



Christmas Panui

Meri Kirihimete ki a koutou katoa



Chairperson's Christmas Message.

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Ngā mihi mahana i roto i ngā āhuatanga katoa o te wā, e ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā rangatira o te Whakatōhea nau mai haere mai. Otirā, ngā mate huhua o te wiki, o te mārāma o te tau, whakangaro atu, okioki mai rā ki ngā ringaringa o tō tātou Kaihanga. Tau mai kia tātou ngā uri o te Whakatōhea, tēnā koutou katoa.

On behalf of the Trustees, we would like to wish you all our warmest season's greetings and express our appreciation to our kaumatua, hapū, and ngā uri katoa o Whakatōhea for the continued support.

It is hard to believe that Christmas is almost here, where did this year go! Each year that passes seems to have its challenges, but often than not are filled with many highlights.

Some of the key moments for 2016

- Over 100 people participated in Te Tohekura; a six-day Kura Reo focused on revitalising Te Reo o Te Whakatōhea.
- An interactive Whakatōhea Environment Expo held in November for Whakatōhea to learn about the roles and responsibilities of the BOP regional council and caring for our environment.
- In October Whakatōhea Mussels Ōpōtiki Ltd harvested the first commercial load of mussels for the local market and sold throughout the North Island foodstuff supermarkets. The first harvest for the local market sold out in two days.
- Whakatōhea Mussels Company purchased the Northern Quest, vessel purpose built for harvesting mussels.

- Tu Ake Whakatōhea Collective travelled the motu to deliver the Mandate Presentation to ngā uri o Whakatōhea.

- Whakatōhea voted on the following resolution and 91.7% of the voters said yes: Whakatōhea Pre-Settlement Claims Trust be mandated to represent Whakatōhea in direct negotiations with the Crown to negotiate a comprehensive settlement of all the historical treaty claims of Whakatōhea.

- Supported Whakatōhea Tertiary students with their studies through education grants.

- Supported Three Ōpōtiki College secondary students with Scholarship for excellence in cultural and academic achievement.

- Re-branding of the social, health and education services under Te Pou Oranga o Whakatōhea (formerly Te Wheke Atawhai).

- Eight students from the first intake for Workforce Pathways moved into further studies or employment.

- The Trust Board along with two lands trusts joined forces and purchased 40.47ha of Dairy Farm along the Waioweka straight on 23 March 2016 and has been named Waikeke Farms Ltd.

- The Trust Board has been in the Waiteata Partnership with 24 other partners in a forestry block on Tauwhareparae Rd, Gisborne since 1993. Trust Board have agreed to sell its forest shareholding, however, will consider other opportunities with the land.

In closing we the board extend a few words of gratitude and appreciation to the staff, for the immense workload they carried out this year. The dedication and commitment to your roles is to be applauded. What you do, does not go unnoticed, and we are very appreciative of all you do. Ngā uri o Te Whakatōhea – stay safe, enjoy spending time with your whanau, share the joys and spirit of Christmas and have a happy and prosperous New Year

Nāku noa nā
Robert Edwards
Chairperson, Whakatōhea Māori Trust Board



*Meri Kirihimete ki a koutou katoa
From the staff here at the Trust Board we wish you
all a very Merry Christmas.*

A lot has happened for us this past year and we would like to give you a glimpse of the many opportunities that are happening in our community.

Working with hapū

There has been a lot of work that has been happening between Regional Council, kaumātua and hapū and Danny Paruru has been at the centre of these discussions. The Whakatōhea Mapping Project is a major project has been underway for a while where we have been recording our history and stories told by our kaumātua that is relevant to a particular area and storing this information on maps. With the use of technology, we hope to upload this information and share this with our whānau, hapū, schools and the wider community to enable them to better understand who we are.

Whakatōhea Expo with Bay of Plenty Regional Council

On the 18th November we held a Whakatōhea Expo at Memorial Park. This expo was designed to give our Whakatōhea whānau an insight into the work that the Regional Council does. A number of stalls were set up to allow people to ask questions and take information around water care and management, land management, funding for environmental enhancement projects along with coastal management planning to name a few. The day went well with a number of hapū members, kaumātua and tamariki attending. Approximately 100 people visited and the information provided will add value to those who are working in the role of kaitiaki for their hapū and whēnua.



Keeping our Iwi informed
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Cultural Values Assessment

In 1998 Whakatōhea kaumātua set out on a journey to re-vitalise their aquaculture vision and took up the challenge to go into partnership with New Zealand Seafarms and Sea lords. This journey has taken a good 18 years to materialise and we are now at a place where our values and input into the development of the Ōpōtiki harbour will add value. This is an important milestone for Whakatōhea as it recognises our stories, our history and culture as tangata whenua. With the Ōpōtiki harbour development progressing it is important that all stakeholders have an understanding of the cultural values of Whakatōhea. A draft Whakatōhea Cultural Values document was developed with input by kaumātua and hapū and is now in its final stages of consultation. This document will inform all stakeholders of the cultural expectations required prior to work beginning.

Eastern Seafarms Ltd - ESF

Eastern Seafarms Ltd is a company made up of the Whakatōhea Māori Trust Board (the Trust) and Whakatōhea Aquaculture Ōpōtiki Ltd (WAOL) a group of local Ōpōtiki investors. The Trust Board has majority shareholding in ESF and together with WAOL, they are charged with developing, maintaining and monitoring the water space.

For the past 16 years, the Trust Board has lead the development of this water space and acting like a landlord, ESF agreed to lease part of the water space to other water space users such as Gulf Mussels who have put 20 spat lines in the water along with Sanford, with their 20 spat lines and Hauraki mussel, 20 spat lines. Whakatōhea Mussels Ōpōtiki Ltd (WMOL) a separate entity made up of local Ōpōtiki investors has put 76 lines in the water that is made up of spat lines and grow out lines. In total there are 136 lines that will provide spat and mussels to the farm.

Over the past year, ESF has seen a lot of activity on the farm from WMOL.

Whakatōhea Mussels Ōpōtiki Ltd (WMOL)

WMOL is a separate entity, and leases water space from ESF. WMOL is considered to be a development company and has done a great job of growing the mussels to a marketable size. This year WMOL purchased a boat, the Northern Quest to help grow the business and this has been operating very well. We have four crew on board with two of these being Whakatōhea members. At the beginning of October, the company harvested their first crop and supplied this to Foodstuffs, Ocean Seafood's, and Gibbos Fresh Fish. The harvest went well with a fantastic result, with supplies being sold out by lunch time. Unfortunately, we only had 40 tons to harvest, however, next year we are looking at increasing this to 400 tons.