

IWI CHAIRS FORUM HIGHLIGHTS 1 - 2 December 2016, Blenheim

WHAKATAU AND INTRODUCTION

The Forum was hosted by Te Waka a Maui at Ūkaipō in Waiharakeke with over 57 iwi Chairs present and over 147 iwi representatives were present. This was the first time the meeting had taken place in Marlborough and Ngāti Toa Rangatira Chairman Taku Parai as head of Te Waka a Maui said this was a significant and important event for the eight iwi of Te Tau Ihi and the nine iwi for Te Waipounamu.

Following on from the new format introduced at the last Iwi Chairs Forum in Hopuhopu, the Iwi Chairs Forum again centred on four key pou; Pou Tikanga, Pou Taiao, Pou Tangata and Pou Tahua.

However, at the strategy hui on 30 November, some concern was noted with respect to iwi who want to participate in all four Pou discussions. Therefore, it was unanimously confirmed that two pou being held at the same time be trialled in Waitangi 2017, this format will then be reviewed at the Whakatane ICF in May 2017.

The trail will be:

First Session:

Pou Tahua and Pou Taiao

Second Session:

Pou Tangata and Pou Tikanga

At the Forum Tā Mark Solomon was presented a taonga toki from the Iwi Chairs Forum in recognition of his service and his role in the formation of the Forum. Because Tā Mark is not seeking re-election in Kaikōura this will be his last Iwi Chairs Forum and all Iwi Chairs wished him well in the next stage of his career.

For more information and a video about the Iwi Chairs Forum and Iwi Leader Group's please visit www.iwichairs.maori.nz



Pōwhiri by Te Waka a Maui, Omaka Marae, Blenheim

POU TIKANGA

There were three kaupapa discussed in Pou Tikanga; Matike Mai Aoteroa, Karipori Taonga and Te Ukaipo.

Margaret Mutu and Moana Jackson have continued positive progress on the Working Party's report on Constitutional Transformation. It is anticipated that the Matike Mai Working Group will present their first annual report at the ICF hui in February 2017. The letter of support from Prime Minister for the gifting of the whatarangi to the United Nations in New York has not been received despite repeated efforts. This is a matter that was raised with Ministers.

A new kaupapa, Te Ūkaipō was raised and proposed in an effort to develop a strategy regarding the building, restoration, maintenance and decommissioning of our whare and associated marae structures. This was supported by the Iwi Chairs Forum.

POU TAI AO

There were three kaupapa discussed as part of the Pou Taiao; Conservation, Climate Change, and Freshwater. It was noted that the Conservation Iwi Leaders Group is close to finalising the relationship protocol with the Department of Conservation, when this is finalised this will bring a new level of cooperation between iwi and the Department of Conservation that will allow for iwi involvement at all levels of decision making. This model will be able to be used as a template for iwi to use with government departments across all kaupapa.

The emergence of new kaupapa such as the National Policy Statement on Biodiversity and the Predator Free NZ 2050 were also noted as areas that would require input from iwi katoa moving forward.

There were in depth discussions on the social impacts of climate change on whānau with iwi leaders confirming this will be a significant kaupapa going forward. As noted in the last Iwi Chairs Forum pānuī, the inclusion of Te Mana Whakahono a Rohe and Te Mana o te Wai in the proposed RMA amendments, were again reiterated as positive steps to ensuring iwi engagement in the local government process.

Water Allocation will be a key focus on 2017 for the Freshwater ILG with a series of hui being planned to gain iwi positions on allocation to be initiated with a National hui on Freshwater at Hopuhopu on the 31st of January 2017 and will include regional and technical workshops.



Ūkaipō, Waiharakeke



Mystery trip - Queen Charlotte Sounds



Kai time! Ūkaipō

BACKGROUND

The Iwi Chairs Forum 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 Iwi Chairs Forum will set up specialist membership groups (Iwi Leader Groups) to research and work on specific issues. The contents of this pānui emanate from those issue-based leadership groups.

For more information about the Iwi Chairs Forum and Iwi Leader Group's please visit www.iwichairs.maori.nz

POU TANGATA

The iwi leaders voiced their increasing concern about the complex social issues facing māori and highlighted a need for urgent action to improve māori outcomes. Iwi leaders confirmed they will push this with Ministers and with the newly established Ministry for Vulnerable Children. Some of the key kaupapa discussed in this pou were housing, mātauranga, Whānau Ora and justice issues.

For Whānau Ora, iwi leaders confirmed that the Whānau Ora Outcomes Framework is on the right track to help whānau, hapu and iwi but the Whānau Ora Partnership Group are working on some improvements that would enhance the Whānau Ora model.

This pou also discussed the need to enhance rangatahi involvement in decision making at the Iwi Chairs Forum and is continuing to support Ngā Rangatahi-ā-Iwi as an initiative that ensures rangatahi involvement in the Forum.

POU TAHUA

In Pou Tahua iwi leaders put an emphasis on growing the māori economy and using iwi assets to increase economic growth. It is hoped that by combining assets, iwi will be able to leverage the government and increase bargaining power with industry. By acting collectively, Iwi can have a real impact on the economic development of Aotearoa and grow the māori economy.

The Dragon-Taniwha Economic Summit will be hosted by Ngāti Kahungunu in February 2017 in the lead up to Te Matatini, it will explore the inter-connectedness of Culture and Commerce. It also reaffirms ancient trading, voyaging and whakapapa links to China and the Pacific.

Iwi leaders also received an update from Te Ohu Kaimoana who reaffirmed they are undertaking a strategic refresh. Te Ohu Kaimoana indicated that they expect their role going forward will be to empower iwi fisheries locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

He waka kōtuia kāhore e tukutukua ngā mimira.

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