



Hokotehi Newsletter

Tchure a Takarore (December) 2017

Ta imi Moriori, tēnā kotou, hokomenetai me rongo

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.

Moriori Month of Tchuhē a Takarore (Dec)

Tana ki mo ru kukuria “Mahuta ta upoko o Maruroa” The reference for this time of the year in the Moriori calendar is to the sea-bird kukuria.

Recent Kōpinga Marae Events

Kōpinga has been busy through Oct-Nov with a creative writer’s wānanga, a week-long stay from Pitt Island and Kaingaroa Schools and an island stakeholder hui organised by the NZ Police.



Upcoming events will include the 2017 AGM, Rangata Mātua xmas lunch and Te One school prizegiving.

We would like to acknowledge and thank those members who have supported the marae and recent events through kaimoana, kai whenua, kitchen help, support for hokomaurahiri and event attendances. It has been great to have your support and iaroaha. The kai that we produce for our maurahiri has certainly enhanced the mana of the marae and has been well received. Thank you!

TRUST BOARD ENVISIONING WORKSHOP

In early November the Board of Trustees held a three-day envisioning workshop at Kōpinga, which focussed on reviewing strategic plans for HMT and also improving services to members. The trustees plan to meet with members around the country in the new year to discuss what our people’s priorities are for the future development of Moriori. One of the key issues to come out of the envisioning wānanga and also from our hui undertaken in September

with members was the strong appetite for cultural development, learning rongo, rē and karakii. There was also a lot of support for more member get together to celebrate who we are as a people.

REMINDERS to MEMBERS

1. Grants

Te Keke Tura Moriori Trust has education grants available for tertiary study and also grants for small cultural projects such as weaving courses, language courses etc.

Grants are available for children below the age of 18 but it must be for tertiary level study or equivalent course that meets the criteria of the Identity Trust (forms are on the Moriori website).

www.moriori.co.nz

If you have received a grant in the last 2 years and not completed your accountability report please get this to the office asap. Failure to provide these reports may affect any future applications.

2. Contact Details

Please ensure your contact details are up to date. Have you moved recently? Do you know of friends or family not receiving newsletters or notices? Please keep the office updated. If we don't have your correct address you may not receive your voting papers.

During the lead up to the election many members contacted the office saying they had not received voting papers – many were because the addresses were no longer current. So, if you have a family member not receiving these newsletters it may be because we don't have current addresses. **PLEASE CHECK THAT WE HAVE YOUR UPDATED ADDRESS**

3. Registering Children

If you have not added your children's names to your own registration application, we won't be able to contact them on their 18th birthday. If you have children aged 18 and over who are not members (and who wish to be) please contact the office so we can register them.

He Aitanga – June Andrew (neé Watkins)

We have received the following notice from one of our members, James Van Hooker regarding the passing of his mother on 11 Oct 2017.

“My mother will now have finally met her Moriori father, who was killed in East Taranaki after being hit by a train. His mother was the older of the 2 surviving girls who were taken from the Chathams to Taranaki as children. My mother was Tangata Matua and keeper of our history-genealogy.”

We send our sincere condolences to James and his family. Moe moe e kui, moe mai.

Writer's Workshop

Over the weekend November 18-19 a writing workshop was held at Kōpinga, facilitated by Tina Makereti and Kani Te Manukura. Participants worked hard on writing exercises and generated substantial outputs of poetry and prose.

After these have been edited a small publication will be produced, aimed at celebrating Rē Moriori (Moriori language).



Whale Stranding

In September a large male sperm whale stranded at Waitangi West beach. Hokotehi staff and Trustees assisted DOC staff (Denny Prendeville) with karakii and recovery of the jaw and niho over several days in rough weather. The jaw was placed in the sea for 6 weeks to clean the flesh from the bones and is now safely in storage. The whale was named after the beach where the whale stranded – Hurikia.

This work is highly specialised and requires careful planning and skills. Hokotehi has proposed developing a stranding team and kits to assist DOC with future strandings.

Moriwhi Whale Traditions

Rongomoana (whales and other marine mammals such as pilot whales) are miheke (taonga) from the sea. When rongomoana stranded the meat was shared around for consumption and teeth extracted for decorative use. It was believed that the spirits of departed ancestors herded the rongomoana to the beach as gifts from the sea. When the whale(s) subsequently beached an eye would be plucked out and offered to the t'uahu in order to release the spirit of the one who had recently died.

Miheke Moriwhi made from whalebone and teeth exist in museum collections in NZ and elsewhere and recently a whalebone pendant was returned to Hokotehi from the Auckland Museum.

Celebrating Success – HMT member Alysha Powell



Kia Ora Whanau,

Most of you know who I am but for those who do not I am the eldest Grandchild of Charlie and Patricia Preece and eldest Daughter of Peter and Rhonda Preece.

The last five months have been incredibly life changing and I hope some of you will be inspired by my story.

Earlier this year I set a goal to compete in a Bodybuilding Competition. Those who know me know this is very out of character and is actually the first life goal I've set. For years I battled low self-esteem, lacked confidence, had a very negative mindset and abused my body with drugs and alcohol.

One day I thought to myself I want more from life, I want to be happy and to be great. Becoming a parent really opened my eyes to the importance of changing my lifestyle. Not only for my son (Hadleigh now 2 years) but for myself, my family and everyone around me.

Body building is known to be one of the most difficult competitive sports. It takes a lot of confidence, courage, discipline, motivation and knowledge in training and nutrition. There are many different categories available to competitors all with very different criteria, it's not all about big muscles and steroids. More along the lines of symmetry, proportion, definition, conditioning and a bit of sass!

Anyway I seem to have got the combination right, over those five months I've competed in five shows four were with the INBA (International Natural Bodybuilding Association) the most drug tested federation available to Natural Athletes. I managed to place 1st in all these shows which totally blew my mind! Two were regional, one was the New Zealand Nationals, two were international where I represented New Zealand with the most recent being the Natural Olympia in Las Vegas! Hokotehi supported my attendance at the Las Vegas Olympia and I am very grateful for support and encouragement from my imi.

It really has been an experience of a lifetime and still feels like it was just a dream. I've fallen in love with the fitness lifestyle and believe everyone deserves a healthier happier life.

The placings I achieved are great but I've gotten more satisfaction giving back to people who have reached out for advice. It's very surreal when a stranger messages or comes up to you and says "you inspire me."

It's very new and rewarding to have people looking up to me as a role model. My goal is to study in the new year to broaden my knowledge and continue to help, encourage and inspire others.

Please remember it's never too late to make a positive change to your lifestyle big or small everything counts from my experience it's totally worth it!

One more thing – the past is the past don't let it define your future. If you'd like to follow my fitness journey on Instagram follow me at lysha_lu

Thanks for reading, Alysha Powell

WAKA WĀNANGA



In March 2018 several waka hourua will be voyaging to Rēkohu for a week of waka wānanga. This will include talks on star navigation (using an inflatable star dome) and sailing technology. We may be able to offer a few crew positions travelling to and from the island. Contact the office if you are interested. Some travel assistance will also be provided (flights) for NZ members to attend this special event.

Mr G artwork

Graham Hoete (Mr G) and his wife Millie recently visited the island following an invitation from local resident Tracey Gilmore. It was a pleasure to welcome them to Kōpinga and watch the wonderful artwork develop at the Norman Kirk hall and on Liz and Bruce Tuanui's watertank. Mr G has plans to return to Rēkohu to create a special artwork that celebrates Moriori culture.



You will get a much better idea of the mural by watching his own video clip:

<https://www.facebook.com/DOGATHON100/videos/1717542524946338/>

Here is his description about the meaning of his beautiful mural celebrating island kai:

Had a lot of fun learning from the locals about local features/elements to incorporate into this mural: The kaimoana being the main theme, Blue Cod, Koura, Kinas & Paua, then local flora & fauna: The blue Lilly, chathams Harakeke and Ake Ake trees, lastly with the birds-Weka & Albatross. My purpose for this mural was to focus on the theme of HOME, and highlight the many beautiful features that remind those who consider The Chatham Islands their home how unique & special the Chatham Islands really are..



This portrait of Bruce is part of Mr G's 100 NZ portraits (10 down and 90 to go).

UPDATE ON TREATY SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Meetings and discussions with the Crown continue on a monthly basis. Work is continuing to progress on development of the Post Settlement Group Entity (PSGE) to receive the settlement assets. During the consultation hui in September, a lot of support was expressed for the PSGE to be closely aligned to HMT so as to avoid duplication of effort and costs.

One of the main issues your negotiators have to deal with over the next 12 or so months is the opposition from the Ngāti Mutunga (NM) negotiators to the Crown returning exclusive ownership of Crown land and wāhi tūchapel to Moriori. The Tribunal found in 2001 that “at least 50% of the land should have been allocated to Moriori” (we received 2%) and that as at 1835, 1842 and 1870 Moriori had retained our customary rights over land and sea. The NM negotiators view is that Moriori are a conquered people and lost our manawhenua which is why they are opposed to the Crown awarding exclusive ownership to Moriori – they don’t want the Crown to acknowledge that Moriori have retained mana whenua (independent authority over land). As your negotiators have argued and which was upheld by the Waitangi Tribunal, Moriori made a conscious decision not to fight and kill again and instead offered peace to the new comers in 1835. By so doing, Moriori upheld our ancient covenant of peace and thus held on to our mana as a people and the mana (or manawa – ‘heart’) of the land. Your negotiators will not back away from that position and made that clearly known to both the Crown and to the NM negotiating team.

On other fronts we are making good progress with Ngāti Mutunga negotiators on plans to jointly manage Te Whanga Lagoon and the Joint Planning Committee to manage natural resources of the Island, along with the local Council.

For there to be a ‘just and lasting settlement’ the Events of history should be acknowledged

and not denied – on all sides. There is a need for healing and reconciliation so we can all move forward united. But before this can happen justice must not only be done but be seen to be done. Me rongo.

DRAFT LANGUAGE PLAN

Hokotehi has drafted a language plan for implementation. This is now open for comments and feedback from members:

Hokotehi Moriori Trust – DRAFT Language Plan for consultation

Introduction

Moriori culture and identity is in revival mode. A timeline of important events and outputs since ca. 1980 have helped build our people’s cultural capacity. Events such as the 1980 Moriori TVNZ documentary; Michael King’s “Moriori: a People Rediscovered”; the formation of Hokotehi Moriori Trust, building of Kōpinga Marae; hosting the World March for Peace and Non-violence (2009); and hosting the Me Rongo conference and drafting the Me Rongo declaration. Moriori identity has gained greater prominence but our language (‘Re Moriori¹¹’) has not advanced.

We believe that language and identity are inextricably linked and therefore for our unique identity as Moriori is strongly embedded in reviving and speaking our own language.

The events of the early 1800s were catastrophic for Moriori. In 1835 two groups of Ngāti Mutunga and Ngāti Tama arrived on the island and began to takahi the land and its peaceful occupants. In early 1836 Moriori met at their sacred wānanga place, Te Awapatiki, and debated a response to the newcomers whose intentions had become clear. The decision was made to offer peaceful, shared occupation but very quickly hundreds of Moriori were killed and the remainder enslaved. Conditions of enslavement were brutal and resulted in a prohibition against marriage, practicing cultural traditions and speaking our own language. Within a decade

¹¹ Re is the Moriori equivalent of reo, meaning language

most Moriori were speaking the language of their captors but some of our people, such as Hirawana Tapu, continued to speak and write Moriori Re until his death in 1900.

There are no fluent speakers of Re Moriori any longer and no archival sound recordings of the ways that it was spoken and pronounced. We do have archival texts compiled by Alexander Shand with Moriori elders in the late 1800s and these are significant taonga for research into Moriori origin traditions, genealogy, language and ritual songs and chants.

We know that Moriori has many similarities with te reo Māori and other proto Oceanic languages spoken in Rapanui, Rarotonga and Tahiti but also has its own kupu and distinctive sounds, such as the dropped or clipped final consonant and 'tch' sound.

Language Plan

The purpose of the language plan is to set out a ten year programme for language revival. The main objectives are to:

1. Increase recognition and awareness of the importance of re Moriori to Moriori cultural identity
2. Increase the numbers of basic and, eventually, fluent speakers
3. Support the revitalisation of re Moriori within our own membership
4. Develop a resource of speakers to fulfil the rituals at Kōpinga marae
5. Support hūnau to use ta re as a communicative everyday language at home and work
6. Carry out research into the grammar and distinctive vocabulary and explore a comparative Pacific wide language database

This plan has been developed for the Hokotehi Board and is intended to be circulated amongst our members for comment.

Challenges

The main challenges to developing a language strategy are:

- overcoming the long hiatus since Re Moriori was spoken fluently and coping with the absence of archival sound recordings;

- building a grammatical framework with support from language speakers in the Pacific and in NZ
- unravelling some of the historical myths regarding Moriori history and culture and the lack of institutional awareness around the distinctiveness of Re Moriori, and therefore its absence in the NZ Education system and in mainstream media;
- breaking barriers to learning and recognising that learning a language takes effort and dedication

Years 0-5

Goals:

1. To achieve recognition for the distinctiveness of Re Moriori as its own language
2. To develop basic resources to start a language learning programme
3. To enhance language fluency for supporting marae tikane

Methods:

1. Promote Re Moriori through our own programmes, events, website and social media (eg Me Rongo Congress, facebook word of the day, and in wānanga and workshops)
2. Increasingly socialise our own membership to the different sounds and words of Re Moriori through more regular usage
3. Develop resources for members in Re Moriori (rongo CDs, karakii and dictionaries, phrasebook, youtube site)
4. Bring the language into our work streams and marae every-day culture
5. Carry out research into archival sources of the language and look at a comparative database with other Pacific languages including printing archival texts as an online resource

Years 6-10

Goals:

1. To increase the numbers of basic level speakers leading to increasing numbers of fluent speakers. We have a target of getting 1,000 members speaking basic Re Mōriōri
2. Select and support language champions who demonstrate commitment to language development
3. To support use of Re Mōriōri at home and at work, and in Chatham Island schools
4. To influence wider networks of language and teaching institutions eg TEC, NZQA and broadcasting agencies

Methods:

1. To provide incentives to learning through education grants and support funds
2. To develop on line and other learning resources (language apps, e-books, toy and games) for young learners
3. To develop an education strategy that is in line with the language strategy and promotes Re Mōriōri within the NZ Education curriculum
4. To work with local schools to provide resources and support for increasing the visibility and use of Re Mōriōri
5. To focus on increasing capacity for speakers and language practitioners to support the marae (karakii, hokokaro, karanga, pau, rongō)
6. To develop language signifiers with strong cultural connections – eg Mōriōri wind compass, calendar
7. Support wānanga on Mōriōri music and composition

Iarōha me rongō, and a healthy and prosperous 2018 to all.

