

Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust
Chairperson's Report
AGM 23 September 2023

E te iwi, tēnā koutou katoa i runga i te ahuatanga o te rā, i raro i te maru o Ngāti Tamakōpiri. Nei rā tuku mihi ki ngā uri, ki ngā hapū, ki ngā iwi o Mōkai Pātea-nui-tonu. E mihi ana hoki ki ngā mate kei waenganui o tātou, nō reira, takahia te ara whānui ki Te Rei ki tua o te arai. Ā kāti, tēnā tātou katoa.

I am pleased to provide the Chairpersons Report covering off the financial year 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022 inclusive of an update report to the present. It has been another busy time for the Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust (Trust), the negotiating team and Mōkai Pātea-nui-tonu.

Trusteeship

Trusteeship has pretty much remained stable over the last year or so although we were surprised by the recent resignation of Hari Benevides representing Ngāti Tamakōpiri. She hasn't yet been replaced but hope this will happen in the near future. Earlier in 2022, Thomas Curtis was replaced by Peter Fraser for Ngāti Hauiti.

The other Trustee vacancy we have is the position of Tumu Mōkai. This has been vacant for some time now and while the Trustees have discussed the issue often, we haven't been able to find a suitable person to fill the role. Unfortunately this means we are not able to provide a full report on any of the duties of the Tumu Mōkai this year except to say that the Trustees and the team have covered off any tikanga matters during this period.

Rūnanga Elections

We are extremely close to completing the Rūnanga elections process with official results due out next week. I have reported previously that this process is an essential element of the Trust's mandate in ensuring that it fairly and properly represents the four iwi Rūnanga of Ngāi Te Ohuake, Ngāti Hauiti, Ngāti Whitikaupeka and Ngāti Tamakōpiri.

It has therefore been imperative for the Trust to support each Rūnanga thoughtout the prescribed process over the past year to not only make the elections sucessful but to ensure the integrety of the election process. I am pleased to report that this have been achieved on all counts and I'm confident that the membership and each iwi Rūnanga will be happy with the outcome.

I also acknowledge the mahi that has gone on behind the scenes and in particular the efforts of iwi members responsible for maintaining and updating the tribal register data base. This is a thankless and often tiring job but one which must be done if we are to make sure the election process is robust.

Waitangi Tribunal

Most of you will know that we have been waiting for ages for the Waitangi Tribunal to release it's early report on Landlocked Lands and indeed I report on this from time to time. Well nothing has changed and we are still waiting. This is very disappointing as we had hoped to utilise it in our negotiations.

Negotiations

With plenting going on in the negotiations space, the standout trait I have seen over the past year or so has been asolute persistance shown by our negotiators. As to be expected, the process has been tough for them but they are keeping the pressure on at the negotiations table.

I therefore acknowledge the ongoing efforts of Tama, Piki Te Ora, Che and Richard who have been ably supported by our support crew of Leo and Lavinia.

Regretfully they have not been able to reach an Agreement in Principle (AIP) due to inevitable delays however they have been able to lay the foundations of a solid negotiations position on key issues such as population, landlocked lands, New Zealand Defence lands, the Rangitīkei River and special factors.

I just want to remind everyone that any settlment that is negotiated will be less than one to two percent (1-2%) of actual value. This is the reality of any Treaty settlement so keep expectations realistic.

Finally, I would like to thank all our whānau, iwi Rūnanga, Marae and Trustees who have supported the Trust and the claims process over this busy period. Ka nui ngā mihi ki a tātou katoa. Heoi anō.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Utiku Potaka', with a stylized flourish.

Utiku Potaka
Chairperson

