

NGĀTI RĀRUA ĀTIAWA IWI TRUST
MINUTES OF THE 30TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT TE WHARE TAIKURA o TE MAATU, HIGH SCHOOL
SATURDAY 29 APRIL 2023 COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

- PRESENT:** 76 registered members attended
- TRUSTEES:** Rōpata Taylor (Chair), Jeremy Banks (Vice Chair), Paul Morgan, Emma Park, Mereama Chase, Rima Piggott and John Kātene.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Joanie Wilson (Tumu Whakarae), John Murray (Board Secretary), Nichola Vessey (Project Coordinator), Sarah Jones (Minute Taker) and Jane Reed (Presentation).
- APOLOGIES:** Russell (Barney) Thomas, M McGregor, J McGregor, R Stafford, G Stafford, S Morrison, E Keepa, M Keepa, TW Witika-Park, M Luke, A Wilkie, B Wilkie, N Tahuaroa Watson, K Kavanagh, K Goode, M Goode, L Te Maihana Sykes, M Te Maiharoa, K Te Maiharoa, A Murphy, L Kātene, P Kātene, R Young, T Young, A Young, R Thomas, B Taylor, I McKinlay, I Kahukura, L Kahukura
- MIHI:** Rōpata Taylor / Jeremy Banks
- KARAKIA:** Tamu Mausii

The Chair and Deputy Chair welcomed everyone to the 30th Annual General Meeting and Tamu Mausii opened the hui with a karakia. The Chair acknowledged the passing of Wera Stafford and other whānau and gave thanks for the legacy that they have passed on.

The Chair acknowledged the work of Barney Thomas in the production of the children's book and for championing the need to tell our own stories. The Board of Trustees and Executive Team were introduced.

NOTICE OF HUI AND CALL FOR APOLOGIES

The Chair asked John Murray, Board Secretary, to read the notice convening the meeting and order of business. The Board Secretary read the list of apologies and requested further apologies from the floor.

IT WAS MOVED (E Chase / D McLeod) that the apologies be accepted.

CARRIED

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 22nd April 2022

IT WAS MOVED (E Kahukura / D McLeod) that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 22nd April 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

CARRIED

PŪRONGO TIAMANA – CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair spoke to the following:

- Update on the settlement agreement reached with the Crown over the leased lands, which has now been finalised. Noted that this agreement doesn't change the terms of existing leases (this matter will be progressed with the Crown) but has addressed the historical issues and made a lot of progress.

- Investments have continued to increase; however, interest rates and inflation are expected to have an impact in the near future.
- Operationally, the Trust has achieved a net surplus, after distributions but excluding the land reform settlement, of \$1.825m. This was just under a 16% increase against last year's result of \$1.574m. As of 31st December 2022, total assets have grown to \$97.4m. \$70m of this figure is land-based assets.
- The focus of the Trust's social and cultural programme continues to centre around Mātauranga and Rangatiratanga.

Paul Morgan spoke to whenua and the status of leased lands:

- There are lands within the Trust that have perpetual statutory leases whereby other lessees continue to use our lands. There are lands in the middle of the Motueka West scheme, where there is potential to develop, which we don't have control of. Looking forward, we want to either change the law around the leases in order to gain control, or to purchase the lessees' improvements or swap the lessees to other lands.
- This kaupapa has been happening for 50 years, and it is expected that there will be another 20-30 years of active administration to try to have the land returned.
- We also would like to address the serious concern regarding the utilisation of our productive soils, which are not protected.

Pātai:

- Query regarding any precedent for terminating leases. Confirmed that the only opportunity to change a perpetual statutory lease is at the point of renewal, which is 21 years. There is no right to remove the tenant prior to this. NRAIT were hopeful that the Crown would change the statutory requirements and are working with lawyers to look at this. Māori leased land was historically dealt with through Federation of Māori Authorities, however our lands were Church leases and therefore weren't included, as the Crown are nervous regarding setting a precedent with other similar leases (ports, airports etc). Essentially, we want equality under the law and to have the same rights as every other landowner in New Zealand.
- Is there any possibility of losing the land if we are unable to pay back improvements? Confirmed that the improvements depreciate over time and therefore the risk of this is very low. Confirmed that lessees can build upon or plant on our land without permission and that we cannot prevent them from doing so. Whilst we hold the ownership of the land, these terms are not equitable for us and are not in keeping with the principles of Te Tiriti. The Crown has an obligation to treat all citizens the same.
- What procedures are in place to monitor and check whether lessees are polluting or contaminating our whenua? One of the problems of the leased lands is that there have been practices that we have very little control over. Confirmed that the management of whenua is now being brought inhouse, which will be an opportunity to get closer to lessees and to look at what conditions we will be able to put into leases. This is a work in progress.
- Query as to what percentage of the land is locked up in perpetuity leases. Confirmed that approximately 20-30% of the portfolio falls into this category.

TE WHANAKE

Mereama Chase spoke to Te Whanake:

- Overview given of the \$1.61m in distributions that have been awarded since 1993. Mātauranga has been the main recipient, receiving \$673,234, as this has been the main focus over the last ten years. \$500,000 has been distributed to marae, with the remainder as koha and hauora grants. Noted that the bulk of marae funding has been received by Te Āwhina Marae.

- Education grants: Previously, the focus had been on tertiary education, however owners raised that support also be awarded to trades or to Te Reo learning. In the last ten years, the range of grants has been broadened to also include tamariki, not just university students. Details of the categories of the education framework Te Toi Huarewa o Ngāti Rārua Ātiawa are listed in the annual report.
- Scholarship recipient, Caragh Murphy, spoke to whānau regarding her education journey and thanked the Trust for their support during her years at University. As a specialist in Māori land law, iwi corporate governance and indigenous intellectual property, Caragh hopes to give back to iwi, whānau and the Trust.
- A flow chart has been prepared to assist whānau with the grant application process and the range of grants on offer.

Mereama Chase spoke to the Whāngai Policy:

- Whāngai is an important cultural practice, which goes back generations, and was introduced because of the impact of introduced diseases and warfare following the European migrations to Te Taihū in the 1800's. Whāngai was used to ensure continuation of bloodline and connection to the whenua, however, has created complicated kinship lines of descent. The Trust thought it was important to take time to fully consider this and has developed a policy to give clarity to legally and customarily adopted whānau members.
- Fundamental to the policy is that a beneficiary must whakapapa Māori as a condition of membership. This means that any Māori person who is legally adopted by a member of Ngāti Rārua or Te Ātiawa ki Motueka is eligible to be registered as a beneficiary, regardless of whether they whakapapa by birth to the hapū or not. Whāngai who whakapapa by birth to one of the original owners are also eligible. Customary whāngai can take different forms – non-kin whāngai from outside Ngāti Rārua or Te Ātiawa ki Motueka will be accepted as beneficiaries at the discretion of the Board, who will take into account a range of factors. Guidance and advice will be sought from Whakapapa Komiti experts and kaumātua.
- Existing beneficiaries of NRAIT who do not whakapapa Māori will remain as beneficiaries for their lifetime, however their descendants will not necessarily be eligible for beneficiary status.
- This was a challenging kaupapa, but our core principle is the importance of whakapapa. The policy is designed to guide decision making and to ensure consistency and fairness, with discretion for Board judgement. The policy is available to all members on request.

Pātai:

- Acknowledgement from the floor to any whānau who are whāngai, whether officially adopted or not. It is important that they know that they are still whānau to us. This may be a painful kōrero for them and whānau are there to support and awahi them.
- Query regarding why the primary and secondary education funding wasn't open for applications in February 2023. Confirmed that the dates were due to be changed this year. However, due to challenges with moving to the new website, the timing will be similar to previous, and will move to the earlier date next year.
- Request to increase the primary funding, which is currently capped at \$100. The education committee will consider this at the next hui.
- Confirmed that the Whāngai Policy won't be backdated. Existing members will remain. Confirmed that the policy has been approved by the Board.

The Chair spoke regarding the children's book, which is being officially launched today and will be distributed to schools and libraries across Te Taihū:

- Acknowledgement to Kingi Gilbert for the design and Moillo for the illustrations. In future a reo Māori version will be produced, including an interpretation of the cultural knowledge contained within the illustrations.
- Jeremy Banks gave a karakia to officially mark the launch of the book. Agreed that this resource will be perfectly placed for the New Zealand history framework that is being launched next year.

Pātai:

- Requested that the book be offered to national libraries, in order to be accessible to whānau in other areas. Agreed that this should be possible.

COMMERCIAL UPDATE

Overview

Jeremy Banks spoke to the commercial update:

- Update on the commercial portfolio and investments, outlining those that generate regular cashflow and those intended as growth investments. Noted that investment in Miro Limited Partnership and Miro Meihana Koata LP had resulted in a loss to date, due to the current economic environment, however Zespri shares are doing well, with a yield of 17.5%.
- Total assets portfolio: Snapshot provided of the overall portfolio categories, with 63% of assets in whenua. Outline given of the Kete asset management strategy.
- Feedback was received last year regarding the inclusion of cultural assets within the Whenua Tū category of the strategy. Confirmed that these assets are not there for commercial reasons, and that the Trust are looking to introduce a new kete to ringfence these cultural assets.

Financial Reports

Emma Park presented the Financial Summary for the year ended December 2022:

- Statement of Financial Performance: Another successful year with a return of over 10%, which is a great result, taking into account the global economic downturn. Total revenue of just over \$11m, however this does include the \$8m cash settlement from the Crown. Total income amount of \$9,552,207.
- Statement of Financial Position: Fortunate to have a very strong balance sheet, with just over \$97m in assets, with no debt.
- We are holding a large amount of cash at the moment, which is a safe investment with the higher interest rates. Also still have a mussel farm, with over \$0.5m of mussel income.

Auditor's Report

Auditor's opinion received that the Statement of Service Performance is suitable and represents a fair statement in terms of materiality.

IT WAS MOVED (M Stephens / H Kaveney) that the 2022 Annual Accounts be adopted.

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED (M Stephens / M Morgan) that Independent Auditors Ltd be appointed for the 2023 financial year.

CARRIED

HUI FORMALITIES

Election of Trustees

Ngāti Rārua positions: Paul Morgan and Rima Piggott will 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 by the closing date of Thursday 20th April 2023. Therefore, Paul Morgan and Rima Piggott are re-elected unopposed for a further term.

Te Ātiawa position: Emma Park will retire by rotation. Being eligible, she offers herself for re-election for a further three-year term. There were no nominations received for the position by the closing date of Thursday 20th April 2023. Therefore, Emma Park is re-elected unopposed for a further term.

The re-elected Trustees thanked whānau for their support.

Distributions

Rima Piggott spoke to distributions for the next financial year.

IT WAS MOVED (W Oman / E Kahukura) that owner approval be given in support of the Board making provision for distributions of up to \$495,900 (representing 30% of Net Surplus, exclusive of the \$8m Land Reform Settlement) to be made in the financial year 2023. **CARRIED**

Pātai:

- Query as to whether any of the amount has been targeted for the Te Āwhina Marae redevelopment. Confirmed that a percentage of surplus each year has been earmarked for the redevelopment project. The process is for the marae to apply to the trust for grants.
- Considering the rising cost of living, is there provision to support initiatives such as maara kai? The Board has recently discussed support of maara kai, going forward, particularly from a traditional knowledge and cultural identity perspective. Noted that there is also a cultural grant available, which is flexible enough to consider maara kai. Discussion needed around the Trust's position around food resilience and security.
- Reiterated by Trustees that the Riuwaka grant is available for all whānau to take advantage of.
- Suggestion that funds for the Kai Pahara grant could be channeled to maara kai projects, which are more meaningful on many levels. However, noted that many whānau don't live within the rohe and that this grant has been accessed by those in the North Island affected by the recent cyclone event. It is important to support these families too.
- Raised that the maara kai project at Te Āwhina Marae had been a great project, not just for growing food, but for bringing families back to the marae. This is an important initiative, and the Board were asked to assist, so that Una can continue with this mahi for all whānau.

Trustee Fees

John Kātene spoke to Trustees fees. Recommended that no increase is sought from the previous fee amount of \$235,000.

IT WAS MOVED (Z Raos / M Reiher) that approval be given to support the Trust making the following provision for the Board fees to be made in the 2023 financial year, totaling \$235,000. **CARRIED**

GENERAL BUSINESS

Formal launch of Trust's new branding

The Chair spoke to the brand refresh:

- Further to input at a previous AGM, it was decided to integrate both names within the branding.
- The re-brand process was necessitated by the confusion between Ngāti Rārua Ātiawa Iwi Trust and the individual iwi entities. Noted that the legal name of the Trust is not changing, but in terms of clarity we are to be known by the name of the whenua, Whakarewa. Ohu Mātu will be rebranded to Te Mātu.
- Acknowledgement given to kaumātua and whānau who provided feedback during the process.

Other General Business

The Chair addressed questions received from attendees:

- It was raised that the reality is that Motueka is threatened by sea level rise and the potential of earthquake. The marae will be at risk from flooding. Suggestion that we should be looking at building upwards, at Te Uma. The Chair confirmed that this discussion will be held during the upcoming whānau visit to Te Uma. Discussions regarding future strategy being discussed at Board level. Confirmed that the Board have signed an agreement with the Climatorium to look at options around information sharing and knowledge. Need to think intergenerationally as to whether to adapt and live with the sea level rise, or to retreat.
- Noted that climate change threatens our major asset base. This is a competing issue, as we want to have a big footprint in Motueka and would not want to reduce this. At the heart of our involvement in the Climatorium project is that we need to be part of leading the solution. Query regarding property rights to land that is underwater. Many cultures live below sea level; however our rights have been controlled by the Crown.
- Query as to whether there will be any intention to address the health of the members and increase disbursements in the health sector. Confirmed by the Chair that this has been an ongoing discussion. Over time there has been deliberate investment into grants and scholarships, which has resulted in a large number of doctors, nurses etc within our hapū community, with a pipeline of more coming through. Looking at how to harness this knowledge and to review the hauora aspect of our intergenerational plan to ensure it is relevant and reliable to who we are now. Workshop planned to discuss. The appointment of Joanie Wilson into the Tumu Whakarae role is part of our process to ensure our social cultural focus is as strong as our commercial focus.
- Query regarding the process for collaboration with iwi trusts and community groups. Confirmed that Whakarewa have always been a strong supporter of collaboration, with Tiakina Te Taiao being an initiative that we helped to create. This was to be a vehicle to bring all of the entities together, and it is hoped that these entities will be keen to collaborate again.
- The need for a collaborative emergency management plan was raised.
- Strong advocacy for the revitalisation of Te Reo Māori and tikanga. Acknowledgement of Pohe Stephens for his mahi in this space. Importance of Maramataka and mātauranga in the hauora space. Raised that support is needed for reo revitalisation, with more cohesion and access. To hand down quality reo there need to be champions to pass it down over the generations. Raised that this needs to be approached strategically, with resources and a succession plan. Proposed that the strategic plan include hauora and te reo.
- Paul Morgan spoke to the 20 houses currently being built at the marae. This an opportunity for whānau hapū to have quality housing at an affordable price. Members were encouraged to consider engaging in this process, if interested in applying.

- Paul Morgan provided an update regarding the Nelson Tenth's kaupapa. There will be a milestone High Court process beginning 14th August. It is important that whānau are well informed and participate in the coming years, as there will be critical decisions to make regarding the nature of the organisation and how it will work constitutionally.

The Chair formally acknowledged Nichola Vessey for her tireless front line mahi, working closely with whānau to develop, engage and support our people.

P. Stephens closed the hui with a karakia.

SIGNED CHAIR:

DATE:

DRAFT