

# Kaihautu Korero Update

**September 2006**

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

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## **Kaihautu Settlement ratified**

Nga Kaihautu O Te Arawa Executive Council (the **KEC**) is pleased to announce that the settlement of its Te Arawa Affiliates' historical Treaty of Waitangi claims has been ratified. The settlement was accepted by a majority of 96%.

“This is an important achievement for Te Arawa going forward”, said the Executive Council Chairman, Eru George, “it is the culmination of 3 years of hard work by the Executive Council, our Negotiators and staff. Let us not forget the original claimants who had the foresight to lodge claims on behalf of our people. Some of those claims are more than 20 years old and the claimants no longer with us. This is a proud memorial to their efforts.”

The settlement has ratified following an intensive ratification programme stretching over four weeks and including seven information hui, four in Te Arawa rohe and one each in Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch. A team even travelled to Dunedin and Invercargill to inform Te Arawa of all the settlements currently occurring within Te Arawa, including the fisheries and Lakes settlements.

The settlement is particularly significant and is acknowledged by the Crown as the third largest settlement to date, certainly the largest since the 1995 Ngai Tahu settlement.

The settlement includes the return of a significant number of sites of immense cultural significance to the Affiliates. It also includes a commercial package that will see the return of 50,000 ha of commercial forest lands and other Crown assets. “The highest aspiration of our people has been to secure the return of as much land as possible“, said Eru. “This settlement will see the Te Arawa Affiliates become the largest landowners and landlords in the central north island.

In a unique move the ratification process provided opportunity for Te Arawa Affiliates to consider a legal entity to receive and grow the settlement assets on their behalf. The proposed post settlement governance entity (**PSGE**) was considered by the Te Arawa Affiliates who voted by a majority of 92% FOR the proposal.

The KEC has some significant tasks in from of us namely:

- Signing the Deed of Settlement at Te Pakira Marae on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006
- Winding down the KEC and establishing the PSGE
- Preparation for the acquisition, receipt and holding of settlement assets
- Progressing through the legislative stage with an expected enactment by mid-2008