

Hui-a-Iwi

Sunday 19 July 2015

Rangitihi Marae

Present: Leith Comer, Owen Minarapa Mitai-Wells, Donna Semmens, Rita Costar, Monica Te Aonui, Tunis Perenara, Mika Perenara, Maria Minarapa, Tiipene Marr, Robert Dawson, Kiri Fraser, Dan Fraser, Paul Warbrick, Maureen Karora, Cathy Dewes, Nereta Perenara, George Manukau, Fay Patrick, Orini Marr, Dougal Stewart, Freda Semmens, Ruby Rondon, Puhī Karora, Rachel Park, Margaret Burton, Kura Raureti, Rinaha Kingi Pirika, Erin Mekerei-Tioke, Beatrice Pia Mason, Mihi Devon, Tiare Williams, Theresa Rondon-Harvey, Moana Biddle, Alana Hunter, Tiipene Marr, Kenneth Raureti, Anthony Olsen

Apologies: Merepeka Raukawa-Tait, Harina Warbrick, Clarke Whanau

Karakia timatanga 1.10pm

The hui began with a PowerPoint presentation on the Comprehensive claim.

The Chairman spoke on the Comprehensive claim. All wai claims are included in the Comprehensive claim that Te Mana is progressing. There are some Claimants who are not happy and are going the Waitangi Tribunal wishing to settle their own claim. That is their right. The Waitangi Tribunal will decide on that. Te Mana will go ahead with all the claims and will make a place for those who are not yet ready to work alongside the Trust. The Chairman explained that the Comprehensive claim is not Te Mana's claim, but the claim of Ngati Rangitihi.

Last year the Trustees of Te Mana led the process to get the mandate which the Crown accepted and acknowledged. It was asked what percentage of Iwi members voted for Te Mana to take the Mandate to the Crown - 77%.

The Claims Project Team will consist of the following:

- Leith Comer, Harina Warbrick, Kenneth Raureti, Donna Semmens, Tiipene Marr
- Roger Drummond (Gibson Sheat)
- Ian Dickson (Ian Dickson and Associates)
- Anthony Olsen

A Treaty Oversight Committee is to be formed – The Chairman asked for any interested persons, particularly claimants, to put their name forward. A small budget will be made to pay for any travel associated with this kaupapa.

Trustee Research Activity

Kenneth Raureti spoke on Mana Whenua. We have established the Ngati Rangitihi footprint around the maunga (around 20% of the Kaingaroa). The next stage is to establish our footprint from Tapahoro to Te Awa o Te Atua. A 20% stake in CNI is a huge increase from the 3% originally allocated to Ngati Rangitihi which was based on population, not mana whenua. The benefit of this change will not come into effect until 2043 unless all eight iwi unanimously agree. At the next CNI Hui, Ngati Rangitihi will put a motion to the table and see what happens.

We have begun to tell the Ngati Rangitihi story. We have not been included in the stories told by other iwi. Now with the research gathered, we can start telling our story from the maunga all the way down the river.

Tiipene Marr spoke of his passion to clean up the Tarawera River.

Donna Semmens spoke on the Ngati Rangitihi stories from kaumatua born and raised in Matata or those who came back here for gatherings or holidays when they were younger. There was a lot of beautiful memories and also mamae – the impact on the loss of reo. There was not much oral tradition handed down. There is a lot of korero missing between our maunga and here in Matata.

Paul Warbrick enquired whether Te Mana can provide details of what they need for research as there are some people that may not want to share things that are personal to them. He also asked whether there a Strategic Plan for the Comprehensive journey? The Chairman responded that once the Oversight Committee is formed, they will put together a strategic plan.

The Chairman talked about our mana whenua. Ngati Manawa and Ngati Tuwharetoa say that Ngati Rangitihi wasn't here in Matata in 1840. While we are very strong on the maunga, upper Tarawera River and in the CNI, we need to strengthen our place here in Matata. Our mission is to address what the Crown did to us, not just with the land but other things too.

Cathy spoke on the loss of language, identity and culture. She said the impact it has had on us and where we are at today can be put at the feet of the Crown. The Crown is responsible for our alienation from our culture, beliefs and customs. Other iwi have already settled on this type of claim - we can look at these to assist us in our claim. Cathy also spoke about Health. She said no-one has taken to the Crown the effects of smoking related illnesses. The Crown can argue that we chose to smoke but they (the Crown's Health Department) promoted smoking, handing out smokes to soldiers. During the influenza epidemic, there was a policy not to give water to those with influenza.

The Chairman said we have a mandate but noted that we have only just started researching and we need the help of the Iwi gather any information about Ngati Rangitihi.

Anthony explained his role as researcher and providing advice around the historical claim. He stressed that the Comprehensive was a historical claim and the Crown's interest was in the state of Ngati Rangitihi in 1840 and the affect it had on the iwi from then until now. He noted Ngati Rangitihi was a powerful iwi in 1840.

Whaea Ruby said she knew of maps that clearly state that the lands are Ngati Rangitihi. Anthony responded that this information is what we need to take to the Crown. Anthony asked if anyone has any information on historical Ngati Rangitihi to please contact him.

Donna spoke on the pakeha who grew up in the Matata area that had a lot of information on Ngati Rangitihi in Matata. An elderly pakeha man had a room full of taonga. A lot of our whanau are spread now. Some will have taonga sitting in their cupboards and drawers.

Orini asked if Bella Wade has been interviewed yet. Donna responded that she has organised an interview.

Terehia had concerns over the CNI allocation. TPT held a special meeting a few weeks ago and they are looking at planting manuka for honey. There is a risk that the manuka could be planted on our whenua. Terehia added that it is disheartening to hear that other Iwi members are going out and doing their own claims, that is not what you call community, and what we need as an iwi is community.

Freda talked about the journey going forward. Other iwi have had their settlement and there will be cross claims. What happens then? The Chairman responded saying we have not settled on what our strategy is and that once the oversight committee is set up we will develop it. Although other iwi have settled and some of the land has Ngati Rangitahi interest, we can still have our say.

Paul Warbrick said our negotiators need to be smart. It is a hard process.

If there are assets that are significant to Ngati Rangitahi that the Crown has given to other iwi, this is where we ask for a monetary settlement as we cannot get that land.

The Trustees were thanked from the floor for their korero and told it was a good hui and that it looks like we are moving forward now.

Nereta made the point that the iwi that do not support us in the Claim Process, don't have integrity.

The Chairman made his closing remarks: The next step is to seek representatives from Ngati Rangitahi to work alongside the Claim's Project Team as the Oversight Committee. The invitation is there for all the Ngati Rangitahi claimants to be on this journey. Part of Anthony's role is to communicate the steps to the oversight committee.

The Chairman asked that if there were any interested persons in the oversight committee. If so, please speak to Donna and leave your contact details.

An archive has been set up so that the information gathered will be available for our iwi. There will be a wananga (1 month or 6 weeks' time) where stories gathered can be reported back.

Karakia whakamutunga: 2.55pm