



NGĀTI POROU KI HAURAKI

Te Runanga O Ngāti Porou Ki Hauraki Chairperson's Report 2022

Tēnā tātou ngā uri o Porou Ariki. Tēnā hoki tātau i ngā tini aitua e whakangaro atu nei ki te pō. Tātau kei muri nei, tēna koutou, otira, tēnā tātou katoa.

INTRODUCTION

I need to acknowledge a number of our Rūnanga Board Members. Uncle Fred Thwaites has been a massive support throughout our crucial development and negotiation phases as our Chair. He moved to become our Pou 2 years ago. As indicated, the loss of Uncle Pine Harrison has been very difficult for us to come to terms with as we witnessed the passing of an era.

Bevan Hunter succeeded to the Chairmanship vacated by Uncle Fred and he has been a part of our negotiation committee for over 12 years. His constant, relentless work and skills have been invaluable. Given personal health circumstances in Bevan's whānau, he vacated the Chairmanship to concentrate on his whānau but he was persuaded to stay on as a Rūnanga Committee Member given his huge institutional memory.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2022

This trading year has been one of the most successful and active in the history of our people since incorporating the Ngāti Porou ki Hauraki Trust in 1987.

We then signed off on a mandated Trust Deed in 2006 and we have been operating under that Deed until our Post Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE) was mandated this year. The key milestones in this year were as follows:

- We embarked on funding applications that previously had been the sole purview of either the Hauraki Māori Trust Board or the Hauraki Collective. COVID allowed us to hone in completely on the welfare of our people, both in the haukainga and elsewhere. Diane Tuari, Erica Burke, Jason Harrison & his partner Pikihuia, were instrumental in seeking funding applications and also setting up an extraordinary outcome in achieving our Post Settlement Government Entity (PSGE).



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- The new COVID funding allowed for greater concentration and direction in supporting our communities at Harataunga and Mataora. The coming together and supporting of one another is part of our journey in reconnecting and supporting one another as whānau. Another outstanding outcome achieved over the year included the printing of 6 booklets rejoicing the whakapapa of Harataunga and Mataora. The scholarly effort along with the design prowess and research that went in to the booklets is awe inspiring. The whānau Thwaites, Hale, Speed and Armstrong must be congratulated for their vision and efforts.
- One of the greatest outcomes any Iwi can achieve is to complete its mandate from its people to conclude settlement negotiations with the Crown over Treaty matters. Sixteen years after receiving our peoples mandate to negotiate a settlement, we embarked on a nation-wide tour visiting concentrations of our beneficiaries from Tāmaki Makaurau to Otautahi. This consultation process occurred over a very difficult COVID lockdown period and large numbers of our whānau participated by zoom. The net result was that over 600 whānau voted, in difficult circumstances, in favour while 30 opposed.
- The Ngāti Porou ki Hauraki website, www.npkhrunanga.com, contains our Constitution, our History and a range of helpful information. That information is a testament to all those that were a part of that arduous journey but are no longer with us.

I was elected Chairperson following Bevan having to support his whānau.

Not one Iwi of the Hauraki have settled their Waitangi Tribunal claim yet and it is important that all of our people know and understand that out of the 12 Hauraki Iwi, we have always been treated as the twelfth. This is not by our desire. Accordingly we restarted negotiations with the Crown as at August 2022. We are awaiting the Crown offer, which, as is our requirement, will be brought back to you to contemplate acceptance or otherwise.



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OCEANA GOLD

This is a company that mines gold, particularly focussed in the Waihi District. They are making applications for a new mine under conservation land that runs adjacent to our Mataora land holdings. It will have a significant 20 year impact. In addition they are seeking to extend their own cast mine in Waihi Central which will adversely impact upon our purchase of Waihi Central Primary School, along with having long term adverse impacts. We entered a Memorandum of Understanding with them in April 2022. Regretfully they have not acted in good faith and at the Mataora Incorporation's Annual General Meeting, as well as at the Rūnanga Executive, we moved to oppose their applications. No other Iwi in the Hauraki talks for us or represents us in regard to significant adverse impacts on Ngāti Porou whenua.

FORESHORE & SEABED

We presently have two avenues of redress that are being prosecuted. By September 2008 we were obligated to file High Court proceedings against the Crown and other Iwi protecting Ngāti Porou exclusivity and areas of interest in the Hauraki. We have now entered in to a dual process where we entertained direct negotiations with the Crown. That process is still underway but it seems likely that we will need to litigate. As Court hearings are hard to come by, we are looking at Court dates in the 2024 year.

WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL, THAMES COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL & HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

These councils are being poorly advised in regard to their obligations, duties and responsibilities under their legislation to Ngāti Porou ki Hauraki. They are obliged to provide us with notice should any resource consenting applications be made in areas that we have exclusive or interested parties status in – they have failed to do so. In addition they have funded other Iwi, provided them with notice and prejudiced the position of Ngāti Porou ki Hauraki. We are embarking using Mataora Incorporated leverage on a journey, ensuring that Waikato Regional Council and Hauraki District Council meet their obligations to us and that they are statutorily obliged to do. Thames Coromandel District Council will need to be brought in to line as well, we suspect.



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CROWN AGENCIES

We will have multiple relationships with multiple Crown agencies. Now that we have a formally agreed Post Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE), we can now pursue and assert resources and relationships directly. Our settlement legislation lays out the range of protocols that these agencies must meet. We are now in a position to start to assert them.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I wanted to acknowledge and thank all of my cousins who have worked on the Rūnanga since 1987. Not one of them have received compensation or recompense for the thousands of kilometres travelled and thousands of hours of their time at a huge cost to their own whānau in advancing Ngāti Porou ki Hauraki.

We intend to ensure, that from 2023 onwards we start to look after one another and provide fair and appropriate meeting attendance and travel costs.

Noho ora mai

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned to the right of the text 'Noho ora mai'.

John Tamihere
Chairperson