasant evening, and were deserving of great credit.

Mr Torepe's company sang a waiata very pleasingly, after which, cheers were given for the returned soldiers, and for the committee, and a final one for Mr Street.

Dancing was then resumed, and, kept going merrily for several hours.

*Timaru Herald.* 13 October 1919 (PP) [01/11/2016]

### WELCOME HOME SOCIAL TO SOLDIERS AT TEMUKA.

A very successful welcome home social and presentation of medals was held in the Drill Hall, Temuka, last week under the auspices of the Nga-ti-huirapa Committee, the guests being T. P. Rickus, J. Reihana, and S. Selwyn, but unfortunately the latter was indisposed and unable to be present. About 80 couples were present, excellent music was provided by Mrs McIsaac, and Mr J. Solomon carried out the duties of M.C. Extras were kindly played by Mr J. Rickus. Mr A. Anderson catered for the supper, and this item was made a special feature.

In the unavoidable absence of the Mayor the presentations were made by Councillor Street, and in doing so he said that Private Reihana was in Australia when the war broke out and he joined and went to the front with the 6th Light Horse. Private Rickus went away with the Maori Pioneer Battalion, and Private Selwyn, who unfortunately had lost a leg while serving his country, also went with the Pioneers. They had to thank and honour these men, and those who had fought side by side with the Maori Battalion bore witness to the way they had fought. He had very much pleasure on behalf of the Nga-ti-Huirapa Committee in presenting the gold medals, and hoped the recipients would live long to wear them.

The medals were pinned on the soldiers' coats by Misses Hopkinson and Reihana, after which "For they are jolly good fellows" was sung.

Privates Rickus and Reihana expressed their appreciation of the kindness they had received and thanked everyone who had taken part in the welcome.

Councillor Street then eulogised the work of the Nga-ti-Huirapa Committee, of which Mrs J. Rickus was president and Mrs J. Walker, chairwoman, in arranging the social and providing the medals They had given everyone a very pleasant evening.

Mr Torepe's company then sang a Wai-ata very pleasingly, after which cheers were given for the returned soldiers and for the committee, and a final one for Mr. Street. Dancing was then resumed and kept going for several hours.

*Timaru Herald.* 3 November 1919 (Papers past) [01/11/2016]

## **AROWHENUA.**

### **FAREWELL SOCIAL AND PRESENTATION.**

On Thursday evening a farewell social and presentation was tendered Trooper Tuhai Reihana (6th Australian Light Horse, who is returning to Australia) in the Arowhenua Maori Hall. There was a very large attendance, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. Excellent music was provided by Mr Jack Rickus, Misses V. Hopkinson and T. Gray kindly playing extras. Mr K. Rehu carried out the duties of M.C. to the satisfaction of all, and Mr Ray Quinn contributed pleasing vocal items. A splendid supper was provided by the ladies.

Shortly after supper Trooper Reihana was presented with a handsome pocket wallet. Mr W. McCallum, in making the presentation, referred to the sterling qualities of the soldier, and said that the gift was a small token of the esteem and regard in which he was held by his Maori friends. It was to remind him that their good wishes would always be with him.

Private Reihana, in responding, cordially thanked his pakeha and Maori friends for their kindness. Their gift would always remind him that he carried their good wishes.

“For he’s a jolly good Fellow” was enthusiastically sung, and Mr Torepe’s company sang a waiata, and had to respond to an imperative encore, after which dancing was resumed. The presentation and social was organised by Mr R. C. Taipana, and he is to be congratulated on the success of the function.

*Temuka Leader.* 22 May 1920 (Papers Past) [05/12/2023]

## **WELCOME HOME.**

### **AND PRESENTATION OF ILLUMINATED ADDRESSES.**

On Thursday evening a very enjoyable welcome home social was held in the Maori Hall, Arowhenua, to welcome Private T. Whitau, a member of the Maori Pioneer Battalion, present him with a gold medal, and present illuminated addresses to every local Maori soldier who had returned, and to the relatives of two others who had lost their lives in the Great War. The Hall was nicely decorated, and there was a large attendance. Among those present was Mr Pitama (president of the Tuahiwi Patriotic Committee) and Mr Teaika (representing Mr W. H. Uru, member for the Southern Maori District). Excellent music was provided by Misses V. Hopkinson and M. Gray, Mr Jas. Elder rendering material assistance with the “bones.” Mr Joe Solomon carried out the duties of M.C. in his usual capable manner. During the evening Miss Ruby Marsh favoured those present with a song, and had to respond to an encore. Dancing was commenced shortly after 8 o’clock, and was kept going spiritedly until shortly before 11, when there was a break (to allow of

### **THE PRESENTATIONS**

to be made. Mr H. Paiki, having briefly introduced the Mayor (Mr T. Gunnion) and Mr Pitama, the Mayor expressed his regret that he had not been at the Temuka railway station on the previous day to welcome Private Whitau, but he had gone to Timaru with the Renown men, and had overlooked the fact that the returned soldier was expected. He had great pleasure in being present that evening. Private Whitau had gone away with the Maori Pioneer Battalion five years ago and had only just returned. No doubt if Private Whitau liked he could tell a most interesting story and one that would astonish his hearers. As he had said before, the Maoris of Arowhenua could well be proud of the fact they had given to the war as a volunteer every boy capable of bearing arms, and he understood it was the same at Kaiapoi. These were records that the Maoris could justly be proud of. There was a time when the

Maoris and pakehas were fighting but that was long ago, and now they were a united people, true and loyal to their King. (Applause) Private Whitau and the other Maori boys who had gone to the war had proved their loyalty. The Mayor then referred to the testimonials to be presented by Mr Pitama, and after thanking Private Whitau for his services, said to him: "On behalf of your Maori friends in Temuka, I have much pleasure in presenting you with this beautiful medal in recognition of what you have done for us."

Miss Taipana pinned the medal on Private Whitau's coat amidst great applause, and the little ceremony was followed with the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow," and cheers. Mr H. Torepe's company then sang a waiata very sweetly, and had to respond to an encore.

Private Whitau briefly responded, thanking the Mayor and his Maori friends for the evening and medal. He would never forget them. (Applause.) (The medal is very handsome and neatly engraved. On one side is the inscription "16/231 Private T. Whitau. From friends," and on the other the initials "T.W.")

Mr Pitama, chairman of the Tuahiwi Patriotic Committee, said it had been decided to present an illuminated address to each boy in the South Island who went to the war. This should have been carried out twelve months ago, but in compliance with requests from various pas who wanted the presentations to take place at the welcome to the last boy, the ceremony had been deferred. It had been hard to wait for so long. At the end of the great crisis everyone wanted to settle down to work as in pre-war times. At the beginning of the war they had presented each boy with a medal, but it had been found that they did not always keep them, and it was decided to give the addresses, which could hardly be given away, and which, when the boys married and got homes of their own, could be hung on the walls and show the part they had taken in the Great War. The addresses were a mark that the people of Tuahiwi appreciated what the boys had done that those who stayed here, who were unfitted to go, might have good homes.

Amidst applause Mr Pitama then presented addresses to the following: — T. Whitau, Wm. H. Torepe, Wm. Rickus, Thomas Percival Rickus (the two latter were received by Mrs Rickus), R. Nopera, T. Reihana, T. Whaitiri, Jack Rickus, John Koruarua, Leslie Hopkinson, James Hopkinson, William Taipana.

Mr Pitama said during the war some had had a terrible time. Words could not express his feelings. Mothers had had to grieve for the loss of their sons. Some of the boys "went west." In one case here two members of one family had died, and both parents were dead. Their relatives had their deep sympathy. He was not going to say anything further about the boys who made the supreme sacrifice, but would ask all to join in singing a verse of a hymn.

The audience stood, and the verse was sung with bowed heads after which Mr Pitama presented P. Whitau's address to his aunt, Mrs Kemara, and A. K. Whitau's address to L. Whitau, his uncle.

Mr Pitama expressed his thanks for having been allowed to present the addresses, saying the duty had been a great pleasure to him, and Mr W. H. Torepe, on behalf of the boys of the Maori Pioneers, thanked Mr Pitama and the Tuahiwi Patriotic Committee for the beautiful illuminated addresses. The boys appreciated them very much. Mr H. Torepe's company then sang "Haere tohu Tuahuriri" and "Aroha whenua" ("Till we meet again") very tunefully and sweetly. A nice supper, supplied by the ladies, was then handed round, after which dancing was resumed and kept going for several hours. The successful function reflected great credit on those who arranged it, Messrs H. Torepe, H. Paiki, and K. Kemara.

*Timaru Herald.* 25 May 1920 (Papers Past) [01/11/2016]

## **AROWHENUA PA**

### **SOLDIERS' SOCIAL AND PRESENTATIONS.**

A successful welcome home social and presentation was tendered to Private T. Whitau, of the Maori Pioneer Battalion, in the Arowhenua Hall last week. The Tuahiwi Patriotic Committee also presented framed and illuminated addresses to all the Maori soldiers who have returned, and to the next of kin of two others who made the supreme sacrifice in the late war. The building, which was filled to its utmost, was beautifully decorated. Among the visitors were Mr Pitama (president of the Tuahiwi Patriotic committee), and Mr Teaiki, representing Mr W. H. Uru, M.P. The dance music was supplied by Misses V. Hopkinson and V. Gray, assisted in the "effects" by Mr J. Elder. Mr J. Solomon was M.C. Two songs were capitally sung by Miss Ruby Marsh.

The presentations were made by the Mayor of Temuka and Mr Pitama.

Mr Gunnion said that he was pleased to welcome home one of the first boys who went away from the pa, and saw almost five years service. The Arowhenua Maoris' record was a proud one, every eligible lad had been a Volunteer – it was a credit to the native race.

Mr Guinon presented the medal to Private Whitau, and amidst cheers, Miss Taipani pinned it on. "For he's a jolly good fellow" was sung, and Mr H. Torepe's company sang a waiata, and had to repeat it.

Private Whitau suitably expressed his thanks.

Mr Pitama said that about a year ago the Tuahiwi Patriotic Committee decided to present an illuminated address to all the native boys who had returned, but at the request of the various pas it was decided to delay the presentation until the last man had returned. During the early part of the war medals were given to each boy, but in many cases they were not kept. The framed address could be retained for all time, and could be hung up on the wall at home to show the part they had taken in the great war.

The following were presented with addresses: — T. Whitau, W. H. Torepe, W. Rickus, T. P. Rickus, R. Nopera, T. Reihana, T. Whaikiri, Jack Rickus, J. Koruarua, L. Hopkinson, J. Hopkinson, W. Taipana.

Mr Pitama then made feeling references to those mothers who had lost sons in the war, in one instance in Temuka two sons of one family had died, and both parents were dead. Their relatives had his deepest sympathy. At his request the audience stood and sang a verse of a Maori Hymn, after which Mr Pitama presented Private Whitau's address to Mrs Kemara and A. K. Whitau's address to Ti Whitau, his uncle.

Mr W. H. Torepe on behalf of the Maori Pioneer Boys thanked Mr Pitama and his committee for their handsome presents.

Mr Torepe's company then contributed several Maori items, after which a dainty supper was handed round by the ladies. Dancing was then resumed and kept going until an advanced hour. The function was one of the most enjoyable held at the pa, and much of its success was due to the excellent arrangements made and carried out by the promoters, Messrs H. Torepe, H. Paiki and K. Kemara.