



Te Runanga o Ngati Porou ki Hauraki

Annual General Meeting

Chairmans Report

4 January 2014

Greetings and thanks to you folk who have taken the time to attend our AGM.

Firstly I would like to acknowledge the passing of all whanau this last year and I make special mention of Aunty Lucy Tamihere and the Rev John Hovell. Their tireless contribution for their people and the Runanga will always be remembered.

My 2014 report covered the fact that we were trying to establish an organisational structure so as to better maximize resources and individual expertise. To this end the Runanga invited TPK to attend and present as to what assistance could be offered to develop our organisational structure with essential planning documents and governance materials.

Thanks to the efforts of Erica Burke we are in the process of negotiating with TPK for funding to help achieve this.

I talked about developing opportunities for the delivery of health, social, educational, environmental and economic resources that benefit all our people. We had discussions on the possibility for partnerships in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Tourism, Tribal and Social Services with the hope that these opportunities would offer employment and economic growth within our Rohe.

Our investigations also included papakainga and kaumatua housing options/funding but they have not been as productive as we had hoped.

Unfortunately we seem to have struck a wall. Without a strong financial asset base we are heavily reliant on volunteer expertise and work. Volunteers donating their time and costs has proved limiting.

Also finding that our Ngati Porou ki Hauraki funding allocations have in most cases already been accessed and or allocated to a few Harataunga Whanau. This is an issue we need to take steps to counter.

Ngati Porou ki Hauraki operate in two very different environments, at Mataora and at Harataunga.

Mataora is one land mass owed by shareholders and administered under incorporation by a Board of Trustees. That incorporation, under the direction of the new board, chaired by John Tamihere has in the last three years reduced the \$800,000 debt, that they inherited from the outgoing board, to something like \$150,000 debt offset by a cheque account balance of some \$250,000 in credit.

Not only have the new board slashed the debt but the environmental changes developed by John Douglas and implemented by the Mataora board, have earned the praises of the Waikato Regional Council.

Just recently Nick Hammond and Quentin Potae have had their pest eradication plan, which they developed for Mataora, adopted by the Waikato Regional Council as a template for other land owners within the Waikato Regional Council Rohe.

Baz Howie, having run his successful Harley Tours operation, is now trying to set up a tourism venture using Mataora's historical stories and features while Rodger Smallman is working on our Mataora shareholders list which when completed will be accessible on the internet.

Now, in Harataunga the whenua is owned by families and management of those areas is by way of individual whanau consultation not by way of an incorporated board of trustees. Trying to incorporate the lands of Harataunga could be interfering with the rights of the families of Harataunga. However at our last Runanga meeting in Harataunga it was hearting to listen to Erica's and John McLeod's comments, regarding opportunities on offer for the running of a collective Honey venture.

It is my belief that if Harataunga could further develop the collective community model proposed by folk at that Hui, then we could look to apply it to other initiatives ensuring collective growth and strengthening connectivity for us as an Iwi honouring our past.

Our hope to settle negotiations was stymied by the Crown, we were not allowed to discuss Ahuahu and the absolute Mauri it holds for all Ngati Porou. We were not allowed to advise our traditions and influence across the Hauraki from fishing, hunting and warfare nor would the Crown accept our unique whakapapa and the fact we are not part of a large natural grouping. Our position has never been allowed to be negotiated.

We are still working toward a hearing of urgency with the Waitangi Tribunal for a respectful offer, packaged as Treaty Settlement and Cultural Redress.

We were given the mandate to reject the Crowns disgraceful offer to settle with us and we did. As future developments within Harataunga and Mataora evolve the role and functions of our Runanga will and must change too, depending on one another; trusting each other in unity of purpose and direction.

John Tamihere will give an update on our current position in regard to our Treaty negotiations and our Marine and Coastal negotiations.

Bevan Hunter will give an update on his presentation from last year in relation to our census numbers.

Pine Harrison, who is the Deputy Chairperson of the Hauraki Maori Trust Board, will give a presentation on the Board and its direction.

Nga mihi,

Fred Thwaites

Chairperson/Mandated Negotiator.