



TE PAATU KI KAUHANGA TRUST NEWSLETTER  
**TANGI TE KOUKOU**  
EDITION 46, HURAE 2025



# HE MIHI AROHA

Tēnā koutou e ngā uri morehu o Te Paatu!

E ngā hapū, e ngā whānau maha o te rohe o Muriwhenua. nei ra te mihi aroha, mihi māhana ki a koutou katoa. Ka tangihia tonu ngā aitua kei waenganui i a mātou. Koutou te hunga kua mene ki te pō – moe mai, moe mai, e moe mai rā.

E mihi ana hoki ki ngā ringa raupā kei te tōhe tonu mō te oranga tonutanga o ō tātou whenua, wai, reo, me ngā tikanga tuku iho. Kia ū tātou ki te pae tawhiti – kia manawanui, kia pono, kia kotahi te hoe. Mā te mahi tahi ka tutuki ai ngā wawata mō āpōpō.

No reira rau rangatira mā, tenā koutou katoa.

Warm greetings to all the descendants of Te Paatu, to our hapū, and whānau across Muriwhenua. As we reflect on the mahi this month, we acknowledge those who have passed and those continuing to carry our kaupapa forward. Our vision remains clear: to uphold the mana of Te Paatu through unity, intergenerational wellbeing, and stewardship of our taonga tuku iho.

Our guiding principles—whakapapa, whanaungatanga and kaitiakitanga—continue to shape our efforts. Whether through research, hui, or hapū engagement, we remain committed to building a strong foundation for our people, grounded in history and driven by collective purpose.

Thank you for staying connected to the mahi. Together, we move forward.

## Quarterly Hui ā-Hapū

Our recent Hui ā-Hapū was held on Saturday 5 July at Taipa Beach Resort. The gathering was well attended, with at least 20 whānau present. Attendees engaged in valuable kōrero and offered constructive feedback on the progress of our kaupapa.

The strong turnout shows growing interest in our collective mahi and a shared commitment to advancing our claims.

Keep an eye out for our next hui a hapū to be held in the month of September!



## Leadership Changes

At the July claimant hui, Geneva Harrison was nominated and confirmed as the new Vice Chair of the Te Paatu CFRT Claimant Group. Geneva joined our claimant group as proxy for Wai 2000 – Wai 2000, a claim on behalf of Chapman Harrison, his whānau and Ngāti Tara. We congratulate her on her appointment and look forward to her leadership in this role.







## Waitangi Tribunal Update

A presentation by historians Barry Rigby and Calum Swears was held on 15 July to share research findings on the Crown's treatment of Old Land Claims in Muriwhenua.

Below are key highlights from their report:

- 23 block areas were investigated in detail, showing how the Crown separated land into Crown grants, surplus land, and small Native reserves. Crown grants totalled over 27,000 acres while Native reserves amounted to less than 1,000 acres.
- The Crown's inquiry process was flawed. Early inquiries led by Godfrey (1840s) and later by Bell (1857–1863) often ignored or misunderstood Māori perspectives. Crown officials assumed full alienation of land even when deeds were unclear or contested.
- Crown legislation and policies failed Māori. Laws like the Land Claims Ordinance 1841 and the Settlement Act 1856 allowed the Crown to ignore customary rights and proceed with land acquisition, often without proper surveys or consultation.
- The Crown did not safeguard Māori land interests, nor did it explain the full impacts of these claims to hapū and iwi. Many Māori only realised land had been alienated once it was gone.
- Māori opposition was consistent. Rangatira such as Panakareao and Pororua objected early on. Later petitions and protests also reflect confusion and discontent with the process.
- The Crown oversimplified tribal affiliations, reducing the diverse hapū landscape to just two major groups—Te Rarawa and Ngāpuhi—failing to recognise the layered, non-exclusive nature of Māori land rights.

These findings highlight a long history of alienation and exclusion from decision-making processes and reinforce the importance of presenting our own histories and perspectives in the current claims work.

## Customary Interests Project

Our research team has indexed 2,065 sources so far, with approximately 2,500 still to be reviewed. These include materials from Te Hiku Media, the Northern Advocate, the Northland Age and archives such as Turnbull Library and Sound and Vision.

Our claimants will soon be in a position to access the indexed material to assist with the writing of their tupuna profiles.

Key due dates for our research are:

- The Whakapapa Chapter and Claimant Oral Interview Transcripts due by 6 October 2025.
- Tupuna Profiles due by 20 October 2025.
- The Draft Historical Report due by 31 October 2025.

## Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Kahu (Takutai Moana) Application

The draft historical report for the Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Kahu Takutai Moana claim has been received from researcher David Armstrong and is currently being reviewed by the applicants. We look forward to sharing information from the report in due course.

The next Case Management Conference will take place on 27 July 2025.

At the recent claimant group meeting, Susan Peters has been endorsed as an additional named applicant to the Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Kahu MACA Application.

We're looking forward to confirming and endorsing additional applicants to reflect the various hapū of Ngāti Kahu at the next monthly claimant hui.



## LAND AND TAKUTAI MOANA SUBCOMMITTEE

The claimant group is established under the umbrella of Te Paatu ki Kauhanga Trust Board, which authorised two or more claimants to form a cluster to facilitate and support the participation of claimants in the Wai 45 Renewed Muriwhenua Land Inquiry under the Land & Takutai Moana subcommittee.

The trust administers the day-to-day operations and administration of the subcommittee. Claimants may be added to the subcommittee if they have a common interest in the inquiry district. The subcommittee was formalised in August 2020.

An application was made to the Crown Forestry Rental Trust to support the ongoing operations for claims before the Waitangi Tribunal in March 2021. The trustees authorise the Land & Takutai Moana subcommittee to lead Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) claims before the Waitangi Tribunal and the High Court.

The committee consists of claimants and their proxy member. Current claims within the cluster are Wai 1842, Wai 1359, Wai 1662, Wai 295, Wai 1670, Wai 1886 & 1668 and Wai 2000.

Land and Takutai Subcommittee hui are held monthly with quarterly hui-a-hapū and research wānanga to provide regular feedback and updates to whānau, share findings from the various research projects, discuss strategy going forward and maintain a mandate to continue to act on behalf of our whānau and hapū.

## SUSAN PETERS



**TE PAATU, NGĀTI TARA,  
MATAKAIRIRI, NGĀTI KAHU,**

Susan Peters was elected as chair of the Land & Takutai Moana Sub-Committee in February 2025, and chair of Te Paatu ki Kauhanga Trust in May 2025. Susan is the Te Paatu ki Kauhanga Trustee representative to the subcommittee and has been a trustee of the trust since its inception.

Susan was also endorsed at the Land and Takutai Moana Subcommittee meeting this month as an additional-named applicant to Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Kahu Takutai Moana (MACA) claim.