

**NGATARAWA AHU WHENUA TRUSTS**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
14 DECEMBER 2019

**CHAIRPERSONS REPORT**

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Nau mai haere mai and welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Ngatarawa Ahu Whenua Trusts. I would like to acknowledge you all and each of our whānau, especially those who have lost loved ones throughout the year, please accept our condolences and heart felt love. I also want to acknowledge our previous Chairman Boy Kemp, who resigned as a trustee at our last AGM held on the 8th December 2018. Boy has been a trustee for over 20 years. He is not in the best of health and we ask that we keep him with others who may not be well in our prayers.

I present to you this report for the year ending 31 March 2019. It includes background information as well as highlights of the past 8 months and the work done by the trustees on behalf of the land owners.

**BACKGROUND**

We are owners of land located at State Highway 50, Hastings. These are freehold blocks of land referred to as Ngatarawa 1A3A, Ngatarawa 1A3B, Ngatarawa 1A3C and Ngatarawa 2A3B1B2. Each block was established as an Ahu Whenua Trust by Orders of the Maori Land Court dated 26 October 2000 and 6 April 1989 respectively pursuant to section 438 of the Maori Affairs Act 1953. Collectively the Trusts are referred to as the Ngatarawa Lands Trust or Ngatarawa Ahu Whenua Trust. In some documentation they are referred to as Ngatarawa Trusts Partnership. These blocks are administered by the Ngatarawa Lands Trust Trustees on behalf of the land owners.

There are currently 203 land owners listed collectively in these blocks (this includes individuals and whanau trusts), however this list is ever changing when beneficiaries pass away and whānau succeed to the land or trusts break up and go back to individuals. All of these changes occur through the Maori Land Court and the Ngatarawa Lands Trust accesses the updated information from the Maori Land Court each time we distribute the dividends to the owners. However we have experienced issues with Maori Land Court updating their data in a timely manner as well as owners having no contact information at all. There is difficulty in receiving updated contact information for some of the owners because people generally move without updating information. These are mainly families who are disconnected and perhaps have moved away from New Zealand. Nonetheless, these whānau members have unclaimed monies waiting for them to claim. To claim monies, there are a number of things that need to be done.

The trust also administers tertiary grants to recognise the pursuit of academic excellence, knowledge and qualifications of our land owners and their descendants.

**INTRODUCING THE TRUSTEES AND OUR KAI MAHI TEAM**

The Ngatarawa Lands Trust is made up of four elected trustees, myself Kathleen Kireka, Olivia Thompson, Timoti Gemmell and Ruth Wong. Up until March 2019 Robert Kale was the Secretary/Treasurer and Accountant of the Trust. From April 2019 Ruth Wong has taken on the Secretarial and Treasurer roles while Robert continues to monitor our accounts, pay the dividends and

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work through Mayberry Accounting Limited for our Financial Statements. Our Trustees contact details are at the end of my report.

### **TRUSTEES FEES**

The Trustees Fees were increased in February 2019 from \$100 per meeting to \$125 per meeting. In the new financial year further changes were made. The Chair receives an added \$50 per meeting (\$175), and the Secretary/Treasurer receives an added \$50 per role per meeting (\$225). We meet at least 6 times a year opposed to the monthly meetings stipulated in the Trust deed. However it is crucial that the land owners know and understand and endorse the fee increase and that it is noted at this AGM. The recommendation for endorsement is that the motion to receive the Chairs Report, cover the land owners support for this increase.

### **LAND LEASE**

The land is currently in a 9 year lease agreement with 'Apatu Farms Limited'. The lease commenced on 1 July 2012 and will end 30 June 2021. The collective rental received each year as per the lease agreement is 97,000 plus GST. Payments are received twice a year. After expenses are paid the surplus is distributed to the land owners in accordance with the land owners information held by the Maori Land Court and the information held by the Trust for the owners, that ensures money is distributed accordingly.

### **FINANCES & BUDGET**

Each year the trust works to a budget and monitors the trusts expenses. The main expenses are discussed by the Trustees and financial statements are reported to the land owners at the AGM. Our Accountant through Robert Kale is Mayberry Accounting Limited and the Financial Statements have been provided for the year ending 31 March 2019. I acknowledge Robert Kale who has been the trusts Secretary, Treasurer and Accountant for many years. Robert is reporting the Financial Statements as part of our Agenda.

### **APATU FARMS LIMITED & WHENUA UPDATE**

The whenua is in great shape with 'Apatu Farms Limited'. The Farm that started over 40 years ago by the late Ken Apatu is now run by his sons Mark and Paul. Apatu Farms Limited includes growing vegetables, vineyards and livestock. Apatu Farms continues to be a major contributor to the New Zealand export market and supply to some of the biggest farming markets and food brands in New Zealand.

Our lease agreement stipulates the full agreement of the lease. The main use of the land is for farming of sheep and cattle (but not bulls over 12 months old) together with the harvesting of supplementary feed provided it is fed back on the property and adequate fertility of the property is maintained.

We would like to report that the land is absolutely beautiful and lush. It has been well maintained and cared for by Apatu Farms Limited.

### **URUPA ACCESS**

For safety reasons, whānau are encouraged not to enter without permission or authority from Timoti Gemmell who is our kaitiaki for the Urupa on behalf of the Trust. Timoti has offered to provide access on Sundays by request only. Please respect our terms for the health and safety of our whānau.

## **TERTIARY GRANTS**

The recipients of the 2018-2019 Tertiary Grants were Hemi Wong, Marnie Baker, Eve Kireka, Brandon Harrison and Kate Punaki. We congratulate each of these taurira on their efforts.

Given that our AGM is held at this time of the year, we would also like to acknowledge the recipients of the 2019-2020 Tertiary Grant which was distributed in July 2019. The recipients of the 2019-2020 Tertiary Grants are Eve Kireka, Kate Punaki, Hemi Wong and Shaarai Harris. We congratulate each of these taurira on their continuous educational pursuits.

Over the past 5 years the Trustees have monitored the Tertiary Grants process carefully. Each year for the past 5 years between 3 – 5 applicants have been successful. There are several reasons for this and as a Trust we would like landowners to endorse a change in the current policy to allow for 1<sup>st</sup> year Tertiary taurira to apply for the tertiary grant to allow for more whānau to be eligible for the funds. The rest of the policy will remain the same. Each of you should have a 'Tertiary Grants Report' with this information inside. We believe that this change as well as gaining contact information for a better communication system to the whanau will help maximise our Tertiary Grant benefits to our whānau.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Trust is keen to get contact information for all of the land owners and their descendants to keep in touch with everyone on an as need basis when opportunities arise from time to time. Opportunities include employment, health and wellbeing, environment, housing and other general pānui that may interest whānau. Social media, email, facebook and texting portals are a much easier and faster way to communicate, however postal addresses are also key for important documents that need to be posted out. For this purpose a database is being compiled with this information and will be kept confidential for the purposes of the trust only. See at the foot of each page of this report the Trusts email and postal detail.

## **NGATARAWA WAI 596**

Although this Wai Claim is not mahi of the Ngatarawa Ahu Whenua Trust, we have continued to report updates at our AGM to keep our whānau update. A Ngatarawa Wai Claim Update Report is supplied for you today. I would like to acknowledge Olivia Thompson for the work she has done to date to try and follow this mahi through. It is not easy work and a lot of frustration and patience is involved on her part. However we will not give up. We will continue to fight for our land and what is ours.

## **REFLECTION**

I would like to acknowledge our trustees at this time. Olivia, Timoti and I have been trustees of the Ngatarawa Lands Trust for some time now. With the resignation of Boy Kemp last year, Ruth was elected on as a new Trustee. Change is always good and provides us with new opportunities and fresh eyes, even if you've been in something for a while. The past 11 months has been a good time of reflection as we have brought Ruth up to date with the History of the Trust to best understand the past in order to progress forward. Our work is to ensure that the land is in great form and that the lease is secure and that the land owners receive their money according to their rights and shares as given to us through the Māori Land Court. But it's also more than that. We have been tasked to represent Tipuna, our loved ones who have gone before. A greater part of this mahi is joining our whānau and understanding our whakapapa and our connections. As we continue in this mahi, please know that we are doing our best for our whānau.

No reira,

Tēna koutou, tēnā koutou, tēna koutou katoa.

**Kathleen Kireka – Chairperson**

**NGATARAWA LANDS TRUST**

**Blocks Ngatarawa 1A3A, Ngatarawa 1A3B, Ngatarawa 1A3C, Ngatarawa 2A3B1B2**

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