

Kaihautu Korero

4 FEBRUARY -- 14 MARCH 2005

A news brief for Te Arawa descendants about the direct Treaty negotiations with the Crown



TELLING HER STORY: Paretaha 'Rari' Pierson (84) of Ngati Rongomai tells six Crown officials about the sites of significance belonging to her Te Ruato Bay-based iwi.

Stories leave Crown with much to think about

A major milestone has been achieved in a forum that gave the Crown an appreciation of how Treaty breaches impacted on our iwi and hapu.

Over a period of four days Crown officials listened to more than 20 speakers from the respective iwi and hapu tell them how land loss and Treaty breaches affected people socially, cultural and economically.

On the final day of the forum, held February 25 at Te Pakira Marae, the outgoing

Minister in Charge of Treaty Negotiations, Margaret Wilson, and the incoming minister, Mark Burton, heard a summary of the stories.

Waiariki MP Mita Ririnui and Rotorua MP Steve Chadwick were also present.

For some officials, tears were shed as they listened to the stories.

"I believe the forum had a definite impact on the Crown. There's no doubt that these stories will add more strength to our

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Kaihautu Korero

Kaihautu Korero is published every six weeks by Nga Kaihautu o Te Arawa Executive Council. It aims to inform descendants of Te Arawa about the direct negotiations the council is undertaking with the Crown to settle the historical Treaty of Waitangi claims its affiliate iwi and hapu have.

Because of the high demand for information, *Kaihautu Korero* will be complimented by *Kaihautu Korero Update* which will be published every three weeks.

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Message from the Chairman

Tena koutou katoa,

February 2005 was an exciting time for the Executive Council, particularly because our iwi and hapu were given the opportunity to tell Crown officials and four Crown ministers their stories.

The energy and passion of the respective speakers was moving and their korero has made a definite impact on the Crown. It must be mentioned that never before has the Crown, through its ministers, been prepared to listen to a claimant group in this way.

The Telling of the Stories forum, therefore, is ground-breaking in terms of the direct Treaty negotiations process, which I hope will help to pave the way for other iwi yet to enter into formal talks.

Although there were many stories told throughout the forum, there are some that are particularly vivid in my mind.

We heard of how our old people had only one tap in their village, and that when they lost access to their waterways their living conditions deteriorated. In another presentation we heard how one koroua had returned from the war only to discover he would have to fight the people he once fought for to save his land.

In that same presentation we heard how one of our kotiro had a gun pointed at her because she was caught playing on land that had been taken. In another korero, we heard how the bones of our ancestors killed in the Tarawera eruption had been uncovered, and that this land is no longer ours today. The story of one of our hapu who lost 90 per cent of their land over a period of three years also shocked us.

With March now here, we are focused on the job of formalising negotiator appointments.

Later this month, and as a follow-up to the forum, we will take Crown officials on a hikoī of some of the sites significance within the respective rohe of iwi and hapu. I am sure that the hikoī will have just as much impact on the Crown as the forum has.

ERU GEORGE

Chairman, Nga Kaihautu o Te Arawa Executive Council



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negotiations,” our chairman Eru George said.

The issues raised included how the iwi and hapu came to be, identification of sites of significance and traditional associations with these as well as Treaty breaches.

Ngati Ngararanui’s presenter spoke about the actions of the Native Land Court, which heavily impacted negatively on our people.

“There were definite implications for Maori in dealings with the court, and it is no secret now that it was the main instrument used to alienate Maori from their land.”

The event was recorded on video and transcribed by Hamilton-based firm IC Solutions.

This record will be given to the Crown

and Executive Council, hopefully by mid-March.

The forum is a new approach in the direct Treaty negotiations process, Eru said.

“This forum was history making because never before has the Crown through its ministers been prepared to listen to a claimant group in this way.”

A hikoi taking Crown officials to the sites of significance identified in the forum is being arranged for March 22 - 24.

The Executive Council’s cultural redress working party has identified hundreds of sites of significance within the rohe of the affiliate iwi and hapu.

The project runs for another month and a final report is expected in April.

In Brief

A Te Arawa registration system has been installed in our computers to help with registrations. Wellington-based company Pae Tawhiti Ltd was contracted to install the system, which

comes with a combination of hardware and software. Official registration forms, which will allow people to register to vote on the Crown’s settlement offer, are being distributed as we go to print.

From the desk of the General Manager

A range of activities are currently being managed to keep the direct negotiations process completely focused and on track.

The pace at which these activities are being carried out clearly suggests that we are in ‘the rapids’ so to speak.

Since the beginning of this year all management’s energies and resources have been directed into achieving an AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE settlement offer by August 2005.

Individual iwi and hapu research reports are being finalised; the registration system is nearly fully operational; filing systems are being streamlined for efficient ‘calling up’ of all relevant and pertinent iwi and hapu claims information; regular governance and sub committee meetings remain at a constant pace to cope with the pressing strategic demands; information / communication strategies are ever being improved; processes are being enhanced; budgets are being monitored closely ; inward and outward correspondence continues to flow in increasing volumes; attending and responding to the requests and needs of the many people that call at the office along with many other activities are all part of the daily routine at the Nga Kaihautu office.

I am very challenged by the level of commitment shown by staff members

who have had to work late nights and many times on the weekend.

Formal negotiations are in progress and at the higher level of strategic planning we are currently working on:-

Historical Account information being drawn from a range of sources;

Cultural Redress issues which are being progressed on a number of fronts, including:

- working parties working within their respective iwi and hapu to physically identify ‘waahi tapu / wahi whakahirahira’
- developing 3D digital mapping systems;
- seeking the status of ‘waahi tapu/waahi whakahirahira’ through official channels;
- prioritising sites of significance and developing inventories that will include the instruments that control such sites;
- collating information on place names and other cultural interests;

Commercial and Financial Redress work is also being progressed in a number of areas, including:

- identifying and assessing Crown properties;

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- engaging commercial specialist assistance;
- planning economic leverage, eg right of first refusal (RFR)

The Executive Council has completed its selection process in respect of the appointment of negotiators.

There are still some arrangements to formalise, which include the extent of availability and other ordinary agreement issues.

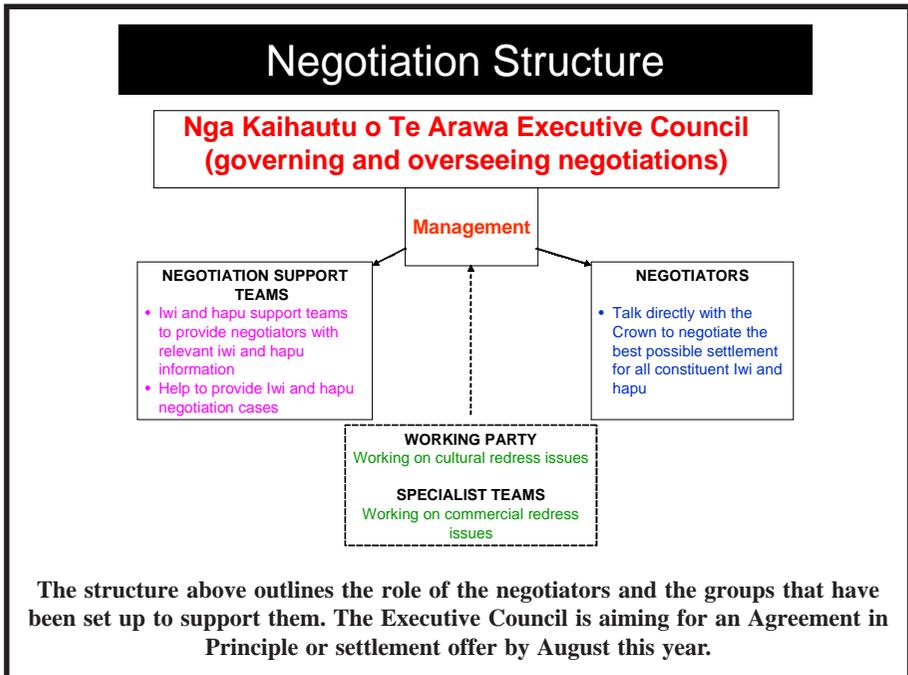
These are expected to be finalised within the next two weeks.

Ken Hingston, Whaimutu Dewes,

Henry Colbert, Brian Bargh and Ruka Hughes have successfully completed the selection process to date.

I, in the capacity of general manager, will undertake a management role on the negotiatio team.

I have confidence based on performance to date that we can achieve the August 2005 goal.



The Ngati Rongomai claim

In their talks with the Crown, Ngati Rongomai will argue that more than 1600 acres of their land at Okataina was wrongfully taken by the Crown in the 1970s.

While the iwi has some say in what the Okataina Scenic Reserve Board can do with the land today, Ruka Hughes believes the title of it should be returned to its rightful owners.

“We want title back. We don’t mind the public continuing to have access to the reserve for recreational purposes but we want back what was taken from us.”

Besides the land at Okataina, the iwi will also be claiming back Pateko Island (pictured on the right) in Lake Rotoiti which is currently managed by the Department of Conservation and the Rotoiti Scenic Reserve Board.

“We have tupuna buried on the island and we want to look after them ourselves,” Ruka said.

Any geothermal resources running under land originally belonging to the iwi, including Manupirua Springs, is also part of the claim along with land taken under the Public Works Act for what is now known as SH 30 between Tikitere and Te Ruato Bay.

The original Ngati Rongomai claimants have chosen to progress their claims through Nga Kaihautu O Te Arawa and the direct negotiations process, as opposed to through the Waitangi Tribunal’s Hearings.

So far the Executive Council’s cultural redress working party for the coast region has identified 33 sites of significance for Ngati Rongomai, including, Pateko Island.



Rongomai descendant George Epapara delivers a korero on his iwi’s claim to Crown officials at the recent four-day Telling of the Stories forum at Waikohatu Marae.



“We have tupuna buried on the island and we want to look after them ourselves.”

Wilson leaves but momentum continues to build

A hui between the incoming and outgoing Ministers in Charge of Treaty Negotiations and the Executive Council added more momentum to the goal of reaching an Agreement in Principle settlement offer in August.

The gathering in Rotorua on February 11 gave representatives from the Executive Council the opportunity to farewell Margaret Wilson and welcome Mark Burton who is the new Minister in Charge of Treaty Negotiations.

Ms Wilson, who is now the new speaker of the House, first met with representatives from iwi in the central North Island in early 2002 – a hui that eventually paved the way for direct negotiations between Te Arawa and the Crown, our chairman Eru George said.

“Minister Wilson, ki a koe hoki e Mita, korua ko Parekura, as we look back over the past

three years we acknowledge and thank you for the political will you have demonstrated to enable us to get to this point, despite the opposition and pressures we have had to work under,” Eru said in his speech to the ministers.

“We also look forward to working with you Mark Burton.

“If there’s anything you should know minister Burton, it is that we are more determined than ever to achieve an Agreement in Principle by August this year.

“Our negotiators are lined up and our negotiation strategies and plans are rapidly coming together.

“We want a settlement and we want it now.

“Your people and our people have weathered the storms and navigated a positive pathway through all of the interferences and challenges. Now it’s time to get on with the job.”



“If there’s anything you should know minister Burton, it is that we are more determined than ever to achieve an Agreement in Principle by August this year..We want a settlement and we want it now”

Seeking ‘justice and identity’

Ruka Hughes wants “justice and identity” for Ngati Rongomai.

As a representative for Ngati Rongomai on the Nga Kaihautu o Te Arawa Executive Council, he hopes a settlement of their Treaty claims will help his people achieve this goal.

Having been involved in driving Ngati Rongomai’s claim for the past decade, Ruka says he is pleased to see it finally making progress.

“One of my aims is to make sure that Ngati Rongomai gets justice and more recognition. We want returned what was taken from us.”

Ruka brings to the council valuable skills he gained as an inspector and auditor at the New Zealand Post Office, Telecom, Statistics New Zealand and also as one of three directors of Te Wananga o Aotearoa’s Te Arawa campus.

At the wananga, he helped to design a koeke programme aimed at enhancing Te Arawa protocol and oral histories. He has also been asked to return to the wananga to do a similar programme for the Maori wardens.

At present Ruka represents his Te Ruato Bay-based iwi on Te Arawa Maori Trust Board and is its representative on the Maori police advisory committee for the Waiariki region.

At his marae, Nga Pumanawa, he is an all rounder having been a trustee for a number of years, the treasurer since 1989 and the coordinator for the building of the wharekai.

He is also the chairman of Te Pukenga Nui o Ngati Rongomai, the koeke council for the Nga Pumanawa, Rakeiao and Kahumatamomoe marae.

“The koeke council was formed in 1994



not only to ensure our kawa and tikanga was being adhered to but to be the political voice for the three marae.”

He is also one of eight members on the Okataina Scenic Reserve Board which administers most of the land around Lake Okataina, and a trustee on a major Maori land block at Rotoma.

Ruka has worked at the coalface for a number of years with his iwi and others to help progress and accelerate their Treaty claims.”

▶ see page 6 for a profile on the Ngati Rongomai claim

Long-time trustee brings wealth of knowledge to council

As a young man Te Poroa Malcolm was encouraged by his elders to take up Maori land trustee positions.

Today, more than 40 years on, he sits on more than seven different trusts exercising the values and knowledge that his elders gave to him.

“By the time I was 23 I was on some of the biggest land trusts in Ngati Tarawhai and Ngati Pikiao. I suppose the old people saw I had something positive to offer.”

As the representative for Ngati Tarawhai on the Executive Council, Te Poroa will be seeking full recognition and acknowledgement for the injustices served on his iwi by Crown actions.

At present he is the chairman for three of the largest land trusts in Rotoiti and Rotoma, and is also a trustee on the 32000-acre block, Rotoiti 15. At his marae, Tarawhai, he is also the chairman.

Between juggling his positions on a range of Maori land trusts and raising seven children, Te Poroa enrolled at Victoria University as an adult student where he gained a Bachelor of Arts in Maori, anthropology and education.

Over the years he has taught at primary, secondary and university level and today he is in his fourth year sitting a Phd in Maori through Massey University.

On top of that the Maori educationalist heads Te Wananga o Aotearoa’s Te Arataki Manu Korero programme in Rotorua where he is putting every effort into helping more than 50 Te Arawa elders sustain their tikanga,



whakapapa, waiata, karakia and history.

“Our tikanga, or the ways we have traditionally done things on our marae, is at risk of being lost, just like the reo and that’s why a programme like this is so important.”

Te Poroa said he was skeptical about Treaty settlements because past cases showed that iwi never receive what they deserved.

“I’m disappointed about this, about Maori getting \$2.80 when they should get \$100. However, there will undoubtedly be benefits for Te Arawa to capitalise on.”

Bringing the old back to life

Jim Schuster is known to many people as the man who helps bring whare tupuna carvings back to life.

As one of three Ngati Pikiao representatives on the Executive Council, he will be vying for a settlement that he hopes will unite the hapu of Ngati Pikiao and give them unrestricted access to their resources.

“There has been a lot of debate about whether we should go for direct negotiations or through the Waitangi Tribunal but at the end of the day people need to remember that the rival is still the same, whatever way you go.”

At present Jim is the chairman of Hinekura Marae in Rotoiti, a representative for Ngati Hinekura – one of many Ngati Pikiao hapu – on Te Arawa Maori Trust Board and a member of both the Maori advisory and educational strategy groups for Environment Bay of Plenty.

“The education strategy committee has been doing a lot of mahi in terms of ensuring the quality of our lakes water is protected in the future by designing programmes for schools.

“It’s all very well to start doing stuff now, but it will be our kids who will be the main users in the future.”

At work, Jim is the Maori heritage advisor for the New Zealand Historic Places Trust – a job that has seen him restore

whakairo at Taurua, Rakeiao, Te Takinga, Uenukukopako and Ihenga.

His latest project has been the Tutanekai whare tupuna at Owkata.

Before becoming a restorer, Jim was a teacher for more than 30 years including being the principal at Whangamarino School and a lecturer at Waiariki Institute of Technology’s tourism and hospitality department.



Your feedback ~ Letters to Nga Kaihautu

Nga Kaihautu o Te Arawa Executive Council is always open to suggestions from all Te Arawa descendants about what its newbriefs and newsletters should contain.

If you have a question about our work, please contact us and we will endeavour to answer them. 'Letters to Nga Kaihautu' are more than welcome and those under 100 words will be considered for publication in either our major newsletter, *Kaihautu Korero*, or our news brief, *Kaihautu Korero Update*.

Registration of Interest

Please send me ____ (number of copies) registration forms for my whanau so we can register our interest in the claims being negotiated by Nga Kaihautu o Te Arawa Executive Council.

Name _____

Postal address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

I prefer all communication to be via (tick appropriate box):

Post Email

Put this completed form in a stamped, addressed envelope and send to:

'Registration of Interest'

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