

## HE PANUI

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### Tēnā koutou e te whanau

Like me, I guess many of you will be pleased to have your weekends back now that the need to attend AGMs is over. Not only are these times to hear how well your interests are growing but also time to catch up with whānau whānui in a long while.



Those of you at the AGM will have heard from Peter Topham, our accountant, saying how well collectively Te Uranga B2 Inc. various revenue sources performed in the 2017/18 financial year.

*Waiho ma te tangata e mihi, kia tau ai.  
(It would be better to let others praise.)  
Nga mihi nui, Derek Kotuku Wooster, Chairman*

### Challenge and Opportunity

This panui update serves as the halfway point of the year and the time when for the Incorporation we look at tracking performance for the first half of the year and reforecasting for the second half. While it has been a bit of a mixed bag to date, we can confirm overall that the performance is tracking well, and this year is looking just as good as last.

As noted at the AGM the Incorporation achieved in the 2018 financial year its best-ever profit – what an awesome result achieved by your Committee!

Yes, as we noted this has a little something to do with the weather and the market prices but importantly, we know that the prices achieved were not record ones (in \$ / kg terms) and the climate to be fair was a bit average. So, there must have been several other things going right that were in the Incorporations control. And the big ones here were farm systems that continue to get better all the time and a heavy focus on cost control - making sure that money is being spent in the right areas. This latter point is always a real challenge as there is so much to do on farms and it is very easy to spend money on 2,612ha of land!

The real exciting part is that there are still massive opportunities to grow the Incorporation even further and importantly, some very exciting opportunities coming up to diversify the Incorporation and look at other ways of generating cash and growing the putea. The old saying of “do what you have always done, get what you have always got” is no more applicable than right now in the agricultural sector.

Yes, there are some pretty major challenges ahead of us and times when we look at the return on capital from farming and think “why don’t we just have the money in the bank”, but this has always been the same for farmers. The reality is that if farming was all about putting cash in the bank then no one would be doing it – Maori or Pakeha! Yes, making a profit and paying the bills is important but in reality, protecting the whenua and ensuring that at the end of the year the land is in a better place than when it started is more important. So is making sure that land continues to provide for its people in whatever form this may hold. As farmers, be whatever your role, be it a farm

worker or an owner, the most important thing is ensuring that the next generation to toil the land can be proud of what those before them have achieved.

And with this we look forward to the challenges and opportunities that 2019 is going to bring us - *Meri Kirihimete from the team at AgFirst.*  
*Darren McNae, Farm Consultant*

## **Enhancing native biodiversity on Te Uranga B2**

Native biodiversity refers to the plants, animals and fungi that were here before people first stepped ashore in Aotearoa.

This includes tōtara and mānuka, tui and kereru, tuna in the creeks, many different insects (weta, moths, flies, beetles) and the fungi that recycle nutrients from dead trees. These species occur only in Aotearoa and are different to exotic biodiversity, which includes the species that we either deliberately brought or that came here accidentally. These species are native to other parts of the world – Britain, Australia, etc., but not Aotearoa.

Exotic biodiversity includes the species that Te Uranga B2 depend on for farming – ryegrass and clover for pastures, sheep and cattle to graze them and pine trees. But exotic biodiversity also includes the many unwanted species that now occur widely across our country including animals such as stoats, possums and goats, and plants like blackberry, pampus and old man's beard, as well as diseases including *Mycoplasma bovis*.

As I explained in my earlier article, the pre-European forests of the Te Uranga B2 land would have been spectacular and comparable to those we find at Pureora today – majestic dense



stands of tōtara, matai, rimu, kahikatea and miro filled with an abundance of bird life. While these forests have been seriously impacted by settlement, we still have remnants protected in the Ngā Whenua Rāhui covenants and extensive areas of tōtara and kahikatea regenerating back across the farm. The challenge now is to nurture these areas to increase their native biodiversity and to make it very much part of these lands again, to enhance the Mauri of the land and as such the many tikanga associated with native biodiversity like Mahinga Kai and Rongoa.

Of course, the farms will need to continue to be profitable farms, but with a bit of imagination and appropriate management, we can have both profitable farms and native biodiversity, a real win-win outcome for the owners of this land. The key steps to do this are (1) look after what you already have and (2) continue with the restoration work that is already underway. Reducing the grazing by goats, deer and possums will help the Ngā Whenua Rāhui covenants recover from the effects of past logging and develop the food resources the birds need, while restoring more forest and wetland across the farms will provide stepping stones of suitable habitat, with key food sources such as harakeke, that allows birds to spread out across the property.

Coupling this with control of predators (rats, stoats and possums especially) will allow bird numbers to increase even further and help

allow species that are currently absent, such as kiwi, to return to Te Uranga B2.

This land, your ancestral land, can never be another Pureora, but there is no reason why in the next few decades that the forests and farmlands cannot be filled with an abundance of native birds and the forests rich with Mahinga Kai and Rongoa. Think big, act now and build on the wonderful work you are already doing – Whatu ngarongaro te tangata, toitū te whenua. *Professor David Norton, Te Kura Ngahere | School of Forestry, University of Canterbury, Christchurch*

### **Annual General Meeting 2018**

56 Shareholders were at this years AGM held in Te Uranga B2's new woolshed. A dividend of \$13 a whole share will be deposited in bank accounts on December 13<sup>th</sup> and the following day the Kaumatua Grant of \$250 will be paid. Elections were held for two vacancies on the Committee of Management and were filled by Lee Hall and Wikitoria Tāne.

A concern that poll voting (voting by the number of shares held by each shareholder) rather than majority vote (where each shareholder's vote is counted as one) was raised in respect to the election of Committee members. The CoM will seek legal advice as to whether it is possible to amend Section 275 of Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 to disallow shareholder's rights to a poll vote for election of officers. If it is possible then a Special Resolution would be tabled at the next AGM.

Prof David Norton and Valance Smith were present throughout the meeting and were going to talk about the importance of Te Uranga B2's involvement in the native biodiversity study to uphold mana whenua.

Shareholders left the meeting at about 1.30pm for lunch prepared by Ngakonui School at the Ngakonui Hall with a kilo jar of Tweeddale's Honey

and travel vouchers. Some shareholders also won small kitchen appliances bought using Farmlands loyalty points and giveaways from FMG Insurance.

### **Unclaimed Dividends – top 10 in value**

Harold Te Karapa Campbell (Dec'd)  
Deana Houpapa (Dec'd)  
Riwiwhenua Mokena (Dec'd)  
Motemate Ngahuinga (Dec'd)  
Mere Glynis Stafford  
Jean Taaka (Dec'd)  
James Thomas  
Louis Kingi Campbell (Dec'd)  
Jean Dyall (Dec'd)  
Enid Mary-Anne Tata (Dec'd)

If you know anyone who whakapapa directly to any of those named above, please ask them to contact

**Evelynne Keenan 07 895 3013**  
email: [evelynne@peakac.co.nz](mailto:evelynne@peakac.co.nz)

### **Welcome our new committee members**

#### **Wikitoria Tāne**

Tēnā tātou katoa e te whānau. Ko Wikitōria Tāne ahau, he uri nō Ngāti Urunūmia, Ngāti Ruapuha, Ngāti Rekha, Ngāti Apakura rātou ko Ngāti Unu. Ko taku tūpuna i hono nei ki tēnei whenua a Te Uranga B2, ko Mōkena Patupatu me ngētehi atu o ōna karanga whanaunga. Nō reira tēnā tātou katoa.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with my fellow committee of management members on your behalf. My background is in Social and Community work and Resource Management Act processes where it relates to taonga and heritage



protection and I endeavor to establish and maintain key relationships.

I am a staunch advocate of reclaiming and retelling our stories from a hau-kāinga perspective and I try hard to understand the whānau, hapu and iwi context, relative to iwi authorities, local and central government and their processes. I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Te Reo me ōna Tikanga.

I currently work at the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board in the environmental team, Whanake Taiao, as a writer for the GIS Taonga Register project, and I interview kaikōrero and write their stories about wāhi tūpuna of Ngāti Maniapoto. I support the incorporations aspirational direction that seeks to minimize its' environmental footprint. I look forward to the next three years working to achieve the best outcomes for Te Uranga B2 Incorporation and whānau. Tēnā tātou katoa, Wikitōria Tāne.

### **Lee Hall**

My name is Lee Hall and my great grandparents are Haami and Te Waiata Houpapa. My Koro Sonny Houpapa was a founding member of this Incorporation and our whānau are honoured that he has been remembered by the Incorporation in the Education Scholarships that were offered to Te Uranga B2 descendants.

As a Committee member, I will develop smart strategies to realise the aspirations our



whānau/shareholders have for themselves, and our whenua. I want to see our assets managed well and the income used wisely. My focus will be on gathering information for whānau/shareholders to

make good decisions on the direction Te Uranga B2 will take in the future and ensure that the interests and rights of our shareholders are protected, and that our history, tikanga and values are upheld. I am hardworking, willing to listen to

our whānau and to work as a team to achieve our goals.

### **Committee of Management 2019**

Lee and Wikitoria will be joining Donna Tuwhangai, Alan Cockle and Derek Wooster at their first Board meeting on Thursday 19 December. There also, will be Carla Benefield (Administrator), Peter Topham (Accountant), John Goldsworthy (Assist Accountant), Darren McNae (Farm Consultant), Luke Pepper (Sharemilker), Rod Walker (Sheep and Beef Manager), and Dean Marshall (Sharemilker).

To retiring Committee of Management members Jonathon Kilgour and Andrew Martin thank you both very much for your valued contribution to this year's bumper performance and longstanding commitment to the Shareholders of Te Uranga B2 Inc.



**Honey bees at work on manuka planted 2 years ago on Koromiko dairy farm.**

## **Meri Kirihimete me ngā mihi o te tau hou ki a koutou katoa.**

### **Comments and contributions welcome**

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