

HE PANUI

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Chairman's Message

After a long, hot summer the temperatures are slowly starting to drop reminding us that autumn is here and we can start to prepare for winter. The farms have fared well through the summer, a testament to the expertise of our Farm Managers Jack Valois, Luke and Shannon Pepper and Dean and Lucy Marshall and teams. Our thanks to everyone for your efforts!

2015 has already been a good year. We have been working closely with other farmers in our area and recently had the opportunity to work together with the LandCorp farm Meringa and HORIZONS on environmental management of our waterways and tributaries on our farms. We are already a long way ahead of most farms having fenced our natural water systems and planted our riparian areas. Congratulations to Vonda and her commitment to environmental management and conservation.

In February the Committee attended the Federation of Maori Authorities (FOMA) and Tairāwhiti Land Development Trust 'Conducting Business in your sector' workshop. We enjoyed meeting up with other Maori authorities in the Taumarunui/Turangi/Taupo area and sharing our experiences and ideas for farming. There was a real commitment to working together where possible to help one another out – a real sense of whanaungatanga!

As always about this time of year we are reviewing our strategic plan and work programme for the year ahead. We're keen for your feedback so please keep an eye on our website for the draft document.

Mauri ora, Traci Houpapa, MNZM JP Chairman

a solid plan...to the end of the financial year

Wow – it's a case of here we go again as we are in the crux yet again of yet another very challenging summer / autumn period (yes the first day of autumn was Sunday!). While according to the official NIWA figures we are not as bad as the last couple of seasons it has still been drier than

normal and this has still caused reduced pasture growth and some real challenges for farming around the country. Yes – we are not alone in this one.

The mid-season reforecasting that the Incorporation has been through has been about taking stock of the season so far and putting a solid plan in place for the run up to the end of the financial year. This is always a critical exercise as we balance the requirements of the current season and the need to set the farms up well for winter and the next financial year. It is important that the long term view is always taken on decisions made now – little point making money now that takes away from next season (robbing Pita to pay Paora!).

The sheep and beef markets have taken a bit of a hammering since November and this took some gloss off the income for the year but there has been some positive news lately with the recovery in the dairy markets. This won't have too much impact on this season but will ensure that there is some profitability restored to the dairy farms for next year. The cloud does have a silver lining.

Darren McNae - AgFirst Consultant

Harakeke Forum

On 20 February some members of the committee of management attended a hui in Rotorua hosted by SCION - New Zealand Crown Research Institute (CRI) involved in research, science and technology development for the forestry, wood-derived materials and other bio-material.

Te Uranga B2 Inc. has 35 ha of wetland known as Te Wharepapa of which 16 ha is planted in harakeke (flax)

Those at the hui were left with these impressions:

We attended the Scion Harakeke Forum to ascertain what advances and commercial opportunities Scion had made with the potential usages of harakeke.

While the technology to produce harakeke textiles, composite tiles etc., can be achieved under laboratory conditions the processes

involved are cost prohibitive at the moment to consider any production for commercial use. Harakeke is a niche market product. The morning speakers were extremely informative and very interesting to listen to but later in the day the scientific speakers were too technical and detailed on laboratory processes required to produce Harakeke products.

Vonda Houpapa, Committee of Management

I had the pleasure of attending the hui. Many others were there and I got to meet people from throughout the rohe.

What impressed me most was how many varieties of harakeke there are – 63 known kinds in Aotearoa. *Kohungu* is well-known by the Maniapoto people and was used a lot by Rangimarie Hetet and her daughter Diggeress Te Kanawa. They used *Kohungu* and another variety of muka (flax fibre) and feathers to make a kete for Princess Diana that was presented to her at Te Poho o Rawiri Marae in Gisborne in 1983.

Kaike Kereopa, Committee of Management

Governance and Management Workshop

This was held in Taupo at the beginning of March and again some members of the Committee of Management were there.

The Governance and Management workshop provided a wealth of knowledge and wisdom. Our first session opened my eyes to the difference between big picture focussed governance & governance that tends to focus on unnecessary management areas.

We were presented with examples of simple reporting frameworks. The crux of the presentation stressed the importance of clarity and ensuring all involved (from decision makers to operations) could clearly report against key performance indicators. This session set the tone for the rest of the workshops covering feed budgets, International Sheep & Beef Markets and the effects upon us, Input into national policies and human resources.

I was especially interested in what presenter Rachel Walker had to discuss regarding Generation Y (my generation) and how to attract and understand a generation with a totally

different way of thinking. I am eager to share what I have learnt at our next Coms meeting.

Kia ora koutou, Donna Tuwhangai, Associate Member.

I would like to thank Te Uranga B2 Incorporation for allowing me to attend this weekend workshop which has taught me the roles of governorship and management.

My key objective in attending this workshop was to “Stay true to our mission and purpose for the betterment of our whenua and whanau.”

Meeting members of other Incorporations and land Trusts looking to become better governors and managers with more enhanced skills and knowledge was inspiring.

The key points I picked up were:

Planning from top to bottom

- Having a plan and keeping it alive
- Monitor farm systems and performance
- Make informed decisions and be in control
- Reporting – having time to review and ask questions

One other significant point to be taken from the workshop – ‘The Maori Agribusiness community is emerging as a significant influencer’

Kaike Kereopa, Committee of Management

Ma whero ma pango ka oti ai te mahi

With red and black the work will be complete This refers to co-operation where if everyone does their part, the work will be complete. The colours refer to the traditional kowhaiwhai patterns on the inside of the meeting houses.

Comments and contributions welcome

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Up and coming events:

MANIAPOTO MAORI TRUST BOARD TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS 2015

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TE URANGA **B2** Inc.

*Te toto o te tangata, he kai, Te oranga o te tangata he whenua
Food supplied the blood of man; his welfare depends on the land*

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