



## MAY IT PLEASE THE TRIBUNAL

- [1] I am the youngest of 14 siblings. My brother Tini went overseas and was Maori Battalion. He was shot overseas and because of his wounds he couldn't have children.
- [2] My grandmother was 129 when she died. Today that sounds amazing, but the coast was full of pakeke who lived long lives. They ate our Maori kai and lived healthy lifestyles. In the book 'Faces from the past: the dignity of Maori age' there are many kuia from the coast many of whom were well over 100 including my kuia. Atkins Whiu, she was over 100. Kai Ngakai was another. Nanny Kai we used to deliver the milk to her and it was full of natural fat. When you carried the milk some would spill out and sometimes you would top it up with water, but she knew when you had done that! She would dip her finger in the milk and say, 'ae, he reka!' She knew.
- [3] But our men, only two generations after these old kuia, they were dying in their 40's, 50's and 60's. My brother Tini died when he was only young. Today people are called a kaumatua if they reach 50. That's ridiculous but exactly the situation we have on the coast. This korero, it's about longevity. It's about the impact that the war had on the lives of our men. If they survived the war, many of them didn't live long, full lives, like their kuia did only two generations prior. They died because of their wounds and because they didn't get the help they needed after the war. End of story.

---

Tamati Tawhari Makrini Hindmarch.

Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti