



Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea Trust  
P O Box 13-397 Onehunga Mall  
Auckland 1643

**Ngati Rehua-Ngatiwai ki Aotea Trust Board Information Hui**

**2pm - 5pm, Saturday 28 September, 2019**

**Te Maire (Old Police Station), Te Runganga o Ngai te Rangi Iwi Trust  
6 Salisbury Ave, Mt Maunganui**

|                   |                        |                |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Trixie Nepiha     | Moana MacDonald        | Irene Walker   |
| Pam Armstrong     | Spencer Webster        | Elizabeth Wii  |
| Maurice Ngatai    | Nicky Wii              | Suie Rata      |
| Rena Rata         | Michael Beazley        | Jeanne Wii     |
| Tione Ririnui     | Maata Ngalai           | Kaya-Mei Wii   |
| Delwyn Walker     | Traci Wepiha-Te Kanawa | Paul Cowley    |
| Leigh Hawira      | Taumata Toki           | Brenda Takiari |
| Ron Bush          | Katrina Bush           | Jackie Davies  |
| Paulette Matthews |                        |                |

2pm Whakatau

Karakia

Mihimihi

**Whakatuwhera/ Introduction: TA**

Interim Independent Trust Board Chair, Tavake Barron Afeaki

**Background, Vision for Future**

Introduction to Information hui (TA)

This is our fourth information hui with Ngati Rehua. Give a background to the processes the board is involved and also the processes of the court.

- All Trustees in attendance TA, BD, VT, JW, AE
- Explains the background and reason for this hui, these hui are information sharing and gathering with and for the people who whakapapa to Aotea. To front as a Board,

hui a kanohi, provide information and importantly to hear your views on how we proceed from here

- Regularising the hapū beneficiary database prior to the AGM & elections and all to be done before 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Focus on the court direction and orders to us as interim trustees
- Hapū database, to succeed this needs to be worked on collectively

#### Explanation of TA position as Interim Independent Trust Board Chair (TA)

- Justice Muir and then Justice Palmer laid down a set of orders to regularise and in effect validate the hapu beneficiary database. The orders were made by consent of the plaintiffs and defendants and are enforceable by the Court. Court asked the Māori Law Society to nominate chairperson, TA was one of two nominees. TA is appointed independent interim chair of the Trust Board, with two interim trustees appointed, one from each party to the case. TA is appointed counsel assisting the Court, reports to Justice Palmer who is supervising the trust under his powers. He presides over the case. Acknowledges presence of interim trustees Bruce Davies, Valmaine Toki and welcomes newly appointed trustee Jason Wii on board to help to carry the mahi and serve.
- TA gives summary personal, professional background & 25 years experience in law, 18 years as a barrister in dealing mostly with Māori whanau, hapū, iwi, trusts, boards, land, Waitangi Tribunal, companies, a church, communities. Explains that trustee position is a role of service to the people, not the other way around. The trustees are here to serve the hapū.

Discussion between the plaintiffs and defendants. NRNWKA beneficiary roll and TA asks those present here for their thoughts moving forward. The processes are complicated because of the High Court ruling and law. We are here to engage with hapu members and we must seek kaumatua guidance on NRNWKA tikanga. We had Info Hui at Kawa August 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mangere on 7 Sept, Matapouri on 21 Sept and now here in Tauranga. TA opens to the floor.

TH – asks what is this hui in aid of? For the Barrier or all the people?

TA - yes it is about Aotea and also about the descendants of Aotea who reside elsewhere and will be able to give some background to where we are at and moving forward provide your views on how to progress this and share information

IW – come to have a listen and have clarification of TA role, also mindful of whanau who don't always know who they are – grateful for TA to introduce himself. Wants a robust conversation

MM – suggests we “Ko wai ko au” [self-introduce] around the room. The numbers turned up today are greater than expected. Thanks to Trixie for inviting us into Ngai te Rangi runanga office. Wants to do this again and host whanau on the marae to stay. Looked forward to this hui, the distance from Aotea is a disadvantage to us and with communications with hau kainga.

DW – keen to have a hui with Ngati Rehua its been a long time and hear the progress and start to reengage

TW grateful for NRNWKA Trust Board coming here to discuss what has been happening and where its moving forward.

Ko wai ko au - whanaungatanga commenced around the room

## **High Court Orders**

TA then outlined:

- 18.12.2018 Judgment – Consent orders (agreed to by consent of both parties to the court case)
- There have been 18 trust board hui held since TA's appointment commenced 1 Feb 2019
- Trust role to facilitate the process of regularising the database, oversee review of existing database and new registrations for database, convene Combined Kaumatua Validation Committee (from both parties), engage professional experts to carry this out, seek funding to pay for all this, head to AGM with elections of trustees to serve and lead the hapū trust's work
- speaking to & reading through Judgment Paragraph 41 (a,b,c,d,e) – read out each paragraph and also clearly that paragraph 41c orders that the combined “*Kaumatua Committee will have to review not only each new application for registration but also the validity of each other registration on*

*the existing database.*” So while it is important to have a karanga for new registrations, the Committee are also directed to review the database – all existing registrations.

- Explains Elections New Zealand (ENZ, company used previously) are unavailable, the trust have met with Independent Elections NZ (IENZ), an Auckland based company, to seek to engage them to run the professional elections process (hui on 27.08.2019). IENZ are not available until November, after they finish running the Auckland City and other elections. The process will take some time. But until we have the IENZ on board, we need to proceed with preparing, getting information to the uri of Aotea, understanding and getting their input on making this process work for the people, the whānau, the hapū.

Judgment Para 41c, doubt the integrity of the database – TA confirms the kaumatua validation committee will be a combined one. Before there were 2 different kaumatua groups who ran separately and thus created a problem, they need to come together. Para 41d, the combined validation committee will proceed according to NR tikanga.

### **Trust Board Beneficiary Roll: Request for Feedback, Registrations**

A sound database – gives you an opportunity to vote for the new trustees. TA stresses that NR people are able to determine how to set the processes moving forward. Look to the kaumatua leading this and with financial assistance from the Trust Board. The minutes are being posted on the NRNWTB Facebook page and the Trust webpage.

TA. Database status: we have a list of names on a spreadsheet which they received from ENZ with 1622 names and addresses, this is one of the matters of major dispute. Firstly, who could register and who could stand for the Trust Board.

MM – the 2 groups of kaumatua are the 2 that have to come together?

TA – yes

IW – who chooses the kaumatua? Is this chosen by the court?

TA - under the judgment we are coming back from a legal process to the tikanga of NR.

TA suggests that we follow a NR tikanga process to determine who sits as kaumatua.

This will offer the best chance to get the job done. If it ends up in the High Court it will be a slaughterhouse, this will not be good for NR people. TA states that the Trust Board want to promote, facilitate and assist financially to make this happen.

IW – How is this impacting the Trust?

TA- we have managed to get some bills paid, IRD, Charities, establish relationships with central and local government organisations

IW - this is important then?

TA - Yes. the judge has said we need best process to get the database sorted

IW – is there an end date?

TA – Need it finished because the interim trust board term expires end June 2020

MM – How do we find out if we are registered?

TA – that’s part of the problem and also part of the solution. One thing that needs to be done is getting NR people to engage with the Trust and with the Elections service.

MM – Can we ask that you delete us and we re-register us again? Each whanau was responsible for gathering names to register our whanau. What will be the most helpful thing for the Trust that we can do from Tauranga moana?

TA – great question, that is the best thing you can do to support us. We don’t want to trash the spreadsheet of names we have in hand, but we do want to use that database we hold – that information to start a new one.

TA has corresponded with Warwick Lampp (ENZ) and asked whether they had any supporting documents, when they arrived it was some registration forms and proxy forms from 2018 AGM, some registrations for 2017, nothing prior 2017. TA searched the storage unit and confirms that there is nothing in there from after 31 March 2014. TA agrees that NRNWKA need to start afresh. Calling for new registrations, the Trust will create a new form and it will be sent out and we will all have to work hard at making the database properly. Then we can have confidence in the database.

IW – when the registrations are done by Tauranga Moana will they be validated by the kaumatua committee?

TA - Yes

IW – don’t you think you should have a kaumatua from Tauranga moana to validate their own whanau?

TA – this is why the Trust is pushing to have a kaumatua wananga to guide this process.

Trixie – Who is responsible for the format of the registrations?

TA – IES is professionally responsible for the technical registration of the database, bona fides of identity. TA gives an example of a non-Maori who was able to register and then vote in Ngapuhi Runanga rohe election. This is why the validation process is crucial to giving the database mana.

MM – Isn't it sad that we have to be controlled by a Western system to have to register to say we belong to Aotea? Need to discuss whether we should have to register our mokopuna to the database to say they are from Aotea. This Treaty negotiations process has pushed us into a Western process and removes our tikanga.

TW – wants to address the raru – 2 factions working against each other. TW suggests that a wananga be in place to fix the raru between the two groups. TW asks the trustees for their whakaro about the raru.

BD – yes there has been hurtful korero around the motu. Agrees with TA about the registration process and gives an example of his mother's registration (who is not Maori) on the hapu database, so we have to fix it. BD states the difficulty of the process of validating the registrations. This has to be elected by the people not the Trust.

VT – agrees with MM, in the old days we would vote from the floor, but with the Treaty process has required us to all be filling out a form. Need to have kaumatua hui with the best people put forward not driven by either the plaintiffs or defendants.

AE – all we have in existence is a spreadsheet there is no documents to verify that they are registered, he notes this is what we have to do to overcome and give integrity to the database. The list will be the starting point, the names on that list will be contacted first for registrations. It is not the place of the court or the Trust to determine who are the kaumatua, its up to the kaumatua themselves to do this.

IW – wants clarification: who is registering on the database, re whangai, hunaunga etc?

TA – the korero is for the kaumatua to discuss and make the decisions about whangai, hunaunga etc

IW – the decisions made from the Board prior about registrations; are they still in effect?

TA – it appears that some things went 'pear shaped' over the years, hence why there needs to be clarification about the registration process. States there will be a kaumatua wananga 19<sup>th</sup> October in Auckland and the Trust will assist the kaumatua to attend.

JW – why do you not have it on Aotea? 2 marae are built there to facilitate hui

TA – he notes kaumatua Opo and Sarb also raised this at our earlier hui at Kawa, but logistically for this hui will be easier in Auckland. Moving forward TA would like to have more hui on the island to engage. Putea is really low, so financially the Trust Board can not financially support this right now. The Board members have been working hard to earn money to put back into the Trust bank accounts.

SW – Whats the kaupapa for the kaumatua wananga?

TA – whanaungatanga, tikanga, who comprises the validation committee and the process to registrations. There maybe another kaumatua wananga hui, but the Trust felt that it needed to be started.

MM – I agree with TA, we really have to cut to the chase? We’ve gone through a High Court proceeding – let’s just talk to our whanau and start again with re-registrations. I think if kaumatua want to go to hui that we should find our own finances to get there. Will feel better if the korero is coming from Aotea, MM wants to hear the korero from ahi ka. Implores the Trust to take the hui to the island. “Cut to the chase and do the database”

TA – Tikanga Maori has been polluted by the Crown processes –need to get this right otherwise we will be faced with the same problems again.

MM – can start to look at it as two pathways – tikanga and a western process. Keep the database is a tool for a specific process we have to be involved in but it doesn’t determine who we are.

TA – Tautoko. The challenge for NR is getting the database in order

JW – is upset because at the Matapouri (Info hui) KM had stated that the Witaiawa do not whakapapa to Rehua line this upset her and she felt insulted . Against starting the database again as it’s been through the High Court

IW – this is what the process is about and asks for validation from TA

PA – this will be an opportunity for no one to be left off. Supports that the kaumatua hui be back on Aotea. Doesn’t want the court to determine who the validating committee are but under NRNWKA tikanga. Not through a court process 50% from plaintiffs and 50% defendants this Is not tikanga. This will never bring us back together as one people.

TA – agrees with PA that is difficult but we need kaumatua leadership for tikanga

MM – Can you clarify the relationship between Ngati Rehua Trust Board and Ngati Wai Trust Board?

AE – They are separate

RB – It's been a long time since the Board has engaged with the people. What is happening with the Board's engagement with the Council etc...?

TA – it had gone into abeyance and the (interim) Trust board had to re-engage with the likes of Auckland City Council ie. Capacity Building Contract. \$25,000 payment came to the Trust Board. The Board is represented in projects with the City like the 'Sites of Significance', America's Cup etc.

RB – Business is carrying on?

TA – Yes, even relationships with Department of Conservation. Looking at more funding from Auckland Council for another capacity building contract for the current financial year.

SR – Have we got a time for the start of the kaumatua hui on October 19<sup>th</sup>?

TA – to make the most of our time we should start at 10am.

IW – in regards to communication is it through the webpage and email?

TA – yes

IW – the questions been asked today who will answer them?

TA – best place to have that answered is by the kaumatua

MM – thanks KK for the mahi on opposing the sludge dumping (consent off the coast) in the High Court. (much tautoko from Hui)

**Conclusion:** TA Thanks everyone for giving their time to come to information hui on a Saturday and appreciate their thoughts and manakitanga. Want to keep positive momentum going forward, so asks for whanau here at hui to talk to their own whanau and spread the information, also contacts via media.

Suggests that whanau be informed through the webpage, phone calls to whanau, through facebook page and the Trust can be contacted through email [ngatirehuatrustboard@gmail.com](mailto:ngatirehuatrustboard@gmail.com).

Next steps October 19<sup>th</sup> kaumatua wananga venue TBC shortly, at this stage it will be in Auckland.

He mihi poto, he whakawhetai ki nga whanau katoa, huri noa a Mauao, Tauranga Moana me nga uri katoa o Ngati Rehua-Ngatiwai ki Aotea.

Karakia

Kai