



Edition 41 - July 2021

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

Tēnā koutou ki te whānau o Wi Pere,

Greetings and welcome to this edition of Panui.

OVERVIEW:

Wi Pere Whānau Claim Update

The Wi Pere Whānau Claim is part of the Mahaki Mangatu Claim. A ratification vote by all Claimants being Te Aitanga a Mahaki (MAHAKI), Te Whanau a Kai (TWAK) and Nga Uri o Tamanui (NUOT) to confirm recipient entities to receive settlement awards from the Waitangi Tribunal's decision on this Claim was the main activity for the 2020 year. Wi Pere Trust Board and Mangatu Blocks Incorporation were working with Mahaki to achieve the best outcome possible. The ratification vote results as submitted to the Waitangi Tribunal on 30 November 2020 were as follows:

Response	NUOT	TWAK	MAHAKI	Total
Yes	242	500	1,620	2,362
No	11	22	31	64
Not Counted	-	-	2	2
Total	253	522	1,653	2,428
Support %	96%	96%	98%	97%

An excellent effort and a big thank you to those Wi Pere whānau that participated.

The next steps from here are for remaining issues to be resolved and hopefully the Waitangi Tribunal will make a decision this year.

Review of Trust Board Progress

Trust board members expect the Trust to achieve operational outcomes similar to last year. The managers will provide an update on business progress.

Wi Pere Constitution Review

The 5-year review of our constitution needs to occur this year and the Board will review how effective the constitution has been and whether any changes should be considered.

The Trust Board will commence the review shortly and will make contact with all beneficiaries.

Distributions

All distributions including dividends, kaumata grants, education grants, education scholarships and tangi grants were increased at last year's AGM. Beneficiaries should be receiving those benefits by now.

A summary of distributions is outlined as follows:

		2020	2019
Distributions per beneficial interest		40.00	30.00
Kaumata Grants	60 to 79 years	300.00	200.00
	80 years and older	400.00	300.00
Education Grants	Day students	200.00	100.00
	Boarders	300.00	200.00
	University/Tertiary-Part time	275.00	175.00
	University/Tertiary-Full time	750.00	350.00
Education Scholarship		4,500.00	3,500.00
Tangi Grants		600.00	600.00

Rongopai Marae Rejuvenation

A lot of very good activity is happening on Rongopai. The Marae Trustees provide an update on developments to date.

Elections

For this year's election, Hector Pere's position comes up for election by rotation. Hector has confirmed his intentions to stand for re-election this year. The election process will start in July, with nominations and progress from there as in previous years.

2021 AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on *Saturday 6th November 2021 at Bushmere Arms, 673 Matawai Road, Waerenga-a-Hika, Gisborne*. Further details and information regarding this event will be sent out to all beneficiaries in October.

Operational Review

Wi Pere Trust Agribusiness Operations Update:

It has been an interesting year. Stock pricing has been extremely variable due to COVID-19 and the climate. Climatic conditions were ok up until the end of February when it stopped raining. We did not get any decent rain until late May, and since then we have had very little follow up. The flat land is ok, but the hill country is still very dry.

A dry autumn makes the winter very tough as we rely on an “*autumn flush of feed*” to build feed supplies for the winter. This is not the first time it has happened, as part of our risk mitigation strategy we have supplementary feed on hand for such events, however it is expensive compared to the “*autumn flush of feed*”.

Ewe pregnancy scanning is 70% completed. The ewes have scanned very well considering the dry autumn. The prices going forward look really positive however we still expect volatility as COVID-19 is still impacting supply chains and distribution offshore.



We secured a \$1.27 million grant to fence and plant waterways at Tangihanga.

When the project is finished, all the main waterways from the Waipaoa River to Lake Repongaere and beyond will be fenced off and planted in native trees.

We have completed 90% of the fencing and just started the planting. 50% of the planting will be done this winter and the remainder next year.

Above Photo: Stage one planting, around Tangihanga woolshed. We are focusing on critical source areas first. Critical source areas are the highest risk areas to water quality.

We have also started lining our irrigation dam. Lining the dam will ensure and safeguard storage into the future. The rain in late May has slowed the project up, as you can't put a liner down on top of mud. We only have 200 metres left to do, and hope to have it done by the end of June.



The little white bags are sandbags to hold the liner down when the wind blows.



Storage dam looking west towards Te Karaka 75% Completed.

Tim Rhodes - General Manager - Agribusiness

Wi Pere Trust Horticulture Operations Update:

Kia ora koutou,

We have just completed another massive harvest season for our gold kiwifruit, and more recently the persimmon crop at our Toroa orchard.

I'm pleased to advise our shareholders we have once again had a very successful season with a record persimmon crop, and a very impressive result on our kiwifruit as well. We harvested our kiwifruit from the 18th - 25th March, which was nice and early, so we received some 'early harvest premiums' from Zespri.



Our fruit quality was excellent, and it is a credit to all our orchard staff who have worked extremely hard to produce a very impressive crop.

Our fruit is now arriving in offshore markets.

Left Photo: Gold Kiwifruit about to be harvested

We have just finished our persimmon crop this week. It takes four weeks to harvest our fruit as we do three to four passes along each row, then pick fruit as it colours up.

Although we had some wet weather to contend with, we ended up harvesting a record ***crop which was up 20% in volume from 2020***. Fruit quality was also good, which meant we had some very good pack outs.

Above Photo: Another beautiful crop of persimmons



Our team is now getting ready to pick our navel oranges at Tangihanga. We should be underway around the 21st of June once the crop has passed a maturity test.

We will be the first growers in New Zealand to start picking which means prices for our fruit will be strong. All our team is excited about getting started early and we should be able to harvest around 300 bins of oranges over seven days if we have some fine days.



We also hosted the recent Māori Kiwifruit Growers Field day at our Toroa orchard on 4th May.

Around 30 people were in attendance to hear us talk about our kiwifruit journey at Wi Pere, and along with other key speakers, spoke about the opportunities for Māori in growing kiwifruit on their land.

Everyone enjoyed the event, and we all had some awesome kai provided by Trudy Meredith and her team.

Wayne Hall
General Manager - Horticulture

Conclusion

Stay safe, warm and healthy this winter.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact our Secretary, Chris Torrie at BDO Gisborne, P O Box 169, Gisborne, email mbu@bdo.co.nz or telephone (06) 869 1400.

Mauriora,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alan Haronga".

Alan Haronga
Chair - Wi Pere Trust Board