

A WAITOMO NEWS advertorial feature



Maniapoto Māori Trust Board chairman, Tiwha Bell

*Nā Rereahu rāua ko Rangianewa
Ko Te Ihingārangi te tuakana
Nā Rereahu rāua ko Hineaupounamu
Ko Maniapoto te mana
Te ihi o te iwi.*

*Ngā uri o Rereahu
Ko Rereahu te matua
Ko Te Ihingārangi te tuakana
Ko Maniapoto te mana
Te ihi o te iwi
Tihei Mauri Ora!*

We need to forge ahead

By **Tiwha Bell**
Chairman, Maniapoto Māori Trust Board

LAST week I explained why the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board is asking for a mandate from the people to negotiate the settlement of our historical treaty claims. (*Waitomo News*, October 6)

The main answer is the claims process for Maniapoto has stalled. It is not going anywhere.

We decided that we wanted to do something about that.

But, only if you – those who whakapapa to Maniapoto me ona hapu maha – agree.

This has been one of the key questions whanau have been asking at the information hui being held around the motu this week.

Another question we have been getting is ‘why are we going along with the Crown’s process?’

Well, to be blunt. There is no-one else to settle with. If we don’t deal with the Crown there is no settlement. Ever.

Now, is the settlement process perfect?

No, it certainly is not.

Ask any other iwi who has already settled and they will tell you the same.

The longer we delay, the longer we debate about who should do what in 2016, the longer we actually stay weighed-down and affected by what the Crown did to Maniapoto.

I say enough is enough – let’s forge ahead.

The sooner we finalise these claims, the sooner we draw a line in the ground and put that mamae and injustice behind us. Then we can put all of our energy into developing, growing and thriving.

Yes, there are things we need to sort out amongst ourselves about how this will all work.

But, I ask you to think about this fact.

Currently we are going nowhere with these claims. The trust board and I personally want that to change.

Our information hui come home this week-end. I encourage you to come along, listen to our korero and ask us questions.

There is information on our website – maniapoto.iwi.nz – for you to consider. Please have a look. Please have a say. *Nau mai, haere mai. E Tū Maniapoto*

Paimarire

E Tū Maniapoto

The Maniapoto Māori Trust Board is seeking support from members of Maniapoto to negotiate the settlement of historic Treaty of Waitangi claims.

Currently there is no mandate for Maniapoto to negotiate with the Crown and no progress being made. The trust board wants to change this and it is up to the people to decide if they want this.

Go to www.maniapoto.iwi.nz for more detailed information on why the trust board wants your support, how the process will work and how you can have your say.



2016 Mandate information hui are underway:

Saturday 15 October	10.00am	Mōkau Kohunui Marae, Piopio
Sunday 16 October	10.00am	Te Rūnanga o Kirikiriroa, Hamilton
Sunday 16 October	3.00pm	Mangatoatoa Marae, Tokanui
Monday 17 October	5.30pm	Mōkai Kainga Marae, Kawhia
Tuesday 18 October	5.30pm	Wharauoa Marae, Taumarunui
Wednesday 19 October	5.30pm	Te Kuiti Pā, Te Kuiti

Some of these hui are being livestreamed on the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board Facebook page. If you can’t get to a hui, have a look on Facebook.

How you vote:

Anyone who is a member of Maniapoto can vote for this proposal.

All registered members of the Maniapoto tribal register 18 years of age and over (including those who will turn 18 years of age prior to the close of voting) will be sent a voting pack.

If you, or your whanau, are not yet a registered member, you can also vote by contacting the Independent Returning Officer on **free phone 0800 666 030** or email them at iro@electionz.com for a special voting pack. Alternatively, a special voting pack can be obtained at any of the mandate information hui.

Votes can be cast:

- by post (by completing and returning the voting form);
- online (using the information on your voting form); or
- at an information hui (by bringing the completed voting form and casting it there).

Voting is now open and closes at 5pm, Friday 28 October 2016