

Uenuku calls to bring skills home

E nga reo o te whenua waiwaia mai i te Kāhui Maunga ki Tangaroa, whakarongo mai ki te reo iti nei e pa ana ki nga mahi a nga hapu me nga mahi a te iwi o Uenuku. Tena Koutou.

By Moana Dawson

Uenuku people are being called upon to return home with skills, determination and energy to support the drive to uplift the iwi.

It is nearly a year since a hui-a-iwi called for a new tribal entity to be established as "a fresh start", and to provide a collective voice for Uenuku whanau, hapu, marae and descendants of Uenuku.

At Mangamingi Pa on February 1, 2014, a series of resolutions was passed to establish a legal entity that would have the capacity and ability to represent all Uenuku uri (descendants). As a result, Uenuku Charitable Trust (UCT) was legally registered on April 3, 2014 under the kaupapa: To elevate the mana motuhake o Uenuku.

UCT chairman Aiden Gilbert says the organisation has come a long way in a short time.

"When you look back to this time last year, you have to be amazed at the extent and pace of the mahi required by our interim trustees to progress the interests of Uenuku to this point — but in reality the mahi has only just begun, and another big year lies ahead.

"UCT has developed key strategies to uplift the iwi and support the vision Maranga Mai, Uenuku (Rise Up, Uenuku). Our



FULL HOUSE: Uenuku whanau in the deep South turned out in force for an Uenuku hui-a-iwi at Te Whanau o Hokonui Marae in Gore. Uenuku Charitable Trust went on the road throughout Aotearoa in July and August to inform Uenuku whanau about the new entity and the work being undertaken on behalf of Uenuku iwi.

Strategic Plan, Uenuku 2020, encompasses the hopes of our iwi, from cultural revitalisation to economic development and environmental management (and this can be viewed on our website www.uenuku.iwi.nz).

"We are determined and well-positioned to make a genuine difference in our communities, and committed to working to realise the needs and aspirations of our people. We need all hands on deck to achieve this. And so we are calling for Uenuku uri to come home, to bring their expertise and knowledge back to us, to give of themselves so that together we can work to strengthen our iwi."

Mr Gilbert said UCT is heading into an intensive phase of Treaty Settlement work and at the same time will continue the push to advance whanau, hapu

"UCT has developed key strategies to uplift the iwi."

Aiden Gilbert, UCT chairman

and iwi development. Skills are needed in business and management, finance, law, environmental management, social and health services, operations and administration, IT and other areas.

UCT's structure was developed to ensure all Uenuku marae, hapu and uri have the opportunity to participate fully in iwi business through mandated representation on the Board of Trustees. There are 38

places on the board, with strong kaumatua presence and seats for hapu, marae, rangatahi, uri and claimants.

"Our processes have been open to whanau and hapu to contribute, and we are guided by a set of core values and principles based on tika, pono and aroha," Mr Gilbert said. "Our structure encourages hapu to meet regularly, and this is where we see whanau enabled to participate in decision making about issues that have a direct impact on their lives.

"We are also committed to strengthening our networks with other hapu, iwi, Government and NGO for the benefit of Uenuku people and our whanaunga from neighbouring iwi."

UCT is representing Uenuku interests across the board, including Te Awa Tupua,

Tongariro National Park and Taurewa Forest settlements, the Ruapehu District Maori Council, DOC and Ruapehu District Council working groups. It is working with organisations such as Ruapehu Alpine Lifts and Ruapehu Whanau Transformation Project, and is formalising partnerships with groups including major Maori land trusts.

"Progress of this nature has been a long time coming for Uenuku. But as we steer the waka we know that the ripples that have faced us will become waves sometimes — waves that will need everyone paddling together as one.

"Ma te kotahi o te waihoe ka tae to tatou waka ki uta."

■ For more information and to register on the iwi register, go to www.uenuku.iwi.nz

Trust aims to provide collective voice on Treaty settlements

By Steven Hirini
UCT Treaty project manager

In June 2013, the framework for Treaty settlements in the Whanganui region was agreed at a meeting between the Whanganui District Collective and the Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS). The settlement framework included four Large Natural Groupings (LNG) in the Whanganui region:

Ngati Rangī, southern Whanganui, northern Whanganui, and central Whanganui.

Uenuku Charitable Trust (UCT) was established following a series of hui-a-iwi and registered in April 2014 to prepare for Treaty settlements with a view to providing a structure where all voices in the central Whanganui region can be heard.

UCT is seeking a mandate from the central Whanganui Large Natural Group (LNG), named Te Korowai o Wainuiarua, to represent them in negotiations with the Crown for the comprehensive settlement of all the historical Treaty of Waitangi claims. The Korowai o Wainuiarua LNG is comprised of the ancestors of Tamakana, Tamahaki and Uenuku ki Mangani-a-te Ao.

The mandate process started on December 13, 2014 with UCT's draft mandate strategy being publicly notified inviting submissions, views and inquiries. The notification provided information on the Te Korowai o Wainuiarua claimant community included in the draft mandate strategy.

Submissions close on January 31, 2015 and UCT in conjunction with OTS will

respond to the submissions.

UCT would like to thank whanau for their messages and feedback as we undertake an open and transparent process to seek a mandate to represent the claimant community of Te Korowai o Wainuiarua.

For more information, check out our website www.uenuku.iwi.nz or email us at enquiries@uenuku.iwi.nz Maranga mai, whanau.

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