

Report to Board Of Trustees Meeting - Te Runanga-a-iwi-o-Ngapuhi

From: Raniera T (Sonny) Tau - Chairman
Date: 30 October 2015
Subject: Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi Board Report

Tena Tatou Katoa

These last few weeks have seen much activity from our operations team as they get the organisation ready for our AGM tomorrow. All reports were in on time and we can be very proud of Allen and his team for their preparation and attention to detail around our legal obligations to inform and report to our many beneficiaries.

I am very comfortable with where we are as an organisation relative to where we were last year. Ngapuhi again enjoyed a good growth spurt in our asset values as well overturning a deficit budget and coming in with a consolidated surplus for the year. Congratulations again to our team for operating within their budgets and assisting with arriving at the situation we currently have.

For me there are certainly issues around the Tuhoronuku IMA journey as there have been negative exposure of their operations leaked to the media from within that Board itself. I can testify to this as I wrote a letter of comfort from our Board, which I sent to you all, clarifying the requirement of TIMA to repay any Loan against Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi upon request. That letter ended up in the Ministers office the very next day as he alluded to it in his letter to the new TIMA Chair, Hone Sadler, of 22 September 2015.

Department of Internal Affairs and Te Tiriti o Waitangi

- You have received the correspondence in the past with regard to the moving of the original copies of Te Whakaputanga, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the partition on the rights of woman to vote from the National archives to the National library
- The CEO and I attended this meeting on the 8 October in Wellington
- The team and over the process of moving these taonga in early 2017 and outlined how this will be achieved
- Ngapuhi will be well represented in this move and we are currently putting together korero for that purpose
- Iwi Chairs attended this briefing and were surprised with just how fragile these documents have become over the years
- The main purpose for moving these taonga to the National Library is because where they are currently archived at the moment is not modern enough to house the technology that will enhance the preservation of these documents

- I am aware that Waitangi National Trust has asked that these taonga be shifted up to the new Waitangi Museum once it is finished for display
- Listening to the korero at that meeting only strengthens ones resolve to leave them where they are as to move them will add to the rapid deterioration of these taonga
- I have asked that photocopies of these originals be made available to the Waitangi Museum but to stop short of moving them north permanently
- Waitangi just does not have the controlled room temperatures and technology to look after these taonga
- DIA are taking a 500 year preservation approach to these taonga

Loan Facility of \$400,000 To TIMA

- In the last three or four weeks there has been much discussion going on around this facility made available by Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi to the TIMA Board
- I want to state up front that this issue has been blown out of proportion as most, if not all, you Trustees have been privileged to be part of this Boards seven years of extending this facility to Tuhoronuku as it seeks to settle Ngapuhi's Te Tiriti o Waitangi grievances against the Crown
- As a Board we agreed that there is no more righteous thing to do than assist Ngapuhi settle these grievances
- Suddenly, some of us now doubt that philosophy which we have harbored for the last eight years
- We are all aware, and very familiar with why this loan was made available to the settlement journey by Ngapuhi
- I made that abundantly clear at every consultation hui that Tuhoronuku had right from the beginning – there has been no secret about that
- In the main, TIMA, under my leadership anyway, did not want to be reliant on the Crown for its funding as the Crown policy is that they only ***“make a contribution”*** to these ongoing costs
- For example, during the Urgent Waitangi Tribunal hearings the Crown did not fund Tuhoronuku adequately or on time and TIMA were forced to borrow from the Runanga
- The Crown contribution of TIMA costs was very small relative to the costs required to defend our position at the Urgent Hearings with the balance being picked up by TIMA
- This has put a huge squeeze on the TIMA funds and the question being, where would they go without this facility?
- I have seen correspondence and emails from Trustees of this Board casting doubt on the legitimacy of this facility and indeed referring to the information provided at the time?

- At our Board budget hui in May this year, only Wane was missing as a Trustee with eight out of the nine Takiwa chairs in attendance
- The topic was thrashed out with unanimous support to again offer that borrowing capacity to TIMA
- To now doubt that decision and say it was based on *“information provided at the time,”* is an indictment
- We spoke about the current loan agreement deed and how it says that the loan will be repayable on demand
- Directors of NAHC felt that this could make TIMA technically insolvent if called upon to action repayments
- Directors of NAHC suggested a re-wording to tie payback to an end result or settlement figure?

Kaumatua Kuia Hikoi For Suicide

- On 9 October the Kaumatua and Kuia Roopu organised a community Hikoi against suicide which has been prevalent in the North of late
- Although some committed outside our rohe o Ngapuhi, we have had seven suicides of our Ngapuhi people in the last three or four weeks
- Although some of these acts are committed elsewhere, it has been Ngapuhi who have been left to clean up the after effects
- The Hikoi attracted some two hundred people and was a pleasure to listen to the stories at the end of the march
- Many of our young people turned out and also gave interviews to the media
- Despite our best efforts our youth continue to take their own lives
- From the latest statistics suicide is climbing and becoming a number one killer of our youth
- Statistics also identify that more middle aged males are taking their own lives
- Of the seven latest suicides of Ngapuhi people, three were middle aged males
- I think the Kaumatua and Kuia have awakened a desire in people to do something about this tragedy as many groups are contacting Shelley to become involved in this matter
- I don't think it is not wise for our Kaumatua and Kuia to lead anymore on this subject as they have done their job of bringing awareness to the kaupapa and moving it beyond the rhetoric
- It is now someone else's turn to move the kaupapa to another level

Hokianga Water Projects

- On 12 October I attended a meeting in the Hokianga around the provision and ongoing maintenance around their water systems installed in the Hokianga
- There are a number of water projects that have been established in communities throughout the Hokianga who were funded to get established but will struggle with the ongoing maintenance of these systems

- The established Hapu water supplies are:
 - ❖ Whirinaki
 - ❖ Matihetihe
 - ❖ Panguru
 - ❖ Waima
 - ❖ Pakanae
 - ❖ Motuti
 - ❖ Utakura
- I asked the question at the hui whether one person could be tasked with maintaining all those water supplies
- The response was that Hapu would like to do those themselves, which would mean seven different people doing the job with seven sets of tools etc.
- I think they would need to come back with a proposal for various funders to look at
- They also talked about diversification and what they could do as Hapu to create employment etc.
- Eru Lyndon as the Regional Commissioner for MSD was in attendance as well as a representative from TPK – Ian Peters
- They listened and will make some considerations from that
- Helen Leaf might want to comment on this hui as she also attended

Kaumatua Kuia Ball

- Following the AGM tomorrow will be the annual Kaumatua Kuia Ball
- This will be held in Kerikeri at the RSA
- Again Kaumatua and Kuia who attend Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi meetings and sign the attendance register/s are sent invitations to the Ball
- I understand by the replies to invitations that there will be a good turnout for this years ball
- There is an air of expectation and excitement brewing among our oldies and I look forward to being with them at the ball

Conclusion

As you are all aware Te Hauora o Ngapuhi has been launched with Te Rau Allen and Ngawai Tuson being our two Trustees appointed to that Board. We are finally getting all systems lined up with the Runanga processes to ensure we are aligned in our thinking from both the iwi umbrella, Te Runanga-a-iwi o Ngapuhi, and Te Hauora o Kaikohe.

Part of the change over exercise was to apply to the Charities Commission for Te Hauora o Ngapuhi to become a Charitable Entity. There were some challenges to this process coming to pass but we can now report that Charitable Status has been achieved for that organisation. Many thanks to Ketan and Allen for pushing that issue to its conclusion.

Te Hauora o Ngapuhi comes to us in a very stable condition with long-term contracts envisaged and an application to become a preferred provider with Government Departments. This means that instead of applying for contracts on a monthly, six monthly or annual basis, contracts are automatically rolled over and allows the organisation to plan and budget accordingly. NISS has that status at the moment, in some of its contracting, and we hope that Te Hauora o Ngapuhi achieves that status in the very near future.

Te Hauora o Ngapuhi also comes unencumbered by any debt or financial problems, as did NISS when they returned to the control of this Board. We are really fortunate to get this organisation under our umbrella so seamlessly. We welcome the company on Board.

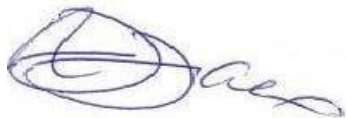
I want to express again my concern with some of the Trustees around making big decisions on behalf of Ngapuhi and holding that line. In light of some discussions being taken into the public arena lately, regarding some of our Board decisions, it is very frustrating to hear the spin that is being applied to these matters. It is as if some Trustees do not listen when big decisions are being made. I want to also make the point that 99.9% of all resolutions coming from our Board in the last fifteen years have been unanimous. I can only hope that Trustees are taking notice of what is being done and agreed to, for and on behalf of our iwi. Confidentiality is also an issue.

I want to also express my concern with the reputational damage that this type of negativity breeds. The CEO will tell you all that we are struggling to attract sponsors for Festival 2016 and the reason many give for not being interested is the negativity surrounding some of these issues being aired in public.

I want to take this opportunity to again thank each and every one of you Trustees for the work and effort you put in to ensure that grassroots reo is heard. I look forward to the continued challenge of performing beyond the call of duty to ensure we are on track with our five year Strategic Plan. Nga mihi ki a koutou

Ki nga Kaumatua/Kuia me te iwi puta noa, ko te Ao o Ngapuhi kei roto i o koutou ringaringa. Kia kaha koutou ki te akiaki i to Poari ki a mahi ai nga mahi tutuki noa i te moemoea o Ngapuhi-nui-tonu, ara, *kia tu tika ai te Whare tapu o Ngapuhi.*

Mauri Ora



Raniera T (Sonny) Tau

CHAIRMAN