

HE PANUI

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Tēnā koutou e te whanau

Four years ago, in 2013, we entered our sheep and beef farm, Upoko, in the Ahuwhenua Maori Farmer of the Year competition. Chosen as one of three finalists we lost out to Tarawera Station in the Hawkes Bay. While it was a disappointment not to win, there was hell of a lot gain! The experience provided the Incorporation with a renewed focus on what is required to be the most successful farming operation it can be. This has been invaluable as we review the business plan and reset the goal posts.

This year's 3 sheep and beef finalists will be announced at Parliament on Wednesday 22 March. A little bird tells me a local Trust could be one of those finalists!

Next year Ahuwhenua Trophy will be awarded for the dairy sector – we will be entering Koromiko and Paatara, our two dairy farms.

When you next visit www.teurangab2.co.nz you will see there's a new format and management system allowing for quicker and easier editing and updating.

Nga mihi, Derek Kotuku Wooster, Chairman

Going OK – Touch Wood!

As we now officially head into autumn the financial result for the year is now largely in the hands of the weather gods. They will dictate how long the grass will continue to grow well for and therefore how long the cows can still be milked and how long the lambs on the farm can be kept to put on more weight. To this point in Taumarunui we have little to complain about as the summer has been very kind and the farms are well set up heading into the autumn. If the season continues this way, the Incorporation is on track to have one of the better profit years it has had for a while. This is testament to the recipe being fine-tuned all the time.

This is all on the back of some turbidity in the markets. The global dairy scene is having ups and downs but hopefully the current forecast payout remains in place, wool is having a shocker of a run

at present and in some cases, there is no profit in wool once the shearers have been paid and the lamb market is just floating along with "OK" money being made once the costs are considered. After this the cost of running a farm continues to slowly get more expensive each year (good old inflation) and a key focus for Te Uranga is to ensure that your asset is fully maintained (and improved) each year. Something that is not always easy when you own nearly 6,500 acres of land with pastures, weeds, fences, tracks, buildings, troughs that all require money being spent every year to keep your asset performing. Farming continues to be an incredibly challenging business to be in but remains very rewarding when the physical change in an asset is viewed. Te Uranga has much to be proud of when you stand back and look at all the work that has been done over the years. Yes, there is always more to do and farms will "soak up" more money, but every now and again it is important to look back and reflect on where the whenua was 5 or 10 years ago, and realise that significant progress is being made. May this continue – touch wood!

Darren McNae, Agribusiness Advisor

Message from Maniapoto Treaty Claims Negotiators

Tēnā koutou.

The negotiations team – Peter Douglas, Mook Hohneck and myself - has held several *Te Whare o Te Nehenehenui Workshops* to outline the approach we will undertake to achieve an Agreement in Principle (AIP) so that we can progress our Treaty Settlement for Ngāti Maniapoto me ōna hapū maha. There is considerable anxiety amongst our iwi as we contemplate what might be achieved through a Treaty Settlement. It is clear to us that the extent of Crown breaches is significant and while these grievances have been submitted to the Waitangi Tribunal, moving into direct negotiations presents an opportunity for our iwi to consider how those issues could be resolved.

Feedback from workshops have highlighted several common concerns;

- What assurance is there that the settlement will benefit Ngāti Maniapoto?
- How will hapū continue to be involved in kaitiakitanga within their own rohe?
- Will Wai claimants benefit directly from the process?
- How will the settlement guarantee the return of all Ngāti Maniapoto lands?
- What assurance will there be that our significant and cultural sites will be better protected?
- Will our iwi have a stronger say in local decision-making on for example Councils?

We believe the approach we are taking will answer these and other questions which our people may have. We are currently seeking feedback from throughout the iwi via a series of specific workshops to assist our work in designating sites of historical and cultural significance. We invite you to sign up for important email updates at

www.maniapoto.iwi.nz/whakatata-mai/

Next Event: Hui a Tau (AGM)

Te Rā: Sunday 19th March

Te Wā: 9.30am

Kei: Mangatoatoa Marae

Whakatata Mai!

Nanaia Mahuta – Lead Negotiator

CoM re-commits to Education Support

Our Committee of Management (CoM) since 1990s has been committed to supporting educational development of our owners, their descendants and the wider Taumarunui community. Education is an important contributor to our wellbeing and toward the opportunities we and our whanau have in life. The United Nations and the World Economic forum recognise that we all have a fundamental right to good education. Maori leaders, academics and commentators acknowledge education as a key contributor to our future development.

The nature of this support has changed over the years and last month, the CoM agreed to reinstate education support for Incorporation owners and descendants. Next financial year the following

sectors will be considered for funding with a review each year for the level of support:

- Early childhood,
- Compulsory schooling,
- Tertiary education,
- Leadership and governance, and
- Development of the employees in our Incorporation businesses.

Our investment in these areas will create longer term benefits for our people.

The process to apply for education support is in the process of being finalized. We will announce the process in our Winter panui. then advertise on our website and on Facebook.

Jonathon Kilgour, Committee of Management

Fencing Upokomatu Stream

This, my first year as a Committee of Management member one of my portfolios is that of the Ecology.

My focus now is the fencing of a section of the Upokomatu stream stretching from the back of the Upoko Manager's house, down past the wool shed and just beyond "Te Tote". The fence will be approximately 2.5kms long along both sides of the stream in some areas.

The Inc. is working alongside Horizons Regional Council that is funding a portion of the project. Future benefits are - improved water quality, stable stream banks, easier stock management, better pasture management and an improved wildlife habitat.

This will be another stage of riparian fencing for the Upokomatu stream to be continued further downstream.

I believe the Incorporation is continuing to strive to ensure the taonga we have is eventually handed to the future generations in the best condition.

Donna Tuwhangai, Committee of Management

Comments and contributions welcome

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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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