

Te Runanga o Ngati Porou ki Hauraki

Annual General Meeting

31 January 2016

Chairman's Report

Greetings and thanks to all that have attended today.

Firstly I'd like to acknowledge the passing of all whanau this past year but I'd like to make special mention of Aunty Dolly McLeod and Mary Hovell for all their efforts in helping our Runanga but especially in helping our people.

I am pleased to offer a warm welcome to new Runanga Trustee, Wikepa Maika who joins returning Trustee Bevan Hunter for what is primarily a period of hiatus for the Runanga.

We are continuing with our claim for a hearing of urgency with the Waitangi tribunal. This work still falls on the shoulders of John Tamihere who along with Dayle Takitimu have the added complication of trying to put right the publication of our history which was published against legal advice and an agreement with the Runanga.

Publishing the history report has meant it is being treated as being our final approved evidence by the Crown. This is not our position.

Once again it is poignant to note that John Tamihere has put in considerable effort to rectify this situation to endeavour to ensure Harataunga gets across the line in its Treaty settlement. The publishing of the report impacts directly on Harataunga. Advice received is that Mataora's position was unchanged by this action. JT will speak to this and the MACA work next.

This is an extremely trying time for our Runanga.

Without a budget the Runanga has continued to build slowly on volunteer labour and donations of time and effort. What has been learnt and achieved to date has been done by a few for the betterment of us all advancing collective growth and endeavouring to ensure protection of our taonga for generations to come.

To this end the Runanga has hosted Hui with the Ministry for the Environment in Harataunga to further an environmental plan; this Hui included both Regional and Local council representatives as well as reps from Doc. This was timely as many of you will know we soon after received advice from the local council that they had deemed certain areas under our care to be of special interest and as such could regulate what whanau may want to do on their lands. As with council imposed restrictions on our ability to collect firewood from our lands we strongly objected to this as did individual whanau.

The Runanga is in a stronger position to address these because of work completed to date with Government departments, Local Authorities and neighbouring Iwi. We are restricted by our reliance on a few self-funded volunteers which means we have had to prioritise where to use our limited resources. Bevan who instigated and chaired the Hui will elaborate on our work to date toward an environmental plan after JT's session.

Pine Harrison who is the Deputy Chair of HMTB will give us an update on the Board and what they have done to date under the new management structure and the future objectives. If you or your whanau have any dealings, ideas or expertise in any areas we have identified or any you have identified as being of benefit to us all please let us know so as to maximise any possible advantages that may exist.

As we approach Ahi Kaa elections this year I ask that you give considered thought to encouraging those who have a strong understanding of the process and procedures under which we have had to operate to stand and help us work toward our goal of a fair and equitable outcome so as to position us for collective growth strengthening connectivity as an Iwi honouring our past.

Nga mihi

Fred Thwaites

Mandated Negotiator

Chairman Te Runanga o Ngati Porou ki Hauraki