

Chairman Report for Ngati Haua Iwi Trust Hui-a-Tau

11 December 2020 - Ngapuwaiwaha Marae, Taumarunui.

Tēnā Kautau Katoa,

1. Ngati Haua Iwi Trust (NHIT) was incorporated under the Charitable Trust Act 1957 on 3rd December 2001.
NHIT Purpose: Trust Deed clause 8(g): To assist Ngāti Hāua Iwi in the progression of the settlement of Ngāti Hāua Iwi Historic Claims with the Crown and act as the mandated entity for Ngāti Hāua Iwi.
2. **Te Tiriti o Waitangi:** NHIT in the negotiations continually state their position as a Sovereign Partner to the Crown and demand reciprocal respect when dealing with the Crown.
3. Haere..Haere rā ki te Hono Wairua to matau Rangatira ko Eugene: It was with great sadness that our chairman, Eugene Topine passed away during the Covid 19, level 4 outbreak. Despite the requirements of social distancing it was awesome to witness how Ngāti Hāua Iwi whānau managed to traverse safely the lawful procedures laid down - taking Eugene onto his beloved Ngapuwaiwaha Marae, with a large contingent of whānau present, then down to the Awa where Eugene was farewelled in a chiefly manner taken by Jet boat to Maraekowhai where he lays in rest was a farewell befitting a Rangatira!
4. **Covid-19:** 2020 was unprecedented. It was a year like no other that we have ever experienced. The Covid-19 pandemic continues to have an impact in the way NHIT engages with Iwi as lock down levels dictate the how, and the when engagement can occur. Technology such as zoom, social & multi-media became the norm & assisted greatly in our endeavours to keep whānau engaged & informed.
5. **Covid-19 Response:** NHIT became the pivotal point of contact & the Iwi Lens for social service providers, district health boards, central & local governments as it pertained to our whānau welfare over the course of the L4 & L3 outbreaks & continue to do so. NHIT led the response, procured funding, assisted & identified where testing stations were to be located in particular at Māori venues, and ensured that Māori engagement and tikanga was upheld.
6. **The Claim:** NHIT primary focus is to negotiate with the Crown over Ngāti Hāua Iwi land claim settlement. I want to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, energy, and passion of the trustees. The many thousands of hours to progress the claim has been outstanding. All trustees have the best interest of our Iwi as the focus. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome on board our new trustee Louise Wahapa.
7. Ensuring that full details of our redress package is presented correctly has meant we have had to thoroughly research our Iwi history to ensure what is written is pono & tika. I would like to acknowledge our cultural teams dedication to this task. This mahi is critical as we needed to convey to the Crown not only the history of Ngāti Haua but to help the Crown understand the deep hurt and losses Ngāti Hāua Iwi have suffered.
8. You will be aware that after first denials by the Crown that Ngāti Hāua suffered no Raupatu, no loss of life, murder or imprisonment. After many negotiations & evidence submitted we finally got the Crown to admit that Ngāti Hāua Iwi did in fact suffer Raupatu. This admission opened the way for fuller and more meaningful negotiations which are ongoing.
9. **Precedence setting moments:**
NHIT was the first Iwi to meet with the newly established 'Māori Crown Relationship Ministry' known as 'Te Arawhiti. Our behaviour / presence at that inaugural hui set the standard for others to follow. Again NHIT 2 years later were the first Iwi to engage with Te Arawhiti at their new premises – another milestone to celebrate for NHIT & Te Arawhiti.
10. NHIT at that hui became the first Iwi in Treaty settlement history to negotiate a co-authorship opportunity to present our redress package up to the Minister/s, Cabinet & Treasury. This mahi involved NHIT & Te Arawhiti writers working together to ensure both parties were happy with what went forward for Cabinets & Treasury consideration. From there an offer will be made to Ngāti Hāua Iwi.
11. **Iwi Claims against Ngati Haua Area of interest:**

Crown entities, in particular the Department of Conservation, negotiations have been brutal but not insurmountable. The saddest part of this monocultural Crown process has meant pitting Iwi against Iwi, hapu against hapū, whānau against whānau. I am proud to state that NHIT have applied the principled approach of whanaungatanga as guaranteed through whakapapa. Negotiations are ongoing.

12. Agreement in Principle (AIP):

NHIT had announced at the Hui-a-Tau 2019 that an AIP was to be signed by Xmas 2019. That date moved to March/April 2020, however due to Covid-19, negotiation stalemate at times and the General Elections meant progress became fraught with delays. Government closing over the term of the elections did not help. Notwithstanding, we are aiming to have an AIP signing in the early months of 2021 around March or April.

13. Management & Specialist Advisors:

It would be remiss of me not to mention the expertise & skill of NHIT Management team ably led by Maxine Ketu (Manager) in tandem with our expert team of specialist advisors namely Mitch Roderick (project manager), Tim Castle QC (lead negotiator), Paranihia Walker (lawyer / Kahui Legal) & specialist advisors again from Kahui Legal and our cultural team led by tohunga, Turama Hawira (Te Pou Tupua).

Post Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE):

Work that is continuing is the establishment of a representative 'PSGE' that will be responsible to hold the settlement proceeds and to be fully accountable and transparent.

14. In closing, the trustees would like to thank the whānau of Ngāti Hāua Iwi for their continued support and guidance as we go about the business of negotiating our Treaty of Waitangi Land Claim Settlement to its finality.

Thank you for allowing me to read this my first report as Chairman.

No reira, mouri ora, mouri awa, mouri whenua, mouri tangata!
Rire Rire Hau Hau Paimarire!

