



Chairman's Report for the AGM of Ngati Koata Trust to be held on 12/09/2009

Karanga te po, karanga te ao, karanga te here tangata ki te po ki te ao ki te awatea. Kei a katou nga uri a Koata tena tatau katoa.

On behalf of the board I firstly and foremost, express our gratitude for your support, your patience, your understanding, your feedback, your wairua and all other koha that you have given to assist our people to move forward in seeking a better future for all.

We express appreciation to past boards for the enormous work that they have done.

This report will cover the Six month period from February, when I was officially appointed as the chair until July (the financial reports are as at year end 31st March 2009).

It will also cover three priorities as follows;

Trust Deed Amendments

I will start by reporting on commitments made at our Special General Meeting held on the 20th December 2008. I refer to the summary section of the minutes of the SGM.

I undertook to review our Trust Deed and to circulate the reviewed deed for comment and feedback, to hold Hui in Nelson, Porirua and Hamilton and to seek written submissions and to do all of this by June so that we could vote on such amendments at this AGM.

We completed the above processes by July but accept that more consultation and discussion is required. Thus we will only vote on the essential amendments at this AGM and will continue the consultation process on the other (proposed) amendments over the next few months.

This process has been enhanced by the dedication of our new legal advisors Te Nahu Lovell & Co (formerly Waihere Hope), whom were appointed as the legal representatives for both our Claims and General Law requirements.

Financials

In order to set a course to a desired destination one needs some essential location points before starting, two of these are, where we are now and where we intend to go to.

So that our accounts may reflect a more accurate picture of where we are now, we have instructed our accountants to write off debt owed by insolvent but related companies which showed in our balance sheet as an asset. We have also instructed our accountants to realistically value some specific assets.

These actions will have a detrimental effect on our balance sheet this year but will give a more reliable current financial position from which we can base future financial decisions.

At the previous SGM our members expressed a desire to seek the services of another Audit firm. We are happy to report that Thompson, Daily & Co were engaged to audit last financial year's statements and accounting procedures.

The board's priority on expenditure has been focused on retiring of Short and Long term liabilities and we are pleased to report that most debts have been repaid in full. We are in the process of closing down the nonperforming commercial entities and have closed and on-leased the Koata Krafts retail outlet. We have also undertaken to reduce expenditure and minimize costs where possible, to ensure value is retained for the necessary services the trust provides.

We regret that expenditure will continue to exceed revenue (excluding settlement revenue) until 2011. In 2011 we will again receive revenue from leasing our wet fish, Koura, Scallop and Paua quota. We will continue to manufacture Koata branded korowai (under contract) and retail these via a contracted Sales and Distribution provider. This revenue should then meet our expenditure.

We express appreciation for the work of our treaty negotiators which has resulted in the transfer of a million dollars in revenue into our bank account this year. Although we have to live off of this in the short term it would be nice to pay it back in time.

Strategic Direction

In February we met with our Kaumatua Kaunihera for guidance and direction on our strategic plan and in particular to confirm what our values are.

In our consultation Hui we prepared a questionnaire seeking strategic planning direction from our people.

We are grateful to Whanau who have taken the time to forward submissions to assist the board in capturing the wairua from which to base our strategic plan.

There is still much work to be done in completing our strategic plan but it will receive our undivided attention once our trust deed amendments are completed. In the mean time our approach to our strategic direction is to continue with caution and transparency.

Ka mihi tonu ki a katou. E Maumahara matou te whakatauki o matua tipuna 'whaia e koe te iti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe, me he maunga teitei' Ma te atua kotau e manaakitia.

Hei kona, Naku noa,

Matthew Hippolite
Chair