



The Rongokako Maori Council, photographed on the occasion of a visit by Apirana Ngata (middle row, third from right) to the Wairarapa. The Chairman is Taiawhio Te Tau (seated on ground, centre), and Henare Parata (holding a child, at left) is also shown. This photograph is still in the possession of the descendants of Iraia Te Whaiti (middle row, third from left). TE WHAITI FAMILY

From this small beginning it spread throughout the Maori villages of the Kaipara district.”⁶

The important chief Te Heuheu told the Te Aute Association conference in 1900 that he recognised in the Young Maori movement a continuation of Kotahitanga. He saw the association as the future Kotahitanga and hoped it would be able to carry out the aims of the elders’ movement. Ngata had attended Kotahitanga’s hui at Rotorua a few months before, and at another hui hosted at Waiomatatini by his own iwi in 1902 he felt able to make the suggestion that Kotahitanga be done away with, on the grounds that its objectives had been achieved. He was given powerful support by the East Coast parliamentarians Carroll and Wi Pere, who used the argument that the new Maori Councils and Maori Land Boards were the offspring of Kotahitanga and were furthering its aims, thus making the organisation’s continued existence unnecessary. The Maori Councils general conference would now serve as the Maori Parliament. There was some argument, for the proposal clearly signalled a move away from calls for political self-determination and a choice for the framework of state institutions as a road to Maori progress. But the decision made in 1902 marked the end of Kotahitanga as it had existed since