

NGA KOHINGA

ISSUE 40 – HUNE 2011

o Ngati Porou





Cover:
Image by Doone Harrison

Editorial

Tera te haeata takiri ana mai ki runga o Hikurangi
E rere Waiapu ki te moana nui a Kiwa
Paoho tonu a Ngati Porou ki te ao
Tu tonu mai koe Maunga Hikurangi, tuoho ko nga
uri e.

Tena tatou Ngati Porou kei te wa kainga, kei nga
kokoru o Aotearoa, kei nga topito o te ao. Tena
hoki tatou i o tatou mate huhua, te kaupukahu,
e hinga mai nei e hinga atu ra i o tatou marae
maha puta noa, no reira ratou kua ngaro i te
tirohanga kanohi noho pumau mai i tua o te arai
e kore koutou e wareware. Tatou te hunga hei
kawe i nga taonga tuku iho, i nga whakarereanga
iho ranei. Kia ora.

With the publication of this issue, Nga Kohinga
o Ngati Porou has finally hit the big 4-0. Over the
past seven years since December 2004, forty
issues of the bi-monthly publication have been
produced. During this period some of the pakeke
who appeared in issue one have passed away,
children have grown up and organisations
have changed. It is timely then that we mark
this important milestone with a revamp of the
magazine. The changes that you may have
noticed in this issue are also perhaps reflective of
the period of transition and renewal Ngati Porou
are currently undergoing.

Nga Kohinga was initially established by Ngati
Porou organisations as a vehicle to communicate
their information to the iwi. Their key role being
to manage the tribal assets on behalf of the
wider collective, for the benefit of nga uri o
Ngati Porou and future generations. It is with this
philosophy in mind that the future development
of this publication is to become more reflective
of the tribal collective. We would also like
the publication to become a medium which
effectively facilitates conversation amongst the
iwi about kaupapa which we all care deeply
about.

We hope you enjoy this issue and appreciate
your feedback, story ideas, photographs and
contributions for future publications.

Editorial Team:

Lillian Tangaere Baldwin, Jasmine Kaa,
Leeanne Morice, Hiria Shaw and Sarah Pohatu

Contents

- 1-2 "Kei runga i te kotahi, kei runga i te katoa"
- 3 Queens Birthday Honours 2011
- 4 Te Rina's Wish Comes True
- 5 Tyler Exchanges The Coast for
Denmark / Nga Manu Korero
- 7 Former Kura Student Admitted To The Bar
- 8 Calling On All C Company Whanau
- 9-12 Transitioning Ngati Porou
- 14 Ngati Porou Photographer Invited to UN
- 15 – 21 Te Runanga o Ngati Porou
- 22-25 Pakihiroa Farms Ltd
- 26-27 Ngati Porou Seafood Groups Ltd
- 28-31 Radio Ngati Porou
- 33 Ngati Porou Forests Ltd
- 34-37 Ngati Porou Hauora
- 40 -43 A History of Waiapu Club Rugby
- 44-46 Toku Haerenga Ki Kariki
- 47-48 "A Mountain Less Known"

“Kei runga i te kotahi, kei runga i te katoa”

by Alice Te Puni. Article courtesy of Gisborne Herald.

The Knighthood ceremony for Sir Tamati Muturangi Reedy at East Coast marae Hiruharama was attended by more than 500 people on May 25th. Fellow Ngati Porou recipients of the Queen's honour, Sir Henare Ngata and Dame Iritana Tawhiwhirangi, were on hand to lend their support to the newest member of their auspicious rank, which also includes Sir Apirana Ngata.



Sir Tamati with his sister Wikitoria Wright (left) and his wife Lady Te Koingo (right). (Photo courtesy of Nori Parata).

Joining the home people were a contingent from Waikato University and the Kingitanga, with the Maori King's son Whatumoana Paki representing his father Tuheitia, along with iwi representatives from throughout the country and political leaders. Mayor Meng Foon, Minister of Ethnic Affairs and Women's Affairs Hekia Parata, Minister of Maori Affairs Pita Sharples and Ikaroa Rawhiti MP Parekura Horomia were among the guests.

New Zealand Governor General Anand Satyanand presented Sir Tamati with the insignia of a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to education.



Kapohanga a Rangi whare was the venue for the Governor General to knight Sir Tamati. (Photo courtesy of Paul Rickard, Gisborne Herald).

It was not the first time a governor general had convened an investiture at Ruatoria, he said. A predecessor Sir Cyril Newall presented the posthumous Victoria Cross to 2nd Lieutenant Moana nui a Kiwa Ngarimu's parents, Hamuera and Maraia Ngarimu at Uepohatu Marae in October 1943. "Ngarimu, a member of C Company of 28 (Maori) Battalion, was awarded New Zealand's highest honour for gallantry for his outstanding courage and leadership in the attack at Tebaga Gap in Tunisia on March 26, 1943, in a battle that sadly claimed his life.

"During that ceremony 67 years ago, one of the principal speakers was Sir Tamati's grandmother and Ngarimu's aunt, Materoa Reedy." Sir Tamati paid tribute to his grandmother and his wife Lady Te Kōingo (Tilly), saying – "behind every great woman sitting here today I hope there is a humble man."

He encouraged the ready practice of forgiving each other and moving forward together to make a better world for the next generations. Sir Tamati said the knighthood was not for him alone but for "us all". "It is a beautiful day and I am very humbled by the aroha surrounding us all here," he said.

Waikato University head of tikanga for the Maori and Polynesian School of Development Te Kahautu Maxwell said Sir Tamati was the most senior Maori academic and a great role model for all academics. Hiruharama Marae chairman Selwyn Parata said he was an inspiration and a noble icon for the Maori world.

Sir Tamati is a noted linguist and educator and holds an MA from the University of Auckland and an MA and PhD from the University of Hawaii. He was a Fulbright scholar in 1983. His many career achievements include Department of Maori Affairs secretary, developing the draft document, Te Whariki, which was the basis for a bicultural curriculum now a statutory requirement for all licensed and chartered early childhood education centres.

Sir Tamati was the foundation dean and professor of the School of Maori and Pacific Development at the University of Waikato and appointed as the university's first pro vice-chancellor Maori in 2001.

In 2010 he became the University of Waikato's first Maori Emeritus Professor, and in the same year, he was also appointed to the Waitangi Tribunal. He chaired an independent panel, Te Paepae Motuhake, established by the Government to review the Maori language sector and strategy. The panel's report was launched last month.

Kuru Pounamu

Na Kuini Moehau Reedy i tito tenet haka mo Ta Tamati.

Kaea Te Rau Titapu a te iwi e
Te rau titapu a te iwi e
Kakapa te rau titapu
Kakapa whakarunga kakapa whakararo i
te ao e

Kaea Hei Toki Haemata
Hei toki haemata tara nihoniho ma wai
ra?
Hai aha hai aha hai aha hai aha e Ta e
Hei toki haemata tara nihoniho ma wai
ra?
Hai aha hai aha hai aha hai aha e Ta e

Kaea Iti hei tiki
Iti hei tiki rere kotuku nahau ra Muturangi
e Ta e
Iti hei tiki piki kotuku nahau ra
Hai aha hai aha hai
aha hai aha e Ta e
Tara kaipara ururoa
Tara kaipara urutoa
mo te iwi e
Te kuru pounamu a
Te Rangitawaea
e Ta e!



Queens Birthday Honours 2011

There must be something in our water...

Ngati Porou individuals have long made significant contributions to New Zealand society. The recent 2011 Queens Birthday Honours list boasts eight Ngati Porou (and one in law) who have been recognized for their outstanding contributions in their chosen fields to Maori communities.

He Wiwi he Nati he whanoke!

Ka nui nga mihi ki a koutou katoa.



Dame Companion of the Order

Dr Katerina Te Heikoko Mataira, CNZM, of Hamilton.

For services to the Māori language.

Photo courtesy Gisborne Herald



Companion of Order of Merit

Mr Herbert John Te Kauru Clarke, of Lower Hutt.

For services to Māori.

Photo courtesy Gisborne Herald



Officer of the NZ Order of Merit

Ms Catherine Moana Dewes, of Rotorua.

For services to Māori.

Photo courtesy Maori Television



Officer of the NZ Order of Merit

Mr Nolan Tariho Rimitiri, of Tokomaru Bay.

For services to Māori.

Photo courtesy Te Runanga o Ngati Porou



Member of the NZ Order of Merit

Ms Kuini Moehau Reedy, of Gisborne

For services to Maori.

Photo supplied



Queens Service Medal

Mr Henare Ngaera Keefe, JP, of Hastings

For services to Maori and the community.

Photo courtesy Gisborne Herald



Queens Service Medal

Henerieta Maxwell, of Lower Hutt

For Services to Te Kohanga Reo

Photo courtesy Gisborne Herald

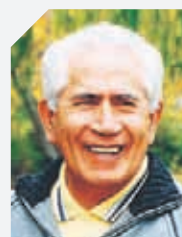


Queens Service Medal

Mrs Hana Espie Tukukino, of Benowa, Queensland, Australia.

For services to Māori.

Photo courtesy Gisborne Herald



Queens Service Medal

Mr Watene Waara Tukukino, of Benowa, Queensland, Australia.

For services to Māori.

Photo courtesy Gisborne Herald



Ka mau te wehi o nga wahine o Ngati Porou e haka ana Te Kuru Pounamu. (Photo courtesy of Nori Parata).

Te Rina's wish comes true

A Ruatoria school girl became the envy of legions of Justin Bieber fans the world over, when she got to meet the pint-sized mega star recently. Te Rina Lyttle, a student of Ngata Memorial College, came face to face with the Canadian YouTube sensation when she attended one of his sell out Australian concerts last month. The fourteen year old flew to Perth to see the popular teenage performer courtesy of the "Make A Wish" foundation.

"Justin Bieber has been one of my favourite singers since he became really famous two years ago," says Te Rina. "It was a real thrill to be at his show and I was amazed at the venue and the thousands of people there." Back stage before the concert started Te Rina had a brief meet & greet with the seventeen year old singer. "He asked me how I was and then we had our photo taken with him. He was just like a normal person. Because the programme was running behind time I didn't get a chance to ask him for his autograph. But we had really good seats. Seven rows away from the front of the stage and right in the middle!"

The Make A Wish Foundation provided the opportunity for Te Rina to travel to Australia with her parents and her two brothers, Jonathan & Nicholas. The whanau spent a week in Perth and got to fit in some shopping and local sight seeing as well. Lena Lyttle, Te Rina's Mum, says the trip was a once in a life time experience and was not only the first time her daughter had travelled out of the country, but also the first time she had attended a concert.



Te Rina Lyttle and whanau with Justin Bieber in Perth. Te Rina (standing to the right of Justin) slightly towers above the singing superstar.

In January this year Te Rina was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, Metastatic insulinoma. Lena says the condition affects her daughter's body by producing too much insulin causing her blood sugar levels to fall.

"About a month after Te Rina was diagnosed the specialist at the hospital encouraged us to send in an application to the Make a Wish foundation, recalls Lena. "I was really surprised but happy when I received the phone call from them a few months later to say Te Rina's wish had been granted. And I was really shocked when they said all of our whanau could come as well."

Lena says everyone involved with making the experience possible made her daughter feel special. "Right from the time we caught our first plane in Gisborne, Air NZ treated my girl like a star. They gave her a special mention over the intercom on the plane, and fussed over her in the Koru Lounge. The Make a Wish Foundation people in Perth were really friendly and ensured Te Rina felt relaxed the whole time."

Lena says she enjoyed Justin Bieber's performance, even though she had her hands over her ears most of the time. "It looked good but I couldn't hear the music properly because of all the screaming fans in the crowd!"

Te Rina Lyttle on behalf of her whanau would like to thank the Make a Wish Foundation and Air NZ for allowing her to travel to Perth and to see Justin Bieber in Concert.

Tyler Exchanges The Coast for Denmark

At the end of next month Ngata Memorial student Tyler Kokiri-Wilson will be jetting off to the land of the Vikings where he will begin a year long AFS exchange in Denmark. The seventeen year old aspiring actor has already been in touch with his host exchange whanau via Facebook, and has found out he has much in common with one of his AFS host brothers. Tyler, who lives in Tikitiki, will be based in Aarhus, Denmark's second largest city (population 300,000).

Tyler and his whanau have been fundraising hard for the exchange, which costs \$18,500 plus extras. He was awarded \$10,000 in scholarship monies from the Sargood Bequest Trust and the Maori Education Trust, and recently a battons up and hangi were held to help with the trip.

Nga Manu Korero

Ngata Memorial College hosted the recent 2011 Tairāwhiti Secondary Schools Manu Korero and Kapa haka competitions. Event organiser Miria Pohatu said the two day event showcased the creme de la creme of Te Tairāwhiti's future orators and performers.

Miria also adds, "Congratulations to all those students who were successful. I would also like to thank the experienced judging panels, the entertaining MC's, the wonderful community and iwi support that worked tirelessly and also provided resources to ensure that this event was a success.

Four students will be representing the region in Tauranga at the national Manu Korero competition in September.



Tyler Wilson shows where he will be travelling to next month.

When he comes back Tyler says he is interested in going to Toi Whakaari, the NZ Drama School. He has already a few acting credits in his CV, appearing as the lead actor in several Nati award films, when he was at primary and secondary school. Tyler has also co-hosted the annual Te Rangitawaea ICT festival since he was thirteen years old.

Tyler would like to thank everybody who has supported him in his effort to get overseas. "I would like to thank my whanau, community and all the businesses that have donated prizes and/or did mahi for me it is gratefully appreciated. Nga mihi nui ki a koutou."



Students from Ngata Memorial College performing at the kapa haka comps.

Te Kura Mana Maori o Whangaparaoa students Hana Nikora and Rangiatea Stewart in the Rawhiti Ihaka (Junior Maori) and Sir Turi Carroll (Junior English) sections. Kuranui-Tolaga Bay Area School student Hine Te Ariki Parata-Walker winner of the Pei Te Hurinui (Senior

Maori) section, and Gisborne Girls' High student Tira Nikora, winner of the Korimako (Senior English) section winner.

The regional kapahaka competition was a fabulous day with seven kapa competing. Lytton High School, current national champions, along with Nga Taiohi a Hauiti and Turanga Wahine Turanga Tane will represent the Tairāwhiti region at the National Secondary Schools Kapahaka competition in 2012.

Helping your business develop, innovate and grow.

The East Coast Regional Business Partner is working with local businesses to help them develop, innovate and grow. The Regional Partner programme is part of a national network which can help businesses access information, funding, training and development services.

Set up by New Zealand Trade & Enterprise (NZTE) and the Ministry of Science & Innovation (MSI) the programme is supported locally by five regional organisations: Gisborne Chamber of Commerce, Te Runanga o Ngati Porou, Te Runanga o Turanganui a Kiwa, Gisborne District Council and the Employers and Manufacturers Association.

Katie Kay is the local contact for the Regional Business Partner programme working under the Gisborne Chamber of Commerce. Since the inception of the programme in December last year, Ms Kay has met with businesses from health and creative sectors to manufacturing, agriculture and horticulture sectors. "Our door is open to work with anyone in business seeking help. Some business owners often find it a balancing act spending time working 'on' rather than 'in' their business. Many find that our one-on-one meeting gives them valuable insight into their business, and the opportunity to realign their focus on the true needs of their business," she said.



Gisborne Chamber of Commerce Marketing and Communications Manager Kerry Donovan and East Coast Regional Business Partner Katie Kay.

Photo courtesy of Dave Thomas, Gisborne Herald.

New Zealand Trade & Enterprise

The East Coast Regional Business Partner offers a free business assessment and action plan – to support a business in reaching its short and long term goals. They can also issue vouchers to eligible businesses to help them access training services to build management capabilities. The vouchers are co-funded by NZTE who will cover up to half the cost of training, with the business owner contributing the other half. Ideal for the business owner or senior management staff, this training is aimed at improving the internal capability of senior management staff in topics such as:

- business planning
- marketing strategies
- finance
- managing resources
- governance
- business sustainability
- lean manufacturing
- exporting

Local training providers include BDO and Pivotal Professional and Business Services, with many other registered courses offered throughout New Zealand.

Ministry of Science & Innovation

Another focus for the East Coast Regional Business Partner is targeting those businesses wishing to innovate and grow through MSI's research and development (R&D) programme.

Innovation, or the commercialisation of good ideas, is an essential part of keeping a business sustainable and competitive. R&D into new and improved products, services and processes can set a business apart from their competitors.

Ngati Porou Fisheries Limited (NPFL) have recently partnered up with MSI to engage science expertise into their team. Lesley McLeod, a subject matter expert in marine

ecology and aquaculture will research and identify potential opportunities for future growth sectors for NPFL. As Mark Ngata, General Manager of NPFL explains, it's about timing and identifying the right expertise at the right time, that are the winning ingredients to successful projects:

"Working with the Ministry of Science and Innovation helped us to narrow our focus on exactly what outcomes we wanted to achieve over the six month project. We're looking to identify gaps and opportunities in our seafood strategy. Having Lesley on board is crucial to realising the outcomes of this project. The success of Ngati Porou Fisheries is very much a combination of people, knowledge, technology and processes. Getting the right balance of those inputs gives our business model a sustainable base for future growth and profitability."

Planning for successful R&D is a continuous circular process, rather than a linear one. Researching one idea might even be the catalyst for discovering a completely new idea.

So if you're looking to invest in R&D contact the East Coast Regional Business Partner before you start spending money. They may be able to assist with MSI investment to support the costs of the project.

To find out more about the East Coast Regional Business Partner contact us on:

Tel: (06) 863 0384

Email: business@gisborne.org.nz or visit:

www.gisborne.org.nz

The Gisborne Chamber of Commerce is located at:
Aon House, 151 Grey Street, Gisborne.

G I S B O R N E
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Business Vitality

**Regional Business
Partner
East Coast**

New Zealand
TRADE & ENTERPRISE

 **ministry of
science +
innovation**
TE PŪNAHA HIRINGA WHAKAĀEA

Former Kura Student Admitted To The Bar

Twenty two year old Roimata Papuni-Iles became part of the legal profession when she was admitted to the bar recently. The former Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Waiu o Ngati Porou student graduated with a Bachelor of Laws with Honours and Bachelor of Commerce conjoint degree from the University of Auckland last year, and is currently working for Chapman Tripp in their Corporate Law team in Auckland.

She is also a member of Chapman Tripp's Te Waka Ture (Maori Services Group), which specialises in providing commercial legal advice to Iwi and Maori organisations. In 2009 Roimata was also awarded a Ngarimu VC Undergraduate



Roimata with Mataanuku Mahuika and the Honourable Justice Potter.

scholarship at a ceremony held in Parliament. Roimata was admitted to the Bar in Gisborne by Justice Potter, and Ngati Porou lawyer Mataanuku Mahuika acted as her moving counsel. In her address Roimata spoke in her native language and acknowledged the support of her whanau, and the teachers of Te Waiu.

Roimata was born and bred in Rangitukia, and has whakapapa links to Ngai Tane and Te Whanau a Hinepare. Her immediate goal is to develop her legal skills and gain experience, and in the long term she is hoping to set up a legal practice based on the East Coast, and be part of the economic revitalisation of the Ngati Porou rohe.



Roimata with her very proud whanau, including her mother April Papuni (holding mokopuna Wirihana) and father Mark Iles (far right).

Calling All C-Company Whanau

Plans are now afoot to build a permanent home for the C Company Maori Battalion exhibition. Nga Taonga a Nga Tama Toa, the trust responsible for the care and oversight of the memorabilia in the C Company collection, are working with the Tairawhiti museum and the Gisborne District Council to ensure the dream becomes a reality.

The house is to be built from funds raised primarily by C Company whanau and is to be owned by the Trust on behalf of the descendants of C Company whanau.

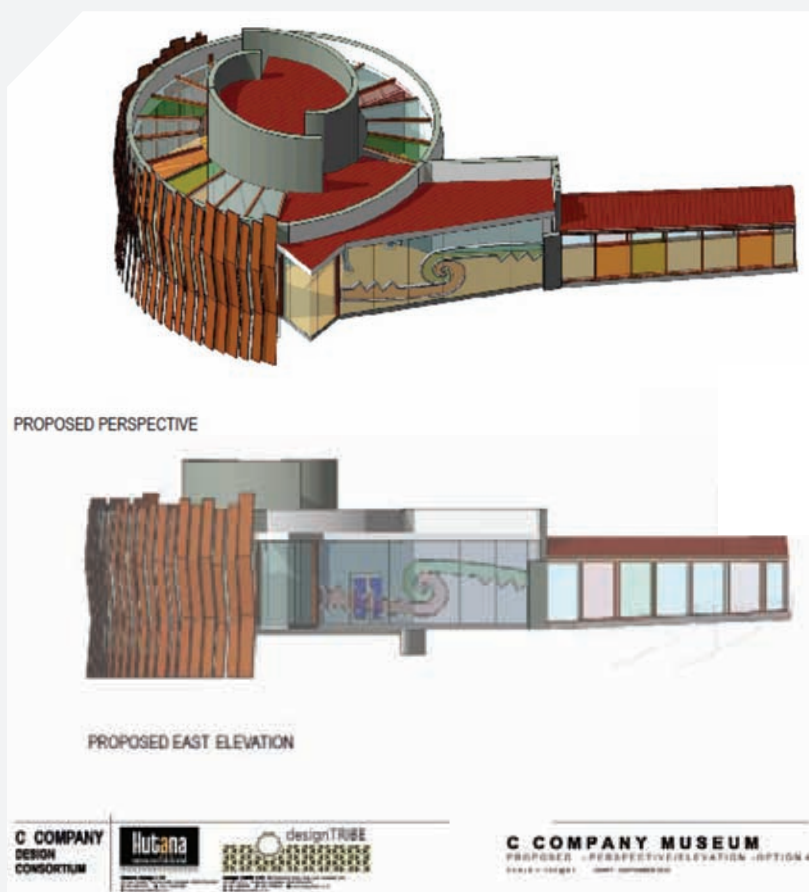


Hui a Iwi held with Te Whanau a Apanui at Apanui RSA, Te Kaha, 13 June 2011. (L-R) Nolan Raihania ONZM, Dr Monty Soutar, Major John Waititi QSM, Dr Apirana Mahuika, William Hei Walker ("Pom").

From June Nolan Raihania (C Company veteran and Nga Taonga a Nga Tama Toa Trust chairman), Dr Soutar, Dr Mahuika, and Mayor Meng Foon and others will visit the tribal groupings whose men made up C Company - Te Whanau-a-Apanui, Ngai Tai, Te Aitanga-a-Mahaki, Rongowhakaata, Ngai Tamanuhiri, and Ngati Porou. The proposal and building plans will be put to iwi and pledges sought.

A fundraising target of \$1.5 million has been set to reach by the end of this year. Almost 1,000 men served in C Company and if \$500 per man can be raised the Trust will be well on the way to that goal. The twenty third of October has been selected as the date to have all iwi commitments confirmed. On that day exactly 70 years ago C Company received its first Maori commander - Captain Parekura Tureia of Gisborne. Up until then the unit had been commanded by Pakeha officers. Four Maori architects based in Auckland, whose roots trace back to the Tairawhiti have volunteered to design the building. They have provided two sets of plans for potential buildings and have done these at no cost to the Trust and iwi of C. Company.

Anyone wishing to make contributions to the C Company house can make a deposit into the Nga Taonga a Nga Tama Toa Trust's building account electronically or at a Westpac Branch 03 0638 0322500 00. For further information go to www.ngatamatoa.co.nz



One of the designs for the proposed C Company building, to be built adjacent to Tairawhiti Museum, Gisborne.

Transitioning Ngati Porou

The Post Settlement Governance Entity Establishment Representatives

In December 2010 Ngati Porou signed a Deed of Settlement with the Crown. Later this year we expect the Ngati Porou Treaty Settlement Bill to be passed in Parliament and shortly after that the Settlement Assets will be transferred to the new governance entity Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou. Te Runanganui will own, on behalf of all Ngati Porou, the Settlement Assets as set out in the Deed of Settlement, and all the assets currently held by Te Runanga o Ngati Porou including the fisheries assets, which the Runanga currently holds as the Trustee of Porou Ariki Trust.

The Establishment Representatives of Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou are Rei Kohere, Apirana Mahuika, Ned Ihaka, Linda Smith, Selwyn Parata, Kody Pewhairangi and Jock Walker. They are the directors of Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou Trustee Limited and are assisted by three advisors; Matanuku Mahuika, Teepa Wawatai and Whaimutu Dewes. Rob McLeod provides his expertise to the Group as and when required.

The Representatives key functions are:

1. To run the first election of Representatives for Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou
2. To co-ordinate, with the Crown, the Airing of Grievances process
3. To usher the passage of the Ngati Porou Settlement Bill



Te Haeata chairman Dr. Apirana Mahuika and Te Haeata advisory trustee Selwyn Parata signing the Deed of Settlement at Parliament, 22nd December 2010.

4. To receive Settlement assets from the Crown and assets transferred to Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou from the Runanga, Porou Ariki Trust or from any other source, in the event that the first Elected Representatives have not been appointed by Settlement Date;

Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou

Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou will be governed and administered by and in accordance with the Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou Trust Deed. Te Runanganui will be the representative entity for Ngati Porou in all relevant matters relating to Ngati Porou.

Ngati Porou are entitled to effective governance that incorporates Tikanga Ngati Porou and delivers sustainable benefits to Ngati Porou now, and in the future.

Purposes of Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou

The purpose of Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou is to receive, administer, manage, protect and govern the Trust's assets on trust for and on behalf of and for the benefit of the Beneficial Members.

Inaugural Election process - by Rohenga Tipuna (Hapu Cluster)

Rohenga Tipuna

Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou has seven Rohenga Tipuna (Wards) compared to four Rohe used by the Runanga in previous elections. Although a member of Ngati Porou may belong by Whakapapa to more than one Rohenga Tipuna, each registered member must nominate one Rohenga Tipuna in which they will be registered for the purpose of Representative elections and this information shall be entered in the Register.

Representation by Rohenga Tipuna

The Trust invites nominations for Fourteen (14) Representatives. Seven Rohenga Tipuna have been established for election purposes with two representatives required for each Rohenga Tipuna, at least one of which must be Noho Kaenga (resident within the Ngati Porou Rohe – Mai i Potikirua ki te Toka a Taiau).

Nga Marae o Rohenga Tipuna 1 - Potikirua ki Whangaokena

Potaka
Hinemaurea ki Wharekahika
Punaruku
Tutua
Hinerupe
Matahi o te Tau
Hurua (Te Kahika)
Awatere

Nga Marae o Rohenga Tipuna 2 - Whangaokena ki Waiapu

Kaiwaka
Rahui
Putanga
Taumata o Tapuhi

Hinepare
Ohinewaiapu
Karuai

Nga Marae o Rohenga Tipuna 3 - Pohautea ki Te Onepoto

Tikapa
Te Horo
Waiomatatini
Kakariki
Tinatoka

Nga Marae o Rohenga Tipuna 4 - Te Onepoto ki Rahuimanuka

Reporua
Umuariki
Ruataupare
Mangahanea
Uepohatu
Rauru (Taumata o Mihi)
Te Heapera (Mangarua)

Nga Marae o Rohenga Tipuna 5 - Rahuimanuka ki Mataahu

Kariaka
Hiruharama
Te Aowera
Whareponga
Rongohaere (Pahou)
Rongoitekai (Penu)

Nga Marae o Rohenga Tipuna 6 - Mataahu ki Kokoronui

Te Ariuru
Waiparapara
Pakirikiri
Tuatini
Iritekura
Taharora
Te Kiekie

Nga Marae o Rohenga Tipuna 7 - Kokoronui ki Te Toka a Taiau

Anaura (Hinetamatea)
Hinemaurea ki Mangatuna
Okuri
Puketawai
Hauiti
Rawheoro
Whangara
Poho-o-Rawiri

Eligibility for Nomination and Voting

To be eligible for nomination and eligible to vote, a person must have nominated a Rohenga Tipuna in which he or she is standing for election or voting. You cannot vote or be nominated for election unless you have nominated a Rohenga Tipuna. Nominations for the 14 Representative positions open on Thursday 23rd June 2011, and close at **12 noon on Wednesday 20th July 2011**.

Term of Office

4 years

Voting Methods

There will be two methods available for casting votes;

1. **Postal Voting and**
2. **Electronic Online Voting**

Ballot boxes and text voting will not be available "but" **manned polling stations** will be utilised at major Ngati Porou events that coincide with the voting period to provide guidance and assistance in online voting or to receive completed voting forms for mailing.



Te Aute College students Petera Hakiwai and Jorian Tangaere proudly add their signatures to the Deed.

Eligibility to Participate

You must be:

- 18 years or older
- Uri o nga whanau me nga hapu o Ngati Porou mai Potikirua ki te Toka a Taiau (of Ngati Porou descent) and
- Registered on the Ngati Porou Beneficiary Database with your nominated Rohenga Tipuna

Chief Returning Officer

Anthony Morton from Electionz has been appointed as the Chief Returning Officer

Electionz

Electionz – a company who specialises in running elections have been appointed to run the election



Ngati Porou whanau travelled from near and far to attend the signing of this historical document.

Election Timelines

- Invitation for nomination of candidates:
23 June 2011
- Nomination for candidates close:
20 July 2011
- Ngati Porou Electoral Roll will closes:
20 July 2011
- Postal voting forms sent:
29 August 2011
- Voting ends:
12 Noon 28 September 2011
- Election Results announced:
12 Noon 30 September 2011

Preparing for the Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou inaugural Election

Please check your Registration details

To ensure that you receive the relevant election information, please check your registration information on the Ngati Porou register to ensure that your personal information is correct and nominate your Rohenga Tipuna. If it is incorrect, please contact Hiria Shaw on 0800 676768 or email hshaw@tronp.org.nz. Remember, please register your Rohenga Tipuna

Alternatively

If you wish to make the changes yourself on line, please go to the Te Runanga o Ngati Porou website, www.ngatiporou.iwi.nz/portal, where you can view and update your information. Remember, you will need to ensure that you have identified the Rohenga Tipuna that you wish to register with.

If you have friends or whanau that are of Ngati Porou descent, who will be turning 18 years or age before the Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou Board Inaugural Election, AND/OR are not registered and would like to register to be eligible to vote, please ask them to contact us on 0800 67 67 68, and we will send them an enrolment form. Alternatively, they can register online at www.ngatiporou.iwi.nz/login.aspx. Should you require registration forms please do not hesitate to contact us on 0800 NPOROU(0800 67 67 68)

Nga mokopuna o Ngati Porou (Hinewairere Sollitt-Mackey, Joshua Green and Milena Mei Mackey) also lent their names to the Deed.



Buying a Business?

5 Key tips you need to know...

Buying an already established business is a significant step and can be daunting. In this article regular Nga Kohinga contributor and lawyer, James Johnston, provides some tips on the steps you should take before you sign on the dotted line.

1. Know what you are buying

The value of a business often depends on the assets that are being purchased. So, make sure you know what the assets of the business are and how much they are worth. When you consider the assets remember to look at some of the less obvious assets like customer databases, operating manuals, trademarks, patterns and designs. Make sure that you are buying those successful systems and intellectual property of the business as well as other assets like machinery, stock and office equipment.

2. "Due Diligence"

Of course, the seller (called the vendor) wants to make the business sound as good as possible, so it's a good idea to make your own inquiries and dig deeper to satisfy yourself that what you are hoping to buy is up to the mark. For example, we recommend that you:

- Try and get access to the business's key customers and suppliers to find out what their views are about the business, and their future plans. Check what the terms of existing contracts are and find out what contracts will be assigned to you and what contracts you might have to renegotiate.
- Complete a legal due diligence. Are the assets of the business legally owned by the vendors? Are there any pending legal disputes? Are the contracts in order? What contingent liabilities could the business face in the future? What is the legal position of the lease?

Remember to work with your accountant too – they will be able to provide advice on the financial position of the business and its long term viability.

3. What about existing employees?

Employees are key to the success of a business. You should consider whether you will take on all or some of the existing employees, and if so, on what terms. Negotiating to talk to key employees about their future plans makes sense.

The Agreement for sale and purchase needs to set out whether you (the purchaser) are going to be responsible for outstanding leave entitlements of employees and if so, how that will be dealt with on settlement.

4. Make sure you know what is happening with the business premises

If the business premises are leased check the terms of the lease, including the rent, how long is left on the lease and whether there are any rights of renewal left. The last thing you want is to purchase a business and then have to move premises a few months down the track or be hit with an unexpected rent increase!

5. Terms of the contract

Common terms of an Agreement for Sale and Purchase of a Business include:

- The total purchase price – this includes tangible and intangible assets and stock in trade
- Deposit - There is also usually a provision for a deposit to be made, which is often a percentage of the total purchase price to be paid when the contract is signed.

c. Vendor's warranties – often the vendor will provide a warranty about the turnover of the business. This is important because turnover is a big element in profit and purchasers often rely on how much profit the business makes when purchasing the business. It is also usual for the vendor to warrant that until the purchaser takes possession of the business, the vendor will properly carry on and conserve the business and use all reasonable endeavours to maintain the turnover and preserve the goodwill of the business. The vendor will be liable for indemnifying (or responsible for meeting the costs to) the purchaser for any loss incurred by the purchaser as a result of breach of warranties.

d. Vendor's assistance – will the vendor provide assistance to the purchaser after settlement? For example, do you want vendor to take you through the key business systems, introduce you to the key clients, and/or provide some other training? If so, how long do you want the vendor to assist and on what terms?

e. Restraint of trade – will the vendor be prevented from carrying on another business in competition with the business you are buying? It is also a good idea to restrict the vendor being able to solicit the customers and employees of the business you are buying for a reasonable period of time.

f. Finance – do you need to make the contract conditional on receiving finance to complete the purchase? If so, make sure you include a finance condition, otherwise you will have to front up with the money even if the bank turns down your finance application.

Remember - once you sign on the dotted line, you are bound by the terms of the contract, so make sure you get your lawyer to read the contract, and advise you fully on it, before you sign it. There is a much to think about when buying a business – the above tips combined with helpful expert advice will go a long way towards helping you buy wisely and minimise any nasty surprises.



James Johnston

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Ngati Porou photographer invited to UN exhibition

For beginner photographer Josie McClutchie, it was a dream come true. Josie (Ngati Porou, Rongomaiwahine, Rongowhakaata) has recently returned from New York City, where one of her photographs was selected for an indigenous photo exhibition at the tenth session of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues of the United Nations.

The theme of the exhibition was "The Right to Water and Indigenous Peoples". Although most of the photos focused on issues of access to fresh water, Josie wanted to highlight indigenous concerns about the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Bill, which at the time of her submission had just passed its second reading in Parliament.

Josie submitted a photo she had just taken at Auckland's Okahu Bay during an experimental session she had set up to practice her photography skills.

She recalls her subject, seven-year-old Denzel Hakopa Timu (a descendant of Ngati Whatua and the grandson of an University of Auckland



"Takutai Moana" (Foreshore and Seabed)



Josie McClutchie's photograph is being exhibited at the United Nations in New York.

colleague, Mere Gilman) had loads of patience as she sought to capture the perfect image. As Denzel played in the surf, Josie snapped around 100 shots. The result was the photo, "Takutai Moana" (Foreshore and Seabed).

"My father is a fisherman who for many years supplied kaimoana (seafood) to our tribe, Ngati Porou, particularly to the kaumatua of the district and for community hui such as tangihanga - so I have a personal relationship with the sea," says Josie.

"With this picture, I wanted to create the context for a broader discussion about Maori customary title and access to the foreshore and seabed and how uncertain that access has recently become for many Maori coastal communities with the passing of the new Marine and Coastal Bill. I also wanted to highlight that Maori have had an inseparable connection with the moana (ocean) since time immemorial, one that has fostered an enduring responsibility of guardianship, protection and care."

Josie, who was the only Maori participant at the exhibition, is particularly proud that her photo gave New Zealand and Ngati Porou a presence at such a prestigious event. Indeed, her photo was one of only 56 chosen from 140 submissions, many of which came from professional photographers.

"It was really inspiring to be there, around other indigenous nations and photographers. Photography is such a compelling, evocative way to get a message across. It's a great way to document our indigenous stories."



Ahi Kaa Heads to Parliament

Our country's political leaders had the opportunity to experience a world many may be unfamiliar with, when a digital photography exhibition by Ngati Porou rangatahi opened at Parliament in April.

"Ahi Kaa: Through Our Eyes" - A digital photography exhibition by Ngati Porou East Coast students began a successful seven week run in the Capital on Monday the 18th of April. The exhibition was brought to Parliament at the invitation of the Minister of Education, Hon. Anne Tolley.

The innovative exhibition featured exciting digital art works by rangatahi from Ngati Porou East Coast secondary schools within the Ngati Porou rohe: Tolaga Bay Area School, Kuranui, Ngata Memorial College, Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Waiu o Ngati Porou, and Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Kawakawa Mai Tawhiti.

The photographs are the students' own visual interpretation of the kaupapa Ahi Kaa, ("The people who keep the home fires burning"). The fifty two images selected for the show not only provide an intimate insight into modern day Ngati Porou culture and identity. The photographs also reflect the world they inhabit as well as their understanding of their place within it. The exhibition first opened in August 2010 at internationally renowned Maori art institution, Toi Houkura, where it received critical acclaim by the art community and general public in Gisborne. Two months later the images returned to their home land of Ngati Porou, where they were showcased at the Ngata Memorial Lectures in Ruatoria.

A large contingent of representatives from the schools, accompanied by Ngati Porou tribal leaders attended the opening ceremony for



Secretary for Education Karin Sewell with Tolaga Bay Area School student Riki Priestly. Riki was the subject of an Ahi Kaa photo called "Boy", which provided the promotional image for the exhibition. (Photo courtesy of Tolaga Bay Area School).

the exhibition. Many Ngati Porou who live and work in the capital also came along to lend their support. Minister Tolley says after the opening she visited the exhibition many times because it was so outstanding. "Many of my colleagues in Parliament were very impressed with the quality of the photos."

Parliament's Gallery Co-ordinator Michelle Janse, who looked after the exhibition while it was shown there said feedback she'd received from people who had come to view the works was very positive. "The exhibition looked great, and the standard of the photographs and how they were printed and described was very professional. People were amazed that it was the work of school students. Because of how well it was received we sought agreement with the organisers to seek approval from The Speaker to extend the exhibition for a further three weeks until June the third."

"I was personally very impressed with the quality of the photography and the varied subject matter that was covered. It gives an insight into the community, and real people have been captured naturally and artistically in the photographs. I believe the Ahi Kaa exhibition is suitable to tour to other locations and the students should be very proud of what they have achieved."

"Ahi Kaa" is the initiative of E Tipu E Rea (ETER) — the Te Runanga o Ngati Porou/Ministry of Education Iwi Partnership. The exhibition was developed as part of ETER's ICT (Information Communication Technology) strategy, Te Rangitawaea, which celebrates its tenth anniversary this year.

Chairperson of the Te Rangitawaea strategy Nori Parata says "Ahikaa has reached a far wider audience than we originally expected. The students have been amazed and proud that their work has been exhibited in three locations.

This has led to greater interest in this year's photography workshops held in each of our secondary schools, and the next exhibition which is entitled Kaitiaki: In Our Hands."

Ahi Kaa: Through Our Eyes" was supported by: Te Runanga o Ngati Porou, Ministry of Education, Toi Houkura, UNESCO NZ & Creative Communities.



A large group of Ngati Porou East Coast students attended the opening of Ahi Kaa at Parliament.

Te Reo Kaupoai

Te Whanau a Apanui recently hosted the 12th hui to wananga the translations of Nga Tama Toa: The Price of Citizenship on 13 June 2011 at the Apanui RSA, Te Kaha.

In September 2009 reo experts from throughout the C Company rohe ("mai i Tarakeha ki Paritu", that is from the iwi of Ngai Tai, Te Whanau a Apanui around the eastern seaboard through Ngati Porou to Rongowhakaata, Te Aitanga a Mahaki and Ngai Tamanuhiri) were convened by then TRONP CEO and book author Dr Monty Soutar as a Te Reo Ake o Ngati Porou project. The purpose was to wananga the unique dialects and mita of each C Company iwi through the translation work.



Nolan Raihania, he Morehu no te 28 (Maori) Battalion me tona tama, Ihi.

Lilian Tangaere-Baldwin, Matauranga Manager at TRONP says "This project administered by E Tipu e Rea and supported by Nga Taonga a Nga Tama Toa Trust as the book's copyright holder provides quality reo opportunities for all Ngati Porou reo learners, particularly those in schools

and kura. It has been exciting to work alongside the other iwi in C Company and for everybody in C Company to be able to participate in an academic wananga where distinctive reo forms of each of the C Company iwi are discussed, recorded and celebrated by our pakeke."

Since 2009, 11 hui have been held in Gisborne, Torere, Manutuke, Ruatoria, Te Kaha. 14 of 18 chapters have been translated and presented to the hui and umpteen amount of voluntary hours have been spent translating by the tohunga reo involved.

These pakeke, all native speakers, expert in the dialects of their own iwi kainga include Jossie and Willie Kaa, the late Dr Koro Dewes, Dr Apirana Mahuika, Sir Tamati Reedy, Ethel McPherson, Kate Walker all of Ngati Porou, Tussie Butler-Gamble and Kahu Stirling (Te Whanau a Apanui/Ngati Porou), Bill Maxwell and Muriwai Jones (Ngai Tai), Lewis Moeau (Rongowhakaata), Rutene Irwin (Te Aitanga a Mahaki, Ngai Tai). In attendance at various hui have been 28 (Maori) Battalion veterans Sir Henare Ngata, Nolan Raihania, John Waititi, Bill Te Kani, Tautini Glover and Pom Walker to speak to first hand their experiences of the war.

The following work remains on this project. The remaining chapters will be presented at hui in Ngati Porou, Muriwai and Auckland this year. An editor will be employed to work on preparing the translated version of the book for publishing. Visual resources will be prepared from the footage as well as recordings of the translations so learners can hear spoken Maori at its best.

Na reira, ka nui te mihi ki a koutou i whai wahi ki te tautoko i te kaupapa nei, hei aha, hei taonga ma nga uri whakatipu.

Muriwai Jones raua ko Bill Maxwell, nga kaiwhakamaori no Ngai Tai.



Walton Walker (kaikawe korero mo te hui) ratau ko Kahu Stirling me Tussie Butler-Gamble (nga kaiwhakamaori no Te Whanau a Apanui)



Wetahi o nga taura o Te Kura Mana Maori o Whangaparaoa, me to raua koka Kura Koopu me te tumuaki, Tuihana Pook.



Theme of 2011 Festival Promotes Guardianship

The kaupapa of this year's Te Rangitawaea/Nati Awards Festival is "Kaitiaki- In Our Hands". It is also the theme of the 2011 Ngati Porou East Coast Schools Photographic exhibition. Last year the kaupapa was "Ahi Kaa- Through Our Eyes." New Nati Awards categories to be introduced this year include Radio Documentary, and the Nati Network, based on social media sites. There is also a Radio Jingle section, where students are encouraged to make a short ad on the theme, "Kaitiaki o taku marae."

At the beginning of May a series of ICT workshops was delivered at Ngata Memorial College. Robotics, film-making, photography, animation and radio docs and jingles were covered. All schools were invited to send representatives to come along and get digitally upskilled. Many went away with new skills and ideas about how to approach the interesting festival kaupapa. Digital photography workshops were also offered to secondary students wanting to take part in the new photographic exhibition.



The amazing world of robotics was one of this year's Nati Awards ICT workshops.

A reminder about these important closing dates:

Secondary Schools Photography Exhibition

Theme: Kaitiaki: In Our Hands
Closing Date for Entries: Friday 1 July 2011
Date of Exhibition: Week of 8 August to 19 August 2011

Nati Awards

Theme: Kaitiaki: In Our Hands
Closing Date for Entries: Friday 12 August 2011
Date of Festival: Wednesday 28 September 2011

Radiothon Putea Handover

Te Runanga o Ngati Porou representatives recently travelled to Christchurch to meet with Ngati Porou whanaunga and to ascertain the level of support that is required. The Runanga has maintained regular communication with Ngati Porou ki Waitaha ever since the devastating earthquake struck and has provided as much support as possible throughout this time.

The journey began on the 15th of May with CEO Victor Walker presenting Ngati Porou ki Waitaha representatives with a cheque for \$50,000 raised through the Radio Ngati Porou Radiothon which took place on the 3rd March. This 'low key' affair took place at Rehua Marae with Maru Stirling, Acting Chairperson of Ngati Porou ki Waitaha graciously accepting the cheque with the assurance that a hui would be held to determine how best to utilise the funds.

Anne Huriwai (Senior Manager – Whanau Oranga services) along with Robyn Smith (Service Manager) & Reihana Tipoki (Kaitoko Whanau) remained in Christchurch for a further 3 days making house calls with the support of Kim Wetini from Te Puni Kokiri and Linda Ngata from Te Runanga o Nga Maata Waka. Rachael Fonotia (Manger of the Aranui Community Trust) also provided information on the issues facing many whanau residing in the Eastern Suburbs.

Over three days we made contact with around 40 whanau" says Anne Huriwai. "Everyone had a story to tell and they all began with the night of the quake" she adds. "It was a humbling

experience and I truly admire their strength and resilience”.

Many whanau who were contacted did not require any support but were thankful for the Runanga visiting. Then there were those who had no jobs, were living with whanau as their homes were unsafe and whose children needed to be transported across town to attend school. The financial burden placed on some further impacting on their lives. Additionally, there were about five (that we know of) who had left the area.

“There were two Nati’s that we spoke to who wanted to leave and we are doing all we can to make this happen” says Anne Huriwai. On a positive note there were some issues that were able to be addressed immediately. One homeowner just wanted some rubbish cleared from his backyard. Fortunately we were able to advise him of a free pick up service. Another had not registered with the EQC and was referred to Nga Maata Waka for assistance. There was also a whanau who was supported over the phone by the Budget Advisor based in Ruatoria. “If we are able to provide support through our services based in Ruatoria and Gisborne then that is what we will do but in the first instance whanau are encouraged to utilise the Social Service providers in their area” says Anne Huriwai. “We are happy to liaise with these providers on their behalf if need be”.



Whanau Oranga Social Services Manager Anne Huriwai (right) with Kim Wetini. (left). Kim works for Te Puni Kokiri and is a member of Ngati Porou Ki Waitaha.

And what about the two cows and 10 chicken that were donated as a part of the Radiothon you may well ask? These along with many items that have been donated will be made into grocery hampers and distributed to those in need when the Runanga visit again in July.

Te Runanga o Ngati Porou chief executive Victor Walker would like to reiterate his appreciation on behalf of the runanga for all the whanau who helped support the fundraising effort. “The aroha which was expressed was very much appreciated by the whanau in Christchurch. He mapihi pounamu no tau o te wai.”



The whanau of Ngati Porou Ki Waitaha after receiving the putea donated from the Radiothon.



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Jack Thatcher

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New Zealand Government

Tairawhiti School Attendance Service

A new initiative to increase the attendance levels of rangatahi in schools in the Gisborne/East Coast region is being piloted by Te Runanga o Ngati Porou. This is as a result of statistics released which noted that Gisborne had one of the highest truancy rates in the country.

Previously the Runanga has operated a District Truancy Service (DTS) for Coast schools only, and Lytton High School has been the fundholder for the DTS in that area. The DTS programmes were focused only on those students not attending school. Those long-term absentees (non enrolled), usually 20 days or longer, were referred to a national agency called NETSERVE. This pilot is about integrating both the non attendance service and the non enrolled service into one seamless programme.

There are two pilots in Aotearoa, the one in Gisborne/East Coast and one in Manukau South who both have very low attendance records and a high number of non enrolled students. The TSAS pilot is based on the East Coast model of working where a Kaiawhina is based in a host school surrounded by a cluster of schools. The Kaiawhina is responsible for and responsive to the schools in their cluster.

Transposing the coast model of working to Gisborne is a natural progression for the Runanga as the model is based on such concepts as whanaungatanga – knowing our community and our whanau; manaaki – caring for our rangatahi and their whanau; and awahi – providing the right support to achieve positive outcomes for the



New TSAS Kaiawhina (from left rear) Kim Torrez, Colin Taare, Connie Henare (Supervisor). In front (l-r) are Melanie Glover and Laurie Sadlier. Inset photo: Karen Hollis is another member to join the kaiawhina team.



whole whanau. This transition also means the Runanga can service not only the rohe, but also Ngati Porou living in Turanganui a Kiwa. Kaiawhina involved in this project and their host schools are:

Marina Ngatai – Te Waha o Rerekohu
 Rawinia Soulis-McClutchie – Ngata Memorial College
 MaryAnne Crawford – Tolaga Bay Area School
 Kim Torrez – Ilminster Intermediate
 Melanie Glover – Gisborne Boys High School
 Karen Hollis – Gisborne Girls High School
 Colin Taare – Lytton High School
 Laurie Sadlier – Te Karaka Area School



“Excellence in Ngati Porou Farming Recognised”

The huge progress made by Ngati Porou owned Pakihiroa Station was recognised recently when the farm was announced as the Eastern Zone Regional winner of the Ahuwhenua Trophy. The win reflected the “best in class” practices Pakihiroa has adopted in terms of farm production governance and environmental practices. The practices are also being reflected in Pakihiroa's improving financial performance. The competition started in 1932 by Ta Apirana with support from then Governor General, Lord Bledisloe recognises “Excellence in Maori Farming”

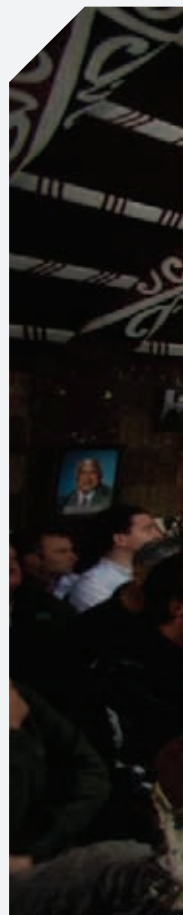
While Te Runanga o Ngati Porou remains the sole shareholder, the company Directors have a clear mandate and authority to focus on Pakihiroa's commercial success. This is tempered only by their duty as kaitiaki of the whenua entrusted to them. Pakihiroa Chairman said “Pakihiroa Board is focussed on best practice in all we do. Participation in the Ahuwhenua has meant we have had to open our books to outside scrutiny. The competition judges have benchmarked us against other farms to ensure we are governing our assets appropriately and for the benefit of Ngati Porou”

The win is seen as an endorsement of the business strategy and the progress made since Pakihiroa became a standalone commercial entity in 2007. The Boards of Directors led by Chairperson Selwyn Parata, and including Tate Pewhairangi (Deputy Chair), Bill Burdett, Wi Mackey, Lance Rickard, Hilton Collier and the late Koro Dewes appointed a new management team comprising Luke and Jane Scragg.



Working with Farm Supervisor Hilton Collier they have worked on hard to bring the property up to the standard expected. Under Luke's management there has been around 23 km of fencing done - mostly by farm staff, with contractors brought in for longer lines. Access around Pakihiroa re-opened and 2 sets of satellite yards built. At the same time Jane has been busy improving the homes, with gardens, planting trees along the driveway into the station and other tree plantings around yards at Pakihiroa.

Farming Systems to grow stock to achieve target weights put in place with regular monitoring to make sure these targets are achieved. This in turn allows certainty of income generation. “By knowing how much grass we grow and what weights our sheep are at any time, we can forecast fairly accurately predict lambing will be and what our sheep sale weights will be. This means we know our income and can operate properly” said Farm Supervisor Hilton Collier.



Pakihiroa has planted 315 ha of Pine and Eucalyptus forest in sensitive riparian areas to protect against erosion. The pines are for timber, while the Eucalyptus is for carbon sequestering. Both these plantings are joint ventures with Ngati Porou Whanui Forest Limited.

Around 1,500 ha of Pakihiroa is fenced off Ngahere and includes Hikurangi maunga. Since the resumption of the Ahuwhenua competition in 2003, other Eastern Regional winners have included, Marotiri Partnership, Matariki Partnership and Whangara Farms. In 2009 Whangara Farms went on to win the National Ahuwhenua when it was hosted in Tairāwhiti.

The winner of the National Award for 2011 was announced at a fabulous gala dinner in Rotorua on Friday 3 June as Waipapa 9 Trust. In being named the 2011 winner Waipapa 9 created history in being the first winners of both the Sheep and Beef and Dairy Trophy.

“Ahuwhenua Field day at Pakihiroa”

Ngati Porou welcomed about 250 manuhiri to Mangahanea Marae at the start of the Ahuwhenua field day held at Pakihiroa. Manuhiri included representatives from other regional finalists, Otakanini Topu near Kaipara and Waipapa 9 near Taupo as well as those who had travelled from throughout Hawkes Bay, Wairoa, Gisborne and the East Coast. Following the powhiri, Pakihiroa chairman introduced the members of Pakihiroa team and then went on to outline the ownership, governance and management of this iconic farming business.

The audience were then stunned by the first public display of the farms promotional DVD showing images of Waiapu, Hikurangi as well as Pakihiroa set to Kahu Waitoas beautiful “Taku Manawa.” After morning tea the manuhiri departed for the farm where they were made well aware of the challenges Pakihiroa poses as heavy rain set in. Despite the heavy rainfall around 80, 4 wheeler ATVs, took the party from



Inside Hinetapora whareniui at Mangahanea during the powhiri. (Photo by Alphapix)

the woolshed to the Maui Whakairo. Here Selwyn Parata explained the meaning of the Pou to the group. For many it was their first trip to the foot of Hikurangi and none will ever forget the memorable occasion. At different vantage points throughout Pakihiroa various speakers explained some of the work that was being done at Pakihiroa. John Kopua from NPWFL described how 315 ha had been identified as having a high erosion risk and as a result had been fenced off and planted in pines and eucalyptus. The pines were for timber while the Eucalyptus was to sequester carbon.

GDCs, Kerry Hudson outlined the impact Overlay 3A has had on Pakihiroa and how much of the area classed as 3A had been treated. Manager Luke Scragg had made sure the visitors were able to see as much stock as possible during the tour. All stock presented were a real credit to the farm team and received favourable comments through the day. Ram Breeder Rick Spence complimented Luke for the way his hoggets had been grown out with all ewe hoggets on the property weighing in at 46 kg. At these weights they were heavier enough to be successfully mated with 1466 being joined to the ram in May.

Luke described how since starting at Pakihiroa around 23 km of fencing had been done. Despite this there were still just 17 paddocks. Further fencing was constrained by the challenging terrain limiting sites suitable for fences. Despite the limited subdivision the mostly farmer visitors were amazed at the exceptionally good grazing management and the very high quality of pastures on Pakihiroa. It is little wonder that in 3 years both the number of sale lambs has increased at the same time the average sale weight lifted from 30 to almost 40 kg liveweight.

The decision to prioritise fencing meant there had been limited application of fertiliser in the past 4 years. Sue Quilter from Ravensdown explained management had already begun to plan for more fertiliser to be applied as the priority shifted to growing more grass. Future applications on Pakihiroa would be based on applying phosphate and sulphur

although testing had indicated some benefit in using lime.

The use of technology had been embraced on Pakihiroa with farm modelling tool Farmax being used to better measure on farm production. Stephen Thompson described how different strategies could be fully analysed to help management make better decisions. "Farmax helps us to better measure the impact of preferentially feeding different stock classes at critical times" he said when describing how the tool was used.

The importance of measuring and benchmarking was stressed by Garth Nelsen-Vold. He outlined the "back office" systems that had been put in place to make sure Pakihiroa was achieving its targets. At the end of each month not only do we know how much money we have either spent or earned, but we also know how much product we have sold and how much we have left to sell for the year. This is important as we can really only influence how much we produce rather than the price we sell for.



Members of the Pakihiroa management and governance team up at the woolshed.
(Photo by Alphapix)

“Just a step in a longer journey”

While Pakihiroa was not able to win the National Ahuwhenua Competition, its success in the Eastern Region is seen as an endorsement of the company's direction and strategy.

Pakihiroa sees a need to development strategic relationships with other like-minded farmers to grow into a farming business of genuine scale and ability. In recent years we have seen the move towards the formation of farming partnerships throughout the Ngaitporou. These moves are seen as a way of ensuring land remains within Ngatiporou ownership and for the benefit of owners.

It is no longer enough to simply focus on retention without using the land appropriately for the benefit of this as well as for our future generations. Farming in the next 100 years will be about the supply of high quality branded foods. We need to shift our focus from simply being “sheep and beef” farmers to being food producers. While we continue to see ourselves as “Sheep and Beef” farmers we will remain commodity producers. We are unable to set prices for our sheep and beef produce, regardless of how good the product might be.

Our farms are like a factory producing butter but at a price higher than people will pay. As a result we have less to spend and so fences don't get repaired, scrub doesn't get cut and sooner or later we have less stock and the spiral sees us stop farming.

The need to shift up the value chain has already been recognised by Ngatiporou Seafoods Group with their move into fish retailing. Pakihiroa sees a need move to higher value products in order to be sustainable. We will still have a farm with sheep and cattle. We do expect to change how we present these products for sale.

Pakihiroa leadership in this arena was endorsed following a hui with Otakanini Topu and Waipapa 9 preceding the recent Ahuwhenua dinner. A high level agreement was reached for these



Just another normal day at the office for the many farmers who came to check out the Field day at Pakihiroa. (Photo by Alphapix)

farms to look at how they can work together in future. Hilton Collier was appointed to co-ordinate the group.

Pakihiroa Directors are available to talk to any Ngatiporou farmers about working together for the benefit of all parties.

“Kia ora Ngati Porou”

The Pakihiroa Board paid tribute to the tremendous support received as they tried to return the Ahuwhenua Trophy to Tairawhiti in consecutive competitions.

There was outstanding support from across Ngati Porou including, Te Runanga o Ngati Porou, and staff, Mangahanea Marae Trustees Te Whanau a Hinetapora, Te Kohanga Reo o Hinetapora Whakarua Park Board, Porourangi Marae Trustees, Kakariki Marae Trustees Whareponga Marae Trustees, Te Heapera Marae Trustees, ma nga Tumau o Mangahanea.



What's Happening in the rohe... by Mark Ngata (GM)

Business Highlights:

- Some structural changes recently to the fish shop that have improved customer flows as well as providing seating for those waiting for their mouth watering fish and chips, so hope you like it.
- Contract processing has become a key component of our business activities with export products distributed to Australia, Asia, and USA, as well as domestically through the joint venture partnership with Aotearoa Fisheries Ltd.
- Up-skilling staff is important for future growth. Senior staff have spent time at Sanford's plant in Tauranga gaining valuable knowledge and experience which is an initiative part of the strategic partnership with Sanford's.
- Taking our fish to the people, we will be introducing a mobile fish shop that will travel up the coast on a weekly basis as well as providing a presence at local events like the wine and food festival and farmers market so watch this space for more information.
- Students from Te Araroa visited the plant recently as part of their customary fisheries workshop. Understanding both sides of the debate often assists better discussion and decisions. It was a pleasure showing the students around and we hope more educational visits will be arranged in the future.
- The NP Foreshore & Seabed committee have been busy over the last several months progressing key areas within the work plan, which included hui with cluster groups to promote fishery management plans. Further hui will be held as we move towards key deadlines for completion.

Collaboration Key For Growth In Maori Fisheries:

- Key themes from the Maori Economic Taskforce report and the Maori Fisheries Conference recently was the value of collaboration between Iwi, Maori businesses, and Govt agencies in order to benefit from growing globally opportunities within the added value and primary sector markets.
- NPSG provided a living example of this through the Iwi Collective Partnership (ICP) which brings together the fisheries assets of 12 iwi to improve profitability, be more influential in sustainability areas, and develop opportunities for future growth of its capacity and capability within the Fisheries / Seafood sectors.

Matauranga Ngati Porou:

- Matauranga Ngati Porou is the science and innovation strategy developed by TRONP and its commercial businesses that will implement key growth strategies based around better utilisation of science, research, and development in conjunction with funding providers. Chris Insley has been tasked with establishing the unit that will undertake this work which provides a fantastic opportunity for Ngati Porou.
- Aligned to this NPSG has employed Lesley McLeod, who has a dual degree in MAppSc (Aquaculture), and BSc (Marine & Biological Sciences). She is currently completing her PHD in Marine Ecology which focuses on larve behaviour in koura and paua. Her role will look to identify the value chain within the Seafood Industry, identifying an aquaculture strategy for NPSG, and adding value through by-products R&D. Lesley is of Ngati Porou descent growing up at Kennedy's Bay, Coromandel.

“Me te tiaki te moana me ona rawa, ka taea te whakahiato nga kai moana tokomaha rawa atu ma Ngati Porou me ona hapu mo ake tonu atu”

CHOW DOWN

Tony Pereira from Real Fresh free-styles a seafood chowder recipe . . .

Seafood Chowder

Although this is not a traditional chowder recipe due to the roux, it is a simple tasty dish for the cold days ahead and will hold well in the fridge if you want to have a tasty treat the next day — often it has more flavour.

The base of the chowder can be made in advance to be assembled

with any fresh seafood at your convenience.

I have added bacon to this recipe because I like the rich smokiness and depth in flavour achieved in the chowder.

Almost any seafood — fresh, frozen or smoked — can be used in chowders. This recipe is a guideline, the options are endless.

40 gm butter
200 gm smoky bacon, diced
1 med onion, finely diced
1 large carrot, diced
2 sticks celery, diced
1 small leek, diced
30 gm plain flour
2 litre fish stock
2 bay leaves
2 medium potatoes, peeled and diced
1 cup whole kernel corn
Pinch of sea salt
Cracked black pepper
Cayenne pepper
200gm diced fresh gurnard (any fresh fish will do) — available at Real Fresh.
300gm Marinara mix or diced mussel meat
Cream
Chopped parsley

Method:

• In a thick-bottomed soup pot, sauté the diced bacon, onion and vegetables (except diced potato and whole kernel corn) in the

butter until soft.

• Add flour and cook for a couple of minutes to make a slack roux stirring continuously.
• Slowly add heated fish stock to the roux, again stirring continuously to make the base of the chowder.

(This can be cooled and refrigerated for use another day)

• Add diced potatoes and whole kernel corn.

• Reduce heat and simmer slowly for one hour.

• Add all seafood and cook further until just done — should not be longer than five minutes.

• Remove bay leaves.

• Season with sea salt and cracked pepper.

• Finish with a small, or if you like, a large splash of cream, cayenne pepper and chopped parsley.

Accompany with crusty bread. Serves approximately six.

Enjoy.

Picture by Rebecca Grunwell



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RADIO NGATI POROU
TE REO O TE IW

Broadcasting live from a Hui near you

Whenever there's a major Nati event happening on the Coast you're certain to find Radio Ngati Porou there as well, broadcasting the hui out to the rest of the iwi. Production manager and "Brekkie" show host Kahu Waitoa has been part of this team since 1996, and has helped ensure the broadcasts go out as smoothly as possible across the tribal airwaves.

Some of the most recent hui RNP have delivered outside broadcasts (OB) from include the investiture of Sir Tamati Reedy at Hiruharama Pa, the Ahu Whenua Field day at Mangahanea marae and the Manu Korero and Kapa haka competition at Ngata Memorial College. Behind the scenes at each event, Kahu was there making sure RNP's listeners could also feel a part of the proceedings.

"When we do an OB there are a lot of things to organize," says Kahu. "Each event we do is different and demands its own specific technical requirements. For example when we did the OB at Ngata College we used the internet. Our live feed had to be sent to Auckland to a company called Stream Com, who then relayed it back to the studio. I like internet broadcasts the best because the sound comes out crystal clear."

For the {Ahu Whenua} Pakihiroa Open Day broadcast Kahu says they had to try a different approach. "We had to use the marae landline for that one. A long extension cord was run from our set up in the wharenui to the phone in the kitchen. We broadcast the kaikorero using a boom mike and amplifier, and our announcer Sonia used a wireless mike to describe what was happening to our audience during the short breaks.



Kahu demonstrating the set up he uses for one-man live rugby commentary. He uses a headset and a remote mix sport unit which plugs into a phone line.

Coming across technical difficulties are an inevitable part of Kahu's role, and the investiture at Hiruharama Pa presented its own set of challenges. This is when good old Ngati Porou ingenuity comes in to play. "Because the marae needed to have its phone line free, we had to send out our feed through a cell phone. Everything was going ok, until suddenly our OB desk broke down. So I asked Rory [RNP Production Assistant] to go and grab the amplifier we had set up in the dining room. When he brought it back I plugged in a device I'd created using two headphones taped together, to send the feed back to the station."

Kahu says everything he knows about delivering outside broadcasts comes from hands on practical experience. "When I first joined the station I learned a lot from our radio technician Ron Hughes. Back in those days all our live feeds were sent out using a phone line, we didn't have all the gadgets like we do now."

But he says that common sense plays a major role in doing the mahi he does.

"You have to work problems out in your head, and not get stressed out. Preparation is also a key thing. Before the broadcast you have to

make sure all the announcers are prepared and have the right information. You have to test that all your leads are good and not buzzing, and also check out the venue to identify what you need to set up. Before the Manu Korero I made sure there weren't any potential obstacles that could get in our way if our tech crew needed to get to the stage and fix any technical problems."

Kahu believes someone wanting to work on the technical side of radio should possess the following characteristics. "Number one is they shouldn't get stressed out easily. You have to keep your cool in our job especially when things don't work out like you planned."

"You should also be a friendly person because you have to communicate with lots of people. Having some training behind you is also good so you have an idea of what your doing." Kahu says he finds most satisfaction from his role when he know's the live feeds are flowing

nicely. " I also enjoy doing OBs at the kapa haka festivals because I also get to watch the groups perform as well. "



Kahu with one of RNP's announcers Sonja Aupouri, broadcasting the Manu Korero from the hall at Ngata Memorial College.



RNP's Sonia Talamo out amongst the crowd at the college.

Capturing Our History on Film

Moving from the world of audio into the world of visual story telling is one of the aspirations Radio Ngati Porou is currently exploring. Recently the station created a DVD about iwi taonga, and have been out & about filming tribal hui. Radio Ngati Porou chief executive Erana Reedy believes the move is in keeping with the station's kaupapa.

"Broadcasting and recording historic Ngati Porou events is one of our roles, as I see it," she says. "We do that very well with the Outdoor Broadcasts we cover, like Sir Tamati Reedy's investiture and the Pakihiroa Open Day. Recording these events on film is just a progression of that. There is ability for us, not only to film events for archival purposes but to also make television programmes out of them for Maori Television and other networks." She also adds, "I've spent most of my working career making Maori language television programmes for TVNZ and Maori Television and one of my objectives is to build the capacity of our staff, indeed Ngati Porou, to produce television programmes. We make radio programmes out of our archive recordings and fresh material, therefore adding pictures to make television is the next step."

The station has just completed producing their first corporate DVD for the National Library of New Zealand. The purpose of the DVD was to showcase what taonga Maori is held in their various collections, as part of a promotional road show to iwi throughout Aotearoa. Interviews were done with eleven of the library's curators about the vast range of taonga in their collections, and footage was taken of how the taonga was cared for. Erana says the DVD has been well received by the iwi where it has been shown. "The National Library also love it



The investiture of Sir Tamati Reedy was one of the hui RNP has recently filmed. From left to right: Hon Sir Peter Tapsell KNZM (1996), MBE; Sir Henare Ngata, KBE (1981), JP; His Excellency The Honourable Sir Anand Satyanand GNZM (2006), QSO; Dame Iritana Tawhiwhirangi, DNZM (2009); Sir Harawira Gardiner, DCNZM (2008). (Photo courtesy Nori Parata).

and there's possibility of future work with them. Television director Cushla Tangaere-Manuel, who has returned to live in Rangitukia, directed the project for Radio Ngati Porou and I'm proud of the work she did."

The station also contracted the services of Trudy Lewis, who has extensive experience in the television industry and is currently a tutor at Matapuna Training Centre. Trudy and one of her students filmed the powhiri, speeches and knighting ceremony and were also able to conduct interviews on the day. Among the people who were interviewed included the Governor General, His Excellency Sir Anand Satyanand. Erana says she and the film crew also made sure to catch the action behind the scenes.

"We arrived at Hiruharama early for the investiture so we managed to get around to the kitchen where it was alive with activity. Some of the cooks were gun shy, but most were happy to talk about how proud they were that the investiture had been returned home to Sir Tamati's marae, so we could all enjoy the event."

In the future Erana hopes to repatriate other film recordings which were conducted by the station in the 1980s/1990s and edit them in to programmes. "We're also working to reconstruct our website. Once that's up and running, my dream is to stream audio-visual samples of our archive on our website."

Passion For Te Reo Inspires Show Host

Te Kokonga Korero host Sonia Talamo joined Radio Ngati Porou at the end of last year, and since then has enjoyed every moment of her relatively new broadcasting career.

Sonia was born and raised in Hiruharama & Whareponga and is the daughter of Lucy (Nee Haenga) and Kapaterangi Keelan. The marae she affiliates to include Whareponga, Hiruharama & Te Aowera and her hapu are Te Aitanga A Mate & Te Awemapara. The mother of four is fluent in Te Reo Maori, English and Spanish. She picked up espanol in Argentina when she went on an AFS exchange. She learnt Maori as a young child by listening to her parents speak the language at home, and also by attending hui and immersing herself in whaikorero, kawa & tikanga on the marae.

After going away to study Sonia returned to Ruatorea six years ago, and soon afterwards met her Hawaiian/Italian husband Travis Talamo, who had come to the Coast on a surfing trip. Prior to starting at the station Sonia had worked in the Hikurangi Foodmarket & local kohanga Reo, and when the opportunity to join the station became available she jumped at it. She says, "I just love new challenges and I learn things really fast. It didn't take me long to just mould into it and learn how to use the desk and software. I also really wanted to develop my reo which I'm really passionate about."

The format of Te Kokonga Korero runs each week day from 9am to 10am. Twice a week she speaks to local tamariki in the Korero a Kura segment, but mainly the show is a mix of current affairs and community news. "I try to have a theme each week, and research using the web, newspapers and TV. I also produce mini-documentaries to play on the show."



Sonia with whanau. Standing at the back of photo Sonia is carrying son, Zion. Infront husband Travis is holding son Judah, while daughter Psalm & son Kokouri stand next to them.

Initially Sonia was nervous when she began her new job. "At first I used to script everything before I went into the studio, but now it's a lot easier. My confidence has grown by interviewing different people. I try to research abit about them and have some questions prepared in my head before I talk to them."

She says her favourite part of her role is being apart of the outside broadcasts. "I love being exposed to different environments and trying to paint a picture of what's happening in the minds of the listeners. Now that I'm more confident I can walk up to people and ask questions off the cuff and be more spontaneous. But I still try to mentally prepare myself, so I don't make too many mistakes."

The experience of working at the station has made Sonia re-evaluate her future.

"Radio has helped me realize what my abilities are and what I'm capable of. I didn't ever think I would work in this industry, or be any good at it. But now I love it, and it's pushed me to develop my skills further. I want to keep working in the media, and create programmes in te reo. That's what drives me now."



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Ngati Porou Forests Ltd appoints new General Manager

The Chairman of Ngati Porou Forests, Whaimutu Dewes, is pleased to announce the appointment of Daniel Williams to the position of General Manager.

Daniel Williams, who was formerly employed in Gisborne by Ernslaw One Ltd, started his new role on 1 June.

Whaimutu Dewes says "Daniel has the qualifications and experience to help take the company and Ngati Porou forestry to new levels of achievement of providing top class forestry options for Ngati Porou land owners. He has joined a team that has strong relationships with Ngati Porou Forest Ltd partners, land owners, government agencies and other key stakeholders and, in conjunction with other industry stakeholders is working toward reaching the potential that he, the rest of the team and the region in general all have."

Daniel has whakapapa links to Te Whanau a Ruataupare Ki Tuparoa and Te Aitanga a Mahaki. He is the son of Jim and Pat Williams (nee Irwin). His maternal grandparents are Rod Irwin and Maraea Reedy, and went to school in Gisborne.

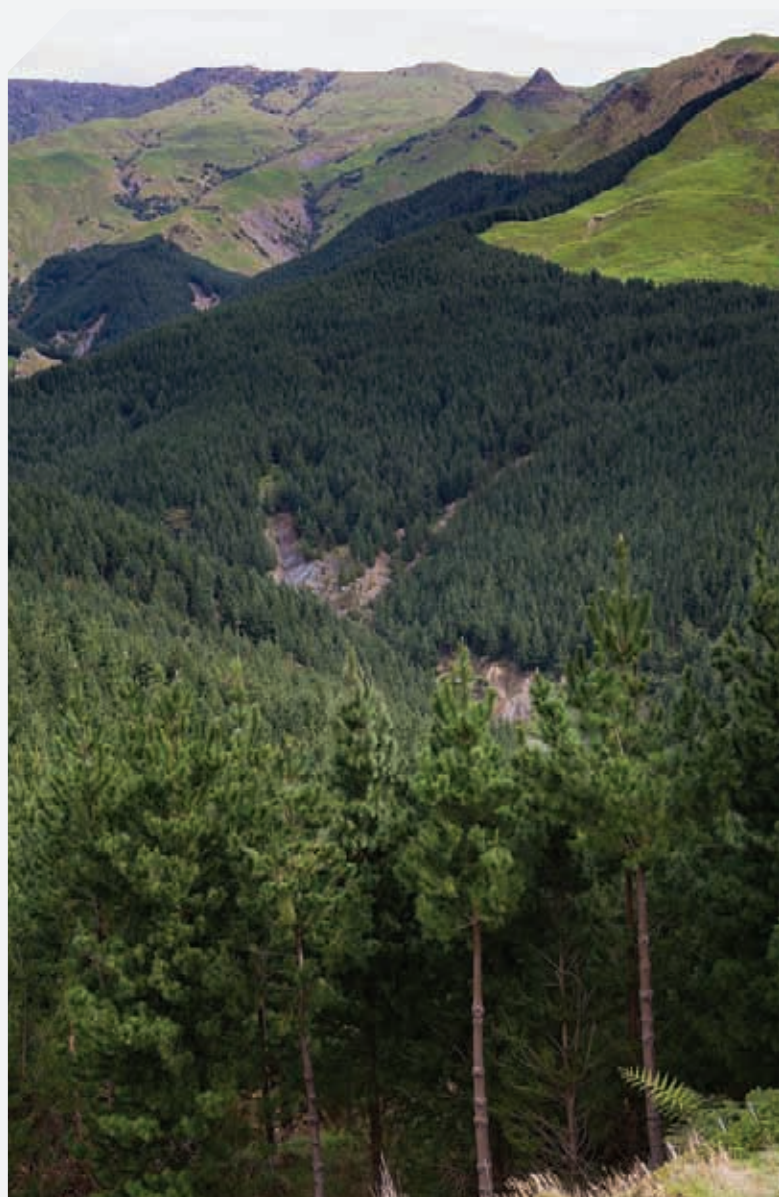
He has a Bachelor of Forestry science degree with honours from Canterbury University.

"I am very excited to accept the position of General Manager with Ngati Porou Forests Ltd. I look forward to leading this organisation and maximising the returns and benefits for Ngati Porou land owners and business partners".



Daniel with wife Shannon and son Jack.

To contact Daniel Williams call 021672628 or email danielw@npwfl.co.nz.





Mate Kauti, Ki te Manawa Tenei Take – The Gout, Lets Get to the Heart of the Matter

The two-day hui held at Pakirikiri Marae in Tokomaru Bay on 17-18 March this year featured presentations and discussions specialists and researchers in arthritis, rheumatology, diabetes and heart disease from all over the country. 'Let's Get to the Heart of the Matter' was the main kaupapa (topic) of the hui.

A key message was the fact that gout can be a warning bell for risks of heart disease and/or of diabetes if it is not treated. About 100 people from local communities and health professionals from around the country participated in the hui which was co-organised by Ngati Porou Hauora and the Counties Manukau DHB Maori Gout Action Group, with support from the Health Research Council, Pharmac, the University of Otago, and Roche Diagnostics NZ.

Ngati Porou Hauora Chief Executive, Nellie Brooking said that holding the hui on Pakirikiri Marae, Tokomaru Bay was a great way for NPH to shine a spotlight on gout and related conditions which affect a significant portion of our population. The opportunity for us to co-host this national hui arose through strong research relationships developed over the last five years with colleagues in Otago and Auckland, and initially forged through the vision and networks of Dr Paratene Ngata.

"The hui provided for a fertile discussion between the community, health practitioners, policy makers, and researchers. We appreciated the manaakitanga of the Marae Committee and whanau which created a positive



The hui was held at Pakirikiri marae in Tokomaru Bay.

context in which to achieve the valuable outcomes and a list of practical actions for us all to take" she said.

Victor Walker, Ngati Porou Runanga Chief Executive opened the event saying, "I am a gout sufferer" ... and stressing how important it was to remove the stigma from the having the gout. In his warm and humorous way, Victor focused everyone's attention on the kaupapa of the hui by sharing his own whanau stories about what they now understand about the gout, and how to eat, drink, exercise and "slip down the allopurinol (prescribed gout medicine)" to prevent attacks. Maori Party Ikaroa-Rawhiti candidate Na Raihanian conveyed co-leader Tariana Turia's apologies for being unable to attend, saying that gout was an illness that was endemic in the Maori world.



Some of the hui participants. (L-R): Gabrielle Sexton (Gout Research Nurse, CCRep Middlemore Hospital, Auckland), Devi-Anne Hall (Nurse Leader, CMDHB Te Kaahui Ora Maaori Health Services), Tania Cotter (HPV Outreach Co-ordinator, Western Bay of Plenty PHO), Gina Chaffey (Rural Health Nurse, Ngati Porou Hauora), Tiana Bennett (Health Promotion Co-ordinator, Western Bay of Plenty PHO) and Nancy Aupouri (Gout Research Nurse, Ngati Porou Hauora).

Peter Gow, Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at South Auckland Clinical School and Head of Rheumatology at Middlemore Hospital, has worked closely with Coast whanau over a long period of time, including through the NPH & University of Otago Gout Research Project, talking with Mana Tane (Ngati and Healthy), and to support a recent Coast Gout Audit by NPH's Dr Akin Ojo.

Dr Gow talked about how gout can be managed successfully when doctors and nurses work closely with the patient and the whanau. Otago University gout geneticist and researcher, Dr Tony Merriman spoke about the role genes play in who ends up with gout. Dr Merriman explained how Maori and Polynesian peoples are especially susceptible to gout related illnesses because of a genetic variation which can hamper the excretion of uric acid. The build up of uric acid crystals in the fluid around the joints causes the painful symptoms of gout.

In the evening, Ngati Porou Hauora Dr Ojo presented his audit of 'Gout on The Coast' and concluded that more regular uric acid levels checks were needed – which is already now happening in NPH. He also concluded that everyone needed to know the importance of continuing to take their own prescribed allopurinol or other medicines, to avoid sugary soft drinks and fruit juice, and to drink lots more water in our climate. Ruatoria nurses Mary Anne Barton and Gina Chaffey-Aupouri shared their observations and reiterated those messages, as did Leanne Te Karu from a chemist's perspective. The evening ended with Dr Gary Sinclair, now based in Alice Springs, sharing how he and nurses in Ta Paeefika, South Auckland had improved how they supported people to manage their gout by a simple clinic computer check-list that they developed.

The second day of the hui featured sessions on the link between gout and heart disease led by public health specialist Doone Winnard, and by Dr Vicky Cameron about a community heart study in Wairoa and Christchurch. Pharmac presenters had highlighted the importance of addressing heart disease on Thursday.

Rheumatologist Nicola Dalbeth presented recent information on links between gout and diabetes. Isaac Warbrick shared information from his

Massey University PhD study on insulin sensitivity and fitness in Maori men. He was followed by Dr Ihi Heke and Turanga Health colleagues about their project with pakeke (kaumatua) about gait, diabetes, gout and Addidas footwear. And finally Ngati Porou Hauora Mana Tane coordinator Roger White and colleagues spoke about their healthy food gathering and growing, kai and korero activities, along with Richard Cooper about the successful initiatives taken by groups of men in South Auckland.

Throughout the hui many people took advantage of the free uric acid level finger-prick tests and related health checks provided by Roche Diagnostics NZ and NPH nurses.

HOW CAN WE PREVENT AND MANAGE GOUT?

Ngati Porou Hauora Gout Research Nurse, Nancy Aupouri, who works with whanau with and without diagnoses of gout says that making sure family members know what to do if someone has an attack of gout is important. She says doctors and nurses are there to help you put an action plan in place to prevent, as well as manage, gout attacks and also the related risks of heart disease and diabetes.

That plan includes

- regular check-ups of your uric acid level
- eating healthily
- drinking lots of water
- avoiding sugary drinks
- taking all medications as prescribed
- asking family and friends for support to stick to a programme of light exercise.
- Eating and drinking to prevent gout attacks
- Eat three meals each day
- Choose small servings of meat, chicken, and seafood
- Enjoy low-fat dairy foods every day
- Drink less alcohol

Acknowledgements: Information provided by Arthritis New Zealand, Auckland City Hospital Dieticians, Counties Manukau Maori Gout Action Group, Middlemore Dieticians, Middlemore Hospital Rheumatology Department, Dr Peter Gow, Ngati Porou Hauora, and Pharmac. Thanks also to the Gisborne Herald for its summary of this information on the Health Page, 22 March 2011. For a website link to the Out with Gout booklet that is also available from NPH health centres, see <http://www.healthnavigator.org.nz/health-topics/gout>

World Smoke Free Day 31 May 2011

Ngati Porou Hauora Aukati Kaipapa Quit Smokers Te Rina Timutimu and Alex Milner, with the help of their work colleagues and NPH Board Trustee Richard Ngati, held an information and awareness morning at Kaiti Mall from 9 am to 12 noon on Tuesday 31 May to celebrate World Smoke Free Day.

Before the Aukati Kaipapa Quit Coaches and their team had even finished setting up their "information and display centre" members of the public were approaching them inquiring or signing up for the programme – and this was prior to "Chef de Sausage Sizzle" Richard Ngatai, producing many of his famous sizzling delights!! There was a steady stream of interest by people of all ages throughout the morning, some of whom were the lucky recipients of give away



The team – Alex Milner, Miriama Johnston, Perak Smith, Georgie McLeod, Te Rina Timutimu

bags containing helpful information, lip balm, Aveeno moisturizer and body wash, bookmarks, etc. Among the many people making enquiries and seeking information, 25 signed up for the programme which offers a variety of methods for those wishing to quit smoking - Nicotene



Signing Up – Alex and clients

Replacement Therapy, Champix or Zyban - and most importantly, the ongoing support and assistance offered by the Quit Coaches.

Quit Coach Te Rina Timutimu, who has been in this role since 2008, enjoys helping those who want to live healthier lives. She said she has found the biggest motivator for successfully quitting the smoking habit is "wanting to be around for tamariki and mokopuna" and that key contributors leading to "lighting up again" are stressful family situations and having nothing to do with one's time.

Alex and Te Rina offer support through these situations by way of referrals to appropriate experts and programmes such as Sport Eastland's Green Prescription which provides subsidized membership at the YMCA and Olympic Pool. Following their very busy morning Te Rina and Alex then took part in the Girls High Smoke Free Challenge promoting healthy lifestyle choices.

As part of the health protection and promotion teams within Tairāwhiti, they believe the diligent work of these teams has contributed to the

downturn in tobacco demand that has led to two East Coast stores no longer selling tobacco products.

If you want to quit smoking today contact our NPH Aukati Kaipapa Quit coaches Alex and Te Rina on (06) 863 2890

Community Collaboration Encourages Women to have Cervical Smears

Community collaboration between Ngati Porou Hauora and Tairāwhiti District Health encourages women to visit their local clinic to have due cervical smears completed.

In a joint effort to ensure women aged between 20 and 70 years who are enrolled patients, Ngati Porou Hauora, with the assistance of funding sourced by the TDH Health Promotion Team from

the National Screening Unit, is offering women an opportunity to win one of three prizes if they have their smears completed by 30 June 2011.

The prizes include a \$300 Pak n Save Voucher, a \$150 pamper pack or \$50 petrol voucher – winners will be drawn and announced in mid July 2011.

There has been a great response to this collaboration to date. The best way of reducing cervical cancer is to have regular smear tests every 3 years.

Puhi Kaiti and Te Whanau A Iwi will be holding Sunday Clinics from 10.00 am to 3.00 p.m. on 12, 19 and 26 June 2011 to provide women with a further opportunity to get their smears done. All our Clinics on the coast and in Gisborne provide this service, so call your closest Clinic and make an appointment today.

So please take this opportunity to attend and to be in to win one these fabulous prizes. Tell your whanau and friends about it too. Your health is important to you and your whanau!



(Picture - from the left) NPH nurses Dianne McMillan and Beverly Taare, Aroha Te Hau, TDH Health Promoter for the National Cervical Screening Programme, NPH nurses Kate Foss and Aroha Tuhura)

Whānau Ora



"Whānau Ora is about empowering whānau to take control of their future. What we want for our whānau is to be self-determining, to be living healthy lifestyles, to be participating fully in society and to be economically secure."

Hon Tariana Turia
Minister Responsible
for Whānau Ora

Whānau Ora to expand with nationwide coverage



The Government will invest an additional \$30 million in Whānau Ora over the next four years, including \$11.25 million in the coming year, Whānau Ora Minister Tariana Turia says. Budget 2011 invested an additional \$30 million over top of the \$134 million invested in 2010.

"The funding will maintain the momentum created by the Whānau Ora approach, with opportunities to extend coverage across the country," Mrs Turia says.

"Currently, 25 provider collectives involving 158 health and social service providers are beginning to deliver Whānau Ora and are working collaboratively to deliver this innovative approach to engage whānau."

Budget 2011 will ensure Whānau Ora is supported in at least eight new provider collectives in a range of new locations including Kaipara, Hauraki, South Waikato, Taupō/Tūrangi, Palmerston North, Wairarapa, Levin/Kapiti Coast and Murihiku.

"I believe whānau have the capability and collective capacity to overcome the challenges they face and will take responsibility if empowered to do so.

"This further investment in Whānau Ora will ensure nationwide coverage during the next two years and represents a significant investment in the future of whānau from a Government that is prepared to be bold and innovative."



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www.tpk.govt.nz

What is Whānau Ora?

Whānau Ora is about a transformation of our whānau, with whānau setting their own direction. It is driven by a focus on outcomes: that whānau will be self-managing; living healthy lifestyles; participating fully in society; confidently participating in Te Ao Māori; economically secure and successfully involved in wealth creation; and cohesive, resilient and nurturing. Whānau Ora empowers whānau as a whole rather than focusing separately on individual family members and their problems. Whānau Ora providers will work together with families rather than separately with individuals. Whānau Ora is an inclusive approach to providing services and opportunities to all families in need.

How will Whānau Ora work for families?

Whānau Ora will work in a range of ways, influenced by the approach the whānau chooses to take. Some families will want to come up with their own ways of improving their lives and may want to work on this with a hapū, iwi or a non-government organisation (NGO). Other whānau will want to seek help from Whānau Ora providers who will offer them wrap-around services tailored to their needs. Families will have a champion – known as a navigator – to work with them to identify their needs, develop a plan of action to address them and broker their access to a range of health and social services.

How is Whānau Ora working for families?

Whānau Ora is currently being pursued through collaborative, strengthened and integrated service delivery across 25 provider collectives involving around 158 health and social service providers. These provider collectives

continue to offer existing services to individuals, families and communities while they work on the changes they are making to their service delivery to engage whānau. Several hundred whānau – involving several thousand individuals – are already engaging in planning at the whānau level and are connecting to existing service delivery and increasingly to the Whānau Ora service providers.

How is Whānau Ora working for providers?

The focus at this point is on building effective service delivery mechanisms that engage and enable whānau to take their own positive steps. The Whānau Ora Governance Group is currently considering the first Programmes of Action from the provider collectives which outline the changes they intend to make to their service delivery model and the key steps they will take to implement these. These Programmes of Action are the result of considerable work undertaken by these providers and have been developed across collectives of providers that offer exciting potential in having come together.

Why will Whānau Ora be more successful than existing programmes?

Successive governments have tried to get agencies to work together and some of these initiatives have worked well. Whānau Ora takes this a step further by putting families at the centre because they are the best people to make decisions for themselves. This is likely to be more successful because families will have real ownership of their solutions.

For more information

Call 04 819 6024; email whānauora@tpk.govt.nz; or go to Te Puni Kōkiri website: www.tpk.govt.nz.



A History of Waiapu Club Rugby

During Easter weekend the Waiapu Rugby Sub-Union held their first ever reunion. Past and present players, along with their whanau gathered at George Nepia Memorial Park in Rangitukia, to celebrate the club's long history. One of the main aims of holding the reunion was to collate information for a book about the club, which will be launched at Labour Weekend later this year.

The following korero are some extracts from the contribution John Manuel, of Rangitukia, is making towards the book. John is a Lifetime member of the club, and also a past president of the East Coast Rugby Union (2007-2009). John also played for the Coast from 1960-1968 and was a member of the Executive from 1968-1974 & from 2003-2006.

The Waiapu Rugby Sub-Union are currently looking for more stories to go towards the book. If anyone would like to share their korero, memorabilia or photographs please contact:

Warwick Olsen 06 8643 756 or
Hildarren Haenga 06 8643 736.

John Manuel's Korero.

The Early Days

My memory goes back to the end of World War Two 1944-45 when my Uncle and name sake John Manuel and John Te Kauru Green died on the battle field in Crete. A huge gathering was held at Hinepare for their tangihanga, as well as others from C Company who fell in the



John Manuel

same battle (Hanga aroha). This is an occasion I will never forget – parents, wives and children mourning for their loved ones.

Transport in those days was a horse and a cart buggy to and from the games. My Dad was a rugby player, wing or centre, selected for Rangers Waiapu and for E.C. North. A rugby fanatic at the end of his career. He was also a sprinter and all round sportsman - rugby, athletics, horse sports, dog trials as well as a judge on the course.



Back in the day! As a young fellow John (seen holding ball) played for the East Coast rugby team. Here he is in action against Poverty Bay.

Mum and the rest of the family were forever following the Rangers or Waiapu whenever there was a home game. Hitch up our horse and cart and away we go. R.F.C had woman's hockey and basketball teams, which we used to watch prior to rugby.

I was lucky enough to see George Nepia play rugby, for Rangers and Waiapu, although he was aged, his boots weren't 30 years from the Invincibles. What I remember the most is the distance and height he kicks the ball. "Ka mau te wehi". To hear those remarks from those who played with George. When the ball goes behind you, you advance that ball and it will spiral past. The saying was "Kei reira te koroua kaua e maharahara".

To hear people talk about George Nepia when he arrived in Rangitukia, rugby was the topic. The playing standards "Ka mau te wehi". Not only rugby but also farming, bush felling - everything was on a high. His influence on the rugby field playing for Rangers, encouraged a number of players to make the Maori All Blacks.

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| George Nepia | 1928-30-32-35 Rangers, Waiapu, EC, MA |
| Wetini Tuhoro | 1932-34 Rangers, Waiapu, EC, MA |
| Dan Tuhoro | 1932-39 Rangers, Waiapu, EC, MA |

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Ben Horua | 1932- Rangers, Waiapu, EC, MA |
| Naera Reihana | 1932 Rangers, Waiapu, EC, MA |
| Teua Raroa | 1928-29 Rangers, Waiapu, EC, MA |

Maori All Blacks from City Club

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| George Ferris | 1931 City, Waiapu, EC, MA |
| George Pepere | 1936 Bubu, Waiapu, EC, MA |
| Pine Taiapa | 1920s Waiapu, EC, MA |

Rugby Grounds of Waiapu

I asked Jacob Karaka, ex Rangers of the 20s, about the names of the four rugby grounds.

- 1: Rahui Papatakarō-Sports played there include rugby, athletics, horse sports, axe man etc, etc.

This was the main rugby ground until they extended the cemetery and the marae paepae in the late 40's early 50's. Matakupenga and Rangitukia were the main fields after Rahui, then Matakupenga got flooded out in the late 60's, Rangitukia became the Waiapu sub union ground, all rugby was played here.



Some of the past and present Waiapu players at reunion, Easter Weekend 2011.

- 2: Tawata Rugby field-next to where the Putaanga Marae stands now.
- 3: Matakupenga Rugby field-below Pae o te riri School and the Police Station in Tikitiki.
- 4: Papatakaro Rangitukia-No nga Kohere me etahi atu tenei whenua, ko Windy park, inaianei ko George Nepia Memorial Park.

Playing rugby on Matakupenga when dry is beautiful, but when it's wet it's a bog hole. If the ground is too wet the games are re scheduled to Rangitukia. I was fortunate to see games being played at Rahui in the late 40s, early 50s. It was closed to rugby, because of serious injuries to players after the ball landed in the cemetery, and not cleansed on recovery. "Kaore i pa ki te wai".

Brief Snippets

A game between City Tikitiki vs Rangers at Rangitukia, Dan Tuhoro, a huge man broke through the City defense, the only person to stop him was Percy Yates the fullback. When Percy saw Dan coming straight for him, he ran off the field into the supporters. Dan then threw the ball back onto the field and chased Percy into the crowd. "Ko Percy, a "ko te mate tenei e hara mai nei".

Valley vs City: Supporters from each team barracking, a player was rucking one on the ground and the supporter was calling out ae "takahia te kaki o tena "b*****d" tahae ke te wahine a mea. Some were calling out, "ko wai na, ko wai na, te ingoa, te ingoa."

Each club had their own party places and homes to go to. For the Rangers it was the Tuhoro homestead or Urukohai. Whakarua and the Duff cup were the main challenge cups and there were others. After match functions were held at Hinepare Marae and sometimes went all night. Six o'clock swill, roll out the barrels on the spring cart the day before the cup challenge, prepare hangi. But any other games you lose, those party holes are closed more so the Tuhoro homestead, "Kaore he kai ma koutou".

Tricks of the game: My Dad during his years of selector, for he and his assistants met on a Friday evening prior to each club game, at Urukohai discussing game plans. If the ground is very heavy they pump the ball hard. If it's dry they let some air out so it slows it down. This is done when they play certain teams in the club competition, and Waipapu sub union games.

Waipapu Rugby Sub Union and Clubs Reunion 1903-2011



Club Teams and Colours

City

Valley

Bubu

Rangers



Waipapu Sub-Union jerseys from yesteryear.

Yearly duties: Our whanau used to look after all the gear during the season and off season. These are the jerseys, socks, shorts and the rugby balls, pumped and polished. The balls are polished and shined for every game. The worst job was marking the field and tilling the lines every year, "Mahi hoha enei i aua wa." On Sundays people are going to church, and here I am going to players homes on horse back collecting jerseys that were not handed in after a match. Sure enough they still had them on while milking the cows, or gone pig hunting and fishing. I always recovered the number and the name of player recorded. The main culprits were, to name a few: Nuia Waikari (Leo), Wattie Terauna and Mosey Mauheni.



Former Waiapu player Riwai ("Jano") Haenga cutting the ribbon at the opening of the reunion. He is one of the oldest pakeke, who played for the club in his younger years, still living within the Waiapu.



Former Waiapu and East Coast player Wilson Walker at the re-union.

Toku Haerenga Ki Kariki: Retracing The Footsteps of Our Fathers

This account was written by Dr Monty Soutar both as a trustee of Nga Taonga a Nga Tama Toa - the trust which oversees C Company's collection of memorabilia and as coordinator of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage's website about the 28th Maori Battalion. The website for the Trust is www.ngatamatoa.co.nz and the Ministry's Battalion website is www.28maoribattalion.org.nz.

Crete

In May my wife Tina, my sixteen year-old daughter Te Tuhi and I joined a pilgrimage party

of 57 Kiwis who went to Greece (Kariki) to be a part of the commemorative services to mark the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Crete. The party was called the Enduring Legacy and it was led by Kerry Prendergast, the ex-mayor of Wellington, and included five Crete veterans (all in their 90s).

A little history of the battle: it began 20 May 1941 and lasted 12 days before German superiority in troops, arms and airpower forced the British, Australian, Greek and Kiwis to withdraw their forces from the island and evacuate them to Egypt. More than 16,000 soldiers were eventually evacuated, but another 12,000 - including 71 Māori - were left behind to become prisoners of war. The Māori Battalion also lost 74 dead and over 160 were wounded. Over the next two years about 1,000 men, with the help of Cretans, evaded the Germans and hid out - some to get off the island, the majority to be recaptured and sent to Germany.

Aside from gaining a better understanding of the battle by revisiting the sites where the fighting took place and hearing what happened first hand from the veterans, we gained a real appreciation of the sacrifice Cretan people made to protect those of our soldiers who tried



Our party marching into the village of Sklavopoula with the two youngest members leading the way. Local mayor second left. Te Tuhi Soutar is carrying the NZ flag.

to evade capture. Memorials at village after village spoke of the atrocities committed by the Germans because of the assistance Cretan people afforded our soldiers.

The visit to Katina Nathan's mountain village of Sklavopoula was a huge highlight with the mayor and lots of her relatives turning out. At the end of the war Katina married Ned Nathan of the Maori Battalion's A Company. Both are now deceased, but their sons Alex, Manos and Evan and their families were there. The boys were extremely helpful and took me to one of their uncles where we conducted an interview (which was much like most I did with Greek people – all in Greek with only partial translations been conveyed to me, usually because the interviewees were excited and once they were on a roll you couldn't stop them).

During the three weeks that we were in Greece there were many valuable finds for me, but some stand out. The first was locating 42nd Street where the Maori Battalion led the famous bayonet charge involving other Kiwi and Aussie battalions. I met up with a Greek archaeologist, who lives along the street and who is part of a local group keen to mark the street with some form of memorial. She tracked down two local men (both in their eighties) who were living there at the time of the battle and we went to see them with her acting as interpreter for me. One of these men, who I interviewed on my last day in Crete, witnessed the charge from a New Zealand Bren Carrier. He was about fourteen years old in 1941 and counted 22 Germans shot by the gunner (a Maori) in the Bren Carrier during the charge. He took us to the area where the carrier was positioned in the olive grove and where these Germans were killed. He also pointed out where one of the Kiwis was buried in the grove before the body was removed to the Suda Bay war Cemetery. This was a moving experience. Ka hoki nga whakaaro ki o tatau papa koroua i hinga atu i te pae o te riri.

A second was visiting the Preveli Monastery. Preveli is where there were two secret evacuations of over 200 soldiers on the submarines Thrasher and Torbay in July and August 1941. The latter included among its number Ted Wanoa of Rangitukia and Wish Manuel of Hiruharama. The abbot and the monks were responsible for hiding the soldiers



Found them 70 years later! Standing in the Maori Battalion's trenches at the Mavroneri Gorge, Greece.

and consequently the Germans sacked the monastery after the second evacuation.

Greece

When our party returned by ferry to Athens we disembarked at the port of Piraeus. This is where C Company members Percy Goldsmith and Mita Tahata of Ruatoria and John Rawhiti Brown and Charlie Horne of Gisborne were killed when boarding the yacht Hellas. I picked up a car and together with my wife and daughter set out for Katerini, 6 hours to the north in the area around Mt Olympus where, before they had gone to Crete, the Maori Battalion had been tasked with defending a gorge marked by the Mavroneri River near the timber village of Skoteina. The Battalion (some 600 men at the time) was dug in on the slopes of the Balaourea Range and held off the Germans in a sharp encounter before withdrawing over the range to the mountain village of Ay Dimitrios where their trucks were waiting to take them back to Athens. The climb out of the gorge that wet and windy night became the Maori Battalion's single undying memory of their whole experience in Greece. I had maps of their positions and was optimistically hoping to find some sign of their weapon pits as the bush and slopes of Balourea are pretty much the same as it was then.

When we reached Fotina, the last village before Skoteina, we learnt from locals that Skoteina was pretty much deserted and that in the early 1960s the villagers had built Fotina and relocated. We were told that the chance of finding anything was remote unless we could track down someone in their eighties who may have lived at Skoteina in 1941. We began driving up the gorge

road along the 7 kilometre stretch to Skoteina looking for any sign of where the Battalion might have been. It was like looking for a needle in a haystack when at a rest area we saw a local man, George Evagelopoulos, who seemed to be without a vehicle and appeared to be doing nothing in particular. He could not speak English. I handed him a note in Greek that said what we were looking for. It turned out he was something akin to a conservation officer and was there as a deterrent to would-be loggers who were in the habit of felling trees illegally. George had been working in the Balaourea area for 23yrs and he knew every piece of its ground. He took us into the bush where we discovered that the trenches the Maori Battalion dug are still there and extremely well preserved.

We stood in the ones dug by the Battalion's A Company and some were almost shoulder deep. Kua tau te wairua o nga tupuna ki tera wahi. He later showed us where Ruihi Pene and Arnold Reedy's platoons were guarding a bridge at Skoteina, where Maori had placed a minefield alongside the village's timber mill, and where the skirmish between D Company and the Germans took place. For the next two days he became our host. The Greeks in this area are amazingly hospitable people especially when they understood the purpose of our visit. George took us to an 85yr old from Skoteina who was able to place where two Maori soldiers were killed in the gorge. These were most likely John Poutu of Ruatoria and Matiu Ropata of Wairoa. He actually saw the bodies. Next we visited a 93 yr old man in Ay Dimitrios who remembered the New Zealanders arriving in his village before withdrawing to Athens.

We were told that as far as they could remember no New Zealanders had been there since the fighting, at least not looking for the location of the battle, which made them all rather fascinated with us. We left there with email addresses, gifts of local wine and cherries (which the area is famous for) and the feeling that we had done something really special. I had another run of fate (luck some would

call it) in Athens meeting Julie Karnaki-Tagg who lived in Tokomaru Bay 30 yrs ago before moving to Greece. She teaches English to Greek MPs at parliament and had attended the commemorative service in Athens hoping to meet anyone from Gisborne. Her husband is from Kalamata, the place where a few hundred Kiwi soldiers (including Sir Henare Ngata) were captured at the end of April 1941.

Her son Alexandros (27yrs), who speaks a little English, agreed to accompany me to Kalamata and for part of the way we took the old road through the hills to get some idea of what the lorry drivers experienced when they drove through there at night without lights. We stopped at Corinth to see the canal (which the troops were racing to cross before it was destroyed by German bombers and eventually made it to the memorial at Kalamata to find the NZ flag still flying. They had had a memorial service there a week earlier.

Today there are three Maori veterans alive who were in Greece: Arthur Midwood of Rotorua and



Tina Soutar on 42nd Street alongside the olive grove where the Maori Battalion made its legendary bayonet charge. The Cretans know it as the road to Tsikalaria Village.

Arthur Brooking of Te Araroa (now in Havelock North) and Sir Henare Ngata of Gisborne. Sir Henare was captured in Kalamata while Arthur Brooking was caught in Crete. Arthur Midwood was wounded in Crete.

“A mountain less known”

The following article by freelance journalist Vicki Virtue was written about Peter Hillary, the son of world reknown adventurer Sir Edmund Hillary. Peter Hillary, also an experienced climber, has recently ticked off our maunga Hikurangi from his bucket list of mountains to reach the summit.

‘Where?’ was my first response when Peter Hillary suggested we climb Mt Hikurangi. Despite it being the first mountain in New Zealand to see the sun, the highest non-volcanic peak in the North Island and according to Ngati Porou the first piece of land to emerge when Maui fished up the North Island, I’d never heard of it. When I told friends I was going to climb it, they gave me the same blank expression.

Peter is in the midst of compiling a list of the seven most important summits in the North Island, and whilst the final seven are still to be agreed, Hikurangi is almost certain to be one of them: for it’s geographical location, historical significance and (if I may suggest) difficulty.

Having recently climbed Mt Kilimanjaro, Africa’s highest mountain, with Peter, I have some idea how his interpretation of ‘easy’ compares to mine – so when he assured me climbing Hikurangi would be a walk in the park, I knew to be a little sceptical.

In fairness the first four hours are relatively easy up a farm track, but after that it starts getting a bit harder. We spent the night at the hut, two-thirds of the way up the mountain, because we wanted to summit for dawn and be the first people in New Zealand to see the sun rise. Unfortunately that meant getting up at the indecent hour of 3.15am - and I’m not a morning person.



Peter Hillary (in red jacket) with expedition party in front of Maui whakairo.

The slope behind the hut was challenging (mind you even a flat path would have been at that hour). It was steep and peppered with clumps of spear grass, or Wild Spaniard as it’s less descriptively called, which invariably grew in the exact spot where I needed to grab hold of something for balance. Fortunately we had a 14-year-old with us, who insisted he was absolutely fine wearing shorts and charged ahead - his yelps of pain were an effective warning system for the rest of us. The grass looks remarkably innocuous, but it’s incredibly sharp and not something you want to accidentally sit on – as I nearly did on more than one occasion.

It was a clear night when we set off, but as we entered the forest, low cloud enveloped us. It’s a strange feeling walking at night in a misty forest: the old trees started to look like Ents from Lord of the Rings, pondering the strange creatures that were out and about so early. There isn’t a lot of forest left on Hikurangi: most of it was burned during the early 1900s to make way for farmland. What remains is mountain beech forest, an unusual sight so far north, but the high altitude that sustains it no doubt saved it from the inferno. The rough track required a slow, steady

approach in the dark: in places it was quite steep and slippery, especially once we hit the scree shoot leading to the summit. I spent most of my time clambering up on all fours like a mountain goat (without the grace and agility).

It was a delicate balancing act heading up the chute: if I put my foot on the wrong pile of loose rocks I would have started a small avalanche below me – and no doubt disappeared with it. So I edged up as gingerly as a tightrope walker, trying not to look down because on the one occasion I did it looked mighty steep.

At the top, a narrow ridge stood between me, and the summit, with a sheer drop on either side. At that point I decided I'd gone quite far enough. I could see the summit, and I saw no need to risk life and limb to stand on top of it. But it's not quite the same is it? You can't climb a mountain and not go to the top – it makes the rest of the effort seem somehow pointless. It might have been this sense of purpose, my pride or the reassuring words of encouragement from my partner 'just get a move on' that sent me scampering across and to the top. I missed sunrise by about 10 minutes, but I didn't mind, the views were spectacular and I no doubt saw the sun before most people in New Zealand. We'd tried to climb Hikurangi many times before, but the weather had always hampered our efforts. On this attempt the approaching rain held off just long enough for us to reach the summit. It was bitterly cold at the top and the cloud started to close in around us, so we didn't waste much time beating a hasty retreat. Strangely the narrow ridge and scree chute didn't look anywhere near as steep and terrifying to me on the return journey – although I still found staying upright a challenge.



Checking out Hikurangi maunga's unique mountain beach forest.

The rain held off just long enough for us to get back to the hut and enjoy the magnificent views we missed during our night-time ascent. It's a stunning part of New Zealand: the mountains, rivers, valleys, and hardly any people or houses to spoil the landscape. The 10-hour drive from Auckland had seemed prohibitive for a weekend climb, but we're all glad we did it. The coastal drive from Opotiki, with views out to White Island and the Pacific, is reason enough to make the trip. It wasn't surprising to see so many 'no mining' signs littering the roadside: an oil spill in the area would be catastrophic.

A highlight of our visit was Te Takapau a Maui: the incredible carvings produced by artist and art tutor Derek Lardelli for the millennium celebrations on Hikurangi. The scale of the site is extraordinary, and listening to the story behind the works was fantastic. When we set off to climb the mountain Paora Brooking told us if getting to the top is your sole goal, you're at Hikurangi for the wrong reasons. It's the spiritual experience that makes this mountain so special and unforgettable.

So thank you Paora and Ngati Porou for sharing your sacred mountain and its story with us. It's an experience that will live with us for a long time.



At Te Takapau o Maui.

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