

Unity vital to the Wainuiarua vision

Enā reo o te whenua waiwaiā mai i te Kāhui Maunga ki Tangaroa, whakarongo mai ki te reo iti nei e pā ana ki ngā mahi a ngā hapū me ngā mahi a te iwi o Uenuku. Tēnā Koutou.

By Moana Dawson

Whakapapa and opportunity are two words the people of Uenuku and Tamahaki must keep in mind as they move toward negotiating the settlement of their Treaty of Waitangi claims.

Uenuku Charitable Trust (UCT) is calling on whānau to continue to walk side by side to achieve a settlement that will build a stronger economic, social and cultural base for their people.

“We must continue to stand together as whanaunga — just as we stood together at Tieke,” UCT chair Aiden Gilbert said.

The tribal entity was established following a hui-ā-iwi at Mangamingi Pā last February as “a fresh start” for the iwi and to provide a collective voice for hapū, marae, claimants and uri. It is seeking the mandate to represent the Central Whanganui Large Natural Grouping (LNG) in the comprehensive settlement of historical Treaty claims.

UCT will meet with hapū, marae, claimants and whānau over the next few months to continue to promote a unified approach through its draft mandate strategy Te Korowai o Wainuiarua. Wainuiarua is an ancient name given to the Whanganui awa by the people of the upper reaches.

The Crown requires that Uenuku and Tamahaki are represented within the central LNG, and it is now up to the people to re-engage and continue to uplift the mana, wairua and oranga of their iwi, Mr Gilbert said.

“Our rohe is made up of individual territories for which various hapū hold mana and rangatiratanga — our challenge will be around our collective ability to manage our individual interests, and in particular our common interests across those boundaries ... and how we do that.

“Discussions we have today are essentially about how we relate to each other in the future. Re-connecting, talking to each other, working together, supporting one another for the health and wellbeing of our people as kaitiaki of the whenua and the waterways.”



RECONNECTING: Rene Bloxham, Jason Bishop and Sonny Tonihī enjoy some cuddie time at an Uenuku hui-ā-iwi at Te Whānau o Hokonui Marae in Gore. Uenuku Charitable Trust went on the road from Auckland to Gore last year to talk with whānau about the work being undertaken on behalf of the iwi. PHOTO/SUPPLIED UENUKU_24-02

Great care was taken when establishing UCT to provide a structure where all voices in the rohe could be heard.

“At our hui-ā-iwi on February 1 last year, our thinking was focused on how to provide for our whānau in all parts of the rohe. How do we ensure this structure works for us all? The thoughts of the iwi are reflected in the resulting representative model,” Mr Gilbert said.

“We have a large Board of Trustees giving the opportunity for direct representation to hapū, marae, Wai claimants, uri, rangatahi and kaumātua in order to be fully inclusive and representative of the Te Korowai o Wainuiarua community.

“UCT reminds us all of our whanaungatanga and that we need to work together as family, while acknowledging that there will always be room for differing views.

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No settlement will ever come close to righting all the wrongs of the past, but there is opportunity here for the Crown to make some amends.

— Aiden Gilbert
Uenuku Charitable
Trust chairman

the past, but there is opportunity here for the Crown to make some amends. What is required of us in this process is patience, perseverance, forgiveness and commitment to moving forward in a way that allows us to protect each other's interests.

“We want us all to build the whare that will house our iwi. Working together will reinforce the whakapapa lines that weave us together. That is the strength of our vision.”

There are currently 16 interim trustees on UCT's Board, with opportunities for additional mandated representatives to fill the remaining seats from among the hapū, marae, Wai claimants, rangatahi and uri of Te Korowai o Wainuiarua.

“Mā te kotahi o te waihoe ka tae tō tātou waka ki uta.”

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

Treaty of Waitangi settlement update

By Steven Hirini
UCT Treaty Project Manager

On December 24, 2014, the Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS) wrote to Crown Forestry Rental Trust (CFRT) confirming it had approved the Uenuku Charitable Trust (UCT) draft mandate strategy for public notification.

The draft strategy was advertised on December 13 and submissions closed on January 31.

UCT would like to thank all those who made a submission on its draft mandate strategy. Submissions were received from individual whānau members, internal groups, connected neighbouring groups and legal counsel on behalf of their clients.

UCT in conjunction with OTS is committed to responding to all submitters and considering issues raised, meeting with submitters and making any necessary changes to the mandate strategy.

UCT has completed CFRT's Eligibility and Capability application as well as submitting a business case for funding support for the Deed of Mandate stage. This has enabled UCT to start the staff recruitment process to support the work ahead — which will include responding to submissions, preparing for mandate roadshow hui planned for April-May in nine locations from Auckland to Gore.

Critical to this work is getting out among whānau to provide information, and enable them to register so they are able to vote and participate fully in decision-making.

UCT acknowledges the support of OTS and CFRT as it seeks the mandate to represent the community of individuals who descend from one or more of the tupuna Tamakana, Tamahaki and Uenuku to negotiate the comprehensive settlement of all historical Treaty of Waitangi claims that relate to the central Whanganui Large Natural Grouping.

For more information visit www.uenuku.iwi.nz or email enquiries@uenuku.iwi.nz
Maranga mai, whānau.

Help needed to restore interior of St Paul's

By Mark Dawson

The call has gone out for help in restoring the beautiful interior of St Paul's Memorial Church in Putiki.

“We are holding a hui for anyone interested in working on the restoration,” said Huia Kirk, chairwoman of the church restoration trust.

“Ideally we need skilled people with some experience of working on kowhaiwhai and tukutuku panels, but all help is welcome.”

The hui will be held at 7pm on Wednesday, March 4, at the church hall in Te Anaua St.

The panels date back to 1937 when the church was opened. Water damage and general wear has taken some of the shine off them, but they remain impressive.

The kowhaiwhai and tukutuku are the work of Apiranga Ngata, from Gisborne, who designed them and supervised the team that made them.

Any offers of help should go to Huia on 06 3478087, or restoration trust secretary Margaret Tauri on 06 3456497.

HELP NEEDED: Huia Kirk surveys the kowhaiwhai in St Paul's Church at Putiki.

PHOTO/STUART MUNRO 180215WCSMPUTIKI1

