

PŌWHIRI AND WELCOME

After a pōwhiri at Papaïouru Marae, Ohinemutu Village, the Iwi Chairs travelled the short way to Te Puia for their kōrero. Rotorua Mayor Steve Chadwick was in attendance to formally welcome the chairs. She gave a speech in which she outlined the Rotorua model of Council-Iwi partnership and the creation of the Māori Board Te Tatau o Te Arawa, which she felt was working successfully. "We've got a good model but we'll look at it again after the election to get even more depth." She believed there were encouraging signs that Mayors and councillors throughout New Zealand were increasingly exploring ways to form partnerships with iwi and hapū and she believed this was good for the country.



Photo: Mayor Steve Chadwick welcomes Iwi Chairs to the region.



Minister for Māori Development, Te Ururoa Flavell

The second guest speaker was the Minister for Māori Development, Te Ururoa Flavell, who gave a report on issues before Parliament of most interest to Iwi Chairs. He began by talking about the Ture Whenua Bill and his decision to progress the Bill following extended consultation, including his discussion with Iwi Chairs. "While this Bill doesn't fix every problem, it is a significant improvement." He also thanked the Iwi Chairs and the Iwi Leaders Group Te Pire Reo for discussion regarding the development of the Te Pire Reo mō Te Reo Māori (Māori Language) Bill. Finally he spoke about the proposed Kermadec Islands sanctuary and reiterated the Māori Party's overarching position, which was not to support any legislation that impinges on the rights and interests of Māori.

FRESH WATER UPDATE

The Iwi Chairs adopted new Terms of Reference for its Freshwater Iwi Leaders Group, which will engage with the Government on identifying and developing options for the allocation of freshwater. It means that the technical work team of the Freshwater Iwi Leaders Group has the support of the chairs to engage with Crown officials over a suite of mechanisms that are aimed at creating a more equitable system of water management, including enabling iwi access to water for economic development. The chairs were advised that the urgent application to the Waitangi Tribunal to inquire into freshwater and geothermal claims had been granted. The chairs heard that the two processes could be complementary and it was best to keep all options open to get the best outcome for iwi and hapū.

Rangatahi

In May 2014, a proposal was put to the Iwi Chairs Forum (ICF) for a collaborative development of rangatahi leadership to occur alongside the ICF. As a result Ngaa Rangatahi a Iwi was established as a way for rangatahi to engage with their respective iwi leaders and to network with other rangatahi, as well as be exposed to an environment where issues of fundamental importance to all iwi are addressed.



CONSERVATION

There was a discussion about Rangitāhuhua, the Kermadec Islands, and the historical relationships that a number of iwi have with them. Te Ohu Kaimoana (TOKM) director Ken Mair told the Iwi Chairs Forum (ICF) that iwi had taken necessary steps to support the health and wellbeing of the Kermadec Islands. He criticised the Government's rushed and behind-the-scenes processes in listening to overseas interests and agreeing to proceed to implement the Kermadec ocean sanctuary without regard to how such action would dissolve rights guaranteed to all iwi under the 1992 Fisheries Settlement. TOKM is presently taking legal action in the High Court as well as exploring other avenues of influencing the government. The ICF passed a motion that reaffirmed their support for the commercial aspects of the 1992 Tiriti o Waitangi Fisheries Settlement.

WHĀNAU ORA

The Iwi Leaders Group on Whānau Ora (WO ILG) reconfirmed with the Iwi Chairs Forum that it continues to engage at a strategic level with the Crown, as well as engaging at a regional level with iwi, hāpu and whānau. The WO ILG is interested in gathering its own data, as opposed to relying on Crown data, to help develop future Whānau Ora opportunities. One of their key focuses is to ensure that their mahi is not divorced "from the realities of our people in our communities", hence the undertaking to consult throughout the country. The upcoming dates for hui are below:-

Location	Date	Venue
Hāwera	12 May, 11am-1pm	TSB Hub, Camberwell Road, Hāwera
Palmerston North	26 May, 10-30am-12.30pm	Te Hotu Manawa o Rangitaane o Manawatu Marae, 140-148 Maxwells Line, Awapuni, Palmerston North, Manawatu
Christchurch	30 May, 10am – 12pm	Te Whare o Te Waipounamu, 15 Show Place, Addington, Christchurch
Dunedin	31 May, 10am-12pm	Scenic Hotel Southern Cross, 118 High St, Dunedin
Invercargill	31 May, 3 – 5pm	Ascot Park Hotel, cnr Tay St and Racecourse Rd, Invercargill
Hokitika	1 June, 10.30am-12.30pm	The Beachfront Hotel, 111 Revell St, Hokitika
Nelson	10 June, 10.30am – 12.30pm	The Rutherford Hotel, 27 Nile St W, Nelson
Blenheim	10 June, 2.30 – 4.30pm	The Chateau Marlborough, 95-117 High St, Blenheim

MĀORI SPORTS

The Iwi Leaders Group on Māori Sports (MS ILG) began its report by referring back to the ICF hui in Waitangi, where there had been an opportunity to point out to the Crown that its systems for promoting and supporting sport were neither fair nor just in respect to Māori sport. MS ILG Chair Tā Toby Curtis then reported that considerable progress had since been made, including an initiative to set up a NZ Māori Sports Collective. The hui heard from Mr John Cribb who said Māori Sports Groups throughout the motu had met with the MS ILG to discuss the need to develop and establish such a body. He said the intent was to provide a platform from which to negotiate direct funding with the Crown on behalf of all Māori Sports organisations whilst ensuring that individual organisations retained their autonomy and service to their respective codes. The initiative will be developed over coming months.

MĀTAURANGA

Chair of the ILG for Education, Haami Piripi, said reform of the education portfolio was beginning to take effect. The Minister had been pursuing these reforms for several years and a key initiative had been to establish a cross-sectorial forum of all the education stakeholder, including iwi. Mr Piripi said this had given her a good understanding of the landscape, issues and priorities. As a result reforms had been initiated in early childhood education right through to schools. These reforms focus on individual achievement and developing systems and processes for supporting individual attainment. The Mātauranga Iwi Leaders group was supportive of these developments, which were proving to be successful. He said many iwi were already actively involved and complimenting the changes at a regional level.

BACKGROUND

The Iwi Chairs Forum (ICF) meets four times a year. All chairs of iwi are able to participate and together they share information about matters of interest. In this way all iwi support each other. From time to time the ICF will set up specialist membership groups (Iwi Leader Groups - ILGs) to research and work on specific issues. The contents of this pānui emanate from those issue-based leadership groups. For more information about the ICF and ILGs please visit iwichairs.maori.nz

He waka kōtuia kāhore e tukutukua ngā mimira.

A canoe that is interlaced will not become separated at the bow.