



Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotearoa Trust
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Ngāti Rehua-Ngātiwai ki Aotearoa Trust Board Information Hui

Saturday 21st September 2019 : 10 – 1pm
Matapouri Marae, Northland

Trustees in Attendances. ALL: Tavake Barron Afeaki (TA), Bruce Davies (BD), Aperahama Edwards (AE), Valmaine Toki (VT), Jason Wii (JW)
Minute-taker: Kelly Klink

Introduction to Information hui Trust Board Chair, Tavake Barron Afeaki (TA)

- Intro to information hui, necessity for Ngāti Rehua-Ngātiwai uri having the opportunity to gain some understanding of present issues. To work towards facing the challenges collectively to resolve the problems as a people, for the tamariki, mokopuna to have a better chance. The uri of Aotearoa deserve better.
- Regularising the database prior to the AGM scheduled for 20th June 2020
- Focus on the court direction and orders as interim trustees
- Hapū database, to succeed this needs to be worked on collectively

Aunty Adie Kerepeti Smith – What are you looking for from us?

TA: moves into explanation of High Court orders as an answer

- Justice Palmer noted that, the first independent trust board chair appointment was Kieran Raftery QC then The Māori Trustee, Jamie Tuuta and the third is TA.
- Justice Muir and Justice Palmer laid down a set of orders to regularise the database. The orders were made by consent of the plaintiffs and defendants in the Court case.
- Justice Palmer (JP) wants us to resolve this validation committee mahi under our own tikanga/whakapapa.
- Previously were 2 separate validation (kaumātua) committees; one from the plaintiffs and one from the defendants. They met separately and came to different conclusions about the database. Because of that separate process, the judge has ordered a combined kaumātua validation committee hui as one group and together resolve the issues about the beneficiary database.
- TA speaks to Paragraph 41c of the judgment. Reads through the orders and explains

Jeanne Wii (JW): Why has the database been said to be corrupt?

TA: explanation of database

- The Judgment does not rule the whakapapa as corrupt
- Judgment questions the integrity of the database
- Who and how names ended up on the database, because there is no information on how those names got on the database from earlier than June 2017.

AE – There was no source material to work from.

TA: lack of information

- I asked as Interim Board Chair and received a spreadsheet from ElectionNZ (ENZ). It is a list of beneficiary names and some basic details.
- So I asked ElectionNZ for all the other documents they held.
- Only 2 large archive boxes were sent with documentation contained in them. The documents were piles of beneficiary application documents and bundles of proxy voting forms.
- There were no documents from prior to mid 2017 – from the hui of that year

KM (****Tavake asks: Who is this? Is it Kris MacDonald?**): contest between groups regarding whakapapa

- Affiliations of the hapū to Ngatiwai and Tainui
- Never known Mooks Hohneck or Vern Rosier to be kaumatua of Ngati Rehua whanau
- There are many Ngati Manuhiri names on our database
- Need to start from scratch for a fair election

JW (*Janine Wii) : whakapapa to the Paama, Ngawaka whanau. Ngati Wai and Ngati Rehua.

- Early 80-90s we went round all the marae so we could make a stand that we would be our own entity, Ngati Rehua. There has been a battle with Ngati Wai.
- Ngati Manuhiri is part of that whanau. As Wiitaiawa line her husband is part of that whanau and yes they are part of that whakapapa.
- She stands for Ngawaka whanau, her grandmother is one of 13 children they are not happy that the database is starting again.

TA: clarifies the position of the Judge.

- No documentation prior to 2017, Trust has been going since 1985
- Asked for clarification from former trustees and others, was told documents had been destroyed
- Judge states this needs to be sorted out so the Trust can move forward
- Old database isn't thrown out, it is archived, protected and used as a source of information
- The information on this new database is important for the future, so it needs to be agreed upon by the people

KM: point of clarification

- Wiitaiawa, son of Tenetahi and Rahui, is Ngati Manuhiri

JW: Mook's mother is my Aunty

Tipi (****surname?**): Questions of validation of whakapapa

- Opposes Mook Hohneck on the validation committee
- Nicola MacDonald excluded Tipi's father and whanau
- They practice exclusion, so why can't we? It's all about Mook's interests with Nicola

JW: Clarifies earlier statement

Tipi?

- First off, not all Ngatiwai and Ngati Rehua, that is wrong
- And, none of us are sitting here agreeing with Nicola and Mook (?)

AE: Brings order

- Whakapapa is what links and binds us, not a sword that severs us
- We should only speak about the lines that are here so they can respond
- Explains that we have only the spreadsheet and 2 boxes docs, nothing else was preserved or saved. That was all that was in the storage facility.
- Nothing in the boxes received predates 2017
- The register does not exist, there is only the spreadsheet
- If we try to move ahead based on the spreadsheet there is nothing to verify the names in question. Everyone on the spreadsheet to be approached, and given the chance to register, it's a way to get us to an AGM, elections.

JW: We need a new registration form, the current one is no good

Some Sounds of Agreement in the room

AE: Agreement

- we can all agree that many of us had to go through the registration process many times and we want to get this done properly that we don't have to go through this process again.
- AE acknowledges the mamae of Tipi whanau, whose entire line have been deleted from the database. AE explains that as interim trustees that are actively working on trying to remedy the mamae from whanau who have been excluded/deleted from the database.

JW: need to be careful that names that are put on the registration who are whangai

TA: whangai is an issue that you as a people need to decide

TT: issue that keeps arising about whangai for our whanau

- whangai have rights

AE: whangai as an issue for elders

- concern raised because of Tenetahi's whakapapa as a whangai

SP: concern about who is on the kaumatua committee

- Those being excluded, who decides?

Tipi: Apologies for being emotional prior. Do you think I am not going to get emotional about being excluded from the database?

- Nicola has been running around and saying this and it hurts our whanau.

Tipi: stresses the need to have a process that does not exclude the whanau anymore

Jason Wii: I feel your mamae, my concern is that we don't do that to anybody else, and not exclude anyone else

AM (***who?*): We shouldn't be going in as 2 teams but as one – we as kaumatua can do this has one team.

MM: (** who?*) I agree the old people should form that committee but also in the committee to look at those who have the ability who hold the whakapapa and use them to get this right. We should have done this in the beginning as one people.

PA (** who?*): Raises the idea of a wānanga for a validation committee

- Fear that the one validation committee will in fact be two groups within the one, rather than working as one group.

TM (** who?*): Support from whanau to kaumatua validation committee

Aunty (** who?*): who and what role do kaumatua play?

- She stresses it is not always the kaumatua that know the whakapapa but we need to determine who does, sometimes it's the younger generation.

MM: how we got here

- Treaty claims process, a large majority of the whanau were not happy with the trust members representing us
- Before that board there was never a whakapapa or registration problem
- MM agrees with the strategy to start from scratch with the database, so we can move forward as one

TA: wānanga for kaumatua

- interim board would like to support this idea moving forward. We have discussed it in the past and want to proceed with a wananga whakapapa o nga kaumatua
- encourages people to talk with their whanau, have whanau attend the information hui, get the information you need to know about

MM: When are we getting to the financials?

TA: 2020 AGM, but they are now loaded on the webpage and Facebook

MM: are we missing any of the records/paperwork?

TA: Good question

- Have received audited accounts from the last three years ended 31 March 2016, 17, 18, from the accountant James Nair
- The accountant should have the receipts, the Board has not seen these but have requested
- When the interim Board finally received access to the storage unit in late March 2019, the financial records started in 1985 through to 31 March 2014, when they stopped. Nothing more after that date.
- We have just found out we owe tax to IRD. We also want to request from the accountant the receipts for the financial audit, some interim trustees have raised concerns about certain payments which were made to some groups

SR (** who?*): With your board members do you feel like you are on the same page? Can we get assurances from you today that you are all working together?

BD: No we are not, we all have different views. But we have korero, not arguments.

- Putea is the biggest problem, there wasn't any money left from the last trustees for us to carry on our mahi

SP: Asks BD how long he has been a trustee?

BD: 6 years

Tipi: The trust that existed before Nicola deregistered the trust what is the status? Does it affect where we are at today?

VT: Charities commission had deregistered us because Nicola had not filed a return, we have thanks to KK filed the return and been able to keep our registration.

KK: 2017 Nicola did start a new trust under the Charities registration

Tipi: Questions money being transferred to Maori Women's Welfare League – are we going to be able to talk to this?

VT: We have seen that these payments have come out of the Trust's GST bank account into the MWWL, there are red flags in the accounts that we are looking into

Jason Wii: Do you know how much money in total?

VT: Not a total

TA: we need to reconcile the accounts, and ask the questions arising

Tipi: \$25,000 received from council and registered trusts – can we get money from the office of treaty settlements?

TA: Want to use the \$25,000 for the validation process.

- OTS will not engage until we have new trustees.

Clarity for the minutes (TA)

- The return for the charities commission was necessary to make sure we did not get deregistered again because nothing had happened for 2 years
- Explains that when you file an annual return with the charity's service commission to retain your charitable trust status you have to file financial statement accounts, audited accounts with them so that they know it is tika
- We had to explain that we haven't had an AGM in 3 years, but gave the 3 years of audited accounts (2016, 2017, 2018 – not yet ratified by an AGM) as a sign of good will.
- This was accepted for now on an interim basis
- Important to retain our charitable status otherwise we are taxed

TA: Closing statement

- Our current scope is the database, working toward a new database with integrity, securing election professionals, informing whanau about the processes and what needs to be done
- Next hui is in Tauranga next Saturday

Meeting is closed - Karakia