



WHAKATOHEA MAORI TRUST BOARD

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 SEPT 2009

THE NEW BOARD

Background

The new Board sat for its first meeting on 25 March 2009. The members are Bruce Pukepuke & Maude Edwards (Upokorehe) Roger Rakuraku & Robyn Hata (Ngati Ira) Tahu Taia & Arihia Tuoro (Ngati Ngahere) Ranginui Walker & John Hata (Ngati Patu) Robert Edwards & Jozie Karanga (Ngati Rua) & Tracy Hillier & David Herewini (Ngai Tama).

It is now early September 2009 and the new Board are keen to commence a regular communication with you, the beneficiaries. The first intent is to initiate this newsletter that will go to out to the Hapu and on the website.

March – August 2009

The immediate need has

been to provide a thorough induction that served to bring all Board members up to speed and on the “same page” as soon as possible.

Through this induction period we have also been undergoing a strategic planning review. This is almost at a phase of a draft set of goals that the Board would like to set for themselves.

September – March 2010

The Board are keen to communicate in a range of ways to update, inform and report back to the beneficiaries. This newsletter is just the first and quickest way, with the intention being that a newsletter would come out after every Board meeting over the next 7 months. At this stage our meeting dates are 02 October 2009, a

proposed AGM in November, February and one in March. After the 12 months the intention is to have the newsletter on a quarterly basis, again around the meeting dates of the Board.

As noted earlier the Board is undergoing a strategic planning exercise. Put simply this is deciding on a plan to work to and setting some goals to aspire to within that plan. This cannot be done without your help; we need your input to ensure the Board is doing what our beneficiaries want us to be doing.

By the end of this first 12 months you will have received information by newsletter, you would have provided input and approved the plan and you will have received the audited accounts for 2008 & 2009.

POINTS OF INTEREST

THE NEW BOARD

THE FINANCIALS

THE FARMS

FISHERIES

MUSSELS/AQUACULTURE

RAUPATU

BENEFICIARY ROLL

The elections last year required a mail out to almost 7000 beneficiaries, 1000 of those election forms were returned to this office as “gone no address”. This is because the address that was inputted at the time of registration has changed and we have not been informed.

Let us know when you or whanau move so we can change the address details on the roll. Better still ring in and check to make sure all the details are correct.

You can also help by giving us your email and mobile phone contacts, and giving us permission to forward other information through to you by mail, email and texting.

THE FINANCIALS

The Board’s assets are strong and have continued to grow (see Farms) with our obligations well covered by that asset base. This Board acknowledges *all* the previous tenures of Trust Board members and staff that have worked hard to grow and manage the assets to where they are today. The ongoing obligation is to manage the assets to ensure that we are getting the best return we can, and we are

managing these returns based on a strategy and a plan that we all have had input into.

We realize that the insurance issue has had an impact on the Hapu. When we meet to share ideas on the goals for the strategic plan it is then, through your input we can map out *how* a *return* to the beneficiaries and hapu can be made, what that *return* will be and when those *returns* can occur.

The financials will be available so we can make informed decisions.

At the moment the mantra for anyone in business is, reduce expenses and costs, consolidate your debt, keep the cash flow going, fine tune your systems and processes and hunker down to ride out the storm. We are well equipped to ride out the storm and to maximize the business returns when the upside occurs.



THE FARMS

The farms now consist of 244 hectares. We lease a further 82.76 hectares which gives us an effective milking platform of 276.50 hectares. In addition to this a further 23.74 hectares is leased for maize silage production.

Up until 2007 the farms were run as two separate dairy units under a 50/50 share milker. In the 2007/8 season we purchased 2/3 of the cows, plant and equipment to run the main unit and employed a Manager (John & Sue Dain). In June 2008 the balance of the cows were purchased. The farms are run in two sheds under the one manager. This is

proving to work well and is also providing a higher return on the asset.

Unfortunately the impact of the global economic downturn has hit farmers twice with a downturn in payout as well as the change in policy by Fonterra. Before, a farmer was allowed up to 20% unshared supply, in changing the rules they now require the farmer to own exactly the same amount of shares as the milk solids they produce. For the Board that has meant a payment to Fonterra of \$258,000 of money that was not budgeted to this event.

Both these events have led to an almost \$1 million write down on the WMTB farms income for this season. The upside of this is that the restructure of the farming unit stands us in good stead for reaping the benefits of an upturn in the dairy industry.

The Board were successful in securing the Whakapau-pakihi 6 & 7 lease. The use of this farm enables the Board's dairy farm to have more cows and thus to produce more milk solids. 729 of the Board's own cows and heifers were grazed on this block over winter.

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RAUPATU

The instruction from Hapu when the Raupatu process was reinitiated in 2003 was that the Raupatu process was to be hapu driven, not Board driven. Thus the Board have not taken a lead, does not have a representative role or a position to date with respect to Raupatu. In saying that it would be remiss for the Board as the governing

entity at this critical stage not to have it included in its strategic plan. The statement in the draft plan at this point reads :

" To cooperate and collaborate with Hapu to bring closure to the Raupatu settlement process."



STRATEGIC PLAN

This is an exercise of working out what it is we want to achieve, how we are going to achieve it, who is going to do what and when do we think we can do it by ?

The Board believe we will have a draft ready for your critique and input very soon. We would like to present this to you in the near future.



MEDICAL CENTRE

Dr Mark Haywood has moved on to his own practice, taking over from Dr. Kerr Wright at Te Toi Ora. Mark has served the Whakatohea people and the community with both loyalty and dedication in his time with us. We regret his departure from the Whakatohea Clinic but he goes with our support and more importantly delight that he remains within our community.

We welcome Dr. Peter Connelly as the resident doctor. We are very lucky to have the services of yet another doctor that is held in high regard, well liked and respected by our own and the community at large.

KAUMATUA FLATS

All of the seven flats are occupied at the moment. To be eligible the applicant needs to be of Whakatohea descent and be over 60 years of age. This is managed by Lesley at the Trust Board office.

WWW.WHAKATOHEA.CO.NZ

TELL YOUR WHANAU THEY
CAN READ THIS
NEWSLETTER ON LINE



FISHERIES

The Whakatohea Fisheries Trust was ratified by Iwi by postal vote in October 2006 following a series of information Hui and public and private notices. The Trust Deed of the Fisheries Trust was executed shortly thereafter and approved by TOKM in November 2006.

The Fisheries Trust is made up of those representatives of the Whakatohea Maori Trust Board and a further six advisory trustees from each Hapu. This is a separate entity from the Trust Board and is required to meet and decide on a variety of key decisions concerning the opera-

tion of the Trust, including giving effect to the purposes of the Trust and the appointment of directors to the Asset Holding Company (AHC). The AHC is required by the Maori Fisheries Act 2004. The quota and income shares in Aotearoa Fisheries Limited must be transferred to and held by the AHC. The Company has been formed, with some final details to confirm in the next few months.

Ngati Muriwai Litigation

In January 2007, Ngati Muriwai Hapu Inc applied in the High Court at Wellington for

a judicial review of the Te

Ohu Kaimoana (TOKM) decision to approve the Trust Board's application to establish the Fisheries Trust. The litigation is at a stage where Ngati Muriwai are required to pay security as ordered by the High Court in order for them to keep the proceedings alive.

There are avenues available to the Board for a closure to this litigation in the advent that Ngati Muriwai fail to respond to the High Court's request. The Board understand the need to settle this issue in order to receive the assets as approved by Te Ohu Kaimoana.

*"YOU CAN NOW FILL IN
A REGISTRATION FORM
FOR YOUR TAMARIKI,
EVEN IF THEY ARE
UNDER 18 AS THE
SYSTEM ROLLS THEM
INTO THE REGISTER ON
THEIR 18TH BIRTHDAY"*

AGM

PLANNED FOR LATE
NOVEMBER 2009.

THE DATE WILL BE
CONFIRMED IN THE
NEXT FEW WEEKS IN
CONSULTATION WITH
OUR AUDITORS, AUDIT
NZ

THE TEAM

Education & Training

The team are doing a great job providing training programmes in computers, aquaculture, whakairo, raranga, horticulture, and hospitality. The whakairo also has a retail outlet situated in the street frontage of the Trust Board building known as Tataia at the end of Church Street adjacent to Shalfoon's building.

Te Wheke Atawhai

Te Wheke Atawhai is a wholly owned subsidiary Company of the Trust Board. It is through this Company that the health, social services and the preschool services are provided to our people and the wider community of Opotiki.

Admin Staff at the Board

These are our staff that look after the administration and financials systems of the business units of the Board, manage the registrations to the beneficiary roll, service the Board meetings as well as a host of other queries that come over the counter at the Board office.

MUSSEL/AQUACULTURE

In October 2008 the Minister of Conservation granted Eastern Sea Farms (WMTB 54% / Sealord's 26% / NZ Seafarms 20%) consent for occupation of 3,800 ha area 8.5 kilometres off the coast of Opotiki. The term of the lease is for 20 years with the right of renewal.

Sanfords have written to the Minister of Fisheries objecting to this occupation. The hearing of this objection will

be heard on Monday, 14 September 2009 at the High Court in Wellington.

At this stage Whakatohea / Eastern Sea Farms are carrying out business as usual.

The "business as usual" is all around establishing the "value" of this water space, in terms of farming it. We need to know the best species in terms of how well they grow, who would be the market for the species, what

sort of return we would get for them, and how much it would cost to get them to the stage of selling them to the market. You will be aware we are looking at mussels but there will and should be other species that are worth investigating.

This economic modelling is underway with the commercial development of the mussel venture subject to the 3 year commercial trial being successful.

As we move through this project we have found it imperative to have the skills and experience in a range of areas including the aquaculture industry, research, economic modelling, international business acumen and negotiation. This is also important as we consider the structures that will need to be in place to manage such business units in the future. Ian Craig (Opotiki businessman) is the Project Manager for this project.