



Ka Rere ki te Ao!

The official Newsletter of the Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust

He Mihi Tenei Atu Ki a Koutou Nga Uri Whakaheke o Mokai Patea!

Edition 4 March 2017

From The Chair



Tena koutou i runga i te ahuatanga o te rangi, nei rā tuku mihi ki a koutou katoa mō te tau e hora nei iahou.

As we move into another busy new year, I would like to reflect upon the key events of 2016. The most recent event was the Kōrero Tuku Ihu 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 Whitikaupeka and Ngāti Tamakōpiri to stand strong and describe their own historical accounts and show to 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 Whitikaupeka for hosting the hearings at Rātā and Moawhango Marae, and the hospitality that was shown.

As Ihutu said to her husband Kaama '*he nui ake tāku moenga aitanga*' my marriage consummation bed was bigger (than his garden) which means 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. I encourage you to view some of these as they offer many 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 1890's. 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.

*“Ko te kōrero kia haere ahau, ko tāku kia noho tonu.
Koia ahau ka kī, ka eke rawa atu āku toto mā tēnei poraka”.*

*I am being asked to leave but my aim is to remain here always.
There will be blood shed for the sovereignty of my land.*

As Winiata Te Whaaro put it;

The year ahead sees us moving into the substantive hearings with the Waitangi Tribunal commencing with the first week long hearing on 6 March 2017.

At the same time we are also progressing a parallel workstream 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 whanau of Mokai Patea.

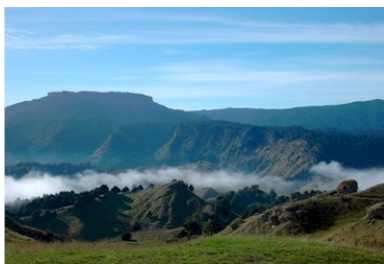
Richard Steedman has been appointed as our Strategic Advisor and will provide the Trust with high level advice and guidance based on his extensive knowledge of, and leadership within ngā iwi nui tonu o Mōkai Pātea.

his 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 CFRT and Waitangi Tribunal processes.

Heoi anō

Utiku Potaka
Chairperson

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 Pātea 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 lwi 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 Paki 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 Pātea 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.

WAI 2180 Taihape: Rangitikei ki Rangipo
District Inquiry
A useful link to some general information at
the Waitangi Tribunal
<https://waitangitribunal.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/Wai-2180-newsletter-3-June-2016.pdf>

Waitangi Tribunal Hearing, Rata Marae 6-10 March 2017



Kua tukuna atu te powhiri a Ngati Hauiti ma ki a koutou katoa, haere mai, haere mai, maranga mai!

While the detailed programme for the week's hearing is yet to be confirmed preparation for the event is in full swing, our Ngati Hauiti whanaunga will no doubt be the gracious hosts they have always been.

The week will commence with a powhiri at 0830am and the hearing itself will commence shortly after that, at around 10.30am.

This particular week of hearings will be quite different from what you may have experienced last year where the emphasis was on "korero tuku iho" and tangata whenua evidence.

This year, hearing content will have a stronger research and technical orientation to accompany tangata whenua evidence. Anyone attending will still be exposed to compelling and stimulating historical information albeit by way of cross examination and explanation.

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.

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 whanau, hapu 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, have an understanding of the size of your iwi allows you to fully understand 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 Runanga 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 (<http://www.mokaipateaclaims.maori.nz/>)
- Uplift from Mokai Patea Services at their office in Hautapu St in Taihape. Or just give them a call.
- Ask your Runanga representative for a copy

Your completed form can be mailed back to Mokai Patea Waitangi Claims Trust, PO Box 54 Taihape, or by email to; mpwct@mokaipateaservices.org.nz

Panui/ Notices

Ngati Whitikaupeka Hui a Iwi

This was originally intended to be held on 18 February but has now been postponed until a later date, yet to be promulgated. Keep an eye out for notices.

Waitangi Tribunal Hearing 6-10 March 2017

The powhiri will commence 0830am Monday 6 March 2017. Daily sessions after Monday, are scheduled to start 0845am and continue through to 5.00pm.

Mokai Patea Services

Annual General Meeting, 11.00am, Taihape Hospital cafeteria.

Next Newsletter

In the next edition of this newsletter, we will provide a report and any feedback from the week of hearings at Rata.

Contact Details

Location

The Trust office is co-located with our administration and support provider, Mokai Patea Services, at 154 Hautapu St.

Contact Details

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