

HOKOTEHI NEWSLETTER

Ta Upoko o T'etchi-Ao (April) 2021

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.

In the first part of this year our small island community has seen the sad passing of **Ray Murphy, Eric Dix, Digby Tuck, Joe Wills, George Page and Murray Dix**. They are all fondly remembered and much missed. Our hearts go out to family, friends and all loved ones.

Moe mai ra, moe mai.

Our iarooha too to the family of **Murare (Barry) John**, husband of 34 years to Irene Solomon and father to Nathan, Kurt, Simi and Nadia.

Iarooha me rongo ki a kotou.

Sheldyn Carr

Our love and thoughts go out to Cheryl and Steve Carr, former farm managers at Kaingaroa Station, after the loss of their son Sheldyn. We send iarooha and healing also to his partner Rebecca and his two children. Sheldyn worked for HMT at Kaingaroa Station during 2018 & 19. He will be missed by many.

John Edgar

Sadly, we heard that artist and friend to Hokotehi, John Edgar, has passed away. John joined us at Kōpinga for the carving wānanga - Hokopanopano Ka Toi Moriori in 2016. He generously taught us all about the beauty of Rēkohu stone and how to bring out its glory. He added immense value to our understanding of how to make stone tools and also engrave the kōpi trees. He is also well known as a staunch conservationist and tireless campaigner for the rights of nature. Thank you John - you will be much missed.



MORIORI CALENDAR

April = Ta Upoko o T'etchi-Ao

This is the time of the shell-less crayfish



FROM OUR CHAIR

Ko ro patu, ko ro kei tangata ko me tapu toake

Lay down your weapons. Never again shall there be manslaying. Human life is sacred.

With these words our legendary rāpuna, Nunuku Whenua, laid down the covenant of peace that Moriori have observed for over 600 years. Centuries before Gandhi, Te Whiti and Tohu from Parihaka and Martin Luther King. Not only that, but Moriori were prepared to pay the ultimate sacrifice to stand by their ancient beliefs.

This peace covenant has inspired others from Aotearoa and elsewhere to follow in the footsteps of the ancestors and it is time that Aotearoa/New Zealand and others acknowledged this massive contribution to peace keeping that has been an important legacy of our karāpuna to the world.

Just a reminder too that if there are any of our people out there considering a career path in peace and conflicts studies, that Hokotehi was central in establishing the Centre for Peace and Conflicts Studies at the University of Otago back in 2009 and it would be awesome to have Moriori apply to do a Masters and/or PhD at the Centre. There is a scholarship available via Te Keke Tura Moriori Identity Trust dedicated to Hirawanu Tapu to assist any aspiring student with costs of their studies. Please consider it as a career option and a way to carry the karāpunas' message of peace to the world!

We are hoping that the Select Committee hearing of the Moriori Claims Settlement Bill 2021 will take place on Rekohu at Kōpinga Marae. If not, then it's likely this

will be at Parliament on the 7th or 8th of May. We are awaiting confirmation from the Crown. Thank you to those members who took the time to make a submission on the Bill.

We are also still awaiting word from the Crown as to when the hearing for Taia will be taking place and it is likely that this will be sometime in the next few months. Meanwhile, we continue to exercise our customary role as tchieki' henu (guardians of the land) at Taia.

These past few months here on Rēkohu has seen an unusually high number of mate on the Island. This has had a big impact on our small community and our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who have lost loved ones. Also, to those who are struggling with or recovering from serious illness.

Stay safe and keep the faith!

Me rongo
Maui Solomon

FROM OUR CEO

Kīoranga kotou

I hope you are enjoying the Autumn shift with cooler evenings and slower starts in the morning. As we farewell summer we can reflect on excellent progress for our work, which is always about Moriori renaissance. Our work is to build a foundation for present and future generations of Moriori to enable them to connect with hokopapa through cultural practice. Ta rē – language. Rongo – song. Karakī – contemplation.



This newsletter updates you about a collection of initiatives including the first reading of our Deed of Settlement Bill in Parliament, the launch of our new language app, a weaving wananga held at Kōpinga marae and much more.

One highlight over the past couple of months was to attend the blessing of the site of 5 houses shortly to be built by the Chatham Island Housing Partnership Trust. Although delayed by COVID-19, these dwellings will help Chatham Islanders find the security of a place called home on the island. Rēkohu has a substantial shortage of houses so this is real progress.

Another highlight was to share a few days with the DoC team at Kōpinga marae and at Rotorua sharing with

them Moriori tikane, stories and history. As a key partner for Moriori on the Island, DoC is also a principal representation of the Crown for Moriori and we have much work to do together as set out in our Deed of Settlement. These days have helped us to know who we are and set a foundation for our work together that we look forward to developing over time.

As we write this newsletter we wait to hear whether our application for 1 Billion Trees grant to begin 'Recloaking Rēkohu' is successful. If we are fortunate enough to gain this support then watch out for some eco-system restoration and a place to call home for a range of endemic flora and fauna here on the Island. Below is an image of Maui, Levi and myself with the team at Scion in Rotorua who have been assisting us in the planning of the 1BT project.



You may have seen recent advertising for T'chieki Marae, and T'chieki Property roles. We have been fortunate to attract a high calibre range of applicants and so we hope to be able to give you news of these roles soon.

Me rongo
Tony Blackett

RECENT EVENTS

1st Reading at Parliament

The first reading of the Moriori Settlement Bill was heard at Parliament on 23rd February and attended by nearly 100 members. It was a special day for our Moriori Imi. There were some moving speeches from all Parties in the House in support of the Bill in particular Andrew Little, Jan Logie, Tamati Coffey, Joseph Mooney, Shanan Halbert, Arena William's, Paul Eagle, Meka Whaitiri and Simon Bridges.

We are sorry that short notice was provided to members but our options were to proceed with the date provided at short notice by the Crown or delay the

reading. Given that the progress of the Bill was already delayed a year due to COVID we opted to say yes to the date proposed. We are certain to have much better notice for the third and final reading and will provide some travel support for members to attend.



Attendance is also possible through the Parliament TV channel. You can listen to the 14 speeches in support of the Bill on Parliament TV On-demand here:-

<https://ondemand.parliament.nz/parliament-tv-on-demand/?keyword=Mori%20i&from=&to=&subject=&person=&stage=&fbclid=IwAR0sTrv9QcnA6KTqIQoqk7QhTPzo4ZyfUC3k8-yfC97PTbZzLRj8HIqik>



The Bill was recommended to the Māori Select Committee who will consider submissions and prepare a report to the House in August this year. The

Committee are considering a hearing on Rēkohu 7-9 May. This is yet to be confirmed but we will notify members if this is going ahead.

Pukenga Atawhai Course at Kōpinga

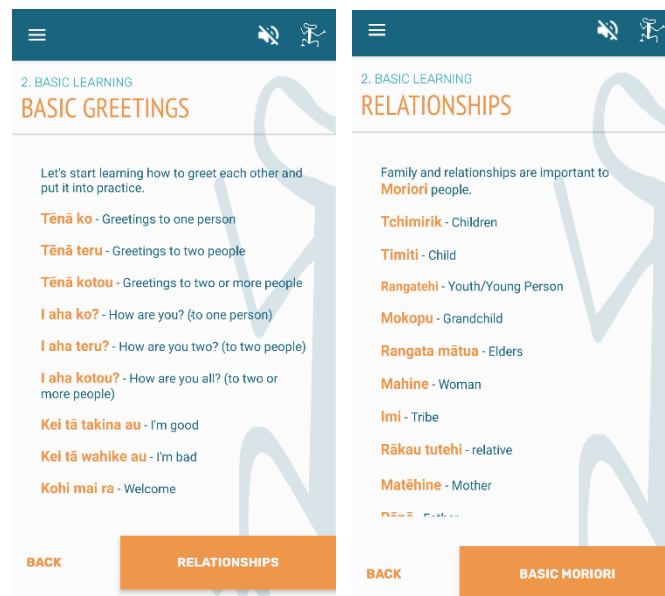
In late March DOC staff and their regional Director joined us at Kōpinga for 2 days of a Treaty Training course (known as Pukenga Atawhai). Most DOC staff were able to attend the course along with representatives from the Conservation Board. The course involved sessions on Mōriori history, culture and language as well as a deep look at the Deed of Settlement and the DOC/Mōriori relationship agreement.

Both parties felt the course went well and we have agreed to keep up the momentum with regular gatherings.

Language App Launch

Members may have seen the notice about our free language app being launched to provide an introduction to the unique Mōriori language. We are very excited about this and hope you are enjoying using the app.

The app provides guides to basic pronunciation, mihi, karakī and rongo. Eventually the app will include links to a Mōriori dictionary and phrase book.



The app is aimed at anyone wanting to learn more about Mōriori language and to provide helpful starting points for Hokotehi members wishing to become more proficient in their own language. We believe that language and identity are inextricable and therefore our distinct identity as Mōriori is strongly embedded in reviving and speaking our own language.

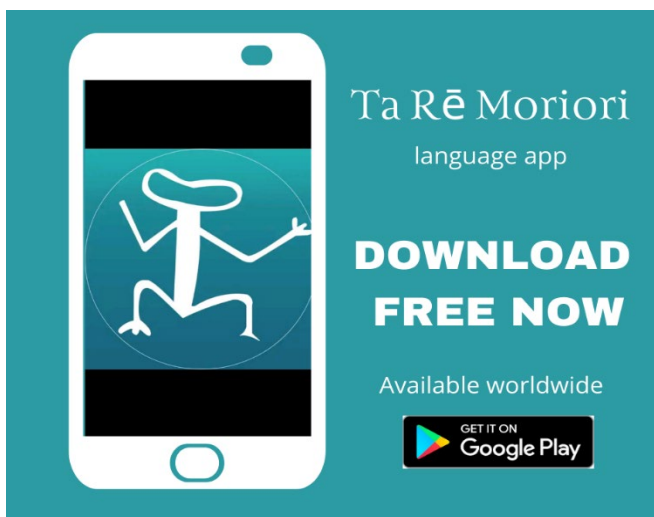
Despite being a distinct language (and not simply a dialect of te reo Māori) ta rē Moriori is not yet recognised as one of New Zealand's official languages. Hokotehi aspires to achieve recognition of the distinctiveness of Moriori and make it available to anyone interested in learning it and being part of its revival.

Ta rē Moriori is a proto-oceanic language that has a similar grammatical structure to most Polynesian languages and especially to languages spoken in Tahiti, Austral islands and the Marquesan group but has many differences compared with te reo Māori in terms of words (tukupa), pronunciation and consonant sounds, such as the dropped or clipped final consonant and 'tch' sound.

Hokotehi has developed a language strategy and plan (Houmouri Ta Rē Moriori) with significant support from Ta Mātāwai. The strategy contains a 10 year plan for development of further teaching and learning resources. There are no fluent speakers of Rē Moriori any longer and no archival sound recordings of the ways that it was spoken and pronounced. However, we do have archival texts of word lists, chants and karaki compiled in the late 1800s as a foundation on which to revive our unique language.

The app was designed and developed by one of our members, John Solomon of Devign Ltd – App Development and Design, with recordings by Tawera Productions and voices of Maui Solomon, James Webster, Ajay Peni, Tamarau Solomon and John Solomon.

The app is currently available worldwide on Android devices for a free download from Google playstore. The Iphone release will be out shortly after testing is complete. Use the search term 'ta rē Moriori'. For more resources see the Moriori youtube channel and our website.



Ta Rē Moriori
language app

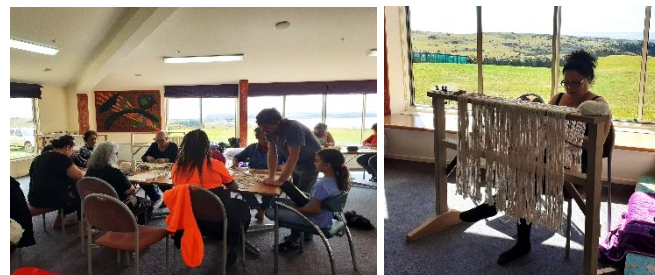
**DOWNLOAD
FREE NOW**

Available worldwide

GET IT ON
Google Play

Weaving Wananga

In mid March we hosted a kakahu weaving wānanga at Kōpinga with weaving tutor, David Grace who is based in Raglan. David tirelessly gave his time and energy to teach one on ones and help with aho, feather techniques and taniko.



We all felt that the huge gap left by our beautiful weaving tutor Aunty Kath, was starting to heal and we recovered some of the original passion and wairua she engendered in us all.

We will continue the weaving kaupapa on an informal basis at Kōpinga and also hope to run additional wānanga in New Zealand. Gauging by the interest from members we know these will be well attended.

BioDiversity Update

Our new BioDiversity rangers are making a strong start with progress in the kōpi groces with trapping and orchard management work. The kōpi groces were living spaces and maintained more as orchards than forests as we think of it today. Duane and Cassidy have been working full-steam on successional species management, tree maintenance, track and fire-break maintenance, and setting up the Taia peninsula as a potential predator free project.



Chatham Island Festival

The annual Chatham Island festival was held on 6 March. This annual event is an opportunity for locals to celebrate all things 'Chatham Island' with local food stalls, crafts, entertainment and competitions. Well done to Alex and Sheree from Chatham Island Focus Trust who worked tirelessly to ensure the event was a success and enjoyed by all. Like previous years Hokotehi sponsored this year's event by supplying stallholders with compostable ecoware for serving food to assist in the minimalisation of waste after the event.

This year the theme was Cowboys and Cowgirls – Congratulations to our own BioDiversity Rangers Duane and Cassidy Trafford who won Best Dressed!



Henga Lodge and Marakapia Lookout

Marakapia Lookout is happily playing host to the Rural Connectivity Group workers who are setting up mobile broadband on the island over the next couple of months. It is great to see Marakapia Lookout and Henga Lodge ready to host guests again.

Follow us on Social Media

You can follow us on Facebook, Instagram, our website www.moriiori.co.nz and through our YouTube channel for further news and updates.



UPCOMING EVENTS...

HOKOTEHI



HOKOTEHI MORIORI TRUST CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF TRUSTEES

Notice is given that on 16 July 2021 an election will be held under the First Past the Post electoral system by postal vote, for four (4) Trustees of the Hokotehi Moriiori Trust:

- one (1) Trustee from Rēkohu (Chatham Islands); and
- two (2) Trustees from the South Island; and
- one (1) Trustee from the North Island.

NOMINATIONS

Each nomination must be endorsed by 20 adult registered members of Hokotehi Moriiori Trust, and must also include a statutory declaration and brief CV from the nominee. To be eligible for nomination, a candidate must be ordinarily resident in the nomination region for which they are seeking election.

Nominations must be made on an official nomination paper obtainable during normal business hours by phoning the Independent Returning Officer on 0800 922 822.

Nominations of candidates must be received by the Independent Returning Officer no later than **5pm, Monday 10 May 2021**.

If there are more nominees than vacancies, an election will be held, and voting will open on Monday 14 June, and close at 5pm, Friday 16 July 2021.

The results of the election will be announced at the Hui-a-Moriiori scheduled to be held on Saturday 17 July 2021.

Dated at Auckland, 10 April 2021

Dale Ofoske, Independent Returning Officer
Independent Election Services Ltd
for Hokotehi Moriiori Trust

phone 0800 922 822

Update your details

With the upcoming elections now is a good time to check that we have your details correct.

- Do we have your email address?
- Do we have your correct postal address?
- Do you have moko who have recently turned 18 years old and are now eligible to vote?
- If children have been born after you registered, please let us know and we can easily add them to the database.

Please contact us on 0800 MORIORI or via email office@kopinga.co.nz if you would like to update your details or request a membership form.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Sadly over time we have lost touch with these members. Can you help us find them so we can reconnect?

Shane Ahkuoi	Theresa Hunter
Waymen Ahkuoi	Darcee Jackson
Rachael Almafifano	Kororia Kingi
Nicholas Armit	Alexander McKenzie
Che Ashton	Bradley McManus
Shane Autheman	Richard McManus
Rawinia Bennett	Matthew Noanoa
John Casey	Sandra Noanoa
Selwyn Cope	Kieran Searle
Nathan Crawford	Skye Sheeran
Ollen Davis	Michael Solomon
Winifred Day	Erihapeti Stone-Walker
Catherine Gardyne	Jordan Theyers
Jessie Gardyne	Liam Tume
Christopher Godinet	Timothy Vercoe
Fiona Goomes	Damian Wainui
Sheryl Henry	John Wainui

Tag them to this post or ask them to please get in touch with us via email office@kopinga.co.nz or phone 0800 MORIORI. Your help is appreciated!

HOKOTEHI  **ME RONGO**



2021 Te Keke Tura Grants

Hokotehi has education grants available for tertiary study in 2021. 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.

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



**HOKOMENETAI
ME RONGO**

MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

Collette Peni

Congratulations to Collette Peni (Klicky) in her new role as Operations Manager for the Chatham Islands Council.



Klicky has worked at CIC since 2018 and has always been passionate about Rēkohu and being a Moriori. We wish her well in her new role and look forward to working alongside her and further building our relationship between the Council and Imi.

Ajay Peni

Congratulations to Ajay Peni who has released his new single 'Into the Wild' – a rongo about the untamed wildness of Rēkohu and being home. Fellow member Robbie Lanauze provided the stunning photography and video footage for the music video which you can view here. Into the Wild is available for download on Spotify. Ajay is also assisting Hokotehi in revitalising traditional Moriori rongo. Congratulations Ajay – you are an inspiration to us all.



Follow Ajay on Spotify and Facebook for the latest on his amazing work.



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