



TE MANA O
Ngāti Rangitihi
TRUST

Kōanga
2017

Kōrero o te Tiamana

Tēnā kōtōu katoa,

As we approach the end of the year it's timely to reflect on our recent mahi and the progress Ngāti Rangitihi has made on a number of exciting projects.

This has included our purchase of the Waimangu Volcanic Valley Limited eco-tourism business in partnership with Tūhourangi Tribal Authority and supported by Te Puia | New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute. Waimangu sits in the heart of our rohe and will already be familiar to many of you. Our ownership represents a significant milestone for Ngāti Rangitihi and will provide a strong platform to enable the continued success and growth of our people and many opportunities for iwi and whānau in the years to come.

Complementing our acquisition of Waimangu has been the confirmation that we have secured government funding to undertake a feasibility study assessing a potential alpine track over Mount Tarawera. As kaitiaki, Ngāti Rangitihi has a responsibility to ensure that any assessment of this concept acknowledges the cultural significance of this maunga. That's why the study will specifically assess whether a track will meet the cultural, environmental and economic aspirations of our iwi and whānau. There's much work to be done to assess whether this is a realistic opportunity for Ngāti Rangitihi and the Trust will be working closely with Ruawahia 2B as we consider our next steps.

While we've made great progress on these projects, our path towards reaching a Treaty Settlement with the Crown has been



slowed by the country's general election. Our negotiations are unlikely to resume for a month or so, and we are now looking at a new date of mid-2018 for our Agreement in Principle. In the meantime, our negotiations team are continuing to build our case so that we can recommence negotiations as soon as possible.

Finally, I'd like to offer my congratulations to our newly elected Trustees following September's election – Melanie Cheung, Taichi Playle and Tia Warbrick – and thank those departing Trustees who have been with the Trust since its inception – Tiipene Marr, Kenneth Raureti and Harina Warbrick. Thank you too to all of you who voted in our survey on your preferred format for Trustee elections. With the majority of you keen to maintain the current system of Trustees representing Ngāti Rangitihi as a whole rather than having separate hapū representatives, we have a clear indication of the preferred way forward.

With plenty of mahi still ahead of us, it will be a busy run in to Christmas but by working together, we'll continue to achieve more exciting successes in the months ahead.

Leith Comer
Chairman
Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will be held on Saturday 25 November at Rangitihi Marae, Matatā, commencing 2.00pm. The Trust's Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2017 will be presented at the AGM. The Annual Report will also be posted on our website and emailed to beneficiaries prior to the hui. Hard copies will be available on request. For details, please contact 07 322 2452 or email info@ngatirangitihi.iwi.nz.



Getting wi-fi to our children at home

We are proud to be part of a collaboration working to get high-speed internet access to the home of every child in Matatā.



Technology is becoming more and more prevalent in today's learning environment – and while we have high-speed internet in our schools, it's important our young people can continue their learning outside the school gates.

That's why investing in digital learning projects for the community is a high priority for the Trust.

We are currently working alongside the community, our schools, and Ngā Pūmanawa e Waru to get three antennae installed in the town: one at the school and two at strategic spots.

This will allow about 100 homes to pick up high-speed wi-fi, and give access to anyone walking along the street with a device.

Having access to wi-fi will mean our students can access their learning, such as Google Drive or apps they use at school, at home.

We were delighted to see 75 iPads provided to Matatā Public School in June/July, with students at St Joseph's Catholic School having access to these in Term 3.



Waimangu purchase to bring real benefit for iwi



The Waimangu Volcanic Valley has returned to our iwi.

In August, we announced Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi Trust and Tūhourangi Tribal Authority, supported by Te Puia, had jointly purchased the business and assets of Waimangu Volcanic Valley Limited.

This business operates an eco-tourism experience which features sight-seeing tours looking at the unique ecology, rare botany, and fascinating geothermal features like steaming volcanic crater lakes.

It's an exciting and significant milestone for Ngāti Rangitihi, and will bring important strategic and commercial benefits for our iwi. Our ownership will also provide a strong platform to enable the continued success and growth of our people.

We are looking forward to building on the great work undertaken by Waimangu kaitiaki, the late Harvey James, whose vision was always for Waimangu to eventually return to iwi.

The new company, Waimangu Volcanic Valley (2017) Limited, will have a Board consisting of two representatives from Te Mana, one from Te Puia and one from the Tūhourangi Tribal Authority and a rotating Chairperson.

In brief

Trust elections

Congratulations to our newly elected Trustees Melanie Cheung, Taichi Playle and Tia Warbrick. They succeed Tiipene Marr, Kenneth Raureti and Harina Warbrick.

This year's voter turnout was 25.95%, with 863 of the 3,325 eligible electors choosing to vote. 57% of votes were received by post, with 43% coming via internet-votes.

CANDIDATE	VOTES	ELECTED
CHEUNG, Melanie	457	ELECTED
WARBRICK, Tia	402	ELECTED
PLAYLE, Taichi	316	ELECTED
PERENARA, Peri	300	Not-Elected
PERENARA, Mike	277	Not-Elected
BHANA, Rawiri	260	Not-Elected
<i>Informal votes</i>	1	
<i>Blank voting papers</i>	0	
TOTAL VOTES	863	

Building on our government relationships

We are looking forward to working with the new and returning MPs who oversee our rohe so that we can continue to build strong relationships.

Following September's election results, we welcome back Minister Anne Tolley for her fifth term as East Coast MP, and Minister Todd McClay who returns as MP for Rotorua. We will also have East Coast parliamentary representation from Labour list MP Kiri Allan. For Waiariki, we farewell Te Ururoa Flavell and thank him for all the work he has done, and welcome newcomer Tamati Coffey.

Ngā Pae Hihiri Training

All 20 places have been filled on the three-day Nga Pae Hihiri training programme to be held on October 24, 25 and 26. This free course is designed to help Ngāti Rangitihi participants develop their governance, strategic and economic thinking.



Work underway to investigate a Tarawera Great Walk



An investigation into the potential of a new ‘Great Walk’ around Mount Tarawera is underway. With the help of Rotorua MP Todd McClay, the Trust has secured funding for a feasibility study to look into the possibility of a three-day walk.

This would take trampers up Mt Tarawera to its summit and provide guided walks and a range of accommodation options.

The initial idea is to have the walking track run from The Landing, using the existing trail to Hot Water Beach. Accommodation options could be set up on the iwi-owned land at Te Ariki. From there, people would walk to Tapahoro campsite for night two, then to Tarawera Falls, over the hill to Lake Okataina, or out to Kawerau.

The feasibility study is an important step in assessing whether the concept of an alpine track will meet our iwi’s aspirations and obligations as kaitiaki. It will include a particular focus on the cultural and environmental impact of the proposed track.

We expect the results of this study to be released later this year and this will enable Ngāti Rangitihī and Ruawahia 2B to make an informed decision on whether to continue to investigate this concept.

Trust Survey

In this year’s Trust elections, we also sought opinions on whether people supported the current way of electing Trustees. You were asked whether you preferred voting for Trustees to represent all of Ngāti Rangitihī, or whether you’d rather vote for Trustees to represent a specific hapū. A third option was a mixed system of both hapū-specific AND general Trustees. Voter turnout for this survey was 11.25%.

REPRESENTATION SURVEY QUESTIONS	VOTES
OPTION 1 I prefer to vote for Trustees who represent all of Ngāti Rangitihī (<i>this is how elections are currently run</i>).	278
OPTION 2 I would prefer to vote for Trustees that represent a Ngāti Rangitihī hapū. The hapū I would choose to identify with is:	55
- NGĀTI MAHI	13
- NGĀTI TIONGA	42
- OTHER	0
OPTION 3 I would prefer to vote for a mix of Trustees – some representing all of Ngāti Rangitihī, and some representing Ngāti Rangitihī hapū. The hapū I would choose to identify with is:	31
- NGĀTI MAHI	13
- NGĀTI TIONGA	14
- OTHER	4
<i>Informal Votes</i>	10
TOTAL VOTES	374

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