

## Situation at the Slipper Island September 15<sup>th</sup> 2001

I have been asked by Liz to write a letter giving my approval for some family members to purchase the eight lots in a subdivision of our Slipper Island.

I am aware that the family were given an option to buy into these lots by November 28<sup>th</sup> 2000, and if any were left then they would be offered to outsiders. I called on Babbage & Co who had been engaged to do a scheme plan of subdivisions. A person, Peter Reed, told me he had spoken to Liz on the phone and I was turned away. Babbage & Co put the Pukekohe farm into liquidation in 1989 for fees owing. This firm is unscrupulous and aiming to get their hooks into Slipper Island since 1986 so watch out for trouble here.

### Subdivision — at what cost?

Probably, at the end it will cost us the Island.

Once you start these schemes they don't stop till there is nothing left. We know — just take a look at what you did to the Pukekohe farm, and the Pouarui property, all the land down the drain, and made us poor. You lose the land and you lose the income.

Stop and think what is happening here. The Island is held in one title. The moment that is changed, we have wide sweeping results.

1. We lose our Riparian Rights
2. The Council takes an Esplanade Reserve around the edge of the Island. The public, anyone, can wander along this at any time and you cannot chase them off. Gone is the claim to a "Private Island" lots 12 & 13
3. The headlands, Lots 14 and 15 become Historic Reserves under management by the Maris, and the Historic Places Trust in perpetuity. loss control.
4. lots 9 and 10 Who are lined up to purchase these two?
5. There are 14 Needham children and their mother, only 10 lots shown, for sale
6. Who will own the residue Lot 11 216.72 hectares? The 4 members left out?
7. Who is going to foot the bill for these expensive surveyors?  
Fit your own coat on the Slipper Island Resort Ltd account?

I trust that you realise what is happening here. You are plunging headlong into financial and family disaster. Who wants an island that is crawling with all sorts of people?

What about Stage II of the development? Do you really believe that the power hungry consultants and surveyors and Maori and the Council will stop now at this? Surely you can see this is only the beginning, of the end.

The Needhams are there, pushed into one corner, out of the way, and looking at each other in their little stepped up flat roofed ha-has. How long before they rise up against this oppression, and then want to sell? If separate titles are issued then they must have the right to sell and the willy will be gone. It is frightfully naive to think otherwise.

The whole idea of owning an island is to have something to call our own. The ownership does not stop with the children who are the beneficiaries of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the 45,000 shares of the Family Trust and I am the beneficiary of the other  $\frac{1}{3}$  = 15,000 shares in Slipper Island Resort Ltd you can check out what I say and I know that you will find that it is true. You have put me through sheer hell with the "For Sale by Tender" of the year 1998. Now this. What, or who is driving you on? Surely enough damage has been done already. It is time to stop and take a good look at the future and what it holds for us all. What need is there for the family to purchase into a bare postage stamp plot of land that some plotting surveyors say would be good for you? Where is your spirit?

Take the initiative now. You can choose a house site wherever you choose. The Council cannot tell you where to build. We are entitled to build all the extra dwellings we need, head stockmans, shearers quarters, farm workers, all sheds, workshop and other. The mortgage can be met by the income from the chalets, camping ground and lodge. All must contribute. There will be no immediate funds to build houses, a hut or caravan will suffice for now. Please do not disregard this final warning to lay off playing about with this beautiful and valuable property of the Slipper Island.

Oliver Needham. September 15<sup>th</sup> 2001