

bird which was heard, but never seen.

And Mr Wahanui's father, Hari Wahanui, also made a journey to Europe. An army trooper, Hari was charged by Maori King Mahuta to deliver and present to Queen Victoria a Maori King movement flag.

He sailed in 1900 on the SS Norfolk with a contingent of troops bound for the Boer War, and on the voyage made a name for himself by fighting a duel with a pakeha officer who had insulted him.

The officer fought with a fixed bayonet, Hari Wahanui used a taiaha (wooden spear). Both men were nearly 2m tall and weighed nearly 100kg each, and after half an hour of "terrible, brutal" battle, the officer's rifle and bayonet went cartwheeling into the sea.

According to Mr Wahanui, it would have been acceptable for his father to have killed the officer at that point, but he spared him, and the pair became firm friends afterwards.

Meanwhile, word came during the voyage that Queen Victoria had died, so Mr Wahanui's father finished up presenting the flag to King Edward VII instead.



Mr Wahanui at home with his display boards setting out the history of the Maori and the story of the naming of the King Country.

Wellington District Maori Council Merit Awards.

The awards are presented annually to young Maori achievers in different fields. Nearly one hundred awards were presented by the Police Commissioner, Ken Thompson.



Jimmy Wiki and Sharon Dargaville



Aaron Riddell