

28 March 2020

## **Letter from the Chairman: An update on how we are supporting our people during COVID-19 Alert Level 4**

Tēnā koutou Ngāti Rangitihi,

On Friday 27 March 2020, Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi Trustees met by teleconference to review how the Trust is responding to the challenges of the Coronavirus.

Merepeka Raukawa-Tait informed us of what was happening in our local hospitals, the challenges confronting the Rotorua Lakes Council and the support available through the Whānau Ora provider network.

Tia Warbrick spoke as the coordinator of support being provided from Te Arawhiti to Te Arawa and neighbouring Iwi. She also gave us an overview of support being provided to Māori by other Government Agencies.

Cathy Dewes spoke on educational support and challenges.

Melanie Cheung gave us an update of her research on what other iwi and Māori organisations are doing.

In listening to these people, it struck me how fortunate we are to have such well-connected Trustees currently on our Iwi Trust. And, how our combined knowledge can help our Iwi: “Nā tō rourou, nā taku rourou ka ora ai te iwi.”

For me, the highlight of the morning was listening to the mahi initiated by our staff, Alana Hunter, D’Arcy Stoneham and Rita Costar, to reach out and contact kaumātua at home in Matatā and deliver ‘care parcels’ to them.

They then set about calling kaumātua throughout the motu to see how they were and to find out whether they needed support. ‘Care parcels’ have also been sent to kaumātua beyond Matatā.

We want to build on this mahi.

We have established a pūtea to fund additional ‘care packages’ to be sent to anyone in our Iwi who need support. Even if that support is purely to make recipients aware that we know where they are and that we care. This support is now not restricted to our kaumātua.

We will continue to go through our database and ring people, but we welcome you contacting us with names and contact addresses of people we should contact.

We have scheduled another Trustee hui in two weeks’ time, but we are able to reconvene earlier if the need arises.



We will be sharing up-to-date and accurate information with you via regular e-pānui, [Facebook](#) updates, and our website: [www.ngatirangitihi.iwi.nz](http://www.ngatirangitihi.iwi.nz).

Also, although we are all working from home, we remain contactable by email or cellphone and available to respond to any queries you may have.

The contact details of people available to be contacted on Ngāti Rangitihi business are as follows:

- **Leith Comer**, Chairman: 027 437 4508
- **Alana Hunter**, Board Administrator: 027 557 4453
- **D'Arcy Stoneham**, Office Administrator: 027 557 4456

Stay safe and in good health.

Leith Comer

**Chairman**  
**Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi Trust**