



TANGI TE KOUKOU

Te Paatu ki Kauhanga Trust Newsletter

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Season's Greetings

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 tātou. 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.

Rau rangatira mā huri noa, tenā koutou katoa.

Te Paatu Customary Interests Report Progress

Significant progress has been made on the Te Paatu Customary Interests Report following a two-day hui held at Taipa Resort this month. These hui brought together researchers, legal advisors and whānau to carefully review the draft report before its submission to the Waitangi Tribunal.

Key work has focused on strengthening the links between tupuna and specific land blocks, improving the clarity of the narrative, and ensuring Te Paatu history is presented in a way that is inclusive, accurate, and grounded in both evidence and tikanga. Decisions were also made to better integrate petitions, oral histories, and wahi tapu references directly into relevant chapters, rather than treating them separately.

To improve readability, the report will now be presented in two volumes. The final report is scheduled for submission on 30 January 2026, with mapping work continuing alongside this process.



Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Kahu Takutai Moana Application

Work continues steadily on the Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Kahu Takutai Moana application. Recent efforts have focused on reviewing historical evidence in the draft report completed by David Armstrong.

The team is also responding to recent legal changes, which now require stronger evidence of ongoing use and occupation of coastal areas. This has meant taking a closer look at historical records, oral histories, and current practices that demonstrate enduring relationships with the moana.

Where customary interests overlap with neighbouring groups, discussions will be held to work through these matters collaboratively, with the aim of reaching agreement outside of the courts wherever possible. Further updates will be shared as this important mahi progresses through the next stages.



We acknowledge and thank all claimants for their commitment and participation throughout the year. Your attendance and contributions across **12 claimant monthly meetings**, **3 hui ā-hapū**, and **11 research wānanga**, including Tribunal-led wānanga, have been vital to this kaupapa. The steady presence of whānau, the sharing of kōrero, and the collective whakaaro have strengthened our work and ensured the voice of the people remains at the centre of these claims.

Wai 2000

Wai 2000 was filed in August 2008 on behalf of the Harihona whanau. The claim was amended in 2012 to include Ngāti Tara and to add Robert Gabel, Raniera Bassett, Hone Bassett, Kelvin Piripi, Mervyn Priestley, Tina-Lee Raiti-Yates, and the late Donald Raiti as co-claimants.



The lead claimant is Chapman Harrison, who has been represented within our claimant group by Geneva Harrison as proxy. Earlier this year, Geneva was also elected Vice-Chair of the Land and Takutai Subcommittee.

Stage 2 Report on Te Paparahi o Te Raki Inquiry

The Wai 1040 Waitangi Tribunal Report looks at how the Crown treated Māori authority in Te Raki after the signing of te Tiriti o Waitangi. The Tribunal confirms that Te Raki rangatira did not give up their authority in 1840 and that te Tiriti was meant to allow Māori and the Crown to govern together. Instead, Māori decision-making was pushed aside, and councils were given control over Māori land without properly respecting te Tiriti. The Tribunal says this caused long-term harm that is still felt today and calls for real change, including power-sharing, returning Crown land, and genuine partnership with Māori.

This report is an important step in recognising these issues and provides guidance for future discussions, settlement processes, and the rebuilding of trust between Māori and the Crown.

Seasons greetings

As the year draws to a close, we take a moment to wish all our whānau a safe and relaxing holiday period. This is a time to slow down, reconnect with whānau, and take care of ourselves and each other. Whether you are travelling, staying close to home, or spending quiet time resting, we encourage everyone to put safety first, look after their health and wellbeing, and check in on those around you.

The holidays can be a chance to breathe, reset, and return refreshed. Rest when you need to, enjoy the company of whānau, and make space for moments that restore your wairua, hinengaro, and tinana.

Wherever you are, and however you spend the holidays, we wish you a peaceful break and a safe return into the new year.

Kia tau ngā manaakitanga o te wāhi ngaro.

