

Takutai Moana Negotiations continue

The Runanga negotiation team working in conjunction with the negotiators from Te Whanau a Apanui, are making steady progress in their deliberations with the Crown over the Foreshore and Seabed.

Ngati Porou and Whanau Apanui are seeking four primary outcomes;

- Recognition of the ownership interests of the hapu of Ngati Porou and Whanau a Apanui in the Foreshore & Seabed
- The ability to maintain exclusive areas of interest
- Retaining our ability to restrict access
- Establishment of an appropriate level of interface between the rights of the hapu and existing legal processes affecting the foreshore and seabed, for example the Resource Management Act (1991)

Result of Hapu Hui

In January of this year, the Runanga received significant support for the continuation of the negotiations and endorsement for its role as Facilitator after a series of hapu consultation hui and information sharing hui with Ngati Porou Taura Here.

Since receiving this mandate, the Ngati Porou negotiating team has continued to gather evidence, develop governance models that would enable marae and/or hapu to take on any additional roles and responsibilities for the takutai moana arising out of the negotiations and are continuing to deliberate with the Crown negotiators.

At this time the Runanga has since received mandate from Umuariki Marae, has not declared mandate for Mangahanea Marae including Uepohatu, Reporua, Tuparua and Rauru,

has not declared mandate from Te Aitanga a Hauiti and has had no formal notification from Te Poho o Rawiri Marae.

Appointment of Researchers

The Ministry of Justice has agreed to fund the recruitment of 3 researchers to assist us gather evidence and information from hapu spokespeople on the takutai moana.

Rei Kohere is the researcher for the Wharekahika, Te Araroa, Horoera, Waiapu and Port Awanui, rohe. Rei is of Ngati Porou (Whanau a Tarahaiti, Whanau a Rerewa, Whanau a Tuwhakairiora, Whanau a Tapuhi and Whanau a Hinerupe) Rongowhakaata, and Ngai Tahu descent, he has a Bachelor of Arts majoring in History and Maori Studies and Masters in Environmental and Resource Management

Planning. He has a varied background that includes 21 years' experience in research and research management in the fields of Maori health, education, and justice; resource management; iwi development; tribal history; and Ngati Porou treaty claims.

Elizabeth Ngarimu is the researcher for the Tuparua, Whareponga, Akuaku and Waipiro Bay rohe. Liz affiliates to Te Awemapara, Te Aitanga-A-Mate, Te Aowera and Whanau a Rakairoa. She has a BA major in History and Maori, a Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching and a Postgraduate Diploma in Education. Her research career began in 1994 conducting interviews with the survivors of the C Coy of the 28th Maori Battalion and their whanau. She has conducted research for National Maori Incorporations and Trusts. On returning home Liz saw this as a wonderful opportunity to utilise the skills she has developed over the years.

Jock Walker is the researcher for the region extending from Tokomaru Bay to Kaiarau. The researchers will initially meeting with key hapu contacts to develop a schedule of hui to update whanau on the process for collecting evidence, including the identification of key spokespeople to provide evidence and information for documentation.

Update on the development of the Deed of Agreement

Since holding the mandating hui the negotiation team have continued to have monthly meetings with the Crown negotiators in the Ministry of Justice, Matanuku Mahuika believes we are making good progress in terms of the dealing with the first and fourth of the outcomes being sought.

In terms of Ownership although the Crown are not prepared to resile from section 13(1) of the Foreshore and Seabed Act they are prepared to recognise the mana exercised by hapu, which in our view comes close to acknowledging a level of ownership and control.

Most recently the Crown met with Ngati Porou and Te Whanau a Apanui representatives to give a presentation on key aspects of the RMA. The presentation focused on functions, processes, requirements and impacts of the RMA and set a good platform for further discussion, on how redress/ recognition instruments will operate in terms of a wider RMA processes and the additional benefits that will flow to the hapu of Ngati Porou from those instruments.

The Runanga will continue to update Ngati Porou whanau and hapu on progress of the negotiations.

