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right, with increasing value and leverage. The WAI 262 Claim, provides us with an opportunity to;

- re-confirm our traditional knowledge as a taonga tuku iho and our recognition of the value of its associated IP
- identify the breaches by the Crown, in not protecting our taonga tuku iho
- re-negotiate the terms and parameters for the protection of the intellectual property and cultural capital of Ngati Porou .



Ngati Porou Lawyer, Gina Rudland, provided counsel and guidance to Tama Poata as the original Ngati Porou claimant in these proceedings and subsequently engaged Ngati Porou whanui in the claim. Gina's perseverance and commitment to this cause has been exemplary and recognition is given for the work, energy and leadership that

she has demonstrated in co-ordinating the Ngati Porou effort.

The WAI 262 Claim is now in its 15th year, and during that time, 3 of the original claimants have passed on, as has the former Tribunal presiding member, Judge Kearney. The broad scope of the claim process has also suffered from re-prioritisation and under resourcing by the Tribunal.

Chief Maori Land Court Judge, Joe Williams, has now been appointed as the presiding member and shifted the original

emphasis from traditional knowledge to the impact of recent legislation and Government policy on, te reo ake o Ngati Porou, matauranga Ngati Porou me nga mahi a toi, and other creative expressions of our cultural heritage. Our witnesses will reflect on our evolving art forms, which are grounded in our traditional images, icons and symbols but expressed in mediums of today – films and other forms of digital expression. The claim covers all aspects of Ngati Porou culture and identity except land and fisheries.



*Ngutukaka indigenous flora, Tokomaru Bay.*

There are 6 claims in total that we are pursuing, which focus on the Crown's failure to;

- protect the tino rangatiratanga over the taonga tuku iho o Ngati Porou;
- protect te reo ake o Ngati Porou;
- protect matauranga me nga tikanga o Ngati Porou
- protect artistic works;
- protect cultural taonga;
- protect Ngati Porou flora and fauna.

The implications of the WAI 262 Claim, are far reaching and have attracted the attention and interest of a number of Iwi, because if the claim is successful, then we as Tangata Whenua will be positioned to retain control over our indigenous resources and matauranga under New Zealand and International law.

## Restructuring Corporate Services

The Runanga is in the final stages of restructuring its Corporate Services operation, which involved reducing the number of Corporate Services staff from eleven to six and recruiting a multi-disciplinary team of specialist corporate services personnel. This development is the first step in a four phase approach by the Runanga to improve its effectiveness and efficiency, by reducing its operational costs, lifting the benchmark on the skill sets and management expertise we require, integrating services and significantly improving the returns from our commercial activities.

Runanga CEO Amohaere Houkamau said, "the Board approved the final restructuring proposal in April, including the reduction in the number of Corporate Services staff and the relocation of the team to Gisborne". Management has worked closely with staff throughout the change process, to ensure the transition was seamless and as painless as possible. This approach has resulted in the majority of the affected staff being redeployed to other positions in the Runanga, one has been recruited into the new corporate services team and the other two staff have been retained on short term contracts. A tribute must be paid to all the Corporate Services Staff who saw the 'bigger picture' and understood the need for the change,

despite the potential impact it would have on them and their whanau., no reira Tena koutou katoa .

The location of the Corporate Services team to Gisborne has drawn criticism, from some people, who have interpreted the move as the "Runanga moving to Gisborne". In reality only one Corporate Services Staff member has moved to Gisborne, and that is the CEO. Moving the Corporate Services team was considered necessary because both the Chairman and CEO work from Gisborne and we were more likely to attract the calibre of staff that we required, for the streamlined team, if they were Gisborne based.

In light of these changes, the Runanga has made the Ruatoria office, the headquarters of our Whanau Hapu Development, Education and Economic Development activities, which are the services that have the most direct and immediate impact on our whanau and hapu

Some of the benefits that have accrued from the restructuring, are the repatriation of two young Ngati Porou women, Anne Manuel, the new Executive Assistant who has returned home from Timaru and Joline Rankin, the Finance Assistant, who returns home from Auckland.