



# *Hokotehi Newsletter*

## *December 2016*

*Photo credit – the image above is Te Rangimata island in Te Whānga lagoon, taken by Tom Lanauze*

### ***Ta imi Moriori, tēnā kotou, hokomenetai me rongō***

#### ***Comment from the Chair***

This year has been a busy and challenging one for Moriori with a major focus on the new board settling in and re-commencing our Treaty settlement negotiations with the Crown. However, I am pleased to say that your trustees have been equal to the challenges and very good progress has been made across a number of fronts. Trustees have committed to a series of governance training sessions to enable new trustees (and a couple of older hands) to get up to speed with the duties and responsibilities of being a trustee – the most important of which is to act in the best interests of all Moriori and do so with integrity and transparency. After-all, we are here to represent you the members and to look after your assets and taonga for present and future generations of Moriori.

Another of the key challenges we have faced this year is the requirement by the Crown that we engage with Ngāti Mutunga negotiators in relation to overlapping claims. These meetings on the whole have been carried out in a positive spirit and agreement (in principle) has been reached on a number of issues including customary fisheries, Te Whānga Moana and commercial Crown properties on Rēkohu. However, we strongly disagree on some matters of cultural redress and are approaching this issue from completely different cultural and historical perspectives. We will continue to look for agreement with Ngāti Mutunga but if none can be found then the Crown must make a decision to break any deadlock that is based on Treaty principle, on

what is just and on what the evidence demonstrates. To do otherwise would only perpetuate the grievances that Moriori first placed before the Crown in 1862.

We hope to be in a position to come back to members early in the new year with the framework of a settlement for your consideration. This will depend on when the Crown can make an offer to settle all our claims. At this stage that offer will likely be in made in March 2017.

Ka nui te mihi ki a kotou kā hūnau Moriori. Moe mai kā mate Moriori, moe mai, takoto mai.

Our deepest sympathies go out to all those who have lost loved ones in the last few months.

Our thoughts and best wishes go also to those who have welcomed in babies and the next generation.

Best wishes for the holiday season and the start of 2017

Maui Solomon

Chair, Hokotehi Moriori Trust

#### **Brief Update on HMT Matters**

##### **Hāpūpū Rahui**

HMT is working closely with DOC to lift the rāhui at Hāpūpū by the end of this year, on a trial basis. Access will be available for locals but visitors only through a guided concessionaire. This is because the grove is still very vulnerable. Strict controls regarding keeping away from the trees will be in force.

## **Biodiversity Rangers**

Our new rangers, Alec and Sue Hutchings, have started work focussing on pest control and fence repairs. They will also be co-ordinating planting work and weed control in the groves. Already significant improvements have been made with eradication of 70 feral cattle and many possums. Below is one of the wind filters at Taia.



## **Tira Tāne – wānanga on men's roles at the marae**

We plan to have several informal workshops over the next 12 months to build the capacity for our tāne Moriori. The workshops will explore men's roles on the marae and develop skills in karakii, rongo, korero, pūrākau and pao. Look for pānui on these through facebook and newsletters.

## **Re Moriori Language Plan**

Hokotehi has started work on a language development plan for 'Re Moriori'. As part of the plan we will be aiming to develop sets of resources for all ages, with a mini phrase book being the first item produced.

Funding from Te Taura Whiri o te Reo has been awarded and we expect to have the book available mid 2017.

## **New appointments**

Hokotehi is pleased to announce the appointment of Heather Beaton to the Office Manager (Tchieki Tari) role and Brenda Wharemakomahihi to the position of Tchieki Marae – welcome to both of you and thank you for hitting the ground running with enthusiasm and smiles.

The position of Tchieki Kai Tipu (Henga Nursery/MEG) has been filled in a job share capacity by Debbie Prater and Judy Kamo – welcome to the Hokotehi team.

## **Farewell to Sylvia Eyles**

Last Friday, Sylvia HMT farewelled Sylvia after 6 years in her position as Nursery Manager. Sylvia is remaining on the island to enjoy her retirement. This photo shows one of the first trees Sylvia planted at the nursery – a beautiful ti rākau.



## **Taonga Moriori – Auckland War Memorial Museum**

In late November HMT Trustees attended a ceremony at the Auckland War Memorial Museum to receive a whalebone taonga that had been in the museum's care for a few years, after being found on Maunganui Beach in 2010 by a couple of visitors to the island.



The taonga is a small pendant resembling an albatross, made to wear around someone's neck, upside down. It features notching along the lower jaw and wing edges, typical of Moriori artistic design.

### **Freshwater Reforms and Rēkohu Research**

This process coincides with a freshwater monitoring project HMT started last year on freshwater research. Our project aims to increase habitat protection on the island for freshwater species (fish, plants, insects, birds); create advocacy and awareness for freshwater protection; draft a freshwater plan for the island and work with the local community in ways that best suit our collective aspirations.

The workshops planned for October were delayed due to pressure from other activities and marae bookings. They will now take place in March. Our volunteer science advisers include Dr Ian Kusabs (freshwater fisheries), Nicole Hancock (marine ecologist), Mike Joy (freshwater fisheries), Bruno David (freshwater fisheries), Rick Thorpe (ecologist), Ian Hawes (freshwater ecology), Grant Cushman (recreation), Kelly Clarkson (community). Workshops will also involve local schools working on water quality testing.

### **STATUE UNVEILING COMMEMORATION NOTICE**

This notice is to advise members that trustees of Te Keke Tura Moriori Identity Trust (established in 2008 to support and promote revival of Moriori cultural, heritage and identity initiatives) received an application from a member for a grant to help subsidise a group of members to travel to Rēkohu from NZ in January 2017 to celebrate 30 years since the unveiling of the statue of Tame Horomona-Rehe (Tommy Solomon) that occurred on 29 December 1986. Given the cultural significance of this event for all Moriori, trustees of TKT granted the application on the conditions that (1) other members who wished to attend the event may apply for funding to help subsidise travel costs

(up to 50%) to Rēkohu and (2) the day of the celebrations be advertised locally on Rēkohu with an invite extended to the local community. So, if there are any members who wish to travel to Rēkohu in mid January 2017 to celebrate this event you are invited to submit an application to the trustees of TKT. Application forms can be found on the Hokotehi website: [www.moriori.co.nz](http://www.moriori.co.nz).

HMT trustees and TKT trustees wish to be clear that this is not an HMT or TKT organised event but is being organised by an independent group of members who wish to commemorate the 30 years since the unveiling. Trustees have been advised, however, that the likely date for the commemoration is **Saturday 21 January 2017** and will be held at the statue site at Manukau and followed by a hākari at Kopinga Marae. All members are welcome to attend.

### **UPDATE ON TREATY SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS AND MANDATE AS AT NOVEMBER 2016**

Since the last newsletter further three meetings have been held with the Crown on Rēkohu and Wellington.

The negotiation team have prepared further reports on elements of the claim, with the latest being a study on Moriori population and the effects of the diaspora from the island. This has been important because the Crown bases its quantum (financial assessment) on the number of people in the tribe according to census figures from 2013. Moriori have always maintained that our population is much larger than shown in the census (for example in 2013 only 738 persons identified themselves as Moriori whereas HMT has over 1,500 registered members. We also say that had the Crown intervened in 1842 (when the Crown says that its legal obligations to Moriori began under the Treaty of Waitangi), and put a stop to slavery and slaughter of Moriori our population today would be considerably larger than it is.

The report was prepared by members of the team, principally our economist Dr Richard Meade and historian Bruce Stirling with

oversight and peer review from Emeritus Professor Dr Ian Pool, who is an expert in demographics. The findings of the report was presented to the Crown on Monday 21 November by Dr Meade. The main conclusions are that between 1842 and 1863 (when slavery was formally abolished on Rēkohu – 23 years after it was ended in Aotearoa), the Moriori population fell by 77%. When the population loss from 1835 is included, it shows that Moriori lost over 90% of our population – a population collapse that is unprecedented in New Zealand’s history –including the NZ Wars.

Another major conclusion from the report is that after Moriori lost 98% of our land in 1870, close to 50% of those surviving Moriori were forced to leave Rēkohu because there was nothing left to sustain them on their Island home. This is referred to as the “Moriori diaspora”. As a result, most left behind their Moriori identity and became absorbed within mainland tribal groupings they inter-married with. Most were also reluctant to identify as Moriori due to the myths that were deliberately circulated (including by the NZ education system) about Moriori being “inferior” to Maori and because of the stigma of being known as a “slave people”.

The report (which has verified scientific rigour and detailed data analysis), concludes that had the Crown intervened in 1842 to put a stop to slavery, the Moriori population today would be in excesses of 10,000 and perhaps double that (as the report has taken a very conservative stance).

Further work is being undertaken on gathering data and especially in relation to particular hūnau hokopapa groupings around the country.

Your negotiators have told the Crown that the model that is used for assessing quantum for mainland based tribes does not fit our unique historical circumstances and a “new way” needs to be found to settle the Moriori claim that does justice to this unique history of injustice and Treaty breach by the Crown.

We will be holding a community meeting on Rangihau when weather and planes permit – hopefully in early December.

If any member has any queries regarding the settlement process you are invited to make contact with the office by calling 0800 (MORIORI) 6674674 or writing to the Moriori Negotiating Team, P.O. Box 188, Waitangi, Rēkohu (Chatham Islands).

In your recent mail out with the Annual Report and accounts you may have noticed a survey form and return envelope. We would be pleased to hear from members about your settlement aspirations or with questions on the process.

### **AGM and Member Hui in Auckland**

Thank you to all those who attended the AGM in Auckland and thank you too for your positive feedback, especially during the presentation on the Treaty Settlement process. It was especially encouraging to see so many young people at the hui – a good sign for the future of our imi.

Further consultation hui are planned for early 2017. Members will be advised through mail outs and social media.

### **Rangata Mātua Celebration**

We are all looking forward to celebrating our rangata mātua at a Christmas lunch cooked by HMT staff on Monday 12 December. Photos of this event will be placed on the facebook site and feature in the next newsletter.

*Me rongō*