



PRESS RELEASE
May 15th 2013

NGATIKAHU KI WHANGAROA TREATY SETTLEMENT: KAHUKURAARIKI TRUST MEET, BEGINNING OF NEW ERA

The first meeting of the Ngātikahu ki Whangaroa Post-Settlement Governance Entity, Kahukuraariki Trust, was held in Auckland on Sunday 13th May. This group will manage the settlement, a package of \$20 million in land and cash, on behalf of the descendents of Kahukuraariki, their eponymous ancestress, for their homelands between Oruaiti (near Mangonui) in the West, and Totara North to the East. Within these boundaries, eight Marae represent the Hapū of Ngātikahu ki Whangaroa, Taemāro, Waimahana, Taupo Bay, Mangatōwai, Waitāruke, Te Kōmanga, Otangaroa and Waihapa.

At the meeting the Trustees appointed Norm McKenzie and Ella Henry as co-Chairs. Speaking after the meeting, Dr Henry, an academic from AUT, said, “We wanted to establish mana wahine-mana tane in leadership roles, a model that has also been adopted by the Maori Party and the Green Party, to ensure equitable voice for both men and women”. The new Trustees, elected unopposed, bring a wealth of experience to the role. Norm McKenzie (Waitāruke) is a successful business man, with backgrounds in finance and strategy, Ella Henry (Mangatōwai) holds a PhD in Maori Development, Teresa Tepania-Ashton (Waihapa) is CEO of Maori Women’s Development Inc, and was previously CEO of Te Rūnanga a Iwi ō Ngāpuhi. Makere Karatea (Otangaroa) is involved in education and is an accredited professional learning and development facilitator for Māori medium contexts. Glendith Samson (Waimahana) has worked for many years in the health sector, and was on the Board of Trustees for Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara. Roger Kingi (Te Kōmanga) is one of two Trustees who live in the rohe (tribal homeland), he has an extensive background in small business and in recent years has worked with Te Wānanga o Awanuiārangi, to deliver programmes in the Far North. Sandra Heihei (Taemāro) lives in Taemāro, has recently retired from ACC, and is working on community development in the region.

Whilst the Treaty settlement, which was enacted in December 2017, holds promise for development and investment for the tribe, not all are happy with this outcome. Taupo Bay Marae representatives have chosen not to elect a Trustee at this time. Also a group of whānau have been living on the Stoney Creek Farm since 2007, without legal permission from the then ‘owners’ of the land, the Office of Treaty Settlements. These outstanding matters are most prominent for the new Trustees, but so too is the planning and strategising, for projects that

will bring business, jobs, education and investment to the region. Co-Chair, Norm McKenzie stated that, “We have to bring the whānau together, and let everyone know that we want inclusive outcomes, that will benefit all the tribe, but most importantly, those who have been living on, and protecting the land”.

One thing the Trustees want to ensure, from the outset, is that Te Roopu Kaumātua is strong, as they protect the mana of the tribe. To that end, the Trustees will issue an invitation to Kaumātua and Kuia from Ngātikahu ki Whangaroa to join the Roopu, adding their voice to Trust Board thinking and planning. The Trustees will also be reaching out to all parties, including relevant Ministers, to ensure the Trust has the best information and support to take the aspirations of this small tribe in the Far North, and make them a reality. Teresa Tepania-Ashton, who has been closely involved in developments both for MWDI and Ngāpuhi said, “We are here because our tūpuna, parents and grand-parents, fought for generations to have our land returned. We now own nearly 20% of our homelands, and have a small sum of investment capital (\$6 million). We believe that, with strategic planning and judicious governance, that can make a real difference for our people”. Roger Kingi is an original Interim Trustees appointed in 2017, who also represented his Hapū, Kaitangata, on the Ngātikahu ki Whangaroa Trust Board, set up in 1999 to negotiate the Treaty settlement. Kōwhairoa Peninsula Historic Reserve is part of the settlement, to be administered for and on behalf of all the Iwi by Te Kōmanga Marae Trust. They received \$300,000 of Cultural Redress funding, to produce a Management Plan for the Reserve. Roger said, “ka mau te wehi, this has been a long but important journey for our tribe, and we are part of the next leg of that journey”.

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