

Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi

Chairman's Report

2014 AGM

E te iwi o Ngapuhi, tena koutou katoa

Nga mihi tuatahi ki te hunga kua riro i te ringa kaha o Aitua, i a Hauwhakararua, i te toki a Whiro - i te tau kua pahure atu nei, ka tangi, ka mihi, ka tukuna i a koutou ki nga ana matao a o koutou Matua, Tupuna ki ko, ki ko, ki ko. Kua riro hoki koutou i te ha kore, i te kiri matao, no reira e te kahui mate, haere, haere, haere atu. Koutou te hunga wairua ki a koutou, ko matou nga mahuetanga iho, e tangi tonu nei, e mokemoke tonu nei mo koutou – Mauri Ora.

Ka mihi nui atu ki a koutou nga kaitiaki o nga whanau, hapu o te rohe potae o Ngapuhi e kiia nei, Tamaki Makaurau ki te Rerenga Wairua. E nga Matua, nga Tupuna e tautoko kaha ana i nga mahi a Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi, tena koutou katoa.

As Chairman of this Board and on behalf of all Trustees, I am again pleased to report to this Annual General Meeting of Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi (the Runanga) on its governance activities for the period 1st July 2013 to the 30th June 2014. This is my fourteenth consecutive AGM report as the chair of our Runanga and I take this responsibility very seriously. I am immensely proud of the achievements of this board over that time.

The period under review was a year of good progress on many fronts, particularly the Crown recognising the Deed of Mandate secured by Te Ropu o Tuhoronuku Independent Mandated Authority (TIMA) on behalf of all Ngapuhi. This is despite vociferous opposition from those who attempted to delay, and in some cases, derail the settlement of Ngapuhi's historical Te Tiriti o Waitangi claims.

In this reporting year, we were exposed to some very difficult challenges for the Runanga group, however financial returns from our investment in the fishing industry were higher than expected, despite no dividend being paid out by Aotearoa Fisheries Limited (AFL). In comparison AFL paid out \$1M to Ngapuhi in the last financial year. This result was not enough to offset some of the negative impacts, which are reported on more fully by the Ngapuhi Asset Holding Company.

I am however very pleased to report that the strength and stability of Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi in all aspects of its mahi continues to grow and in some areas, exceed expectation.

The Board

Many challenges presented themselves over the past year. I am privileged to work with a board of committed and capable fellow Trustees who are united in achieving the best possible results for Ngapuhi. Business has flourished and moved forward in this reporting year whilst building on strategic foundations established last year. This is critical as we steadily work towards a new Ngapuhi topography, shaped through the settlement of Ngapuhi's Te Tiriti o Waitangi grievances against the Crown.

The pace of work in the reporting year has barely let up. We stayed focused on what our obligations to Ngapuhi were, including, completing a mammoth effort, started over six years ago, to continue supporting Ngapuhi through the settlement negotiations process. I am proud to have chaired this board at a time when the Runanga did so much to support Ngapuhi in commencing direct negotiations with the Crown. To have folded up our tent half way through that journey as some demanded, would have been to abandon our responsibilities as the Ngapuhi iwi Authority.

Our focus is now on further developing the seven strategic goals approved last year and playing our role as a major contributor to the economic strength of Ngapuhi. The management of operational day-to-day affairs of the Runanga is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer and his Senior Executive team whose performance in achieving the strategic and operational objectives are regularly reported on, monitored and assessed by the Board.

George Riley as CEO moved on during the early part of 2014 and has been replaced by Allen Wihongi who has been with us for more than ten years as the Assistant to respective CEO's. We welcome Allen's appointment and have been well satisfied with his leadership at the top thus far. We wish George every success in any new endeavors and career choices he makes.

Trustee Elections

As per our Trust Deed, Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi is governed by a board of 10 Trustees who are elected for a three-year term, determined by adult iwi members registered with the Runanga. To maintain stability and knowledge retention, this election process is undertaken on a rotational basis with three Takiwa having elections each year, with four in every third year.

The Board is elected to provide governance, direction and control of Runanga activities and assets. We also exercise a leadership role on behalf of Ngapuhi with both local and central Government and continue to demonstrate the organisations commitment to Ngapuhi. Our continuing efforts to provide quality reports to our members and stakeholders can only add credibility to the Runanga and Ngapuhi.

This year's rotational elections included:

1. *Te Takiwa o Ngati Hine*
2. *Te Ropu Takiwa o Mangakahia*
3. *Te Runanga o Taumarere ki Rakaumangamanga*
4. *Te Takiwa o Ngapuhi ki Whangarei*

The results of these elections are as follows:

- i. *Te Ropu Takiwa o Mangakahia:*
 - Carol Dodd - Trustee
 - Vivienne Bristowe - Chairperson
 - Lysigna Taini Mihaka - Secretary
 - Rosa Moon - Treasurer
- ii. *Te Runanga o Taumarere ki Rakaumangamanga:*
 - Lorraine Young - Trustee
 - Lorraine Young - Treasurer
 - Diane Tito-Saliva - Secretary
- iii. *Te Takiwa o Ngapuhi ki Whangarei:*
 - Mike Kake - Trustee
 - Puti Tipene - Treasurer
 - Wati Cooper - Chairperson

We welcome back Carol Dodd from Mangakahia as well as Mike Kake from Whangarei for another three-year term. We also welcome aboard Lorraine Young, nee Hill, who has been filling in as proxy Trustee for Te Runanga o Taumarere ki Rakaumangamanga as their Trustee Joe Bristowe recovers in hospital. I take this opportunity to thank Joe for his twelve years service as their Trustee. Joe has been an architect and stalwart of the direction that Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi has travelled over many years and we are grateful for his contribution to Ngapuhi and wish him a rapid recovery.

We also welcome aboard all current and newly elected Takiwa executive committees and thank them all for being staunch advocates of our Takiwa system.

It is our understanding that Te Takiwa o Ngati Hine has again elected to remain outside of Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi however; we continue to service their Hapu, individuals and Marae.

Communicating with our people

Communication is our main strategic plank and we are committed to ensuring that our members and Ngapuhi are well informed of all major issues and developments affecting Ngapuhi and the Runanga. We are constantly seeking to improve our engagement with Ngapuhi katoa and are frequently reviewing our communications processes. As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen these links, we are currently in the process of reviewing our total operations systems and infrastructure to ensure they are fit for purpose. In this demanding, ever changing and unpredictable environment, the worth of sound operational systems and infrastructure enables us to provide an invaluable contribution in delivering benefits to Ngapuhi.

Corporate Responsibility

How we operate is a critically important part of what we do and the businesses we manage. Our approach to corporate responsibility is now embedded in our business culture. It influences our governance, our approach to our environmental performance and how we interact with stakeholders and communities we work alongside.

While we need certainty in our equity base to invest in operations that can add value to Ngapuhi, we are mindful that we continue to operate in a volatile economic environment, more so than existed in previous years. With our country being tethered to a free market global society, the economic situation this creates contributes largely to our position and is out of our control. It would be unwise to suggest that the economic downturn is behind us. Into the next year we expect conditions to remain unsettled requiring us to look for new ways to improve our operations and governance efficiency while being cautious with our investments.

Ngapuhi festival 2014

I consider the biggest highlight for Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi this year was Ngapuhi Festival 2014, easily the largest and most successful of all festivals on many fronts. Over 46,000 people from all corners of Aotearoa and the world were in attendance to be a part of this momentous occasion.

The largest ever-indigenous arts exhibition was held involving 50 indigenous artists from the four corners o te Ao. The Ngapuhi Toi Arts Exhibition attracted over 25,000 people through the doors and was held over a five-day period. Simply outstanding!

160 stalls were on site providing a mix of local and regional products and services. But even more important was the large proportion of stalls allocated to Marae and Hapu who were able to utilise this event to fundraise substantial amounts that will directly contribute to the revitalisation of our Marae and Hapu.

We look forward to the next Festival in 2016.

Withdrawal by Te Runanga o Ngati Hine

As reported last year, the original issue of withdrawing is still to be heard by the Maori Land Court.

At the time of writing this report, no further progress has been made. Our position remains very clear - Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi has a responsibility to Ngapuhi to ensure that:

- *The interests of Ngapuhi katoa are paramount;*
- *Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi has a responsibility to manage Ngapuhi's assets prudently;*
- *Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi must be mindful of what impact Ngati Hine's withdrawal would have on Ngapuhi katoa.*

In saying that, we do not wish to impede Ngati Hine from arriving at a destination of their choosing and will help facilitate a process to that end. We are prevented however from going any further at this point, as Ngati Hine has stated in writing, that they are 46.6% of the Ngapuhi population and expect that level of resources currently managed by the Runanga. We vigorously dispute that figure and is why we are stalled at this time.

Political and Cultural Leadership

As the Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi board, we continue to demonstrate our ability to make sound political decisions, with the authority and capacity to make those decisions work for our iwi.

I want to reiterate my comments from last year's report:

*'As a Board, we carry a great deal of responsibility and authority when making decisions we consider are in the best interests of Ngapuhi. Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi has no authority to make decisions that only promote the interests of individual whanau or hapu. This **'cultural contract'** within Ngapuhi holds Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi to a high standard: easily lost at the first sign of corruption or pettiness'.*

An example of this **'cultural contract'** is the continual discussions regarding Energy sources, minerals and mining being led nationally by Ngapuhi.

Energy sources (*water, gas, petroleum and minerals*) continue to be a major discussion point in the north. On the matter of petroleum exploration in Ngapuhi-nui-tonu, Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi has a policy that says we will support the position of hapu on the matter of natural resource utilisation in their respective rohe.

Notwithstanding that policy, we have a responsibility to all Ngapuhi and must explore all options and be informed to ensure agreeing or disagreeing is in the best interests of Ngapuhi, environmentally, economically and commercially. In this instance, the example that comes to mind is the growing debate over access to water; water quality and how we might best manage competing demands.

National Iwi Chairs Forum

This Forum continues to be a growing political force for Maori issues being addressed at Ministerial level. It is important that we understand the makeup and operations of this forum. National iwi Chairs has a membership of recognised iwi Chairs whom have been democratically elected by their respective iwi. It is the decision of each individual iwi to determine whether or not to register as a participating iwi and indeed if they pay the small subscription fee.

As stated above this forum is for chairpersons of iwi across the country who meet in congress quarterly to discuss advancing issues current and relevant to iwi katoa, puta noa i tenei whenua. Some Hapu and Maori organisations have tried to vary that membership only to be told to come through their iwi if one desires to have an issue put on the table. Disputes or differences are to be dealt with at '*home*' not at the iwi forum. To that end, Te Kahu o Taonui (current Ngapuhi-nui-tonu iwi chairs) by majority vote, wrote to the iwi Chairs Forum informing them that any Hapu in our respective rohe desiring to become iwi, must first of all consult and get the clearance from their parent iwi. Each Te Kahu o Taonui iwi have pledged to support whatever the affected iwi position is.

I remain firm in my opinion that the National Iwi Chairs Forum serves iwi and Ngapuhi well and Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi will continue being a member of this Forum to ensure Ngapuhi are fully conversant with what is going on nationally and indeed, internationally.

Whanau Ora

Another concept being led by the National iwi Chairs Forum is perhaps the biggest shakeup that has happened to the Social Services and Health delivery sectors that this country has ever seen. Last year I advised that this is one of the biggest social, economic drivers in Aotearoa for Maori (*and all of New Zealanders*) since the Hunn Report was

released in 1961, confirming assimilation by official government policy. Nothing in the past year has made me change my mind.

Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi continues to take a key leadership role in this kaupapa as we advanced the establishment of three Commissioning Agencies and an overarching Governance structure. The concept has been to Cabinet and received their signoff.

The three Commissioning Agencies established across the Motu are:

- *Te Pou Matakana (North Island);*
- *Te Putahitanga o Te Waipounamu (South Island); and*
- *Pasifika Futures (Pacific Island).*

As I write this report it is envisaged that Whanau Ora will be overseen by a yet to be established partnership group comprising six iwi Chair appointments and six Ministers of the Crown (Ministers). The iwi Chairs Forum consider it appropriate to have a mixture of iwi Chairs and appointments of people who have commensurate skills to take us forward in these roles. For the avoidance of doubt, we are not seeking nominations nor are we suggesting representation be geographically centric, but rather the best people for these positions be invited to sit on this group.

Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 review

Another important piece of work being carried out at this time is the review of Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993. This is being led by the National iwi Chairs Forum.

This act was last reviewed before 1993 and it took ten years to complete. This particular review is a very important matter affecting Maori land retention and utilisation. The Crown and Maori are collaborating to review the act to make things easier for Maori to develop their land and better organise their whenua affairs, whilst reducing Maori land court powers of interference.

Research from the Ministry for Primary Industries (2013) estimates that if 960,000 hectares of under utilised Maori land was brought up to average industry productivity benchmarks, benefits would include an additional \$8 billion in gross output into our economy. To generate this level of land utilisation there needs to be serious investment injected into these proposed changes. It is one thing to review the law governing Maori land and come up with these concepts but a totally different picture emerges when it comes to bringing these moemoea to fruition. Therefore resourcing of these expected policy changes is critical to whether this initiative succeeds.

Against this background, a Review Panel was established in 2012 to review the Te Ture Whenua Maori Act. They had a number of tasks and their work concluded in July 2013.

After reviewing all research and undertaking consultation, a final report was provided to Ministers. It is from this report that the iwi Chairs Forum were offered a chance to assist develop the proposed new legislation along with a Crown team of officials. Nineteen regional hui were held across the motu with the Ngapuhi hui taking place at Kohewhata Marae in Kaikohe. This was a great opportunity for our iwi to get first hand information and have input into the new Ture Whenua Maori Act and how we as Hapu and iwi might benefit.

This process continues and when a final report is produced we will ensure that consultation with Ngapuhi is undertaken before the new legislation is introduced to the house. As I write this report it is unclear as to whom the new Government will be, but we remain hopeful that regardless of who is in government at the end of these elections, they take this kaupapa to the next level.

Tuhoronuku Independent Mandated Authority

It goes without saying that the Crown's recognition of the Deed of Mandate Ngapuhi bestowed on Tuhoronuku in 2011, is indeed an historic achievement. A great deal of publicity, mostly negative, has been generated in relation to this mandate, the Runanga, individuals and indeed Ngapuhi settling historical crown breaches against Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The Runanga has played a major role in enabling this process to commence and move forward. We are proud of the achievements of Tuhoronuku and wish to acknowledge those who participated, whether they agreed or not, the opportunity was provided.

As Ngapuhi are aware Te Ropu o Tuhoronuku has severed all ties with the Runanga and has become an independent entity in its own right. The entity is now known as Tuhoronuku Independent Mandated Authority (TIMA).

In saying that, Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi, as an entity, will be put forward as an option for Ngapuhi to consider as a Post Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE). That is, with the pending settlement getting closer this is an excellent time for us to re-position Ngapuhi for the future. You will have an opportunity to provide your opinion and feedback on a suitable Ngapuhi PSGE – *I urge you all to have your say.*

An application for a urgent hearing on the Crown's mandate process, is before the Waitangi Tribunal. At the time of preparing this report, the Tribunal was still to provide a direction as to whether or not these hearings will proceed.

For those of you who are unaware, I am the current Runanga representative on the new TIMA board and it is my responsibility to report on the progress and activities of TIMA.

To that end I wish to report that TIMA had its first official meeting on 22nd and 23rd of August 2014, at Omapere, Hokianga, with all 22 Trustees present.

The meeting was very positive with all members contributing. This bodes well for the future of Ngapuhi's Te Tiriti o Waitangi settlement journey. The election of Chair and Deputy Chair was conducted at that hui where I was elected unopposed as Chair. Sam Napia was elected Deputy Chair. I am humbled and grateful for the faith and support given to me to continue leading this kaupapa.

TIMA has a full schedule of work planned with two immediate tasks. The first is to advertise and appoint a Ngapuhi negotiators team and the second is developing PSGE options for consultation with Ngapuhi. I look forward to the renewed challenge of this important mahi whilst bringing Ngapuhi katoa together in one final push to settlement. It is hoped that all will be on board to finish this kaupapa.

CONCLUSION

Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi has offered leadership to Ngapuhi katoa, although facing many trials and tribulations, as we aligned our operations to be in accordance with constitutional and legislative requirements. We can now report that to the best of our knowledge this has been achieved, therefore posing no risk to this organisation or its assets. Testament to this is another unqualified financial audit and strategic milestones having either been achieved or exceeded. I need not remind you that legislative alignment is a vigilant process that requires constant monitoring.

Involvement in national iwi politics and leadership continues to elevate the status of Ngapuhi to its rightful place, in the upper echelon of national Maori political influence and development. This Forum is certainly the most influential political forum that Maori have today as it challenges the Government when proposed legislation threatens to negatively impact on Maori.

Within the National iwi Chairs Forum, Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi is one of the leading iwi voices. We front and lead many national initiatives including Whanau Ora, Review of the Te Ture Whenua Maori Act and Housing.

In regards to Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi at home, I would like to record that its vision, vibrancy and real achievements are in the whanau, hapu and marae communities where our staff labour. Examples of their successes feature proudly throughout this annual report.

On behalf of the Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi board, I wish to thank all our staff for their tremendous dedication and efforts over the past year. I especially want to thank our Chief Executive, Allen Wihongi, and his management team for their tireless contribution to the continuous building of this mighty Ngapuhi Nation. Each and every one of our staff members is highly valued.

To Lorraine Toki and her operations team of TIMA, we congratulate you on all the milestones you have achieved operating in an incredibly hostile environment. This tension will improve now that the majority of Hapu are on board this waka. Ngapuhi has given you a great Governance team to work with and will support your operations staff bring to fruition their hopes and aspirations for settlement.

To our Social Services team, ably led by Liz Marsden, another great year of achievements whilst touching many hearts and lives of our fellow Ngapuhi members.

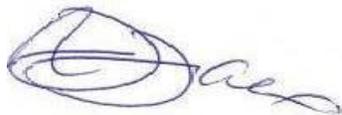
To our Ngapuhi Asset Holding Company Ltd staff, congratulations on another great year and look forward to many more achievements into the future.

To our Kaumatua and Kuia, your support of Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi and its direction is very much treasured and appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow trustees for their unwavering commitment to Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi and its responsibilities to our people. This has been a demanding year and each of you has played your part perfectly. Nga mihi.

Ki te iwi o Ngapuhi-nui-tonu, tena koutou e tautoko kaha ana i te huarahi kua oti nei te hakatakoto e o tatou Matua, Tupuna hei arumanga ma tatou i enei ra. Kia kaha ai tatou katoa ki te hakahonore i to ratou tu ki a pupuri tonu i te mana motuhake o tenei whenua, hei whariki ma tatou o Ngapuhi ki a hakatutuki ai te moemoea o te Ao o Ngapuhi, ***“kia tu tika ai te whare tupu o Ngapuhi.”***

Mauri Ora



Raniera T (Sonny) Tau
CHAIRMAN