

Ka Rere ki te Ao!

The official Newsletter of the Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust



From the Chairman

Tēnā koutou i runga i te ahuatanga o te rangi, nei rā tuku mihi ki a koutou katoa.

As we find ourselves six months into another busy year, I would like to reflect upon the key events of 2016. The first event was the Kōrero Tuku Iho hearings that took place in September. It was a great example of a coordinated effort between the confederated iwi of Mōkai Pātea from which we coined the term Ngā Iwi Nui Tonu o Mōkai Pātea.

It was an opportunity for each of our respective iwi of Ngāi Te Ohuake, Ngāti Hauiti, Ngāti Whitikaupēka and Ngāti Tamakōpiri to stand strong and describe their own historical accounts and show the tribunal that we have and still maintain our tino rangatiratanga.

A small measure of success was the praise by individual Tribunal members, lawyers and our own whānau who were there to support us. I acknowledge there was a huge effort to prepare and present our historical position to the Tribunal and therefore thank all those who were involved in planning, preparing, presenting and hosting the 4 day event.

A special thank you to Ngāti Hauiti and Ngāti Whitikaupēka for hosting the hearings at Rātā and Moawhango Marae. Also to Ngāti Tamakōpiri who supported the site visits during the haerenga.

As Ihutu said to her husband Kaama:

“He nui ake tāku moenga aītanga”.
(These are the fruits of my marriage)

Which refers to having sufficient provisions to host our manuhiri.

Last year we also saw the completion of a number of commissioned reports that have since been placed on record with the Waitangi Tribunal, all of which adds to our collective story. Hard copies have been made available to our Rūnanga however some electronic copies can be found on the Mōkai Pātea claims website (*Website link on the last page of panui*). I encourage you to view the research documents on the website as they offer various insights into many aspects of our history, grievances and claim.

One of the most influential pieces of information found from the research were letters written by a number of our tribal leaders in the 1890s. The letters sought support from the government to establish a legal structure (similar to a Māori Land Incorporation) that would hold all our tribal lands collectively, provide for land development and enable tribal members to sell the land to the entity.

It was a means of land retention that was way ahead of its time and which potentially would have provided a permanent economic base for our people. The Government ignored these requests and then systematically implemented a policy of land alienation which went far beyond its intent.

As Winiata Te Whaaro put it:

“Ko te korero kia haere ahau. Ko taku kia noho tonu. Koia ahau ka kii, ka eke rawa aku toto mo tenei poraka”

The year 2017 sees us having moved into the substantive hearings with the Waitangi Tribunal commencing with the first week long hearing recently completed on 6 March 2017.

At the same time we are also progressing a parallel work stream with the Office of Treaty Settlements in anticipation of our eventual move to direct negotiations. When the time is right, a decision will be made to officially move from the Waitangi Tribunal process to the Direct Negotiations process. This will only happen once we are sure that we have got what we want from the Waitangi Tribunal and that our whānau, hapū and iwi support us. (See the separate section explaining this further)

On the administration front, we have recently taken on Sam Bishara as our Claims Manager. Sam comes to us from Te Puni Kōkiri and brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience operating as a senior public servant. While most of us know he is from Ngāti Tūwharetoa (Turumakina Kurauia, Hikairo), he has close connections with many whānau of Mōkai Patea.

Richard Steedman has been appointed as our Strategic Advisor and will provide the Trust with high level advice and guidance based on his extensive knowledge of and leadership within ngā iwi nui tonu o Mōkai Patea. This small team is further complemented by Gloria Toheriri of our contract partner Te Kei Ltd. She fills the Kia Rite function, and adds considerable operating strength to the Trust with an intimate knowledge of Crown Forest Rental Trust (CFRT) and Waitangi Tribunal processes.

Utiku Potaka
Mokai Waitangi Claims Trust Chairman

Waitangi Tribunal Hearing Process vs Direct Negotiation with the Crown (OTS) Process

The Waitangi Tribunal hearings to date have provided benefits to us. These include:

- ❖ The completion of a substantive body of research work which shows our tribal histories and given clarity and understanding to the nature of our claim and grievances;
- ❖ The telling of our histories through oral accounts, visual aids and video footage giving a snapshot into our tribal histories and traditions;
- ❖ Establishing a uniqueness to our claims that include documented confiscations (Pokopoko) and the failure of the Crown to protect our tribal lands;
- ❖ Receiving some concessions from the Crown;
- ❖ Building the administrative capacity of our Trust to actively participate in the Tribunal process, and establishing a registration database of members.

The purpose of the Mōkai Patea Waitangi Claims Trust is 'to settle historical claims under the Treaty of Waitangi'. The Waitangi Tribunal process is a '**stepping stone**' to this end and therefore it will be of no surprise that we have initiated pre-mandating

discussions with the Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS).

In this regard, the Trust is pleased to advise that the Office of Treaty Settlements have acknowledged Mōkai Patea as a "**Large Natural Grouping**" for the purpose of Waitangi negotiations.

This is a significant step forward for our people given that previously our status as a distinctive confederation of whānau, hapū and Iwi has not been given due recognition.

We acknowledge that this does not confer on our Trust a mandate to settle the claims, but rather that will depend on a mandating process. We continue to reach out to the Ngāti Hinemanu me Ngāti Pahi Heritage Trust to find opportunities for mutually beneficial outcomes.

On 10 February 2017, we received written confirmation that the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations **has agreed that Mōkai Patea can enter Treaty settlement negotiations alongside the Waitangi Tribunal's Taihape District Inquiry** should a Crown recognised mandate be achieved.

Therefore, our Trust has moved officially into a 'parallel' process which means that while we continue through the Waitangi Tribunal process we are able to enter the Treaty Settlement process and to that end, we have commenced the mandating phase.

Reporting Back – Combined Runanga Hui 12 February 2017

The Chair with legal advisor Leo Watson provided a Claims progress report to the combined Runanga representatives hui. Their presentation covered a number of matters that included;

- ❖ An update on Claims progress made to date
- ❖ An outline of how direct negotiations would work and what will be required of the Trust, and constituent Runanga
- ❖ Recommended amendments to the Trust deed that will enable implementation of the strategy, and,
- ❖ The Deed of Mandate be advertised and public submissions called for.

First Week of Substantive Hearings - Rata Marae 6-10 March 2017



The first week of our Waitangi Tribunal Hearings, inquiring into substantive allegations of the Crown breaching the Treaty of Waitangi, has been held at Rātā. The Tribunal, Crown and other parties were welcomed onto Rātā Marae. The Tribunal's kaumātua Professor Pou Temara commented in his whāikōrero that although the Tribunal had been to Rātā in September 2016, that was to hear the tribal oral traditions of who were the people of Mōkai Pātea. In this hearing however, the focus shifted to the acts and omissions of the Crown and its agents after contact was made with Mōkai Pātea from the 1860s onwards.

The Week opened with us setting our theme for the week which was "Tino Rangatiratanga". Our legal counsel Leo Watson made opening submissions to the Tribunal that set out the main basis for the claim, being the breach by the Crown of its guarantee to provide for tino rangatiratanga of our Tupuna in relation to their land and their taonga.

A presentation was made on the history of Tribal reconstruction that has been going on in Mōkai Pātea over the last thirty years freeing our people from the effects of colonisation and our subsequent dependence on our neighbouring whanaunga Iwi to revert back to our distinctive Tribal entities of Ngāi Te Ohuake, Ngāti Hauiti, Ngāti Whitikaupeka and Ngāti Tamakopiri - Ngā Iwi Nui Tonu o Mōkai Pātea.

We also indicated to the Tribunal that we were entering a process with the Office of Treaty Settlements to produce a Mandate Strategy. We will also seek the mandate from Iwi members to settle the claims of Mōkai Pātea with the Crown.

A second presentation by Richard Steedman reviewed the key whakapapa lines that joined us together, but which also produced our distinctive rights of mana whenua to our lands. The presentation then looked at the early history of the Mōkai Pātea people and the constantly ignored attempts by our Tūpuna to assert and maintain their tino rangatiratanga. Those attempts were continually ignored by the Crown.

Rata Hall (the hearing venue) displayed enlarged copies of

- ❖ Early letters from 'Rūnanga katoa o Ngāti Tamakōpiri me Ngāti Whitikaupeka' on the future arrangements our Rangatira wished to see for our people, while accommodating the needs of the new settlers.
- ❖ Correspondence between members of the Crown conspiring to take our lands for their own private purposes

The second day saw the Crown provide a summary of its position, including certain concessions that it was prepared to make. The Crown lawyer was cross examined by the Tribunal, followed by a presentation of the "The Tribal Landscape Overview" by historian Tony Walzl – a research project that the Mōkai Pātea Iwi and people worked on very closely with Tony.

As with all presentations this was followed by questions from members of Panel, and the lawyers for the various claims being represented.

One of the Tribunal members, Sir Doug Kidd, expressed his view that a "unique feature" of the Mōkai Pātea region was how quickly the economy was overturned from the chiefs holding large runs of sheep, to a few Pakeha sheep holders having total control of the pastoral economy. This all occurred in a brief period of time in the late 19th century, despite the requests from the Tupuna to have the Crown take action to prevent it from occurring.

The third day saw the presentation of "Mōkai Pātea – Land, People and Politics" by historian David Armstrong. This was a work commissioned by ourselves covering wide ranging topics from the taking of the Defence Lands and Otumore Block, to the history of the Aorangi Awarua Trust and the establishment of the Moawhango School. These separate narratives were brought together under the common theme of tino rangatiratanga.

The final day's hakari can't go unmentioned as it capped off a very successful week in style. That final meal together was quite rightly described as a hakari but such was the quality of the kai and manaakitanga provided throughout the week, every day and every meal could have well qualified as hakari as well.

No reira Ngāti Hauiti, tae atu ki ngā ringawera me ngā kaiawhina, kaimahi katoa, tēnā rā koutou.

Heoti ano, ka tika ka mihia katoatia hoki te hunga i tae atu ki te marae ki te tautoko nga tono ki a Judge Harvey ma. Ma era tono ngā korero a kui mā koro mā o era rau tau e ora ai mo ake tonu atu. Ahakoa ngā mamae ā te iwi me ngā hē ā Kawanatanga mā, i tū rangatira ai ngā iwi o Mōkai Patea, i hāpaingia ai hoki te mana ā o tātou mātua tūpuna katoa. Tenei te mihi atu rā ki a koutou katoa, kia ora rawa atu.

Rangitikei River Hearing 30 May-2 June 2017

This took place in Palmerston North and was heard by two Panels, one the Porirua ki Manawatu Inquiry District (Wai 2200) and the Taihape Inquiry District headed Judge Layne Harvey

The four days of hearings included evidence from technical witnesses on the first two days, followed by tāngata whenua evidence on the remaining two days.

The awa is of critical to Mōkai Patea iwi and the spiritual, cultural, social and economic importance of the iwi's relationship with the awa was extremely well stated in the evidence presented by Te Rina Warren and Utiku Potaka.

There was a solid Mokai Patea presence with all Iwi of Mōkai Patea being represented. Our Mōkai Patea presenters and counsel Leo Watson were extremely grateful for the support. The dignity and strength of that presence was often commented on by other parties at the hearing and reflects the mana of the awa and its centrality in our daily existence – he awa nui, he awa tupua!

Joint Collaborative Hui Wai 2180 & Wai 1835

This hui is now scheduled for **25 June 2017**, and the outcome will be reported back in subsequent newsletters. The purpose of the meeting is to provide the opportunity for each of the parties to present their current positions in regard to future progress of Claims in the Taihape Claims District, and in particular, how efforts might be more harmonised given that the Claims are targeted toward breaches by the Crown.

What's On The Agenda Going Forward?

The hearing weeks three and four are scheduled for October and December 2017. Our northern Iwi will host both hearing weeks and will focus on the northern end of the Claims district. Planning is already underway while we wait for the administrative detail to emerge from the Tribunal.

When details are confirmed about dates and venues we will make sure our people know.

How Can I Support the Claims Process?

There are a number of ways that you can become involved with or support the Claims process;

- ❖ Keeping you and your whanau informed via your Runanga representative or social media
- ❖ Registering with your Runanga
- ❖ Assisting others with their registrations
- ❖ Adding the Claim as a general agenda item at your own whanau, hapu or land trust meetings/hui
- ❖ Attending Tribunal hearings if you can, and
- ❖ Reading relevant Waitangi Tribunal Research reports

Why is registration important?

Having a good understanding of what makes up a community is critical to accurately planning to meet its future needs, as well as knowing what your community size and make up looks like. This is especially true for whānau, hāpu and iwi communities who have members spread the length and breadth of Aotearoa, and the wider world as well.

Registering also helps you stay in touch with others who you may never meet but continue to share strong whakapapa and whanaungatanga links with.

For the purposes of the Claim, having an understanding of the size of your iwi allows you to fully appreciate the impacts of historical Treaty breaches in contemporary terms.

How do I register with the Claims Trust and my Runanga?

Adding yourself to the register for your respective iwi or Rūnanga is quite straight forward;

- ❖ Obtain a copy of the registration form
- ❖ Complete the information
- ❖ Return the form

Where do I get a registration form?

You can download one from the Mokai Patea Waitangi Claims Trust website. Copy this link into your Google search bar;

www.mokaipateaclaims.maori.nz

Call into the Mokai Patea Services office:
144 Hautapu St
Taihape

Or Phone 06 3881156 and ask for an electronic or
hard copy to be sent to you.

Mokai Patea Waitangi Claims Trust Contacts

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