

HE PANUI

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Tēnā koutou e te whanau

Te Ururoa Flavell, Minister for Māori Development, has released some good news regarding rating on Māori land – Cabinet has agreed to remove rate arrears on unoccupied and unused Māori land (Te Uranga B2 doesn't have any) and removal of a two-hectare non-rating limit for marae and urupa.

Land under a Ngā Whenua Rahui Kawenata, of which we have several plots scattered about our sheep and beef farm, is eligible for rates remission and the Ruapehu District Council (RDC) for some years now has not charged rates for these. The remissions don't happen automatically – the CoM informs the RDC of each new covenant and as a consequence our rates bill is reduced. Well done RDC for allowing Te Uranga B2 this remission before waiting to be directed by legislation. The *Waitomo News* (Tues 8 Mar) front page headline 'WDC likely to write-off Maori rates' is not telling us anything new, Councils have since 2002 the right to provide rates relief on unused, unoccupied Māori land but have for whatever reason chosen not. When this new Bill is passed Councils all over the country will not be allowed to cause grief pursuing owners of these lands for rates omission.

Nāku, nā, Derek Kotuku Wooster, Chairman

Revised draft of Māori Land Bill ...

In February 2016, the Government released a revised draft of the Te Ture Whenua Māori Bill, a bill aimed to reform current Māori land legislation. Chairman Derek Wooster and I attended three Te Puni Kōkiri consultation hui and reviewed the current version of the Bill and the proposed changes.

In general, the proposed Bill maintains a focus on keeping Māori land within Māori ownership and to make it easier for owners to use their land as they see fit.

As currently drafted, the Bill does not pose any significant changes to Te Uranga B2 Incorporation.

Ownership interests will remain the same and the Incorporation is able to operate under its current structure.

However, the Bill proposes that some of the responsibilities of the Māori Land Court shift to an administrative function called the Māori Land Service. The detail of this change will not impact the Incorporation greatly and we are yet to see the detail of what the Māori Land Service looks like and its purpose.

The Bill is set to go to Parliament in March, with public submissions being invited from April 2016. FOMA will be making a submission on behalf of its members, including the Incorporation. I will continue to track the Bill as it progresses through this process reporting back to the Committee of Management and you, our shareholders.

Jonathon Kilgour, Committee of Management

Jonathon's grandmother Lillian Kilgour nee Nathan was a Committee of Management Member of Te Uranga B2 in the 1980s.



Lily Kilgour is wearing sunglasses. Name the other three.

The good, the bad and the ugly

How wrong could the weather forecasters be this year!!! The weather conditions that are being experienced in Taumarunui and the greater King Country are providing some much needed positivity to the season. Last newsletter we reported that there was a significant dry period forecast for the country but we were adopting a “wait and see approach”. This has proven to be the right one as the rain has just kept continuing to fall and the grass growing. This means the three farms are looking the best they ever have at this time of year. A good old summer safe King Country year! And the timing couldn't have been any better.

The bad this year is the lamb price that has now dipped below \$5.00 / kg and carved around \$40,000 out of the Upoko income. It's fair to say that the dairy payout reduction (again) announced in early March to \$3.90 / kg MS has now meant that the dairy situation in New Zealand is now in “ugly” mode. This is back to where we were in spring and means the average dairy farm will lose around \$210,000 this year – thankfully the Te Uranga business is better placed than the average farm. We are not expecting any sharp recovery in the next 12 months either so the focus is on being smart to minimise the loss rather than maximise the profit.

It is important always to focus on the things that we can control. The dairy payout and the weather we cannot, but we can control the decisions made to ensure the best possible result can still be extracted from the season. Te Uranga B2 remains a strong and diverse business but like all farms, it is being challenged this year.

Te Ara Miraka

Te Uranga B2 Inc. has two dairy farms, farmed jointly with our two sharemilkers, the Pepper Family (Koromiko) and the Marshall Family (Paatara). We supply our milk to Miraka. Their factory being located north of Taupo The factory's

main production is milk powder and UV packaged milk, using geothermal power as their main power source. As a mainly Maori entity, Miraka is always striving to incorporate cultural influences into their total operations., and have researched and built their “Te Ara Miraka” concept for their suppliers to aspire and conform to. They have added a premium on top of their regular milk payment of 20 cents. Suppliers are able to earn this premium if they comply to Te Ara Miraka's rules. These rules come under the headings of: *Nga Tangata* – People: *Te Taiao* – Environment *Taurikura* – Prosperity: *Nga Kau* – Cows and, *Miraka* – Milk

The components making up the incentives include 51 elements which cover matters like – animal health, feed budgeting, lined effluent pond, are employees' conditions, training and safety up to defined standards.

Te Uranga will do everything we can to gain our full share of the premium. We applaud Miraka for their incentive, as this will greatly assist their product in the eyes of Consumers as being sustainable and incorporate all the elements of Te Ara Miraka.

Richard Burgess, Committee of Management

Kia Hiwa Ra! Kia Hiwa Ra!

The Maniapoto Māori Trust Board welcomes applicants for Grants and Scholarships for 2016. Applicants must be registered on the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board tribal register.

All application forms can be accessed by visiting website www.maniapoto.iwi.nz and following the link on the Homepage or Latest Panui Section. Alternatively contact Marissa Campbell on 0800 668 285 or email office@maniapoto.co.nz

Congratulations to Associate Member Donna Tuwhangai and partner Thomas Crawford on the birth of their son, Simaia.

Comments and contributions welcome

Send to: Derek Wooster 021654044

dwooster@clear.net.nz

[Facebook: TeUrangaB2.co.nz](https://www.facebook.com/TeUrangaB2.co.nz)



TE URANGA B2^{Inc.}

[Website: www.teurangab2.co.nz](http://www.teurangab2.co.nz)

*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*

www.teurangab2.co.nz