



MEMBER NOTICES



Paul Morgan, Chairman, NRAIT

E te whānau whānui o Ngāti Rārua me Te Ātiawa ki Motueka, tēnā koutou katoa.

Welcome to the first issue of *Eke Pānuku*, our revitalised pānui. A lot has happened since our last pānui, including good progress on our commitment to regular, interactive communication with you. We're also moving forward with Te Whanake - our social and cultural benefits programme.

Over the next few weeks we'll be using *Eke Pānuku* to keep you posted on progress, to highlight upcoming events and opportunities, and to introduce you to some of our many distinguished tūpuna (read about Mere Nako on p.2) as well as some of our outstanding uri. We also want to enlist your help in encouraging more owners to get in touch and rediscover their homelands.

Get connected

We will produce *Eke Pānuku* both online and in hard copy, but we warmly encourage you to send us your email address and other contact details in the

enclosed postage-paid mailer. Everyone who does will go into a draw to **win an iPad**, so don't miss out!

Reaching home

Because our owners are spread around New Zealand and the world, we want our website to be our virtual marae, a place where we can all connect, share our stories and celebrate the benefits of ownership for this and future generations.

So we are now underway with a fit-for-purpose upgrade of our website. Local website experts Hot House have been engaged to help us with this mahi and make our website your favourite. Meanwhile we'll be adding fresh material to our existing site, so keep an eye on it.

A day to celebrate

Saturday 28 September is the 20th anniversary of the enactment of our founding document, the Ngāti Rārua Ātiawa Iwi Empowering Act and we plan to mark it with a big celebration at Te Āwhina Marae, so save this date! The hui will also be a chance to continue the discussions begun at our Easter AGM. Thanks to all those who contributed to making that such a great weekend.

Noho ora mai

Paul Morgan
Chairman
Ngāti Rārua Ātiawa Iwi Trust

Upcoming Events



Community & Whanau meeting

12.00pm at the Community House. Representatives of Motueka community groups are invited to come along to help keep our community connected.



Vision Motueka monthly meeting

7.00pm at the Community House. Anyone keen to contribute to Vision Motueka's community projects is welcome to attend. Ivan Tava will be attending on NRAIT's behalf. Please send any comments and suggestions to be put forward to ekepanuku@nrait.co.nz.



20th Anniversary, NRAIT

Te Āwhina Marae. Watch this space for more information about this celebration.

For more information on events visit www.nrait.co.nz

Te Whanake update

To prioritise our benefits for our owners programme we're undertaking some discussion sessions with whanau in Wellington, Nelson and Marlborough over the next two months. If you'd like to take part in this korero call us on 03 548 0770 or email us at ekepanuku@nrait.co.nz to register your interest.

Check this out

Here's a great interactive tool designed to help households with energy and heating efficiency. Calculate the health, warmth and cost effectiveness of your home – and how to improve it – on EECA's Energywise website energywise.govt.nz/tools/warm-healthy-home.



Matariki

Matariki literally means the 'eyes of god' (mata ariki) or 'little eyes' (mata riki). According to myth, when Ranginui, the sky father, and Papatūānuku, the earth mother, were separated by their children, the god of the winds, Tāwhirimātea, became so angry that he tore out his eyes and threw them into the heavens. (Te Ara)

Matariki is the cluster of bright stars (also known as the Pleiades or Seven Sisters) that rises just once a year before dawn in mid-winter. Traditionally it was a time to express grief for those who had died before its last appearance, and also to celebrate the crops and food that had been harvested, hence the saying Matariki ahunga nui (Matariki provider of plentiful food).



New on our website

- Keeping homes warm: tips, tools and links
- Mere Nako's story
- Our uri: meet Jeremy Banks
- More information on events

Our uri



Jeremy Banks (Ngāti Rārua and Rangitāne descent) was elected as a Trustee of NRAIT at our AGM this year and is a member of our Investment Committee. Jeremy is

an information technology specialist and entrepreneur and is manager of a globally successful software development company in Wellington called BIS². A talented sportsman, Jeremy was awarded an NRAIT grant to compete the Indoor Netball World Cup in Auckland in 2003. It's one of many reasons why he's keen to contribute to NRAIT's kaupapa, and we're delighted to have his support. Jeremy was also formerly Associate Director for Wakatū and currently serves as the Chairman for Motu Kairangi, Te Kōhanga Reo. Jeremy lives in Wellington with his wife and three daughters.

We'd like to feature more of our rising talent, so please get in touch with your stories.

Update your details

If you've recently moved or changed your contact details please update them with us using one of the following:

Phone: 03 548 0770

Email: ekepanuku@nrait.co.nz

Online: nrait.co.nz/update-details

Post: NRAIT, PO Box 13, Nelson

Our Tupuna

Merenako

E tono ana te kai-inoi kia kaua e tonoa tona whenua i Motueka e pa nui hoki ana te pouri ki a ia mo taua wahi.

Petition to Parliament, No. 303, 26 October 1878

These were the words of Merenako, a high-ranking Te Atiawa o te Waka-a-Maui kuia, in the first of three petitions she made to Parliament concerning her 'great affliction' at the taking of her land.



Merenako and her brother Te Karara came with other families of Puketapu descent on one of their hapu's first three heke into the Motueka region in the early 1800s.

In the early 1830s Merenako explored the Riuwaka Valley, starting at Puketawai and climbing the hill to the area now known as Dehra Doon. Much of the valley was swampland, making her journey difficult, and giving Riuwaka its original name of Turi Auraki (tired knees).

Merenako married twice. Her first husband was Taare Te Ahimanawa, a rangatira of Ngati Rarua, who landed with her at Riuwaka (Puketawai). When he died she married Pene Te Poa, also a Ngati Rarua chief. Both had large land holdings, including in Motueka, and this was seen as the catalyst for Te Atiawa and Ngati Rarua of Motueka to settle in Motueka as one.

Both iwi retained their own identities, with Merenako and her Te Atiawa land and mana to the south and west of Te Maatu, and Pene Te Poa Karoro retaining his land and mana to the north and east of Te Maatu. With her land, Merenako is said to have invited a party of her Ngati Rahiri and Puketapu kin who had been living at Arapaoa, to join her at Motueka.

As a notable kuia, Merenako upheld her Te Atiawa rangatiratanga throughout her long life, and is still remembered today as a tuarangi o Te Atiawa. She is also remembered for having saved the children of Hone Putou by adopting them as her own, when they were to be killed after his capture at Moutere.

Merenako outlived both her husbands and her son, and in later life she lived with Pare, her niece, also known as Merenako, and Huta Pamariki Park. She died at their homestead in Motueka in 1888.

At the Nelson Provincial Museum, in the Taha Maori area, Merenako is pictured in old age, with her hei tiki and a kiwi korowai, which is one of two still held in safe keeping by the Park families. The photograph and her hei tiki are available for all whanau, whanui to visit in the downstairs permanent exhibition area in Te Atiawa's glass cabinet.

(Sources: NZ Electronic Text Collection; Te Atiawa o Te Waka-Maui Deed of Settlement; www.waitangitribunal.govt.nz; Te Tau Ihu o Te Waka. Hilary and John Mitchell, Huia/Wakatū; www.new-zealand-pictures.com)

To read more about Merenako, go to our website www.nrait.co.nz/our-tupuna

Spotlight - warming up

This month we're focusing on the warmth and 'health' of your home. **Right now we're working up a joint initiative with Te Awhina Marae, EECA and Absolute Energy in Nelson to help fund home insulation in our region.** See our next issue of *Eke Panuku* for the details. In the meantime, you can find some good tips from EECA (Te Tari Tiaki Pungao) at www.energywise.govt.nz, such as:

- Tackling dampness – there's a list of practical steps you can take to combat dampness, including some simple moves like leaving your wardrobe slightly open to help with ventilation, keeping furniture away from external walls, and not drying clothes inside.
- Calculating heater sizing - Energywise can help you work out what size heater will keep each room at a healthy temperature.



5°C Average low for Nelson in June



www.energywise.govt.nz



Share your warm home tips with us on Facebook