



HOKOTEHI NEWSLETTER

Mihi torekaio (March) 2020

Ta imi Moriori, tēnā kotou, hokomenetai me rongō

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.



We would especially like to acknowledge the passing of mātua Ron Brown. Our deepest condolences to the Brown hūnau and friends of mātua Ron. He will be sadly missed by the island community. Matua Ron joined us at our recent

deed of settlement Signing ceremony with many enjoying his company sharing a few yarns. Moe mai i te rangatira moe mai.

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

Moriori Calendar

March = Mihi Torekaio
It is said that during this month the Kahupuarero flies – the grass stems borne by the wind.



COVID19 (CORONAVIRUS) IMPACTS

The impacts of the virus on our community and economy are changing day to day with introductions of travel restrictions and gatherings. We hope that all our members remain safe and well in these turbulent times.

In February the impacts hit our fishing community hard with the news of closures to the Chinese markets and cessation of exports of rock lobster. Many on the island and all those in the fishing industry will be suffering as a result. Hokotehi encourages fishers who may need to talk about difficulties they are facing to

please urgently contact the office on 0800 MORIORI or calling 450 for advice on assistance avenues.

Our CEO and the Board have reviewed the operations of HMT and made plans to get us all through this time of severe restrictions. Unfortunately following the announcement from PM Jacinda Ardern that all non-essential domestic travel

The need to practise 'social distancing' means we have postponed all Kōpinga wānanga and events in NZ associated with language and music projects. These will still take place – hopefully later this year or early in 2021.

This may well be a time to reflect on our ability to promote sustainability and resilience. As an isolated community we have many challenges but also opportunities and advantages. Now is a wonderful time to remember the importance of caring for others, sharing our resources and being kind. Me rongō.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Kioranga kotou nga uri o Rongomaiwhenua!

These past few months have been rather tumultuous in more ways than one. From the highlight in February at the signing of our historic Deed of Settlement with the Crown at Kōpinga Marae to the undisputed low-point of the COVID-19 virus currently plaguing the world.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our hūnau members wherever you are and especially our rangata mātua and t'chimirik' who may be feeling especially vulnerable.

The swift actions taken by the Prime Minister to close our borders to international travellers and to provide a substantial economic rescue package to help the struggling economy has been pleasing to witness. Her plea to all New Zealanders to "be kind to one another" is also important as it is times like this that we must look to our better-selves and look out for others and not just ourselves or our own. So hūnau make those calls to your loved ones or neighbours and friends to

make sure they are doing ok, especially our elderly folk who may be feeling confused and a little afraid at this time.

Anyone who has any concerns about this virus and feels they don't know what they should do or feel worried or confused can call our 0800 number (0800 MORIORI) and we will do our best to assist you wherever we can or point you in the right direction.

I'm sure you have all heard heaps of information through the media and on TV about C-19 so I am not going to repeat any of those messages here about what to do or not to do. But also, be aware that there is also a lot of 'fake news' out there about the virus and what caused it and why. Don't believe everything you hear or read online. Most of all don't panic. Cool heads are what are needed in times of crisis and not scare mongering or panic buying of toilet paper and other such items. Remember, travel restrictions have been imposed on *people* not on *goods* so there will still be plenty of everything we need if we do not panic buy and empty the shop shelves. Think of others as well as yourself and family.

Keep calm and hunker down. The world had survived much worse and we will get through this crisis as well. For those in self isolation do the things that you have always wanted to do but could never find the time. Learn to play the guitar, learn a new language (practice those rongo Moriori!), read that novel that has been sitting around unread for years, learn to cook! There is so much information online that we have all the tools at our disposal so use the extra time effectively and you may come out of this period richer for the experience.

This is not to under-state the seriousness of the COVID-19 issue but to remember to look on the positive side of things whenever and wherever we are able to. Hope is, after all, one of the greatest of human needs. Without hope we are lost. And hope, kindness, humour and love are what we need more than ever at this time of great uncertainty. An effective vaccination to the virus would help as well! Lets all hope that this is not too far off in the future.

The financial impact of the C19 is already being felt on Rekohu with the closure of the rock lobster markets in China back in January and the flow on effects for HMT and our Island fishers. It will have a reverberating effect on the Island given the importance of the lobster industry to the Chatham Islands economy in general. In this financial year alone, HMT will lose about \$850,000.00 in revenue from its CRA6 Ace. Our Cray fishers' incomes have also been dramatically affected

with a drop in price from \$80/kg down to just \$20/kg - which barely covers catching costs. Henga Lodge has been closed to avoid the risk of bringing the virus on Island and cancellations of bookings. We are applying for wages subsidies from the government income relief package to assist lodge staff over the next 12 weeks as a result of the closure. We will be looking at options to help our people who need help in whatever shape or form that may take. However, HMT's own income streams have been seriously impacted by the C-19 situation. I recently cancelled a planned trip to Wellington to attend various meetings so as to avoid the risk of bringing the virus back to Rekohu. Our new CEO Tony and his wife Justine, who have been in Auckland for their daughter's wedding (which was cancelled for last Saturday due to need to avoid large gatherings) are going into 2 weeks self-isolation upon returning to the Island as a pre-caution. So, we are taking this very seriously on Rekohu.

We are currently working on other strategies for how we may be able to assist our people during this challenging time. This information will be posted on our Hokotehi Facebook page and our website.

Take care wherever you are and look out for each another.

Iaroha me rongo,

Maui Solomon - Chairman

RECENT EVENTS

Hokotehi welcomes new CEO

A warm welcome to Tony Blackett and his partner Justine to the HMT team.

Tony began his appointment as the new CEO for HMT on 10 February. He comes from a diverse background spanning human rights, disability, cultural and community development and environmental issues. He has held leadership roles in New Zealand and internationally with organisations including Greenpeace International, Deaf Aotearoa, Amnesty International and the New Zealand Red Cross. He brings an entrepreneurial skill set and a clear focus on values to his work.

'I am looking forward to bringing all of my experience to this role and contributing to the renaissance of Moriori culture and te re Moriori through my work.' Tony said. *'Nunuku's covenant speaks to me. I think the Moriori story of holding to the covenant of peace under*

extreme provocation is a now becoming a global beacon of power of the principles of peace. It is a privilege to earn the opportunity to make a contribution.' he says.

Tony will focus on managing the business interests of Hokotehi Moriori Trust as a central contribution towards Moriori. Maui Solomon will continue in his role as Executive Chair for this year to assist in a smooth transition to a new CEO.



Kīoranga kotou,

A month ago Justine and I arrived for me to take up the role of CEO with Hokotehi Moriori Trust (HMT). What an incredible and packed few weeks it has been! We are very thankful to everyone we have met for your welcome and support and look forward very much to getting to know you better and to working with you in the months and years to come in pursuit of a thriving Rēkohu / Wharekarui / Chatham Island community. I write this from the Air Chats armchair in the sky as we fly back to Auckland for our daughter's wedding. Thinking back to my last visit to this armchair we were heading out for the week of the signing ceremony with a sense of anticipation, to set up house and make a start with HMT and the community we now work with in the place we are learning to call home.

We were honoured by the HMT team to be greeted with hokomaurihiri at Kopinga marae at an incredibly busy time of preparation for the signing of the Deed of Settlement. It was humbling to hear our welcome and share our greeting with imi Moriori and the karapuna beautifully carved on the central pou. As I walk by the pou now I find myself thinking a quiet karakii to the karapuna and visionaries who have worked so hard for the renaissance of imi Moriori represented by the marae, the growing membership of imi Moriori, the Treaty settlement, the signing ceremony itself, and the range of enterprise that we are engaged with to grow

an economic foundation to support imi Moriori renaissance for generations to come. As I say those quiet karakii I ask - how am I doing? and I say thanks - for giving me the opportunity to make a contribution to this most special of stories.

It has been a tough month to start. As imi Moriori were preparing for signing the Deed of Settlement we were all learning a new language of 'novel corona virus' that has become COVID-19. Overnight the crayfish market crashed and we are still learning and waiting to see further impacts for the Island economy and for HMT. We have gone from celebration to an uncertain time during which we need to change and adapt to new circumstances. Some of this change will be tough. We need to be there for each other in whatever way we can. Let's draw together. All enterprises on the Island will be thinking through how they can survive these uncertain times and be there for the longer term. HMT will be there.

In spite of these challenges I have been welcomed with warmth to our farms, our forests and kopi gardens, to Taia, to Henga, to Manukau and to the Island. At a recent visit to the Rotorua kopi garden we saw new kopi saplings planted with care by the HMT Biodiversity Ranges (Alec and Sue) in a 'light-well' created by the falling of a mature canopy tree. This image is a metaphor for the work I am committed to and just now joining. The Rotorua kopi garden is a thriving living museum set within a broader forest, or orchard, which has suffered significant stress through loss of the broader forest that sheltered this grove long decades ago. And yet this grove is still here with its cathedral-like sense of peace and welcome. This little kopi quietly making its way to take the place of the canopy tree that lies behind it is a emblem for the people of the Hokotehi Moriori Trust today and their vision for the place that Nunuku's Covenant has as an emblem of peace. Perhaps one day this little kopi will carry rakau momori and tell stories of today, hundreds of years into the future?

Our flight-attendant with Air Chatham's (the inimitable Rae), has now completed her impeccable service on board the carrier of armchairs in the sky as we make our way to Auckland. As we begin our descent Justine and I can reflect on a month that has exceeded our expectations in so many ways.

Thank you for your welcome.

Tony Blackett – CEO

Deed of Settlement Signing

On February 14 Moriori and the Crown signed a Deed of Settlement. The event was attended by hūnau from NZ and many island residents, providing opportunities for celebration, connection and plenty of delicious island kai.

Moriore Chief Negotiator, Maui Solomon, thanked the Minister of Treaty Negotiations, Rt Hon Andrew Little for getting the settlement “over the line”, describing the process of negotiation and settlement as being like an endurance race. He thanked Crown officials with special reference to the work of DOC for helping to achieve the best result possible.

The Crown party attendees and Moriore guests flew to the island on an Air Force Hercules and included representatives from the negotiation team and Chief Crown negotiator Dame Fran Wilde, DOC, LINZ, Te Papa, and Ministry Culture and Heritage. The party were brought on to the marae by Moriore kaikaranga and as he entered Hokomenetai Blaze Day-Preece presented the Minister with a beautiful kōpi wreath woven by Heather Beaton, which he then placed on the tūahu as a symbol of respect to the karāpuna whose names are engraved on the pou.



The Crown speeches included a solemn and moving reading of the Crown apology by Minister Little.

- *To the Moriore people, tchakat henu (tangata whenua) and waina pono (original inhabitants) of Rēkohu (the Chatham Islands), to your karāpuna and mokopu, the Crown is profoundly sorry that for too long it failed to uphold the partnership and provide the protection envisaged by te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles and sought by Moriore karāpuna since the 1840s.*
- *The Crown expresses its deep remorse for the pain and hurt its breaches of te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and its*

principles have caused to you and to generations of Moriore people and offers this apology.

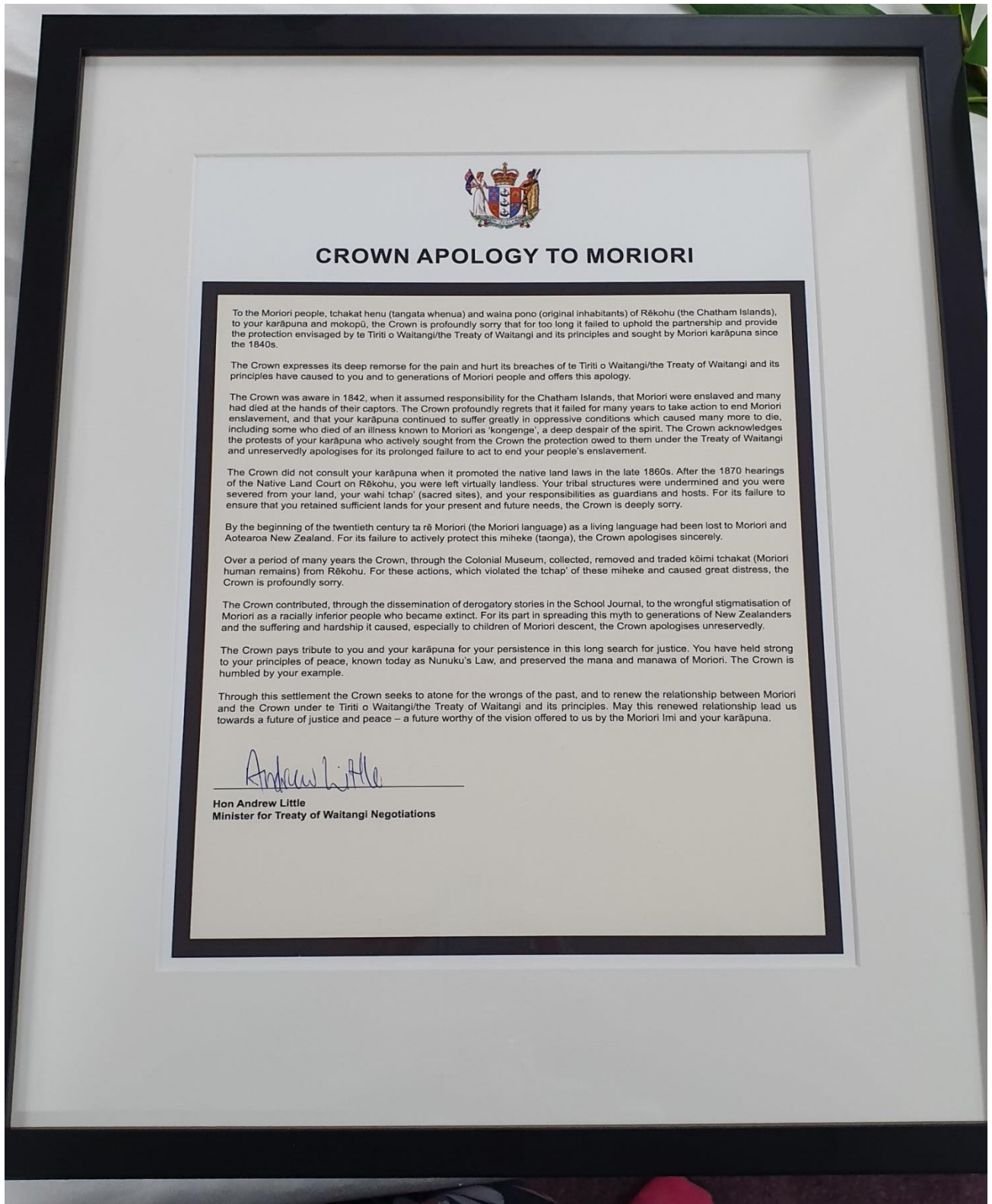
- *The Crown was aware in 1842, when it assumed responsibility for the Chatham Islands, that Moriore were enslaved and many had died at the hands of their captors. The Crown profoundly regrets that it failed for many years to take action to end Moriore enslavement, and that your karāpuna continued to suffer greatly in oppressive conditions which caused many more to die, including some who died of an illness known to Moriore as ‘kongenge’, a deep despair of the spirit. The Crown acknowledges the protests of your karāpuna who actively sought from the Crown the protection owed to them under the Treaty of Waitangi and unreservedly apologises for its prolonged failure to act to end your people’s enslavement.*
- *The Crown did not consult your karāpuna when it promoted the native land laws in the late 1860s. After the 1870 hearings of the Native Land Court on Rēkohu, you were left virtually landless. Your tribal structures were undermined and you were severed from your land, your wāhi tchhap’ (sacred sites), and your responsibilities as guardians and hosts. For its failure to ensure that you retained sufficient lands for your present and future needs, the Crown is deeply sorry.*
- *By the beginning of the twentieth century ta re Moriore (the Moriore language) as a living language had been lost to Moriore and Aotearoa New Zealand. For its failure to actively protect this miheke (taonga), the Crown apologises sincerely.*
- *Over a period of many years the Crown, through the Colonial Museum, collected, removed and traded koimi tchakat (Moriore human remains) from Rēkohu. For these actions, which violated the tchhap’ of these miheke and caused great distress, the Crown is profoundly sorry.*
- *The Crown contributed, through the dissemination of derogatory stories in the School Journal, to the wrongful stigmatisation of Moriore as a racially inferior people who became extinct. For its part in spreading this myth to generations of New Zealanders and the suffering and hardship it caused, especially to children of Moriore descent, the Crown apologises unreservedly.*
- *The Crown pays tribute to you and your karāpuna for your persistence in this long search for justice. You have held strong to your*

principles of peace, known today as Nunuku's Law, and preserved the mana and manawa of Moriori. The Crown is humbled by your example.

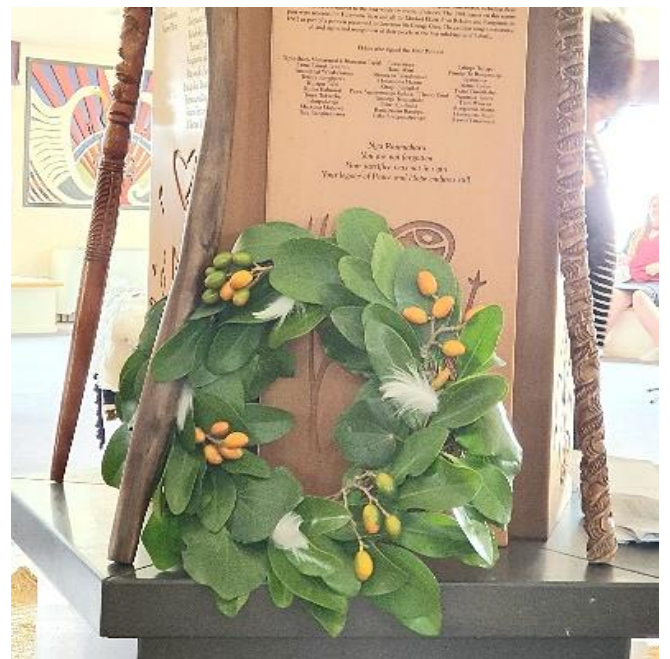
- *Through this settlement the Crown seeks to atone for the wrongs of the past, and to renew the relationship between Moriori and the Crown under te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles. May this renewed relationship lead us towards a future of justice and peace - a future worthy of the vision offered to us by the Moriori Imi and your karāpuna.*

All documents associated with the settlement can be read on-line: <https://www.govt.nz/treaty-settlement-documents/moriori/>

The signing event and sight-seeing for several days afterwards would not have been possible without the weeks of hard work from Hokotehi staff, all the ringawera (especially the Lanauze, Peni and Goomes hūnau), volunteers on the hangi, marae and garden beautification, kai preparation, kai moana kōha and all those who lent a hand to cleaning, dishes and keeping Kōpinga proud. **THANK YOU ALL!**







Rangata Matua Christmas Lunch

In November last year we celebrated the Christmas season with a hangi lunch for rangata mātua of the island. Each year the occasion is much anticipated and sees a large turnout. A big thank you to all the helpers and cooks who made the occasion such a cheerful celebration. It was also a special opportunity to say farewell and thank you to the previous DOC Area Manager, Dave Carlton, his wife Fionna and their children – Olivia and Michael. Thanks Dave – your work on the island was much appreciated by Hokotehi staff and the Board.



Kaimahi Heidi Lanauze helping to spread Christmas cheer

Chatham Island Festival

The annual Chatham Island Festival was held on Saturday 7 March at the Norman Kirk Memorial Reserve. A day in the islands calendar that brings the whole community together. This year the theme was the 'Roaring 20's' and there was many dressed up in theme to boot. This is the third year Hokotehi have supported this kaupapa by sponsoring the event with ecoware - providing plant based ecoware and compostable food containers, cutlery and napkins for the food stall providers to encourage a waste minimum event. There was delicious local kai on offer and good times had all round. Money from this year's auction was raised for the Chatham Island Museum.



Cultural Harvest of Tītī

Last month the Minister of Conservation, Rt Hon, Eugenie Sage, approved a permit for the cultural harvest of tītī from Maung' Rē (Mangere Island) on the Chathams for the purposes of important cultural gatherings. Sustainable cultural harvest was an important element in our relationship agreement with DOC during the negotiations and a vital expression of Moriori self-determination.

Minister Sage has recently visited Rēkohu twice and on the first occasion spent time with Hokotehi staff and Trustees talking about matters of importance to Moriori such as the health of Te Whanga, predator-free initiatives, waste management and our aspirations for restoring the health of landscapes that we are to co-management with DOC. We are still awaiting news of the vesting of Taia and will update members as soon as we have a decision.

Transfer White-faced Storm Petrels

In mid-February 100 white-faced storm petrel chicks (rōrō in Moriori) were transferred from Hokorero (SE Island) to Mana Island off the west coast of Porirua in an ongoing effort to re-establish a population in NZ. This year staff member Cassidy Trafford participated on behalf of HMT. Last year 45 birds were transferred. These petrels are some of the world's smallest seabirds and were once all over NZ. On Hokoreoro there are about 1 million birds. Friends of Mana Island have confirmed that all birds successfully fledged and we now wait several years before we see if they return to Mana.

The petrels are often referred to as 'Jesus birds' or takahikare-moana in Māori because they appear to walk on water whilst feeding on krill. They fledge quickly and fly to sea for about three years before returning to breed, braving the waters and storms of the Southern Ocean often travelling as far south as the sub-Antarctic islands.





Schools Perform with Ajay

During the Deed signing celebrations we were blessed to have children from all 3 island schools, Te One, Kāingaroa and Pitt Island, join us. They performed a beautiful original rongo entitled 'me rongo' written by our talented Ajay Peni who sang with them. It was a very moving experience for all who attended. We are hoping to be able to share a recording of this rongo with members soon.

Several years ago Ajay produced a CD of ancient rongo Moriori put to contemporary music written by Ajay. We are planning another of these which will be put on our YouTube channel instead of going to CD. Check out the Moriori YouTube channel for the other rongo composed by Whiu Wharemate for Moriori – they are all these for easy access and easy learning.



ME RONGO Composed by Ajay Peni

Me rongo (x4)

Hear their rongo through the kopi trees
 Sing of aroha and sing of peace
 Sacred ancestors calm our souls
 Set us free and make us whole
 We are this land
 We are this sea
 I am you
 You are me

Ta Henu Tchap

He rāpuna me rongo
 Hokotehi i ta iarohu

Hokotehi me rongo (x4)

We are the people of the rising sun
 Let their covenant make us one
 listen carefully hear them sing
 Trust Hirawanu Tapu's words echoing
 Through this land
 The day is new
 Keep eyes in the mist
 And watch over Rēkohu

Ta henu Tchap

He rāpuna me rongo
 Hokotehi i ta iarohu

Hokotehi me rongo (x4)

Ta whenua tchap

He imi me rongo
 Hokotehi i ta iarohu
 Hokotehi me rongo

Moriori me rongo



Artwork and poems produced by the t'chimirik also adorned the walls of the wharekai. All images depicted children's interpretations of rākau momori. Thank you children for uplifting Kōpinga and our celebrations with your much appreciated contributions.



Carving Wānanga 2020

In January this year we were privileged to have James Webster return along with his colleague Danny Shortland to run a carving wānanga. James focussed the wānanga on an exploration of Moriori values and concepts aimed at re-developing the practice of engraving living trees. The wānanga was attended by local residents and members from NZ who responded with expression of interest to the wānanga pānuī.



Restoration of the Barker Memorial at Kāingaroa

Whilst on the island James and Danny completed some major restoration work at the Barker memorial in Kāingaroa. The memorial was designed by Stephen Barker, former owner of Kāingaroa Station, as a monument to the Moriori shot and killed by Broughton's men in 1791 as well as to those who have drowned. Over the years the landscape around the memorial had become overgrown and the memorial was in need of some TLC.

The memorial now has a new interpretation post awaiting new signage, a re-built entrance and steps and has had some much-needed restoration work on the whale pot and wood work. More work is still to be done on the planting around the memorial and final

touches to the wood work. We hope it is again an important visitor attraction.



Hokotehi is also working with DOC to create a rare plants reserve in Kāingaroa. This will be a focus for those interested in botany and also home to one of NZ's coastal rarest plants – *Lepidium rekohuense*



David Simmons collection

During the carving wānanga the two grandsons of David Simmons, Luke and Jason, brought a collection of their grandfather's documents and research material on Moriori. David was a keen scholar of Moriori and spent several decades working on language revival and compilation of comparative language resources. The generous donation of David's research is deeply appreciated and, once catalogued, will be an important part of the Hokotehi reference library.



Kopinga korowai started

During the signing celebrations whaea Deb led us through two evenings of rongoā making Kawakawa pepe balm. We also started our Kopinga korowai. We hope to take this around the motu at future imi events. Thank you Deb for your care and guidance



During the planning and lead-up to the signing ceremony we were fortunate to have Kiwa Hammond and two of his sons (Karoro and Te Rāwhitiora) with us helping with language development and marae kawa.

Kiwa composed this lovely karakii for the marae:

*Manawareka tch mauri mua
Manawareka tch mauri roto
Manawareka tch mauri tukutuku
Manawareka tch mauri rangata
Manawareka tch MAURI ORA*

Translation:

Respect and hospitality is foremost
It comes from within and above
It honours human dignity
It affirms the essence of life

Kawakawa balm recipe

Ingredients:-

210g Shea Butter

105g Coconut Oil

65g Kawakawa Oil (prepared)

65g Calendula Oil (prepared)

50g Bees Wax (pellets or grated)

Method:

Place all ingredients into a double boiler (or slow cooker) until melted together.

Turn off the heat then add:

50 drops of Lavender Oil

5 drops of Manuka Oil

Stir and pour into sterile glass jars

UPCOMING EVENTS

Reading of the Bill

We have previously advised members that attendance at two readings of the Bill before Parliament would be possible. Since the outbreak of the Covid 19 virus and restrictions on public gatherings attendance at the first reading (probably in early May) may not now be possible. At this stage it is even possible that the reading in Parliament will be postponed. Hokotehi will continue to update members on any changes. The third and final reading (likely to be early 2021) will be the main event and we hope to be able to return to normal and have as many as possible attend.

Kōimi Tchakat Repatriation

A repatriation of 110 kōimi tchakat Moriori from the Natural History Museum in London was scheduled for this year but has now been postponed because of global travel restrictions. Domestic repatriations from Otago, Auckland and Canterbury were proposed for later this year but will now await the outcome of travel restrictions. These repatriations will be important events for our members to be aware of and take part in so we will update you all when the Covid 19 crisis has passed.

Te Keke Tura Grants

Hokotehi has education grants available for tertiary study. Grants for small cultural projects such as weaving courses, language courses etc may also be available providing they meet the criteria as set out in the Te Keke Tura Moriori Identity Trust deed.

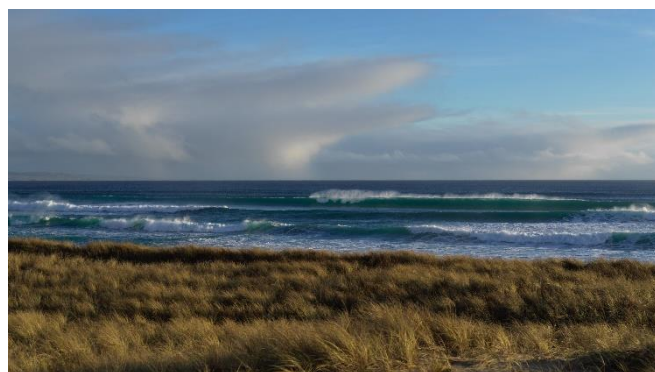
Grants are available for children below the age of 18 but it must be for tertiary level study or equivalent course that meets the criteria of Te Keke Tura Moriori Identity Trust deed.

Grant criteria and application forms are available on our website www.moriori.co.nz or by emailing the office on office@kopinga.co.nz

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. Email us on office@kopinga.co.nz

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, our website www.moriori.co.nz and through our YouTube channel for further news and updates.



**HOKOMENETAI
ME RONGO**



HOKOTEHI MORIORI TRUST

Po Box 188, Rēkohu, Chatham Island 8942

Ph: 03 3050 450 or 0800 MORIORI

E: office@kopinga.co.nz www.moriori.co.nz