

PĀNUI - OCTOBER 2020

UPDATE FROM NGĀTI KAHUNGUNU KI WAIRARAPA TĀMAKI NUI-A-RUA SETTLEMENT TRUST

Kia ora e te whānau,

We write to you with some key news and updates to share with whānau from the last few months.

Wairarapa Moana - an internationally significant wetland

We were pleased to see Wairarapa Moana was successful in gaining Ramsar recognition. This means it has officially been recognised as an internationally significant wetland and that Aotearoa needs to manage the wetland, monitor its ecological values and report back to the Ramsar Convention. Read the Government announcement [here](#).

The site is hugely culturally, spiritually, and economically significant to us – it is a living and breathing taonga, and as a pātaka kai has sustained our people for hundreds of years.

One of the key things for us is that our natural environment gets appropriately recognised and protected. This is a significant part of our Treaty claim, and to now have Wairarapa Moana acknowledged in this way, gives us additional leverage. It's about realising the potential of our natural resources, as assets that benefit our whole community.

Ramsar designation is just one step in the process to restoring the mauri of Wairarapa Moana. In recognising there is a lot to be done still, Minister Eugenie Sage noted: "Restoring the mauri of the lake involves quite significant changes in landuse around the lake to prevent the huge nutrient load that burdens it, to prevent the sediment getting into it and to make it much more of a pātaka (storehouse) for mahinga kai (natural resources) that it was in past generations." You can read the full article from Stuff.co.nz [here](#).

At the moment, the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Governance group is tasked with the management of the Wairarapa Moana wetlands. This current structure, which has existed for around 10 years, was formed to provide an inter-agency co-ordination with iwi and relevant Crown agencies in the management of Wairarapa Moana.

Under our Treaty Settlement, this will be replaced with a statutory body – the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board – which will act as the kaitiaki of Wairarapa Moana and its catchment for present and future generations.

Unlike currently, the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board will have equal representation between iwi and the Crown; with four of the ten members appointed by the Settlement Trust including a representative from each of Papawai and Kohunui Marae. The Settlement Trust will also be the permanent chair. It will ensure our iwi has strong voice into natural resource matters in the Wairarapa – and most importantly be at the head of the table.

You can read more about the natural resources redress relating to Wairarapa Moana in our Treaty Settlement [here](#) on page 26.

DID YOU KNOW?

Lake Wairarapa is the North Island's third largest lake and is the largest wetland complex on the southern part of the Island. Wairarapa Moana is the seventh wetland in Aotearoa to be recognised in this way, and is home to 96 bird species, 25 native fish species, and a significant number of plant species.

Jobs for Nature

It was great to see the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands project and the Ruamahanga catchment receive \$10m from the Government's post-Covid-19 recovery Job's for Nature programme.

Wairarapa Moana will benefit from more than 60ha of native planting, scaled up pest plant and animal control, extension of school and community group programmes, development of visitor facilities key sites, greater environmental and cultural research and monitoring, upstream catchment riparian plantings and job creation.

Read more about this announcement [here](#).

The creation of the \$1.3 billion Jobs for Nature Fund, as part of the COVID-19 recovery package, to assist various projects around Aotearoa, was also a welcome announcement. The fund is designed to create up to 11,000 environment-based jobs and economic support for communities across Aotearoa, while at the same time ensuring our natural environment benefits. DOC is working with councils, iwi and local businesses to provide these environment-based jobs, and iwi will play a key role, alongside DOC and Greater Wellington Regional Council, in administering the fund.

Find out more about this four-year programme [here](#).

In the current economic climate and the uncertainty caused by COVID-19, the creation of further job opportunities for our people is critical, and this offers a chance for them to re-connect with our natural environment and play a part in its restoration.

Settlement mahi

Our work towards achieving an enduring settlement for our Iwi continues. We are continuing to work on a resolution and remain focussed on achieving a settlement that brings everyone together and avoids lengthy litigation.

Mercury's legal challenge to the Tribunal's preliminary report will be heard in the Wellington High Court over six days from 27 October to 3 November. This length of time reflects the fact that the Crown and Raukawa have also challenged the Tribunal's preliminary report. You can read some comprehensive background about this in our June pānui [here](#).

Unfortunately, there is only seating for about 30 people in the Court room. There is, though, an ability to view the Court proceeding remotely online, or dial in to listen via phone. Log in details for this are below, with further instructions available [here](#).

Viewing or listening to the Court proceedings

Those not able to be in the Court room can join the Virtual Meeting online or by phone to tune in to the hearings.

Please note, anyone viewing the Court proceedings online, or dialling in via phone, are subject to the same conditions as a person sitting in the public gallery of the courtroom. **In particular, no recording of the audio-visual stream is permitted.**

Virtual meeting details

CONNECTING FROM	CONNECTION METHOD	CONNECTION DETAIL
Desktop computer or mobile device	Jabber Guest	Copy and paste the following into your internet browser: https://meet.rvvideo.net/index.html?id=843272
Telephone (Audio only)	Meeting ID: PSTN	Phone: 00 64 9 3578500, 843271#
PIN / Passcode: 48137		

Interview with Ra Smith, Environmental Manager for Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi

Ra has been involved in the process around getting Wairarapa Moana fully on the map. Read our interview with him below about what this means and the significance of this site to Māori.

"Our Iwi were one of the first supporters for the application. For an area to get Ramsar recognition, it needs to fill three of nine criteria. We qualified under seven!"

"One of the things Iwi had said, especially negotiating Iwi, is that Wairarapa Moana should be enhanced by things Māori want for the whole community. So, together with partners, including Government, we have a vision out there to restore our wetland so that it is recognised as a taonga, a wetland treasure."

"From a cultural sense, this is a hugely significant area to us - it's where our people came to get their supply of tuna, mahinga kai, and engage in other cultural uses, such as raranga."

"From a personal perspective, I look forward to one day seeing our people able to gather there and be involved in activities in the rohe that are socially and culturally significant to us - like waka ama for example. 60 per cent of our people live outside Wairarapa. It's important that when they come back to visit, they can connect with the area and grow a greater understanding of the place their tipuna are from."

"Lake Wairarapa and the wetlands surrounding it, are important for our migratory birds - they need a healthy environment that they can fly to. Likewise, our migratory fish need good water quality to thrive."

"Our Lake is an entity - it has a character of its own, we have genealogical connections to it and the lands surrounding it. If we are wanting to be kaitiaki, we need to show real maanaki to our moana. This way, we can regain that sense of place, and restoring it on our terms."

"Some good practice around and on the lake is starting to be established. To achieve anything aspirational like this, we need to put into place immediate strategies to improve water quality for a start."

"We need to look at the potential of an area, how are we starting to realise that potential, and what things need to be put in place to enable an area to really come alive again?"

"There are many opportunities, and this is something we will be exploring further with Government to see what's possible, like developing aquaculture opportunities. We want to continue having a say in what happens to Wairarapa Moana going into the future."

COVID-19

Times ahead are still uncertain as Aotearoa grapples with the economic fallout caused by this pandemic, and we appreciate the stress and uncertainty this may be causing whānau.

This pandemic has seen Māori coming together from across Wairarapa and across Tāmaki Nui-a-Rua to support our people. The power of the collective has been real, and strong. We want to acknowledge the role you have all played and commitment you have shown over the past three months.

Over the past months, we have also received some heart-warming feedback from whānau who have received support from us, and we have, with their permission, published some of this feedback, further down in this pānui.

Importance of He Kawenata Hou

COVID-19 has really shown the depth of the socio-economic issues Aotearoa is facing, and in particular for Māori. It has emphasised to us, more than ever, the importance of realising He Kawenata Hou. This is a key part of the relationship redress in our settlement to hold the Crown to account and work with them and local authorities and achieve better outcomes for Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki Nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust people.

Under He Kawenata Hou, we will work with the Crown in partnership to develop and implement a social and economic revitalisation strategy for our Iwi. The Crown agencies who will be involved in He Kawenata Hou are the Department of Corrections, MidCentral District Health Board, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Development, Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children, New Zealand Police, Te Puni Kōkiri, and Wairarapa District Health Board.

With the end of the year not too far away, we are hopeful the next few months will bring about more positive news for our Iwi, our rohe, and for Aotearoa as a whole.

What 2020 has shown us so far is the importance of being resilient, to hone in on the opportunities that lie right here within our rohe, and to focus on developing these so that strong and sustainable futures can be secured for our people.

Thank you for your continued support, whānau.

Nākū noa, nā

Robin Potangaroa
Chairman



OFFICE: 189 Queen Street Rear,
Masterton, 5840



FREECALL: 0800 KKWTNR (0800 559 867)



PHONE: 06 216 1277
(free to Masterton & Carterton callers)



WEBSITE: www.kkwtnr.org.nz



EMAIL: admin@kkwtnr.org.nz



FACEBOOK: /Kahungunu.Settlement.Trust/

Whānau feedback

“During the Alert Level 4 lockdown, my son had to undergo an emergency surgery, following a progressed pneumonia. He spent 12 days in Wellington hospital and due to the Alert Level restrictions, I was unable to be beside him throughout this whole process which was understandably hard for our whānau. Unable to travel down in the ambulance with my son, as I was not deemed “essential”, I followed behind the ambulance and stayed in a motel across the road from the hospital, which helped my son and gave him comfort and healing knowing I was near. Our main household income earner (husband) was on a wage cut. Due to COVID-19, he remained at home in the safety of our bubble with our 22-month-old mokopuna, while her dad was in hospital. During this time, we received an overwhelming amount of aroha and support from our local organisations, Iwi (Kahungunu and Rangitāne), Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki Nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust, He Kāhui Wairarapa, the wāhine at Taku Wāhi (WaiDhb), Wairarapa Teen Parent Unit, Whānau Ora, Youth Services. From kai to wood, and unexpected costs which resulted in me not being able to meet my rent obligations, COVID-19 definitely made things hard, and then my son’s surgery just added another layer of stress for us. I am grateful to be Māori – we were certainly well-provided for in abundance and we thank each and every one of the above-named organisations.”

“During the lockdown me and my babies were homeless. It took a toll on my wairua and I was in a very dark place. It took a lot for me to reach out because I was embarrassed about my situation. Eventually I reached out and I’m pleased that I did. The support I received was very overwhelming! Temporary accommodation that was safe and inviting for my kids, a job was lined up to start ASAP. A phone was gifted because mine broke. We moved into a new home and wood was delivered. Many food parcels were dropped off. The support is nonstop and my soul is so blessed. I’m thankful to Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki Nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust and everyone else whose played a huge roll in getting me and my babies to where we are today. My wairua is repaired and my heart is full of LOVE. Thank use ALL so much.”

“Kia ora, I would like to express on behalf of my family how much the help from the Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki Nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust really helped us through the COVID-19 lockdown and beyond. When we were really struggling and didn’t quite know who else to turn to other than WINZ who couldn’t help us because we are not on benefits. Gestures of kai to wood petrol and help with rent came at much needed times and we are beyond grateful and can’t think of how much we appreciate this. My family and I are forever grateful. Thank you so much again for the help provided in such a needed time.”

“Had a lovely phone call from the corner house today. He was so very grateful for the firewood. He was very emotional. Said it has helped him and his wife so much, and to know they will be warm all winter now. Thank you xx.”

“Hey thanks aye, I was living in my car until my car was impounded. Slept under the shelter at Solway garage two nights ago, was freezing, appreciate the help.”

“Thanks heaps to you Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki Nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust for the wood you paid for. Now my baby is warm, thanks dearly from me and baby.”

“I just want to say a BIG thanks to Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki Nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust for my good load of wood...ka mihi kia koutou ka toa...I’m gratefully... thanks heaps mah mihi kia koutau mo tera...mean māori mean...”

“I would like to thank the Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki Nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust for the firewood that got dropped off at our whare this morning, very much appreciated. Keep up the good mahi.”

“Thank you Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki Nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust for the load of wood, very much appreciated. Came at just the right time.”

“Due to COVID-19 and my husband not being able to work and also not being able to receive the Government subsidy wage, we are grateful for the resources that have been able to help us during these tough times. Now that we are back on our feet and winter has creeped up on us after settling into our new home, we have been in need of firewood, so this has been a huge help for me and my whānau. We are very grateful, thank you so much!”