



# TE PŪRONGO

An update from the Chief Executive

ISSUE

07

Hākihea / December 2011



E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā uri o Ngāti Rangitihī whānui - tēnā koutou katoa.

Over the past month we have made steady progress against the objectives set out in our strategic plan and we continue to develop a robust organisation to deliver on the Trust kaupapa. As you all know, I have been mandated by the Board to support the achievement of our kaupapa:

***Kia tū ora ai a Ngāti Rangitihī i runga i tōna ake Rangatiratanga mō ake tonu atu  
(To enable Ngāti Rangitihī to flourish in perpetuity supported by their unique self-determining capabilities)***

This month we welcome two new members to our team; Kura Paul-Burke as Environment Manager and Brenda Haimona who is completing her work practicum as part of her studies towards a diploma in Social work through Anamata Private Training Establishment. We are still recruiting for an experienced and fluent Te Reo Program Manager to manage our Cultural and Education strategic objectives. More information can be found in the About Us/Job Opportunities section of our website.

In November, we held our Annual General Meeting at Rangitihī Marae where we presented our Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2011. The AGM was a great opportunity to hear from our people on a range of issues. We will be posting the minutes from the AGM and additional information that was requested by some people at the hui on our website. For those who couldn't make it to the AGM, copies of the Annual Report are available from our office. Please contact our office if you would like us to send you a copy by mail or email. Alternatively you can view and download the report through our website.

The final of the Rangitihī Kai Tahī series was held in conjunction with our AGM. Celebrating with a Christmas theme, Kai Tahī this year has provided a welcome opportunity for our people to come together, enjoy our beautiful marae and strengthen our whānau relationships. The first of the 2012 Kai Tahī series will be held on Sunday 19 February.

Another initiative the Trust looks forward to building and strengthening into the new year is the Maara Kai initiative. As food prices continue to rise many people are looking for more sustainable ways to provide for their whānau, and it is encouraging to see the continued support from the local Matatā community for this project. Located at Kui Marr's homestead on Pollen Street, the communal garden has provided many with a hands-on experience on how to restore and utilise our whenua by relearning our traditional gardening practices. We will be posting images of progress to date on our website shortly.

One of our major environmental projects of the past year has been the drafting of our Iwi



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Environmental Management Plan. This plan has now been completed and once it has been filed with the Whakatane District Council and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, it will become part of the legal planning framework that the Councils will have to consider when making resource management decisions in our rohe. The plan provides a platform for Ngāti Rangitihī to assert greater influence in important environmental issues in relation to our lands, rivers and environment and brings us to the consultation table as of right alongside the other major iwi in the Eastern Bay of Plenty. You can view the plan in the environment section of our website in the new year.

Toma Mason has been working hard down in Wellington all year on the Kōputu Taonga project which has seen him trawling through Archives NZ extensive collection for any items relating to Ngāti Rangitihī. We are currently working on the best way of presenting the results of this fascinating project so that all Ngāti Rangitihī can learn, explore and enjoy the amazing taonga that Toma's hard work has unearthed. We will bring you more on this in the new year.

Te reo course Kāinga Kōrerorero has wrapped up for the year and I am very pleased to hear that there is great interest amongst our ahi kā for the return of this course in the new year. We are now taking registrations of interest for the 2012 intake, with the first class taking place in February. For more information please contact our office or visit our website.

Another popular te reo course strongly supported this year by the Trust has been Toi te Kupu. To cap off a successful year both Matatā and Ohope classes came together for a final wānanga at Rangitihī Marae at the start of the month, giving students an opportunity to further their knowledge and increase their understanding of te reo and tikanga Māori. Toi te Kupu will conclude on December 13, with next year promising to be even bigger and better. Keep an eye out on our website for details about next year's course.

I would like to congratulate one of our Trustees Merepeka Raukawa-Tait, on winning the Rotorua District bi-election on November 17. Merepeka was well ahead of nearest rival candidate Brett Marvely in the race for the Rotorua District Council seat and was officially sworn in on November 29 at the Rotorua District Council chambers. Merepeka continues to provide a shining example of servant leadership.

As part of our communications efforts we now have three regular newsletters that are circulated to our members. Iwi Insights is a weekly E-Pānui that serves to inform our members on any urgent news and events that affect Ngāti Rangitihī. Te Pūrongo is now a monthly E-Pānui that will focus on progress made by the Trust and its staff in ensuring we deliver on the objectives set out in the strategic plan for the benefit of Ngāti Rangitihī. Kawerongo will now be distributed to our members and key stakeholders on a quarterly basis, with the next issue due out this month. Ideas and suggestions on how we may continue to improve our current communications are welcome.

Tanira Raureti is now responsible for our database, which includes management of our registration processes. A Validation Committee has been setup up with the support of Dr. Cathy Dewes. The committee will be responsible for the validation of all new registrations received by the Trust.

The past year has been one of investment in a sustainable future. Progress has



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been made in developing a platform for delivering on the stated priorities of our people. We still have some way to go no doubt but with your help we are moving in the right direction.

Thanks to all of you who have provided support and feedback to the team throughout the year. I am looking forward to the new year, which will bring the continuation and expansion of our reo and cultural revitalisation programs, a commitment to playing a role in cleaning up the Tarawera River, safeguarding our whenua, providing health services for our kaumātua, and encouraging whanaungatanga through the Kai Tahi 2012 series. Supporting the education of our people will be one of our new priorities with the introduction of educational support for rangatahi by mid-2012 and looking further ahead, the establishment of a Ngāti Rangitahi Festival by early 2013.

We continue to welcome any Ngāti Rangitahi iwi member who has ideas and a passion for serving their iwi to contact us and discuss how we might support your kaupapa. This is clearly what is needed at this time; people who are willing to ask not what the iwi can do for them, but what they can do for their iwi.

Kia tau ngā manaakitanga o te runga rawa ki runga i a tātou katoa i tēnei wā o te Kirihimete.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Nick Alexander

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An important footnote: My deepest sympathies go out to those within our community and the wider iwi who are unwell at this time. We send out our aroha and whakaaro to you and your whānau during this difficult period. Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui.