



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



Behind the scenes at NRAIT

There's more than meets the eye to John Charleton, of Taranaki/Haumia descent, NRAIT's Chief Operating Officer. John had all the professional and commercial skills and experience the Trustees were looking for when they recruited him in 2007 to the role of advisor to the Board and manager of NRAIT's finance, investment and operational functions.

A chartered accountant with a Bachelor of Business Studies from Massey University, and ten years' experience working in leading international financial institutions in the UK, the US and Australia, John also brings to the table an impressive knowledge base from a wide range of industries.

But behind all that is first and foremost a strong family man with two much loved little girls, Mackenzie, aged six, and Mykayla, four. John and Tasmanian wife Rebecca jumped at the chance to move from the Gold Coast, where John was with Barron Developments (Parininihi Ki Waitotara Block) and then Macquarie Leisure Operations, and make their home in Nelson.

"We love the quality of life here – it's a wonderful environment for the girls to grow up in and so much more relaxed than the big cities we've lived in before."

John's actively involved in the girls' school and kindergarten activities and a typical family weekend can include expanding on his culinary

skills, teaching Mackenzie and Mykayla the finer points of rugby, or a family picnic at one of their favourite spots on Rabbit Island.

John grew up in Stratford, Taranaki and is a 'Naki boy through and through. He keeps in close touch with his whanau there and was recently nominated by Mahara Okeroa to stand for election to the Taranaki Iwi Trust Board this October.

At NRAIT John's focus is the long-term financial sustainability of the business and on growing the asset base. He's looking forward to the development of Te Whanake and the chance to deliver some real benefits to owners.

"We've been through some difficult times, but now NRAIT's in a strong position with a great future. Under the Empowering Act we can't pay dividends to owners, so we've got to be a lot smarter about finding ways to distribute benefits that really mean something to our owners. And we want to make sure the programme benefits not just our local whanau but all our owners around the country."

OHU MAATU

Two days of celebration

We're excited to have completed the programme for *Ohu Maatu*, our 20th anniversary celebration. Your invitation is on its way to your mailbox now. We're sending one to each family so please look out for it this week.

Ohu Maatu 2013

Reconnect with the whānau

Stay on the marae

Learn more about your tikanga and whakapapa

Share your stories and ideas

Join the Rangatahi Council

Tour the homelands

Honour our elders

Help plan NRAIT's next 20 years
and

Enjoy great kai!

Plus: touch rugby, BBQs, tug-o-war, great music, dancing photo displays, games for the tamariki and art competitions.

What you need to know

When: Saturday 28 – Sunday 29 September 2013

Where: Te Awhina Marae, Motueka (*incl accommodation*)

Transport: Free buses and transport subsidies are available.

You can RSVP to this event via email, over the phone or on our website www.nrait.co.nz/ohumaatu. Details of what to include will be on the invitation but if you want to get your name down straight away call Nichola Dixon on 03 548 0770.

Check this out

Our online community is steadily growing. For all the latest updates, photos and NRAIT information, Like us on Facebook. This is a great way to connect with the rest of the whanau. To find us, type in our full name in the Facebook search bar.





Te Maatu: Some early perspectives

Descriptions of Te Maatu in the period around 1840, and its importance to our whānau ki Motueka, feature vividly in the diaries and journals of some of the early European settlers.

One of the earliest commentators, Captain Frederick Moore, noted that the capability and expertise of our ancestors as commercial market gardeners and farmers had been developed long before the New Zealand Company settlers arrived. He recorded that, from the early 1930s, Ngāti Rārua and Te Ātiawa residents, whose estimated population was around 500 at the time, already had large tracts of land under cultivation in the 'Big Wood', not only for produce to meet their own requirements, but also for trading with whalers and traders at Queen Charlotte Sound, Tory Channel and Port Underwood.

When word came that the Wakefields planned to establish a settlement in the Motueka region, our whanau further expanded their cultivations in Te Maatu and were able to supply the incoming settlers with large quantities of potatoes and other vegetables and pork from the earliest days of the settlement.



Charles Heaphy watercolour painting of Kaiteriteri Harbour from the entrance. Wakefield preliminary exhibition team camping in the background.

Late in 1841, at a hui in Kaiteriteri set to discuss land purchases and reach agreement on payment and reserves, our families gathered and negotiated what came to be the birth of Nelson and Motueka as we know it today. Included in the settlement was a clear understanding that Te Maatu and our other cultivated and occupied lands, which extended along the Motueka River from the Kumera and Waipounamu and upstream to Whakarewa, would not be caught within the New Zealand Company's surveys.

By the winter of 1842, surveying of the Motueka town sections had been completed and attention had turned

to laying out the suburban and rural sections. Pressure was mounting on the Company and its surveyors from waves of incoming settlers anxious to get onto farming land in time to start cultivating and planting in the coming spring. Our ancestors became increasingly concerned about the encroachment of surveying activities into our occupied lands, but were placated by firm assurances provided to Chief Te Poa Karoro by the Company's surveyor, Samuel Stephens. Stephens wrote the following (verbatim) in his diary:

"There is a pine forest called the Matu in this part of the district and the land around it is very rich – and will no doubt be caught at early and eagerly by the early choices. The natives have a large Potatoe clearing at this wood where they grow annually some hundreds of tons of potatoes. They were very jealous of our coming to this part of the district; Epoa [Te Poa Karoro] one of the chiefs and proprietor at Te Matu, I met with there – he told me they did not like our coming there surveying – as they had given up the Riwaka Valley they wished to keep this for themselves. I explained to him through the interpreter I brought with me, that their potatoe grounds would be left entirely for their own use – and they would also have one tenth of all that we surveyed besides ..."

It seems clear that Stephens believed he was accurately reflecting Company policy. But as history has recorded, the Company did not honour the guarantees he gave to Te Poa Karoro. Instead, Stephens' surveying teams were instructed by the Company to include all our cultivations and occupied lands to be carved up into 50 acre sections, and these were then included in the pool of sections available for selection via ballot.

Sources: Ropata Taylor; Te Tau Ihu o Te Waka: A History of Maori of Nelson and Marlborough, Hilary and John Mitchell; theprow.org.nz/nga korero o te tau ihu; Heaphy, Charles, 1820-1881. Heaphy, Charles 1820-1881 :Kaiteriteri Harbour from the entrance. Tasman's Gulf. No. 3 [1841]. Ref: B-043-011. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. <http://natlib.govt.nz/records/22774438>



Map of Motueka showing the original native reserve lands (numbered lots). Darker lots show our Whakarewa lands. Shaded area show Te Maatu.