



Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi Trust
Hui-a-Iwi
10.00am Sunday 03 April 2016
Rangitihi Marae, Matata

Present: Leith Comer (Chairman), Donna Semmens (Trustee), Tiipene Marr (Trustee), Ken Raureti (Trustee) Merepeka Raukawa-Tait (Trustee), Alana Hunter, Darcy Stoneham, Nereta Pereiha, Ken Dinsdale, Faye Patrick, Clara Marks-Falwasser, Michael Perenara, Raponi Te Rangikatukua, Melanie Cheung, Peri Perenara, Ruby Rondon, Brendon Coffin, John Marks, Charles Wilson, Delwyn Rondon, Theresa Rondon-Harvey, Mika Perenara, Tunis Perenara, Andre Paterson, Venus Paterson, Wikitoria Falwasser, Taichi Playle, Rihi Vercoe, Mere Butler, Joyce Vercoe, Margaret Burton, Pia Mason, Gordon M, Rinaha Kingi, Thelma Rondon, Kelly Rondon, Tracey Raureti, Robin Cheung, Brenda Haimona, Vanessa Allen, Shelley Perenara

Apologies: Erin Tioke, Laina Cheung, Mina Mitai, Shayna Rondon, Jasmine Rondon, Cathy Dewes, Harina Warbrick, Sandie Hata, Robert Butler, Lawrence Niao, Tony Semmens, Freda Semmens, Rachel Park, Lillie Te Pou, Orini Marr, Tawhiri Morehu, Cathy Dewes, Harina Warbrick, Anthony Olsen (for lateness)

Apologies accepted: Merepeka/Mere

Karakia timatanga: Tiipene at 10am

Leith ran through the agenda and asked if there were any other matters to discuss on the agenda.

Ken Dinsdale asked if the hui can discuss mineral rights on the maunga. Leith responded that this can be discussed in item 5.

2. Minutes from the Previous Hui / Matters Arising:

In regard to the Ngāti Rangitihi/Tūhourangi Partnership agenda item, Mere said that in Oct 20th 1989, after debating with the Te Arawa Trust Board, Ngāti Rangitihi was given the maunga back, with no mention of Tūhourangi.

Melanie Cheung read out a letter that Leith wrote to the Chief Negotiator that stated Ngāti Rangitihi was prepared to forego its claim in the Matahina area to allow Government resources to be used in the Ngāti Awa settlement. Leith responded that Ngāti Awa was in negotiations with the Crown. Ngāti Rangitihi supported Ngāti Awa, sorting out any cross-claims. This including Ngāti Awa foregoing the claims in Matata so that they would not peruse the change of street names, the requirement that Matata was their whenua and that Ngāti Rangitihi should give up any rights, and that one point of negotiation was shared rights at Matahina. The letter was not about giving up our mana, but maintaining our mana. Melanie said that was not clear in the letter. Leith said that Te Mana are going through the negotiations with the Crown, not

against other Iwi and refuted that he had given anything away that was Ngāti Rangitihi. Melanie believed that during the CNI process Ngāti Rangitihi didn't get the money and land we should have been given. She does not see our team asserting their rangatiratanga. Andre also spoke on the letter that Melanie referred to. He said the letter that Leith wrote helped to throw out the claim of Ngāti Rangitihi and was very damaging. Andre asked why Leith wrote the letter. Leith responded that Andre was trying to discredit him. Leith explained that Henry Pryor, Te Kani Marr and he were in discussions with the Crown. Leith believed that he is fit and credible and can lead the Ngāti Rangitihi claim. Andre asked why Leith said David Potter and he had every right to put submissions in to the Waitangi Tribunal, then turn around and write an affidavit. Leith replied that he put in an affidavit because he did not agree with some of the content in Andre's submissions. He reiterated the fact that the Mandate from Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi was accepted by both the iwi and the Crown. Leith was more than happy to defend himself if anyone wished to take him to court if they thought he had done anything immoral, illegal or wrong. Leith believed himself to be a fit, creditable and useful person to lead the Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi claim and welcomed Andre to join Te Mana in its claim.

Melanie asked why someone from another tribe is writing our story. Mere replied that he is, in fact, Ngāti Rangitihi.

Rihi Vercoe asked if what she has heard that Harina Warbrick has resigned as a trustee and negotiator is true. Leith confirmed that Harina has resigned and will no longer be a negotiator. Theresa has an issue with the replacement of Harina.

Changes to be made to the previous minutes (in bold):

- Representatives for Te Whanga-a-Toi Police Iwi Liaison Committee Audrey and Wikitoria have decided to stand down as the Rangitihi/Umutahi iwi representatives on Te Whanga-a-Toi **once they have been replaced.**
- Tim Morrison endorsed the four negotiators that have been selected but feels that there is an issue with continuity. He asked that the Trust consider inviting people within the whanau to take the journey with them. **Thelma asked if that was an opinion or a motion. There was no reply to the question.**

Minutes accepted: Tiipene/Nereta

Theresa proposed that the \$115,000 gifted from Marlborough Lines be used to establish a hauora for Ngāti Rangitihi.

3. Negotiators / Trustee Retirement

Under the mandate it is the trustees who are responsible for the appointment of negotiators. However, after bringing 4 names forward at the last hui, the Board was told to widen the selection. An expression of interest was sought, and three people met the criteria. From those three people, two people were selected based on location, hapū and gender. Informally, the Trust has accepted Harina's resignation. Harina's name will not be brought forward as a negotiator. There are now five people going forward as negotiators. Leith asked for feedback on whether the people want 5 or 6 negotiators.

The Trust will need to decide on whether there will be an election or keep the trust going with 6 trustees until the next election. The Trust Deed is silent on this matter and legal opinion has been sought.

Melanie asked why there are six negotiators, what skills they have and said that no other iwi have that many. Leith responded that the negotiators' skills were related to everyone at the last hui and the people there asked the Board to widen the selection. Leith relayed the credentials that Kenneth Raureti offers; Kenneth has mediation skills and that because DOC is a big part of the negotiation process, Ken is well-regarded and knowledgeable in the conservation area.

Tiipene spoke on his time at the marae over many years, and the stories he has heard from all those that have now passed on. Kenneth and Tiipene were at the negotiating table in the CNI process for over three years. Harina was included for her commercial expertise. Leith spoke on his skills and experience dealing with the Crown. Melanie asked why the kaumātua and kuia were not included in the process. Leith replied that the kaumātua have been invited to be a part of the negotiation process and they have accepted.

Nereta thanked Te Mana for hiring a van and providing a driver to take the kaumātua to Te Pūkenga Kōeke o Te Arawa hui at Owhata Marae on Friday.

Rihi made a motion that an election for a new trustee is needed. Seconded Melanie.

Laurence Ihaia believed that negotiators should be voted in. Leith responded that the Trust considered the selection process and decided to elect the best possible to represent Ngāti Rangitihi.

Thelma asked whether the kaumātua should be put up as negotiators and who will be the lead negotiator.

Robin Cheung said that we could lose sight of the topic; that we are negotiating with the Crown.

Rihi asked the board to clarify whether there will be a new election of the new trustee. Leith responded that they want feedback from this hui-a- iwi, which the Board will discuss without delay and will be taken back to the people.

Alana spoke on the telephone conversation she had with lawyer, Roger Drummond. Roger said the Trust Deed wasn't clear but will have a good look at it and come back to us as soon as possible.

Donna pointed out that Harina was due to come off the board permanently in September next year.

Theresa said that eleven years ago, people congregated at Mātārae Marae and there was no group of Ngāti Rangitihi there because our iwi did not know what was happening. Eleven years later, we are communicating, but need to unite.

Andre said that in 2013, Donna started a campaign through the media about hapū representation. In late 2013 a hui was held here and Matanuku Kahuika was facilitator. There was a conflict of interest to us as he was a Ngāti Awa lawyer. He agreed he could have a conflict but was not there as a lawyer. There was a second and third hui in early 2014. At the third hui,

Matanuku came back with his recommendations. Andre listed the changes that Matanuku suggested could be made to the trust deed; moving to the hapū representation model, agreeing on a list of hapū, the number of Te Mana trustees, updating the Te Mana register, including Marae based process in elections, accountability of trustees, role of the kāhui kaumātua. Andre suggested that the trust should hold off on the negotiations. Elect a trustee and get the trust deed sorted out first. He also suggested that we hold a hapū wānanga.

Margaret said that, of the two extra negotiators, she knows Peri but does not know Delwyn.

Joyce Vercoe said she has looked at the proposal for negotiators and sees no transparency.

Ken Dinsdale said the hapū should be sorted out first.

Mere said we have been in negotiations of treaty settlements since the 1990's. We muck around debating about petty stuff. We are back at square one again. We desperately need the whakapapa hui that were promised now.

Venus said that all those claims that Te Mana are doing belong to us and you know nothing about them.

Rihi said the division generates a lot of fear; the trustees need to comply with due diligence. Rihi agreed with focusing on Crown justice, not inter-iwi squabbles. Fighting between ourselves fuels the Crown's case. The Trust needs to replace the retiring trustee before heading into negotiations. Seconded by Peri.

Leith believed that Ngāti Mahi, Whareiti and Tionga are possibly the three hapū we see as Ngāti Rangitīhi today. In 1840 there were many more hapū.

Peri said the Matanuku Mahuika proposal was three years ago. Extensive talks were held and nothing has been done about it. Hapū representation on the board should have been implemented in 2013. Leith responded that hapū representation is still on the table. Peri still believes that our hapū are not represented properly. Peri proposed that the Board go back to the hapū and ask them who they want to represent them.

Robin Cheung said that lawyers in parliament had the Trust Deed for nine months but could not break it.

Melanie wanted the proposal written in Maori.

Theresa did not put her name forward as a negotiator because she believed that she is not old enough to hold the mana of her hapū and iwi. Theresa supported Delwyn as a negotiator.

Andre asked for clarification on the hapū. It is up to us to know them, to learn who they are.

Delwyn spoke on her skillset as an HR advisor for Te Wānanga o Awanuiārangi and Te Wānanga o Aotearoa. Negotiators need to be fully prepared to enter into negotiations and Delwyn believed she has something to contribute to the iwi. The negotiating team is only going to be as strong as the people supporting it. Delwyn asked that if anyone has a problem with her being a negotiator, to go and see her.

Leith explained that under the Mandate, Te Mana trustees have the authority to appoint the negotiators. It would have been easy to select the negotiators and then tell the iwi who they are. Instead, names were bought to the hui for consideration. The negotiators will be supported by the kaumātua and Leith will be the Chair, reporting back to the iwi. Observers will be led by Donna, shadowing the negotiating process. The technical team is small but a good team of researchers, a lawyer and financial advisor.

Lunch break 12.45pm

Summary of the hui – Leith Comer

There is a consensus for Te Mana o Ngati Rangitih Trust to move forward with the mandate to prosecute the claim. We will take from this hui a continuation of the negotiators that have been proposed, minus Harina. We will look at filling that sixth position.

There is an agreement in terms of the way the negotiators will be managed, the observers will be led by Donna, and there is agreement on the technical team. Still on the table is the necessity for Te Mana to address the issue of hapū representation in the elections. Also on the table is the call for all of the claimants to continue to be invited to be part of the process. In discussion with Andre, you would expect his Trust to be invited to work with Te Mana, those conversations are starting.

4. Ngati Rangitih Story

Anthony and Bruce Stirling have been gathering research on the Ngāti Rangitih Story. They have been researching, not the iwi itself, but stories gathered predominantly from Maori Land Court minutes of who Ngāti Rangitih were. Donna has been working on gathering anecdotal evidence which marries in to the research part of the Ngāti Rangitih Story. Anthony explained who he is, that his grandmother was Pat Savage, who worked tirelessly for Ngāti Rangitih and the Marae throughout her life. Anthony spoke on his research presentation. The Ngāti Rangitih Story is to put together an agreed historical account and the Crown assets we can negotiate. All the information in the presentation was verbatim, from Maori Land Court records. Chapter one of the Ngāti Rangitih Story is who we were pre 1840. Bruce Stirling, supported by Anthony, is writing chapter two, which is the lands that Ngāti Rangitih are the range of areas that Ngāti Rangitih are associated with.

Leith asked Anthony that if the Crown asked if Ngāti Rangitih are an independent iwi and that we have mana whenua on the lands, how we would respond. Anthony said that from evidence gathered, we were an independent iwi. The Crown returned land to Ngāti Rangitih, land that was Ngāti Rangitih in the first place, not for any other reason.

It was asked how people access the presentation. Alana responded that by emailing or calling the office, it can be posted or emailed out.

Andre said that in the Maori Land Court, the Otara-o-Muturangi hearing, Anthony was asked a question ‘did Ngāti Rangitih come down to Matata from Tarawera after the eruption?’ And Anthony responded, yes. Anthony responded that he did not think he would have said that, and asked Andre to provide him with the documentation.

Joyce Vercoe said that Anthony has left himself wide open regarding the whakapapa. Anthony responded that the information on the presentation was from our tupuna, not him.

Rihi questioned the reliability of the Maori Land Court records. When you enter into negotiations with the Crown, the Crown will question everything you say and you need to back it up with hard evidence. She said that although the presentation is impressive, it is not to be taken as gospel.

Leith said that other Iwi have their stories about Te Awa o Te Atua, now it is our time to tell our story.

Joyce Vercoe said that Oniao is down the road who have mana whenua. Ngāti Rangitihi will have opposition from them, who will recite their whakapapa and be able to say that they were here first.

5. Tūhourangi/Ngāti Rangitihi Partnership

Kenneth Raureti explained the reason behind the partnership. Both Ngāti Rangitihi and Tūhourangi have mana whenua around the Tarawera area, which consists of the maunga, roto, Rotomahana, Ōnuku, Waimanga, Punaromia and Rerewhakaaitu. There is a need to establish our mana and authority around the area as a collective and to develop a comprehensive strategy to bring back the wellness of the environment. The water quality of Lake Tarawera is declining and we need to bring it back. Kenneth said he will answer any questions.

Nereta said the lake wellbeing was talked about on Friday, how sewerage systems for Marae didn't need to be part of the town's system.

Mere said our maunga is an urupā and it has been commercialized; motorbikes are desecrating the area. Kenneth supports Mere's kōrero. He said the maunga is an urupā and Wāhanga is a wāhi tapu and no-one goes there. There are managed guided haerenga on other parts of the maunga with our stories, our whakapapa and our sorrows around the eruption. Motorbikes don't go there now.

Ken Dinsdale wants some minerals from off the maunga.

Peri asked the reason why there is a decline in the water quality of our lake. Kenneth responded that there is no single reason. The nearby lakes drain into Lake Tarawera, being the lowest of all the lakes in the region. There is a fifty year water cycle which means in time, the paru goes into our lake. Pests eat the understory which filtered the water when it rained, now it flows into the lake. The Highlands pine trees also impact on the water quality.

Rihi asked what the terms of reference are for the partnership. Leith responded that the detail is yet to be developed. He asked that the iwi supports the partnership.

Melanie understood that historically the maunga was Ngāti Rangitihi and asked why there was a need for a partnership with Tūhourangi. She said that the 125 year anniversary of the eruption was mainly attended by Tūhourangi and it felt like Ngāti Rangitihi did not assert its mana whenua there.

Leith spoke on the whenua around the maunga, including the land Tūhourangi have mana whenua.

Wikitoria asked why Tūhourangi are putting a marae on the maunga. Ken responded that they are putting a marae on the other side of the lake.

Andre asked why Ngāti Rangitihi are not on the Te Arawa Lakes Trust. Ken responded that Te Mana has written to the Lakes Trust asking for Ngāti Rangitihi to be included. Leith said that when the Te Arawa Trust Board transitioned to Te Arawa Lakes Trust, they came up with three rohe. Ngāti Rangitihi come under the Tūhourangi rohe. Because Tūhourangi are a larger iwi than Ngāti Rangitihi, our chances of getting a seat on the Board are slim. We wrote to the Lakes Trust telling them we are unhappy with the current setup. There are a number of iwi that are unhappy with it. We have mana whenua on Tarawera, Rotomahana, Okaro and Rerewhakaaitu. If we do not get representation on the Trust, there are other steps we can take.

Andre said that they are registering a claim this week with the Waitangi Tribunal for the return of our lakes. They already have a claim, along with the NZ Maori Council, for the fresh water in our rohe. The Tūhourangi claims are settled within the Pūmautanga; if you argue with Tūhourangi, you argue with Pūmautanga. Andre said that unless our name is on Te Arawa Lakes Trust, we are not a part of it.

Leith asked for iwi support to enter the partnership with Tūhourangi. Robin proposed that the people at the hui go back to whanau and hapū, and ask for their opinion.

Ken Dinsdale believed that Tūhourangi betrayed Ngāti Rangitihi and does not trust them.

Mere asked if there was a need to make a decision on a partnership, given that we are doing our own research of asserting who we are in that area. Mere thought it premature that we are accepting that we need the support of Tūhourangi.

Rihi motioned that we should go ahead with a draft accord because we need to try and build relationships. Seconded by Shelley.

Tiipene spoke on the coming of the waka to Te Awa o Te Atua.

Peri asked who instigated the partnership proposal. Tiipene responded that it was both parties in discussion around the table. Leith said it is not just about co-management is also about a partnership.

Taichi said that the proposal says a core group has already been established. Leith responded that the group only gathered to take the korero back to the iwi. Taichi noted that Ruawāhia 2B was mentioned in the proposal. Leith said they were in the initial discussions and Kenneth said that Tiipene spoke for Ruawāhia 2B.

Anthony leaves at 3.00pm

6. Adventure Race Tarawera – Tiipene Marr

A group of people want access to the Tarawera area to hold a women's ultra-marathon. There will be drones and helicopters taking footage of the race, which can be used for advertising purposes. Melanie asked if there is an environmental impact statement. Leith proposed that Tiipene take the feedback from this hui back to the race organizers. Kenneth Raureti said that

Tūhourangi have statutory acknowledgement in the area that the organizers want the race held, not Ngāti Rangitihi. If we entered into a partnership with Tūhourangi, we will then have a say.

Melanie motioned that we say no this year but that they ask again next year and provide us with an environmental impact statement. Seconded by Andre. Four people spoke up in favour, seven against.

Tiipene said he will email the organizer, and ask him if he has an environmental impact report.

Tiipene said the next Ruawāhia 2B Trust hui-a-iwi will be held on 17th April. There will be two things on the agenda; the ultra-marathon and access onto the maunga.

Andre asked why we don't have any say in Ngāti Rangitihi lands around the maunga. Leith explained that the land is currently in DOC hands but we have a good case to get the land back.

Robin asked why we don't have an economic development plan to provide avenues for our whanau to make money.

Brenda Haimona, Community Liaison for Matata Public School, spoke about the Rumaki Reo class at the School. The Rumaki class started with 5 interested tamariki, then there were 7 but now there are 18 tamariki. There was great support from whanau and the community. On behalf of the School Board of Trustees, Brenda would like to keep everyone in the loop with the Rumaki, the first for Matata. The kaiako is Atareta Hohaia from Ngā Puhi.

Leith summarized the hui, noting that Harina is resigning, that there is intention from the hui that there should be an election to replace her, that the five negotiators be endorsed, that we need to identify a sixth negotiator, that Leith will Chair the negotiation team, that Donna will be leading the observers, that the people are happy to go with the Ngāti Rangitihi/Tūhourangi accord, that Tiipene took all the advice on the ultra-marathon.

Leith thanked everyone for their input.

Karakia whakamutunga: 3.25pm