



Board Report for the year ended August 2010

Saturday, 28 August 2010

Tēnā koutou

We are pleased to have the opportunity to report back on the key milestones and major achievements that have occurred through the year.

We have had the benefit of two key highlights this year. Firstly, we have formally entered into settlement negotiations with the Crown by signing Terms of Negotiation (**Terms**). The second key highlight has been presenting the settlement aims and goals (**aspirations**) of Ngati Hineuru to officials from the Office of Treaty Settlements (**OTS**) in June, and then to the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations (**the Minister**) in August.

This Annual Report describes this year's major achievements and milestones that have been achieved for both the Society and Ngati Hineuru. The year has been very busy in order to achieve this level of success, and we are only going to get busier as we get closer to realising the goals of Ngati Hineuru.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to address the new challenges, and to celebrate the successes, that await us in the coming year.

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS YEAR

Terms of Negotiation

After a complex period of engagement with the Crown, we have finalised and signed Terms. By signing Terms, we have reached agreement with the Crown about how the negotiations will be carried out in practice, to guide this next phase of the settlements process.

Through the signing of Terms we have achieved the second, and very important, settlement milestone following mandate recognition. We have officially entered into a new phase where the focus for us and the Crown will be to engage in intensive negotiations to develop a settlement package to address the historic claims of Ngati Hineuru.

Ngati Hineuru settlement aspirations

We feel very privileged to have been entrusted with this task, and we are pleased that the Minister was so impressed by the pou and the mahi. We obtained detailed analysis and briefings from a wide range of sources about the scope of Treaty settlement redress and Crown policy so that we could be fully informed and well prepared to do this work.

We have worked very hard this year to ensure that we did our best to capture the outcomes you seek for Ngati Hineuru through this settlement process. Based on the consultation we have had with the iwi and the advice we obtained, we have achieved the development of the following six pou to encapsulate the key settlement aspirations of Ngati Hineuru that will take us into a bright and strong future:

- 1 Restoration and protection of the cultural heritage and history of Ngati Hineuru so that it is alive and accessible for our future generations.
- 2 Restoration of the health and wellbeing of the people of Ngati Hineuru so that our people may become healthy again in mind and body.
- 3 Recognition of our mana and restoring the relativity we once had in the region so that Crown agencies and relevant third parties see us as an iwi that needs to be included in decision-making that affect our rohe.
- 4 Reassertion of the presence of Ngati Hineuru through its rohe through the return of our key lands, and the recognition of our association with key sites and to ensure our presence is once again known in the area.
- 5 Restoring us as kaitiaki of our resources and environment so we can revitalise our resources, some of which have been badly depleted, and so we can be involved in the management and decision-making processes for the resources within our rohe. We also seek to regain access to some of our key resources that we have historically relied upon.
- 6 Rebuilding an economic base for Ngati Hineuru including an amount of financial redress that recognises the severe breaches we endured especially through the raupatu. In terms of commercial redress, we seek rights over all Crown properties and forestry in our rohe.

Work plan agreed with the Crown for the rest of the year

To address the Crown's resourcing issues in the past, we have been progressing a "front-loaded approach" which we agreed with the Minister in 2009. The front loaded approach has allowed us to begin preparing for negotiations while enabling the Crown negotiations team to complete their other negotiations. It is through this front loaded approach that we undertook the obligation to develop a full and thorough set of settlement aspirations.

After seeing the standard that we achieved with our six pou and our aspirations presentations generally, we are pleased to report to you that the Minister has instructed OTS to begin to intensively engage with us to progress our settlement. The Minister has now appointed Paul Swain as our Chief Crown Negotiator and has also signalled that they will have the resources to now begin engaging in the substantive discussions with us from September this year. As the Crown is under considerable pressure to engage with other groups, we are extremely pleased to have received these messages.

To prepare for this, we expect to spend the next six to eight weeks working with OTS to complete the background work that is essential for the intensive negotiations phase, which will begin in November.

The NHII Negotiations structure

As you will all be aware, we are in a “Large Natural Group” (**LNG**) partnership with Maungaharuru-Tangitu Incorporated (**MTI**) in accordance with OTS’s “Large Natural Grouping” policy. The policy is that the Crown will negotiate with a claimant group that has clear kinship links and a sizeable membership and claim area. To help foster this relationship we have put in place a memorandum of understanding with MTI.

The Board have appointed NHII representatives who, in conjunction with MTI representatives, form the NHII/MTI LNG Working Group to discuss LNG matters with the Crown. While NHII and MTI are required to be two halves of a LNG, we have secured confirmation from the Crown that Ngati Hineuru will negotiate for their own settlement redress package and a separate Deed of Settlement which is independent of any other hapu or iwi, in recognition of the Ngati Hineuru claims.

Research for the Ngati Hineuru claims

All of the research projects to research into the gaps and to provide an overall Ngati Hineuru history are either progressing well or are complete. The projects include:

- A Overview and Gap filing Report by Professor Richard Boast which has been completed and is currently under review by the Board and the Crown Forestry Rental Trust (**CFRT**);
- An Overview Manawhenua Report by Pat Parsons which is progressing well and is due to be finalised in the next few months; and
- A Sites of Significance project by Hannah Boast detailing all the sites of significance of Ngati Hineuru within our rohe which has been completed and is currently under review by the Board and the CFRT.

The research is essential to provide us with an in-depth understanding of our past as well as to support our claims through this process. When the research is finalised we will look to hold some report back hui for the researchers to update the iwi about their findings.

Relationships with neighbouring hapu and iwi

We remain conscious that we have to preserve relationships with neighbouring hapu and iwi, and that these relationships need to be developed and maintained through the settlement process. By managing these relationships and addressing any common boundaries and shared claims early on, we could avoid overlapping claims issues and disputes later down the track.

We want to work appropriately but efficiently as possible with our neighbours, and as far as possible in accordance with tikanga. As part of this policy, we have agreed a memorandum of understanding with the Ahuriri hapu to the South. We have also had some positive engagement with our neighbours Ngati Manawa, Ngati Whare and Ngati Tuwharetoa over the past year as part of this process.

Protecting scope of Ngati Hineuru redress assets

The Board dedicated some time in 2009 to ensure that Crown assets in the Ngati Hineuru rohe remained with the Crown until we were able to negotiate for the return of those assets to Ngati Hineuru. This included engaging with the Crown on the CNI forest assets and ensuring that Ngati Hineuru’s share of those assets is protected.

We have also engaged in discussions with the Crown on the co-management model proposed for the natural resources in the Hawke's Bay region. This work also included engaging with our neighbouring iwi and hapu to ensure that Ngati Hineuru's interests were protected in the Ngati Hineuru rohe. This is continuing work and, at this stage, we are awaiting more information about this proposal.

PLAN FOR THIS YEAR

Our goal for the current year is to have developed the redress aspirations into an offer and to have presented that offer to the Crown. Of course, we will only be able to get to the offer stage with your input. We will hold hui-a-iwi and wananga over the course of the year to ensure we can continue to represent your views.

To achieve our aim for an Agreement in Principle in early to mid 2011, and then to begin working on a Deed of Settlement in the latter part of 2011, we need to engage with OTS to further refine our aspirations. From now until the end of this year, we will be working with our advisers and researchers to progress our aspirations into a detailed and well supported offer for cultural and commercial redress.

In conjunction with this, we will engage more intensively with the Crown to clarify our offer and to start negotiations properly. We have formally begun this engagement and have mapped out a plan with OTS for the remainder of the year. We will also be continuing overlapping claims discussions. By December we hope to be in a position to present the Minister with our claimant offer.

This year will be just as demanding as the past year but we will continue to protect the interests of Ngati Hineuru in pursuit of a settlement that properly reflects the views of the iwi and provides appropriate redress in recognition of our claims and grievances. We plan to hold hui to present the research and to seek input into how to develop the claimant offer.

We are proud to have the role of representing the iwi in this important work and we look forward to our continued engagement with you to continue achieving at the highest level.

Mai Hineuru, mo Hineuru.

28 August 2010

Whetu Tipiwai
Karauna Brown
Ivy Kahukiwa Smith
Gladys Campbell
Tuhuaio Kahukiwa
Hinewai Taungakore
Tirohia Bridger
Joyce Eparaima
Reo Spooner