

Ngati Porou ki Hauraki Newsletter

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April – May 2007

Website online at www.ngatiporoukihauraki.maori.nz

Kia ora koutou katoa,

This year is shaping up to be as busy as last year for NPKH. In this issue, which covers April and May, we will update you on the progress of our Foreshore & Seabed negotiations with the Crown and on the nominations for the Harataunga ahi kaa representatives for the new NPKH Runanga.

Ahi Kaa Representative Nominations for Harataunga

Nominations for the three Harataunga Representative positions closed on the 12th of April 2007. A number of nominations were received, but only five nominations were accepted since the nominees had to ahi kaa to Harataunga. One of these nominations has since withdrawn, leaving four valid nominations. The nominees are: Quentin Potae, Fred Thwaites, John McLeod & Sally Kerr. In accordance with our constitution an election will be held to select the three representatives for Harataunga. Once the Harataunga representatives are chosen, they will join the three Mataora representatives who have already been chosen. The Mataora representatives are Dick Hauraki, Reginald Tamihere & Michael Ainsley. All those people on the NPKH membership register who ahi kaa to Harataunga will be sent voting papers in the next few weeks. We are mindful that there are still people who have not registered with NPKH. It is important, if you want to vote in these elections, **you must** be a registered NPKH member. Registration forms are available on our website. If you are registering to vote in this election, your registration form must be received by us no later than **5:00pm on Friday 15th June 2007**. Voting papers are also available on the website.

Foreshore & Seabed Negotiations

Foreshore & Seabed negotiations with the Crown have entered a new phase with our traditional evidence collection now largely complete. The next part of the process will now be to bring this evidence together in the form of a traditional history report which will provide a foundation for our case to the court. NPKH Trust has been fortunate to secure the help of Dr Ranginui Walker who will be assisting us to put together our traditional history report. He will work closely with the NPKH research team, in the coming months to put together this document. Initial meetings between him and the team have already begun. Once our traditional history report is complete and the case has been developed to the satisfaction of both NPKH Trust and the Crown, an application by NPKH, supported by the Crown, will be made to the High Court. At this stage it is too early to say when that application might occur.

On the 26th of March 2007 the Attorney General, Dr Michael Cullen met with a delegation from NPKH, at parliament in Wellington. The NPKH delegation; who first met with Justice and Crown Law Officials earlier in the day, included Dr Paki Harrison, John McLeod, Rex Hale, Fred Thwaites, Chris Bax, Rangi Harrison & Jason Harrison. The purpose of the meeting with the Attorney General was to discuss the overall progress of the NPKH Foreshore & Seabed case to date, and to talk about some of the relevant issues which face us going forward. The meeting was a good face to face discussion and all parties came away satisfied with progress so far. It was also important for the NPKH delegation to know that Dr Cullen had been kept well informed by Justice officials, of our case and the issues that we have faced. Dr Cullen congratulated NPKH on the substantial progress which has so far been achieved and he urged the delegation to continue the momentum which will eventually lead us to completing this case. Further meetings are planned with the Minister of Maori Affairs and the Attorney General in the next few months.

On the 16th and 17th of May a Crown team conducted site visits to both Harataunga and Mataora. Representatives from the Department of Justice, which included their Historian, Crown Law and Te Puni Kokiri were present. John Hovell, John McLeod and Rex Hale hosted the visit to Harataunga on the 16th May and Dick Hauraki and John Hovell hosted the Mataora visit on the 17th of May. The purpose of each site visit was to familiarize the Crown team with our Ngati Porou ki Hauraki regions and to give them an historical and geographical context in which to frame the research which has been carried out. All participants enjoyed the tours and have since indicated that they found them of great value; they were particularly impressed by the depth of the local histories and how these related to the individual geography of the two regions. NPKH Trust would like to thank Martin Potae for making his barge available to ferry the party around the Kennedy Bay harbour. The Trust would also like to thank John and Verona McLeod for hosting the visitors at their residence in Harataunga for lunch, and Dick Hauraki and his team for the hospitality shown to the guests in Mataora.

In the past months, NPKH lawyer, John Kahukiwa has been mainly working away in the background keeping a “legal eye” on proceedings and making sure that progress toward our case has been appropriate. In this next phase John will become more directly involved, he has already attended several recent NPKH Trust meetings with the Crown. He is currently engaged in preparing evidence briefs on behalf of NPKH, which will be shared with Crown Law. These briefs should be completed by the end of May 2007.

In spite of the good progress which has been made, there is still a substantial amount of work left to do regarding this case. The current NPKH research team will continue to pick up that work. An important part of this work is to address issues which are raised that may affect our FSSB case. There have been a number of these over the past few months, some of them arising from internal iwi politics within Harataunga, others as a result of research questions which have come to light as a result of research. The Crown also raises issues which NPKH must respond to and in the past the NPKH research team has been the body which has been responsible for handling these issues; this team will continue to carry out this function.

The NPKH team is currently made up of the following members; Dick Hauraki (our kaumatua and NPKH Trustee), Paki Harrison (our kaumatua), John McLeod (NPKH Trustee), Lynda Hale (NPKH Trustee), Rex Hale (Coordinator & Research), John Hovell (Researcher), Marie Dobbs (Researcher), Kevin Kerr (NPKH Secretary) Chris Bax (Administration). The Crown team is currently made up of the following members; Brian Roche (Ministry of Justice), John Grant (Ministry of Justice), Bob Koroheke (Ministry of Justice), Liz Cleary (Ministry of Justice), Tui Gilling and/or Ben Paki (Te Puni Kokiri), Mike Doogan (Crown Law) & Damen Ward (Crown Law).

Monthly Newsletter by Email

We are keen to send issues of our monthly newsletter to you by email. The advantages of this are several. Firstly you will get it much quicker and secondly it will save NPKH Trust money on postage. Email us at lyndahale@clear.net.nz with your email address and you will be put onto our email list.

Membership & Register Details

If you are moving, please let us know so we can update your address details in the register. We are still keen to enroll new members, so keep your whanau informed and encourage those who haven't yet registered, to register. Registration forms are available on our website.

NPKH Trustees