

From: **Carmen Parahi** <carmen.parahi@stuff.co.nz>

To: [REDACTED]

Date: Thu, Mar 18, 2021 at 2:28 PM

Subject: Re: Formal complaint

Kia ora [REDACTED],

Thank you very much for your email, we really appreciate it when our readers take the time to write to us. We refute your assertion we have printed a lie without challenge because we allow our readers, such as yourself, to challenge what was written and to respond accordingly.

The opinion article you're referring to was clearly labeled opinion from two MPs Stuart Smith and Arena Williams:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/opinion/300230149/learning-history-not-only-teaches-us-our-past-it-makes-us-think-critically-and-look-at-the-way-in-which-those-stories-are-told>

I note your complaint is about what Arena Williams has said, not Stuart Smith. You believe Ms Williams is incorrect about Rangiaowhia but have no issue with what Mr Smith said.

Thank you for sending a link to the NZ History site. It refers to charred corpses. I've also included another version about Rangiaowhia in one, of many stories we've reported over the years, at Stuff:

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/fight-rangiaohia-michael-body>
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/99417959/when-the-war-came-to-rangiaowhia>

I note you did not pick up on Stuart Smith's opinion about romanticising pre-colonial experiences of Māori or referring to Dr Michael Bassett's debunked theory of the musket wars. Here is an excellent article for you to read: <https://thespinoff.co.nz/society/06-03-2021/all-the-things-michael-bassett-got-wrong-in-his-terrible-article/>

There is no definitive and correct version of what happened at Rangiaowhia, the musket wars and many other historical events in New Zealand. We stand by the article and will not be updating it.

It is always of great interest to us to see how our readers interpret the many articles we publish, without fear or favour, every day. We cannot predict how people will respond but work hard to ensure what we do always meets the highest standards of journalism or opinion writing, part of which is to encourage further discourse.

We hope you will continue to engage with Stuff, we value readers who enjoy our work and challenge us to do better.

Noho ora mai rā
Carmen Parahi, Pou Tiaki editor

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