

TE TAU IHU ~ LARGE NATURAL GROUP
Interim Steering Committee

Panui No 1

27 April 2005

Tīhei Mauri Ora

Ko te wehi ki a Īhowa te tīmatanga o te whakaaro nui

Me whakahōnoretia tō tātou Arikinui

Te Atairangi kaahu me te whakaaro anō hoki ki te hunga kua mene ki te pō

*He pānui tēnei mō tātou wero ki te karauna mō ngā whenua i roto i
Te Tau Ihu o te waka a Maui*

Kia ora koutou

Treaty claims hearings for the Top of the South Iwi were completed in February 2004 which had taken the Waitangi Tribunal approximately three years to review all historical claims made. At time of writing this panui, the Tribunal has not issued its report for Te Tau Ihu.

In the middle of last year, the eight Iwi of Te Tau Ihu were called to a number of Hui, organised by the Crown Forest Rental Trust. These were held to discuss how Iwi might work closer together, leading towards negotiating a settlement with the Crown. The Crown, through the Office of Treaty Settlements was wanting to talk only with large groups of claimants rather than deal individually with each of the Iwi. This Crown policy of creating Large Natural Groups is intended to group together claimants who possess commonality such as; whakapapa, traditional alliances, shared history, shared rohe etc.

At the end of 2004, it became clear to the four Iwi Trusts who share a common history in the Nelson Tenth's Reserves, that it would be beneficial for them and Wakatu Incorporation to come together to form their own Large Natural Group.

On the 19 February this year, a Planning Meeting and Workshops were held in Blenheim to discuss how this Large Natural Group would work together. This meeting was attended by Trustees and representatives from Ngāti Koata, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama and Wakatu Incorporation. The main resolutions from this meeting were to form an Interim Steering Committee whose function was to develop a mandating strategy, recommend members to the Governing Board (Iwi Negotiators), develop policies and procedures and to compile a business plan for the Large Natural Group. The Governing board, when appointed, will take over from the Interim Steering Committee.

Two delegates from each of the five principal claimant groups were put forward to the Interim Steering Committee. These were Roma Hippolite (Chair), Molly Luke (Deputy Chair), Tui Martin, Allen Hippolite, Fred Te Miha, John Mitchell,

Rore Stafford, Harvey Ruru, Dawn McConnell and Waari Ward-Holmes. Operations support is being provided by Bob Shore (financial), Chris Atutahi (project management) and Jo Crane (administration).

The past two months have been busy for the Interim Steering Committee, preparing work programmes as well as compiling policy documents and mandating strategies that will form part of the Mandating Hui that are proposed for later in 2005 around Aotearoa. We will give more details of this in the next Panui.

For the moment though, a Consultation and Planning Hui is going to be held at 9.00am on Saturday 11 June 2005 at Whakatu Marae, Nelson, where the work of the Interim Steering Committee will be presented. This Hui is open to anyone who descends from Tupuna who lived in Te Tau Ihu in 1840 and who is affiliated with one of the four constituent Iwi of our Large Natural Group. If you would like to be briefed on what is going on in the claims area, then please come along - we look forward to seeing you there.

Te Tau Ihu Large Natural Group

- Ngāti Koata no Rangitoto ki te Tonga
- Te Ātiawa ki te Tau Ihu
- Ngāti Rārua Iwi Trust
- Ngāti Tama Manawhenua ki te Tau Ihu
- Wakatu Incorporation

In order to obtain funding, "Te Tau Ihu – Large Natural Group" (LNG) must have a database of all people they represent. As Te Ātiawa is a member of the LNG, you, our owners, are being represented. Therefore your name and address have been provided to LNG, and in future their panui will be sent direct from them.

If you do not wish to receive future panui regarding Te Tau Ihu – Large Natural Group, please advise Jo Crane, PO Box 13, Nelson, Ph (03) 548 0770, jo.crane@nrait.co.nz