



Minginui Panui

July 2004

Kia ora te whanau o te Whirinaki

"Kaahore pea koutou e moohio, ka tini, ka mano ki roto i te whare nei. Best 1896:16;1977c:140

'You perhaps are not aware that there are many, multitudes even, inside this house.'

Wharepaakau of Ngaati Manawa and eponymous ancestor of Ngaati Whare, was captured by a party of Te Arawa warriors. By a ruse he was able to regain his taiaha and slay or drive off the party. As he fought he made the boast embodied in this peepeha, a pun based on his name, Whare or 'house'. In other words he considered his strength and ability equal to many. "

From the book: Nga Peepeha o ngaa Tiipuna by Hirini Moko Mead and Neil Grove

"Heavy rain in the Eastern Ranges of the Bay of Plenty" seems to have become a familiar forecast in recent weeks. Last week we had rain, flooding, blocked roads, a power cut and no water in the village! We haven't had a winter like this for a while. In spite of the weather quite a lot has been happening so, to keep everyone up with the play, I have put together some of the highlights that I have been involved in or know about. Hopefully these updates can be continued on a semi-regular basis and circulated to everyone that lives in the Whirinaki valley.

Kaitiakitanga. See our website www.kaitiakitanga.net

This week a meeting was held with NZ Trade and Enterprise to look at their support for some initiatives in the village. We were successful in obtaining some finance to start on building a nursery/shade house for growing native seedlings. Two staff members, and their students, from Auckland Unitec Architectural Department want to assist us with this. They also want to look at doing a makeover on a house in the village using local materials.

Kaitiakitanga /guardianship/stewardship is a way of looking at projects and ventures we could try that are sustainable.

Over the last few months there have been quite a few hui with NZT&E and it seems they are now happy with the structure that is in place. Have a think about getting involved. There will be a hui towards the end of July.

Visit by Norm Hewitt

Early in June there was a visit to the Marae by three people from an organisation called Mana Pounamu. They were: Norm Hewitt (ex All Black), Ceilia Lashlie (ex-Prison officer / Manager, author) and Trevor ?---? (founding Director of Life Education Trust).

It was a privilege and an inspiration to hear these people speak. They have formed their own organisation whose purpose is to help communities deal with issues such as family violence and drug and alcohol abuse. Their objective is to facilitate some korero on these matters and help communities in whatever way they can.

They spent 3 days in Murupara prior to coming to Te Whaiti. They have said they will come back again. If/when they do come back **do** take the opportunity to meet and talk with these awesome people.

Rubbish Dump

Last week a student from a Tauranga Polytech called in and asked if he could do a study on our waste management and recycling needs in the valley. He has been given every encouragement to make a start on this. Our dump is illegal. No where else in the Bay of Plenty are they still just dumping rubbish as we do. So any assistance with planning for rubbish disposal is welcomed. You may see this guy down at the dump gathering "data" for his study.

Overseas Trip

Jimmy Goldsmith, Earl Rewi and Claude August recently went on an all expenses paid trip to attend a "sharing indigenous wisdom conference" at Green Bay, Wisconsin in the United States. They had an opportunity to experience Indian culture and manaakitanga and have returned to us with new ideas and new friends from around the world. Apparently their presentation on Tipu Ake and Kaitiakitanga was one of the highlights of the conference.

Its experiences like this that make you realise: "Hey we do have something worthwhile to share with the world and we should be proud of where we live".

It's also something very positive and a source of pride when so often it's too easy to get caught up in negative thinking which diminishes self-esteem.

Thanks go to Peter Goldsbury for making this trip possible.

Minginui Village Council

Your new council has now had a few meetings and made some progress on matters. There are big issues to deal with in every direction that you look. It is going to take support and help from everyone to make progress. Have no doubt we will make progress!!

The new Council acknowledges the ongoing assistance of Joyce Maxwell and Peter Owen in helping us come to grips with how things operate. The work done by Te Mana o te Whenua has also been invaluable in keeping the basic services running. Nga mihi, Ox and co.

Land rent is one of the big issues we have to look at and you should all have received an invoice from us recently. Many of us, myself included, owe back rent. We plan to talk to people/organisations individually about this. In the meantime, if everyone could start paying something that would be helpful.

We will in due course be putting out a budget so that everyone can see where their money goes. We don't know at this stage what it costs to run the village on an annual basis.

Initiatives that I would like to see happen include: purchasing a community van, getting some carvings and street signs up, moving into re-cycling of our rubbish, having things for our rangitahi to do, fixing the hall so its safe to use and getting houses painted once they are repaired.

The village council was originally set up to:

- 1) encourage people to stay in the village
- 2) look at employment and revenue earning opportunities in the area.
- 3) act as the administering body for the village including the issuing of occupation licences etc.
- 4) supervise the maintenance of the village and all that entails.

For the last 10 years activity in most of these areas has been minimal so there's a lot of catching up to do.

Housing New Zealand Issues

It has come down to the need for legal expertise to sort out the issues associated with Occupation licenses and house ownership for some houses in the village. HNZ won't start work on repairs to a house until they have clear proof of ownership. For many houses there isn't a well documented record. The Ngati Whare Runanga has asked their lawyer Jamie Ferguson to look at the matter. So that's where things are at present and no one should stress about it. The matter is being worked through. Pene Ohlsen is the contact for anything to do with this.

In recent years the costs of living in isolated rural areas has risen. It's getting more expensive to live here, but then it's expensive everywhere. We need to look at ways of being more self sufficient on a community level. We have a lot of unused area within the village that could be utilised to grow food or raise animals. Hopefully we can get some things happening in this area in time for spring.

While on the subject of animals, horse owners might want to think of some solutions to the issue of horses wandering through the village and on the roads. They are a hazard and a nuisance when they free range. Last summer more than half my garden went as horse feed.

We have a unique opportunity here to do things differently. Minginui was once said to be a model village. We can be a "model kainga" again but the model will be of our own making and reflect what we want as the people that live here. Not something imposed from "outside". Tinorangiratanga and kaitiakitanga are two concepts which could guide our future direction.

Nga Tama Toa O Te Whituporo

Four young warriors of rugby are travelling over to Te Puke this weekend to participate in the annual Tai Mitchell Rugby Tournament.

Mana Rurehe, Chad Mason, A J Iraia and Pitoi Herewini have been chosen to play in the Galatea team. The last couple of months have been full on rugby for these boys with practices during the week and two games on the weekends.

Thanks goes to Eric Merriman and his team for the coaching and dedication they put into developing the team into a competitive unit.

Thanks also to the Kura and the Minginui Working Men's Club for their sponsorship. Win or lose, the boys will get a lot out of the experience.

DoC News

Kohu Kohiti recently won a DoC sponsored logo competition. His design really impressed everyone. It's going to be used on some of our signs and publications relating to the Whirinaki Ecological Management Zone. Well done Kohu and all the tamariki that entered.

Possum Trappers

Several possum trappers have started work on contract blocks in the "Block 10/Oriuwaka" area which goes from River Road west through to South Road. Over 4000 hectares will be done in the next 6 months and possums will be controlled down to low numbers. DoC is also expanding the rat control effort in part of this area and some 700 hectares will eventually have rat numbers kept down to low levels.

Kiwi

Whirinaki kiwi are about to start breeding. Nesting begins in July. We are hoping for a better breeding year than the last one. Most birds either didn't breed or only had one clutch. We have ended up with just 3 chicks of which one Kehua/Ghost (hatched on the 31 October last year) is currently back in the block. The other two are in Rainbow Springs awaiting release. One may go to Mokoia Island and one is to come back here.

Weka

A planned weka release for this year encountered a few hassles and has been put off till next March. At this time some 30 weka will be sourced from Mokoia Island and elsewhere and held in the enclosure at the Sanctuary. After a month in captivity they will be released into the surrounding area. Kiwi from the Whirinaki have been released onto Mokoia Island in Lake Rotorua, the weka are a koha in return. People have recently heard kiwi calls on Mokoia, so our whanau are doing fine.

Well that's just some of the gossip from around and about. I hope you found it informative. As I said at the start I hope to make these newsletters a regular event so that everyone is up to speed with what's happening. If anyone wants to contribute, find out more or have a say please contact me sometime.

No reira, kua mutu aku korero inainei.

Ma te atua koutou

E tiaki.

Andy Blick. on behalf of the Minginui Village Council.

In closing I would just like to express our collective deepest sympathy to the families who have lost their koroua/kuia in recent times. Both here and in Ruatahuna.

E nga mate haere, haere, haere .

haere atu ra, haere atu koutou ki hawaiki nui, ki hawaiki roa, ki hawaiki pamaomao.