

Wi Pere Trust Pānui

September 2024





Edition 44, September 2024

Wi Pere®

Wi Pere Trust

Comments from the Chair

Tēnā koutou ki te Whānau o Wi Pere. Greetings and welcome to this latest edition of Panui.

In this edition, we provide an update on some of the key events that have taken place throughout 2024. This includes insights from our horticultural and agribusiness operations, a rangatahi profile from Kylee de Thier, and a vibrant montage of photos from the 2023 Annual General Meeting and Ahuwhenua Trophies celebrations.

On behalf of the Trust Board, I would like to advise whānau of our Annual General Meeting which is planned for **10.00am, Saturday 16th November, at Bushmere Arms, 673 Matawai Road, Waerenga-a-Hika, Gisborne**, combined with an Agribusiness farm field day on Sunday 17th November. Please save the dates, and more details will follow.

We also extend our heartfelt condolences to those within our wider whānau who have lost their precious loved ones during the past year. Our aroha and thoughts are always with you.

As we head into the start of Spring, we look forward to longer days, warmer weather and continued good health for one and all.

Mauriora,

Alan Haronga, Chair - Wi Pere Trust



Maumaharatanga - Trudy Meredith

It is with a heavy heart and deep sorrow that I advise of the passing of Trudy Meredith - a long-serving Wi Pere trustee and dedicated advocate for whānau, whenua and whakapapa.

Trudy passed away on Monday 26th August surrounded by her loving whānau at her beloved Ulverstone home.

She will be fondly remembered as a woman of great substance and many talents, who focused intently on serving others and for the betterment of our people.

Trudy has been described as a “maoritrepeneur” and a visionary in the commercial sense, taking on various business opportunities over the years alongside her devoted husband Joseph, whilst raising a growing family.

Her unique style, engaging nature and vibrant spirit, touched the lives of many. We will certainly miss Trudy’s valuable contributions and laughter around the board table.

***He wahine maia, he wahine toa, he wahine manawanui,
Moe mai ra e te rangatira.***



TRUDY MEREDITH

13 - 03 - 1948 to 26 - 08 - 2024



Ahuwhenua Trophy Excellence in Māori Farming Award 2024 - Dairy:



Photo Credit: John Cowpland, AlphaPix Photography

On 17th May, the crème de la crème of the Māori dairy industry was honoured at the Ahuwhenua Trophy gala dinner in Hamilton, attended by 850 guests - including Kingi Tuheitia and Royal Consort Makau Ariki Te Atawhai, Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, government ministers, international diplomats, agribusiness leaders, award category sponsors.

Wi Pere Trust were part of a special contingent of past Ahuwhenua Trophy competition winners which also included prior recipients of the Young Māori Farmer/Grower awards. Overall, it was a very special evening that was filled with a lovely mix of jubilation and emotion. Our sincerest congratulations to Kingi Smiler and the Wairarapa Moana ki Pouakani Incorporation on their success in this year's dairy competition.

In his acceptance speech, Kingi congratulated the efforts of the WMI wider whānau, which he described as being a dedicated team who work collaboratively: *"Personally, I like a challenge, and meeting that challenge requires attention to detail. It's great how our team works together and in doing so, they have managed to achieve this award."*

Governor General Visit to Te Tairāwhiti (Te Karaka Papakainga):



Photo Credit: Te Aitanga-a-Mahaki Iwi Trust

As part of a scheduled tour of the Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti regions, the Governor General, Dame Cindy Kiro and her entourage visited the wonderful work that has been happening locally to strengthen and rebuild our communities since the devastation of Cyclone Gabrielle and more recent adverse weather events.

As indicated in our October 2023 pānui, Te Aitanga a Mahaki Trust had sought permission to set up a permanent Civil Defence post for the Te Karaka community on Wi Pere papakainga land at Kanakanaia Road. This post was officially blessed and opened by Dame Cindy on 21st June. Proudly representing the Wi Pere Trust on this occasion, was Hineromia Whaanga and our General Manager - Agribusiness, Tim Rhodes.

2024 Wi Pere Trustee Elections - Nominations Process:

We wish to advise that official notification from our election scrutineers, Graham and Dobson Ltd has been received regarding this year's nomination process for the Wi Pere Trust Board elections.

As of 10.00am, Monday 22 July, there had been no valid nominations received. Jason Henare Lardelli had previously indicated his intentions to stand for re-election, and as result, is automatically nominated.

Due to the number of nominations being equal to the number of vacancies, an election is unnecessary and Jason Henare Lardelli is deemed to have been duly elected. On behalf of the Wi Pere Trust Board, we congratulate Jason on his re-appointment to the Wi Pere Trust Board for a further term of five years.



Wi Pere Trust Board Vacant Position:

Following the recent passing of trustee Trudy Meredith, the Wi Pere Trust Board have decided to undertake an election process to fill this vacant position.

For your information, in this mailout package the following documentation for the nomination phase of the Trust Board elections is enclosed. This includes:

- Covering letter - outlines the process to be followed
- Nomination form - there are three pages to this, please ensure all relevant sections are completed
- Freepost envelope - valid for those shareholders who live within New Zealand, to forward all documentation back to the election scrutineers, Graham & Dobson Ltd. Alternatively, you are also welcome to scan and email your fully completed documentation to audit@grahamdobson.co.nz.

Nominations will close at 10.00am, Monday 7th October 2024.



Horticulture Operations Update

Our 2024 harvest programme has recently been completed with the successful harvest of our navel orange crop at Tangihanga. We started the harvest season with the picking of our Rockit and Tarzi apples in February. We had a great result with 1400 bins being picked across our young orchards.

Following the apple harvest, we moved into harvesting our gold kiwifruit and persimmon crops. The hot summer that we had was great for our fruit quality, and our fruit tasted great and has been well received in the market. Our yields were up on 2023, and indicative pricing from our exporters look very promising.

We are now planning the harvest of our blueberry crop which will commence in September. Our crop is flowering at present, and our staff are looking forward to an excellent harvest.



During the winter months we are busy pruning all the different crops in preparation for the new season, which starts again in the Spring.

We have a lot of skilled staff, across our orchards that we have trained over the years, who are able to complete this work to a high standard.

This time of year, all staff are encouraged to take some annual leave, so we are all good to crank up again when the weather warms up and the crops start growing again.

Wayne Hall
General Manager - Wi Pere Horticulture

Agribusiness Operations Update

At the start of the year and into the earlier part of Autumn, 75 hectares of pines were harvested at our Tangihanga operations (please refer to photos below).

Due to the subsequent drop in market prices, we have decided to put a hold of harvesting for the meantime. At this stage, we have a further 30 hectares to harvest, but at a time when the market is on the improve. We will endeavour to keep you all updated on the progress of this activity in due course.





Into the Autumn months of year, we were mainly focused on remedial and clean-up work after Cyclone Gabrielle.

There were drains to clean, troughs to dig out and fences to fix. The flats were fixed by the start of the Winter, unfortunately we experienced another flood in June where we lost a further 70 hectares of pasture.

The fencing on the hill country will carry on for another 12 months until we get back to where we were pre-cyclone.



We are currently flat out lambing on both of our Otago and Tangihanga farming operations.

The weather has been kind to us, so we expect a good survival rate. Cows are due to calve until the end of August.

The sheep markets are unfortunately very soft, and the outlook is not very positive for 2024/25 period.

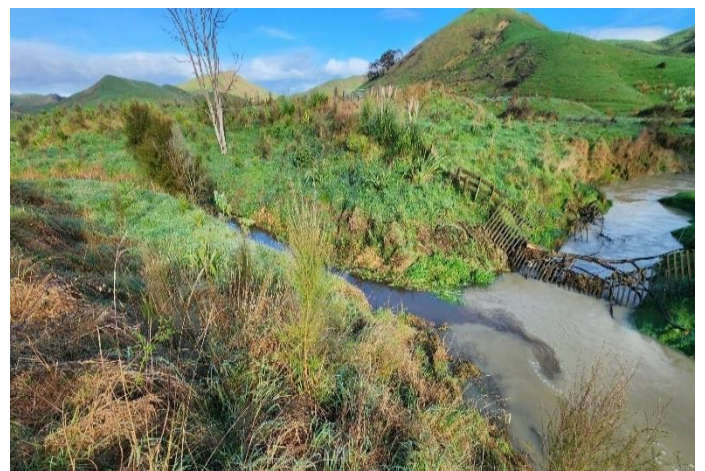
On the other hand, the cattle market remains strong, and is looking quite positive.

We have now finished our first stage of riparian planting programme at Tangihanga.

The photo to the right, was taken after a wet night.

The water quality coming out of the riparian areas is clean, in comparison to the water coming out of the farmland - a good outcome.

Tim Rhodes
General Manager - Wi Pere Trust Agribusiness



Kōrero with Kylee De Thier - Wi Pere Trust Scholarship Recipient



City of Residence: Whilst my whānau are mainly based here in Gisborne, once I finished secondary school, it was the draw of the “big city lights” and the promise of opportunity which finally lured me to Auckland to commence my tertiary journey.

I totally love the vibrancy and energy that metropolitan living offers - a melting pot of cultures rich in diversity and creative talent, which made me feel right at home.

Education: I started my primary education at Awapuni Primary before heading to Gisborne Intermediate for years 7 & 8. I later attended Gisborne Boys High, where my passion for entrepreneurship, digital marketing and startup businesses ignited through the Young Enterprise Scheme in years 12 & 13.

When I finished Highschool, it was clear that I wanted to pursue a career path that combined my love of business and a creative industry where I could express my individuality and artistic talents in a way that resonated with my personal values.

I’m also proud to say that I completed my tertiary studies last November from the University of Auckland, graduating in May with a Bachelor of Commerce degree majoring in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Marketing.

Wi Pere whānau whakapapa connection: My two younger brothers (Jayden & Storm) and I, were blessed to have grown up in such a close knit whānau environment. Under the guidance of our parents Lee & Jo de Thier, and two wonderful sets of grandparents, Josephine and Peter Bourgeois and Patrick and Patricia Ropitini (nee Phillips), I’m incredibly grateful for their endless love and support, and the pivotal role that each have played in all of our lives.

I am a descendant of Wi Pere through my late grandmother Josephine Bourgeois (nee Hawaikirangi), who was the daughter of William Rapihana Hawaikirangi. William, was the son of Parakau Bella Hawaikirangi (nee Pere).

Who were your key influencers/role models during your younger years? During my years at Intermediate and Highschool, I looked up to many people online who were accomplishing all the things I wanted to achieve. My biggest examples would be beauty influencers from New Zealand like Shaaanxo (Shannon Harris) and Kris Fox - these were people creating the pathway for kids like me to blossom. Especially Kris, being a brown trans woman, she shared a few of my struggles and reminded me that my dreams were still possible, no matter my sexuality or my ethnicity. Kris, Shannon and other major stars like Beyoncé always put their foot forward, even if they had to face the wind - that’s something I take with me everywhere!

What are your goals and aspirations for the future? To be honest, I’m still in the transition period between University and real life, and I haven’t decided where I want to go - I admit it is scary! I have my social media work, and my passion for makeup and artistry. I’m currently working on my priorities and what I want in the future. It really is all in our hands.

What words of wisdom would you like to share with Wi Pere rangatahi? Young people should never feel scared for not knowing what to do, especially relating to their next steps in life. It can look like everyone has their lives sorted out, but I would guarantee that is simply not the case. You just need to take each day as it comes, surround yourself with good people, and ensure you are heading up, and not down.

I’m focusing on experiencing life - sometimes it is better to do that, than to force yourself into what “society” makes you feel you have to do.

Education is important not only through what you learn in your studies, it also teaches you essential relationship/people skills, critical thinking, and the ability to problem solve. It can test your determination and drive, but helps you to discover what areas you have a natural affinity towards, and others that are more challenging, but in a productive way.



**Powhiri for Ahuwhenua Trophies & Executive, Tangihanga Station
Courtesy of John Cowpland, AlphaPix Photography**



Representatives of the Ahuwhenua Executive, Rito Tapuke and Cedric Nepia, with trophies



Morehu Pewhairangi leading the opening karakia



Morehu Pewhairangi and Te Hira Pere (Pou Tikanga)



Alan Haronga delivering insights into the Trust's Ahuwhenua journeys



Wi Pere Trust Agri & Hort Teams, Trustees & key advisers with trophies in front of Rongopai Marae



2023 Wi Pere Trust Annual General Meeting & Blessing for Ahuwhenua Trophies
Courtesy of John Cowpland, AlphaPix Photography



Haronga Whānau



Representatives of the Tamatea & Farrell Whānau



Ronnie Farrell & the late Olive Tamatea



Tahua Wyllie & Whānau



Tanith and Te Hira with Alan



Representatives of the Mere Tahatu Pere (Horsfall) Whānau



Representatives of the Caesar Pere Whānau

