

NGĀTI RĀRUA ĀTIAWA IWI TRUST
MINUTES OF THE 28TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT
TE WHARE TAIKURA O TE MAATU, MOTUEKA HIGH SCHOOL
SATURDAY 24 APRIL 2021 COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

- PRESENT:** 53 registered members attended
- TRUSTEES:** Rōpata Taylor (Chair), Jeremy Banks (Vice Chair), Russell (Barney) Thomas, Paul Morgan, Emma Park, Mereama Chase, Rima Piggott and John Kātene
- IN ATTENDANCE:** John Charleton (Chief Executive), John Murray (Trust Secretary), Nichola Vessey (Project Coordinator) and Sarah Jones (Minute Taker)
- APOLOGIES:** A Young, A Luke, L Luke, J McGregor, M Thomas, Ame Thomas, T Thomas, R Thomas, P Thomas, G Thomas, Angela Thomas, S Thomas, R Stafford, K Stafford, S Morrison, E Keepa, M Stephens, J Wheeler, L McConachy, P Stephens, A Wilkie, M Hopa, N Hopa, T Stephens, C Stephens, Tamai Henry, Tui Henry, W Oman, N Hobrough, T Bailey, L Kātene, R Joseph, J Billens, P Mason, P Kātene
- MIHI:** B Thomas
- KARAKIA:** B Thomas

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 28th Annual General Meeting. The past year has been a testing time, due to COVID-19, and the Chair acknowledged whānau who have passed. The Chair also referenced other current challenges we face within New Zealand at this time, such as our water, rivers, reformation of the Resource Management Act and increased pressure around housing affordability.

The Chair congratulated Paul Morgan, who was recently admitted into the New Zealand Business Hall of Fame. This is a huge achievement and represents a lifetime's contribution to our people.

Thanks were given for attendance at last year's smaller online AGM.

The Trustees, Board Secretary and staff introduced themselves.

The Chair asked the Secretary to read the notice convening the meeting and order of business.

The Chair asked for further apologies.

IT WAS MOVED (T Hopa/M Morgan) that the apologies be accepted.

CARRIED

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 17 October 2020

IT WAS MOVED (J Shorrocks/N Coldwell) that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 17 October 2020 be accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

CARRIED

Matters Arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

CHAIR'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Chair spoke to the following:

- There are currently a huge number of initiatives happening within our region, which focus on our families in Te Taihū. One such initiative is the Food Sovereignty and Indigenous Crops Project, from which local families have benefitted from food distributions. Acknowledgement of the work done in this area.
- We are in an interesting post-settlement environment, where the capability and capacity of our Iwi Trusts is visibly increased across the region. It is therefore important to register with our tribal entities, and we encourage those who are eligible but are not registered to do so.
- The third Manawaroa wānanga was held in February, which was well attended. This programme is a result of a survey conducted, where owners specified identity, culture and history as being most important to them. Given the vastly changing landscape in recent years, a new survey will be carried out, to gain open feedback and help clarify our work programme, going forward.
- Charities statement. We are required to adhere to both our Act and the Charities Act legislation.
- Operationally we have achieved a net surplus after distributions of \$1,617,189. This is an increase of 53.1% on the previous year's result of \$1,056,121. As of the end of December 2020, total assets have now grown to \$77.9m, an increase of 6% on 2019 values of \$70.4m.
- The major focus for the Trust's social and cultural programme continues to centre around Mātauranga and Rangatiratanga, with a formal launch today of our Riuwaka Grant initiative.

The Chair introduced Paul Morgan to speak regarding Lease reform:

- Previously we had reported good progress, with a potential deal to bring to owners. However, Crown Law wished to insert a provision which was not in our interests with regard to the Wakatū Supreme Court case, whereby beneficiaries would potentially have no entitlement to future benefit. On January 20th this year we made oral submissions to the Māori Caucus, and a proposed deal is currently being progressed through Cabinet. We understand that the deal will be accepted, however everything is dependent upon the wording of the deal. When this document is received, a Special General Meeting will be held to put the proposal to owners for consideration.
- It is important that we are included in any lease reform, in order to enjoy the same rights as other New Zealanders over our private property. We currently have partial compensation, but there has been no change to the rules that govern our land. Our job is to endeavor to ensure that the next generation doesn't have this fight.

Barney Thomas spoke to Te Whanake:

- Acknowledgement of the value of having the opportunity to discuss our history with owners that haven't previously visited. This weekend is about sharing, connecting and knowing who we are.
- Distributions. Since 1993 we have made \$1.46m in distributions, benefitting marae, koha, education and health.
- Education distributions since 1996 total \$579,697. Our web page www.nrmit.co.nz has information of grants available. Investment in education creates greater choice and opportunity, and is a core area of focus to uplift our people. We are not the only entity that distribute these grants, but it is important to spread the word, to enable our young to benefit. In Te Taihū, 30% of Māori children in this region leave school without any qualification.
- Recognition of the effects of COVID-19 and the work of Kaupapa Atawhai, a joint assistance project between Ngāti Rārua Ātiawa Iwi Trust, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Koata Trust, Ngāti Tama ki Te Waipounamu Trust and Wakatū Incorporation.

Mereama Chase spoke to the following:

- In the past 5 years we have made significant changes to our policy, having previously focused on tertiary education. As a result of feedback, we have broadened our support to include primary/secondary education, those going into trades and also those who wish to learn Te Reo.
- Mereama introduced Renee Thomas, recipient of the 2019 Mātauranga Māori Kaitiaki Scholarship. Congratulations to Renee, who has graduated with Distinction in a Masters in Māori Indigenous Leadership. The kaupapa of her studies was “whānau whakapapa ki te whenua” – connecting whānau through their familial connections to each other and the whenua in the rohe”. Renee thanked the Board and whānau for their support in her education journey and provided further information on the Food Sovereignty and Indigenous Crops Project.
- Reiteration of the importance of applying for the grants available, as not all of the grant budget was allocated in the previous year.
- Mereama introduced Kiwa Kahukura, the 2020 recipient of a Ngāti Rārua Ātiawa Iwi Trust Uru Tau Tertiary Scholarship. Kiwa gained a Diploma in Youth Work in 2020 and is currently studying a Bachelor of Youth and Community Leadership and a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Māori and Indigenous Studies. Kiwa gave thanks to the Board and whānau and spoke to how much the grant meant to him, not just educationally, but also from a practical and health perspective.
- We held our third Manawaroa Cultural Wānanga in February 2021, with a focus around connection to each other, our whenua and our hapū identity. A short video from our 2020 wānanga was shown.
- Thank you to our 1,483 followers on Facebook. We would encourage you all to like, comment and share.
- Official launch of the Riuwaka Hauora Grant initiative. Improving and maintaining health, both physical and mental, for all our whānau is a goal and aspiration for the Trust. Initially a three-year trial, it is open to all registered owners resident in New Zealand. This initiative covers a wide range of health and wellbeing services, i.e. not just for doctors/dentists etc, but also for wellbeing/exercise related activities. Further details are available on the website.

Jeremy Banks spoke to the Commercial update:

- 2020 was a year of uncertainty, with a great deal of volatility in the markets, however financially we came through well as an organisation.
- J Banks spoke to the performance of our current investments and the distribution of our total asset portfolio. 2020 was the sixth year of operations under the kete asset management structure. Our total Kete is now \$77.8m, an increase of 10.7% on 2019 levels.
- J Banks gave clarification to owner query of the meaning of a convertible loan.

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Emma Park spoke to the Annual Accounts:

- This year ending 31 December, was a positive year. Our total revenue for the year was \$3.5m, an increase of 30.4% on the 2019 result, the majority of this being due to the timing of the mussel harvest. Expenses were down in totality, however show as an increase due to the inclusion of the mussel harvest.
- A total owner return of \$8m was achieved for the year.
- Total assets \$77.8m, an increase of 10.7% over 2019.
- It was highlighted that the distribution amounts listed in the annual accounts aren't necessarily a total representation of all that we give back to our owners, as they don't quantify other initiatives, e.g. Manawaroa.
- The Auditor's Unqualified Opinion was read and noted.

IT WAS MOVED (M Morgan/R Thomas) that the 2020 Annual Accounts be adopted.

CARRIED

Owner feedback from the Annual Accounts:

- Acknowledgement of the increase in surplus during a pandemic and the hard work involved in achieving this result.
- Query regarding ethical investment standards. Confirmed that the SIPO (Statement of Investment Performance and Objectives) is reviewed regularly and that previously we have surveyed whānau to obtain opinion on certain investment areas.
- Discussion regarding education statistics and the importance of kai for children. Confirmed that Ngāti Rārua now have a contract to supply kai for schools. Emma Park is currently engaging with the Ministry of Education on a piece of work with our education sub-committee.
- Disbursements and investments in health. This is not traditionally an area we have focused on, which is why we have implemented the new Riuwaka grant. Recognition that the establishment of the new Māori Health Authorities will potentially result in better representation of Māori and improved health outcomes.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Independent Auditors Ltd are the current auditors and are willing to continue.

IT WAS MOVED (A Misiepo/T Hopa) that Independent Auditors Ltd be appointed for the 2021 financial year.

CARRIED

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Ngāti Rārua Iwi

Rōpata Taylor and Jeremy Banks are due to retire by rotation. Being eligible, they both offer themselves for re-election for a further three-year term. There were no nominations received for either position therefore both are elected unopposed.

The re-elected Trustees both expressed thanks to everyone for their time on the Board and their re-election. R Taylor encouraged owners to stand for election, to maintain a diversity of thought, experience and background within the Board. J Banks highlighted the importance of involving younger generations in the process. Discussion regarding the possibility of creating Associate Directorships as a platform for training.

DISTRIBUTIONS

Rima Piggott spoke to Distributions. Reiterated that distributions can only be made based on the applications that we receive. Encouragement to apply.

IT WAS MOVED (M Morgan/R Thomas) that owner approval be given in support of the Board making provision for distributions of up to \$485,000, (representing 30% Net Surplus) to be made in the financial year 2021.

CARRIED

TRUSTEE FEES

John Kātene spoke re Trustee fees:

Due to the effects of COVID-19 it was not felt to be appropriate to increase Trustee fees this year.

IT WAS MOVED (J Shorrock/L Bailey) that owner approval be given in support of the Trust making the following provision for Board fees to be made in the 2021 financial year totaling \$200,000.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

Presentation and discussion on new name for the Trust.

- Recognition that the current name creates confusion with other Iwi entities. R Taylor outlined the working group held with kaumātua, to determine whether they supported the notion of a new name which unifies us, stays true to our tikanga and our history. The name change was supported and two potential names were selected - Whakarewa (the original name of the Trust and our Land Act) and Te Mātu (the name our tupuna gave to the whenua).
- Kingi Gilbert presented the selection of potential artwork and spoke to his design process and the meaning behind each selection.
- Olivia Hall, Chair of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua supported the name change and noted the confusion and importance around clarity between the separate Trusts. Suggested that whānau are supported through the process, to ensure they are correctly enrolled.
- Floor open to feedback. Confirmed that the Board will consider all opinions before progressing.

Other General Business

- K Kahukura enquired whether NRAIT is looking into social housing and ensuring that our whānau have a place to call home. Recognised that this is an issue throughout New Zealand and a strategy is being discussed at Board level. Papakāinga housing to be included within the new marae development.
- Discussion regarding Iwi mandated social services. Chair confirmed that the Trust supports this, as the cornerstone of our organisation is Māori looking after ourselves. Reiterated that collaboration between the entities is key.
- Championing the connection of our people in Motueka. Recognised that Manawaroa is working well, but we are looking to diversify, as this wānanga does not suit less able-bodied people. Importance of growing capability around small business/enterprise.
- Query regarding the potential of creating structure for under 25s on the Board of Trustees. Referred to earlier discussion about a potential Associate Director programme. Confirmed that currently there is nothing to prevent rangatahi from standing for election.
- Query regarding the criteria and creation of a policy for burial at Te Uma Urupā. R Taylor confirmed the current criteria and advised that there is already a policy in place.

B Thomas closed the hui with a karakia at 12.15pm.

SIGNED CHAIR:

DATE:

