



Kōrero o te Tiamana

Tēnā koutou katoa

I am pleased to report that 2016 is off to a very good start for Te Mana, with our restructuring complete and the office running smoothly. The audit of the Iwi Register is now almost finalised and I acknowledge staff for the way they have worked with our kaumātua on this significant task.

Importantly, the Treaty negotiation process is about to start and I look forward to confirmation of our negotiators and those who have asked to be observers shortly. It is excellent to see our Ngāti Rangitīhi research coming together as well. This is a major undertaking but one that is vital for our iwi going forward. You will find an update on progress on page 2 of this newsletter. The research effort is being supported by staff who have been busy archiving research data, including correspondence, maps, Māori Land Court minutes and Crown Purchase Deeds. They are currently looking at ways to make this information available to everybody in our iwi.

It was encouraging to see a strong turn-out at our recent hui-a-iwi, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our upcoming hui on Sunday 3 April.

Leith Comer
Chairman
Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitīhi Trust



(From left) Ruawahia 2B Chairman and Trustee Tūipene Marr gives a kōrero on the Maunga to Leith Comer, Katherine Gordon and Harina Warbrick.

Crown Negotiator Appointed

Our Terms of Negotiation have now been officially accepted and Katherine Gordon (pictured above) has been appointed as Crown Chief Negotiator. Katherine has extensive experience working with the First Nations indigenous people of Canada, and is a professional negotiator, facilitator, policy and strategy advisor.

Following a meeting with the Office of Treaty Settlements, where the Te Mana Chairman met Katherine, she visited Matatā last month to meet with Ngāti Rangitīhi. Her visit included a tour of significant sites near Matatā, including a trip to the Maunga and along the Awa in a helicopter.

Our next
Hui date



April

Hui-a-Iwi Summary

Our most recent hui-a-iwi was held on Sunday, 28 February and was attended by more than 50 people.

The main topic of discussion was our Treaty update, most notably: the appointment of Katherine Gordon as Crown Negotiator, the selection of the Te Mana negotiators, leading to call for Expressions of Interest (read more on page 2) and the strengthening of our research team.

We had some exciting updates on initiatives in the community, including the new defibrillator for the Rangitīhi Marae, the ongoing negotiations over the \$145,000 contract with the Ministry of Education, and our partnership with Ngā Pumanawa e Waru to get Wi-Fi internet across Matatā. These projects are outlined in more detail throughout this pānui.

Also at the hui-a-iwi, we welcomed Chris Clarke as the new Tangata Kaitiaki for Tūwharetoa and Rangitīhi, taking over from Jimmy Rota who has stood down due to health issues. Chris accepted the role and thanked Jimmy for his time as Tangata Kaitiaki.

Audrey Rota and Wikitoria Falwasser have stood down as the Rangitīhi/ Umutahi iwi representatives on Te Whanga-a-Toi. They are now calling for anyone who is interested in taking their place on the committee to please leave their name and phone number with Te Mana.

It was also mentioned that the police are hoping to recruit more Māori. If you are interested, head to your local police station to get more information.



Katherine Gordon (left) and Harina Warbrick on a tour of cultural sites in the hau kainga

Ngāti Rangitihi story

Our researchers are currently working on recording the 'Ngāti Rangitihi story', which is an opportunity for us to tell the history of the iwi. There is a view that Ngāti Rangitihi was a tribe limited in location in and around Mount Tarawera and on the edges of Lake Tarawera, with principal pā at Te Tapahoro, at the outlet of Lake Tarawera, and Moura, a pā site south of Mount Tarawera.

Our research has found that this is significantly incorrect, which is reflected in evidence given in the Māori Land Court by acknowledged Ngāti Rangitihi Chiefs of their time. In fact the rohe of Ngāti Rangitihi was large and reflected the complex whakapapa given in evidence.

Ngāti Rangitihi historically had significant links with all of its neighbour iwi. Many of its hapū fragmented after the eruption of Mount Tarawera, when the Crown failed to react in an appropriate timeframe, with many Ngāti Rangitihi having to seek aid from their Te Arawa neighbours.

What has been confirmed in our research is the history of how Ngāti Rangitihi came to be an iwi in its own right and dominate the landscape from Te Awaateatua, the historic mouth of the Tarawera and Rangitaiki Rivers south to the Kaingaroa Plains, west to Te Urewera and east to Kakaramea, Rainbow Mountain.

A number of significant sites have been compiled focusing on a range of Crown survey blocks, including Ruawāhia block, Rerewhakāitu, Rotomahana-Parekarangi, Paeroa East, Pokohu and Matahina. Within the Crown Eastern Bay of Plenty confiscation boundary, a series of Crown grants to Ngāti Rangitihi reflected the return of Ngāti Rangitihi lands, and not grants to Ngāti Rangitihi as Crown sympathisers, as previously stated.

Research team strengthened

Another positive step forward in our negotiation process is the strengthening of our research team. As well as Anthony Olsen and historian Bruce Stirling, who are researching and writing the Ngāti Rangitihi story (see page 2 article), Donna Semmens has now been added to the research team. Donna's work includes checking research publications, books and historical journals for information on Ngāti Rangitihi.

The information collected for our archives has been placed into six registers:

Correspondence, Crown Purchase Deeds, Maps, Cultural Sites, Publication Extracts and Māori Land Court Extracts. The six registers contain information which should, over time, clear-up any myths we have heard from other iwi.

In the future we would like to make these registers accessible to all our iwi, however, for now the files are open for viewing at the Te Mana Office.



Accompanying Katherine Gordon on her visit to Matata last month was Crown Kaumatua, John Clarke, seen here being welcomed on to the Marae.

Expressions of Interest

The hui-a-iwi provided feedback to Te Mana Trustees that they wanted the selection of negotiators to be widened. It was agreed that Te Mana request Expressions of Interest from those members of our iwi who wish to be considered for the role of negotiator or observer. Recommendations for negotiators will be tabled at the hui-a-iwi on Sunday 3 April.



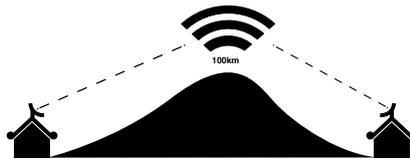
Wi-Fi for tamariki and whānau

Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi and Ngā Pumanawa e Waru are joining together in the hope of providing fast and reliable Wi-Fi internet to Matatā tamariki in their homes.

The school in Matatā is already connected to Ultra-Fast Broadband and the aim is to make this connection available across Matatā, via Wi-Fi. The signal would be sent out from a high point, such as a nearby hill.

The Wi-Fi technology would allow anyone within 100km of the school to be able to connect, with the initial cost for a household

estimated to be around \$169 for a dish and router. The Wi-Fi connection would be free for school children, who would be given a tablet with the connection already enabled. The ongoing cost for a household is yet to be determined.



Marlborough Lines donation

At the Board Hui on 18 March, Marlborough Lines Ltd presented Te Mana with a cheque for \$115,000 and a framed picture of early activities in the region. The generous gesture was to thank Ngāti Rangitihi for standing by Marlborough Lines “through thick and thin”, in its troubled dealings with Eastern Bay Energy Trust (EBET).



Te Mana Chairman Leith Comer, Marlborough Lines Chairman David Dew and former Te Mana Chairman Graham Pryor.

The framed picture includes the citation: *He tohu aroha tenei ki a Ngāti Rangitihi, hei whakaatu i o matau whakaaro nui mo to iwi. Nā, Marlborough Lines Ltd.*

Originally EBET had invited Marlborough Lines to merge with them, however it did not honour the arrangements made. Te Mana supported Marlborough Lines, as its proposed contracting business would have

created employment in Whakatane and a partnership opportunity for Ngāti Rangitihi.

Despite Marlborough Lines winning its court case, the court would not help to execute its findings. Marlborough Lines acknowledged, however, that they would not have got as far as they did without the help of Te Mana.

In Brief

Tapahoro Campground

We have recently signed a concession agreement with The Department of Conservation and taken over the campground management of Tapahoro. The reserve is at the eastern end of Lake Tarawera and is a place of historical significance to Ngāti Rangitihi.

As Ngāti Rangitihi we encourage you to experience the campground which was once a long-term residence of the iwi and is now such a vital part of our heritage. There are 50 camp sites available on a first-come first-served basis. Per night it costs \$10 per adult and \$5 for children over 5.

Charitable Trust Update

Latest Recipients

Carlos Savage	\$400
Aus vs NZ Trans-Tasman Open Men's Touch Tournament	
Kawea Savage	\$250
Youth National Touch Tournament	
Nari Hann	\$600
Doctorate Clinical Psychology	
Tawharangi Smith	\$500
Waka Ama IVF Va'a World Club Sprints	
Jennifer Rondon	\$500
Bachelor of Teaching	
Davina Playle	\$684.63
Bachelor of Humanities	

Calling for your kōrero

Now that our Terms of Negotiation have been officially accepted, we are moving forward in our negotiation process and it is time for all our iwi to start identifying grievances – where the Crown has wronged historically in dealing with Ngāti Rangitihi.

In previous newsletters, we have shared with you some of the grievances recorded by Te Mana so far. We now ask all whānau to come forward with your stories of grievance.

Please contact us, via email, phone or in person, so we can learn about your story and add it to our register.



Tarawera Ultramarathon

Ngāti Rangitihī was represented in the Tarawera Ultramarathon by William Doney (#401, pictured above), who completed his 100km run in 16 hours, 53 minutes and 17 seconds. Ka pai William!

This event is New Zealand's most prestigious ultramarathon and is part of a 12-race Ultra-Trail World Tour. Held on 6 February this year, it featured 1,260 entrants, including nearly 400 international athletes and many of the world's best trail ultra-runners.

The 62km, 87km, and 102km courses took runners around four lakes, through forests and past waterfalls. From Rotorua to Kawerau, it covered places of immense cultural significance to Māori, including our very own Tapahoro Campground. Runners started from The Redwoods Visitors Centre and crossed the finish line at Tarawera Falls for the 62km, and at Firmin Field in Kawerau for the 87km and 102km races and relays.

William Doney was sponsored by the Tarawera Ultramarathon organiser, Paul Charteris. Te Mana received \$500 koha for our efforts in supporting this great event.

Defibrillator for our Marae

The fundraising efforts of a group of Matatā locals have paid off and Rangitihī Marae is now the proud owner of a defibrillator for our whānau.

The defibrillator is the result of a great fundraising gala day held at Matatā Tennis Club in December, with a garage sale, raffles, a car wash and barbeque.

If you are interested in learning how to use it, we have shared an instructional video on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ngatirangitihī



MOE update

We are still negotiating a one-year, \$145,000 contract with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and we are set to present a plan to them next month.

We are hoping to offer kōhanga ki te kainga, kura ako i te reo, school holiday programmes and learning through technology, all in total Te Reo immersion.

Minister of Education Hekia Parata is currently working to achieve two public service goals by 2017: 85% of all school leavers have NCEA Level 2 or higher, and 98% of pre-schoolers are enrolled in Early Childhood Education Centres. However, Te Mana trustee Dr Cathy Dewes wants the literacy and numeracy targets to be achieved in Te Reo Māori.

If MOE agrees for us to proceed this way, the Kaunihēra Whānau will need to meet (in person or via Skype) to develop a plan. The plan will include Ngāti Rangitihī tamariki throughout Aotearoa, and is due to be delivered to MOE in April.

Keep in touch

Please call the office on (07) 322 2452 or send an email to administrator@ngatirangitihī.iwi.nz to update your details.

If you know of anyone you think should be a Trust beneficiary, get in touch with us and we will send a registration form out to them.

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**Our next
Hui date**


**3rd
April**