

PĀNUI

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hikairo update

TUHIA KI TE RANGI, TUHIA KI TE WHENUA, TUHIA KI TE NGĀKAU O NGĀ TANGATA...

Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo have made significant progress on key strategic priorities for the iwi and we would like to update you on recent developments.

Treaty Claims Project Team

We have been putting together a dedicated Claims Project Team to work on our claims. A recruitment process has been underway for a Project Manager and a Community Researcher for the Marine and Coastal Area Claim (MACA). We were extremely impressed at the calibre of applicants and we wish to extend our appreciation to those whānau. These appointments are now being finalised and we will advise whānau of the successful candidates in the next few weeks.

Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo have also been in discussions with Te Arawhiti regarding the resourcing of this team and we have had an incredibly positive response. We have secured some funding and will be seeking additional funding to help us to get the remaining claims negotiations and options work done in a professional manner.

A big thank you for all the work that has been done by our tūpuna and others to establish the historical records of Ngāti Hikairo, including Frank Thorne and Pipi Barton, this information is a taonga to us.

Waikato-Tainui

Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo have recommenced the engagement with Waikato-Tainui for the remaining claims. An initial introductory hui was held on 4 March 2021 with Rahui Papa and Terri Hohneck via ZOOM. This meeting was extremely valuable and there will be a further meeting following the Poukai on 12 March 2021.

The purpose of this next hui is to begin a process to establish a tikanga based approach to the Claims issues. Once we have resolved the tikanga process then the Project Team will work with Rahui to prepare detailed information for whānau to consider. In addition to the Waikato-Tainui option, the Claims Project Team will also develop the option of managing our claims independent of Waikato-Tainui.

In the next pānui, we will indicate a more definitive outline of the next steps with timelines which will include the Treaty Options consultation hui. We need to proactively scope this work to then provide you with more realistic timeframes.

Ngāti Maniapoto Deed of Settlement

Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo has reviewed this Deed of Settlement in which we have serious concerns that this settlement encroaches on Ngāti Hikairo rohe and diminishes our mana and tino rangatiratanga. Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo were never consulted on this Deed of Settlement. So, we have taken decisive action at this stage sending letters with our concerns to the Minister of Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, Te Arawhiti and Ngāti Maniapoto. Included with this newsletter is a copy of the letter to the Minister which is in essence the same letter sent to Te Arawhiti and Ngāti Maniapoto.

Ngāti Maniapoto have agreed to meet with Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo so arrangements are being made for this to occur. Furthermore, we have taken legal advice on this situation and there are a range of legal options which we are prepared to take if this does not get resolved at an iwi level.

Website

Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo is finalising the development of a new website which will include a robust iwi registration system and process. This will be launched soon. We will keep you updated on this.

Future Direction and Strategic Plan

Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo are also seeking to undertake a strategic plan to consider our Future Direction for us as an iwi. As we work through our treaty claims options, it is equally important to have clarity on strategy to actualise our vision. So, we need to determine what this vision might look like in the future, and what we need to do to get there, we will be in touch further about how you can get involved in this process.

Annual General Meeting

Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo are providing you all with notice that the next Annual General Meeting will be held on 5 June 2021. We will confirm venue and times but please keep this date free whānau. There are a few reasons to these delays:

- COVID 19 has impacted on the ability of the Rūnanga to progress meetings and critical areas of work;
- We are working on improving the governance within the Rūnanga to make things run more effectively and efforts are being put in place to do this now, and
- We are working through a process to finalise the annual accounts.

We are confident and excited to be building strong foundations and opportunities for the future of Ngāti Hikairo. Let us take encouragement and strength from the words of the whakataukī of our tupuna Tiriwa: Māku te tītī, Māku ano te Whēwhera

Ngāti Hikairo, kia kaha tonu...
