



REPORT TO OWNERS

1ST APRIL 2017-31ST MARCH 2019





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SUPPLEMENT

For information on the Minutes of Last Owner's meeting and Financial Statements 2017-2018 & 2018-2019 please refer to supplement.

TRUST STRUCTURE & YOUR TRUSTEES

LAND OWNERS & BENEFICIARIES

CHAIRMAN

Isaac Hunter
(resigned 2018)

Lewis Winiata
(appt 2018)

TRUSTEE
Richard Steedman
(resigned 2019)

TRUSTEE
Peter Steedman

TRUSTEE
Tama Wipaki

TRUSTEE
Jenny Mauger

TRUSTEE
David Steedman

TRUSTEE
Adell Gilchrist
(resigned 2019)

TRUSTEE
Steven Stoney

TRUSTEE
Lewis Winiata



*Back row : Peter Steedman, Ike Hunter, Richard Steedman, Tama Wipaki, Lewis Winiata
Front row: Jenny Mauger, Steven Stoney, David Steedman, Adell Gilchrist*

BANK – WESTPAC TAIHAPE

ACCOUNTANT – SPOONER HOOD & REDPATH LIMITED, WHANGANUI

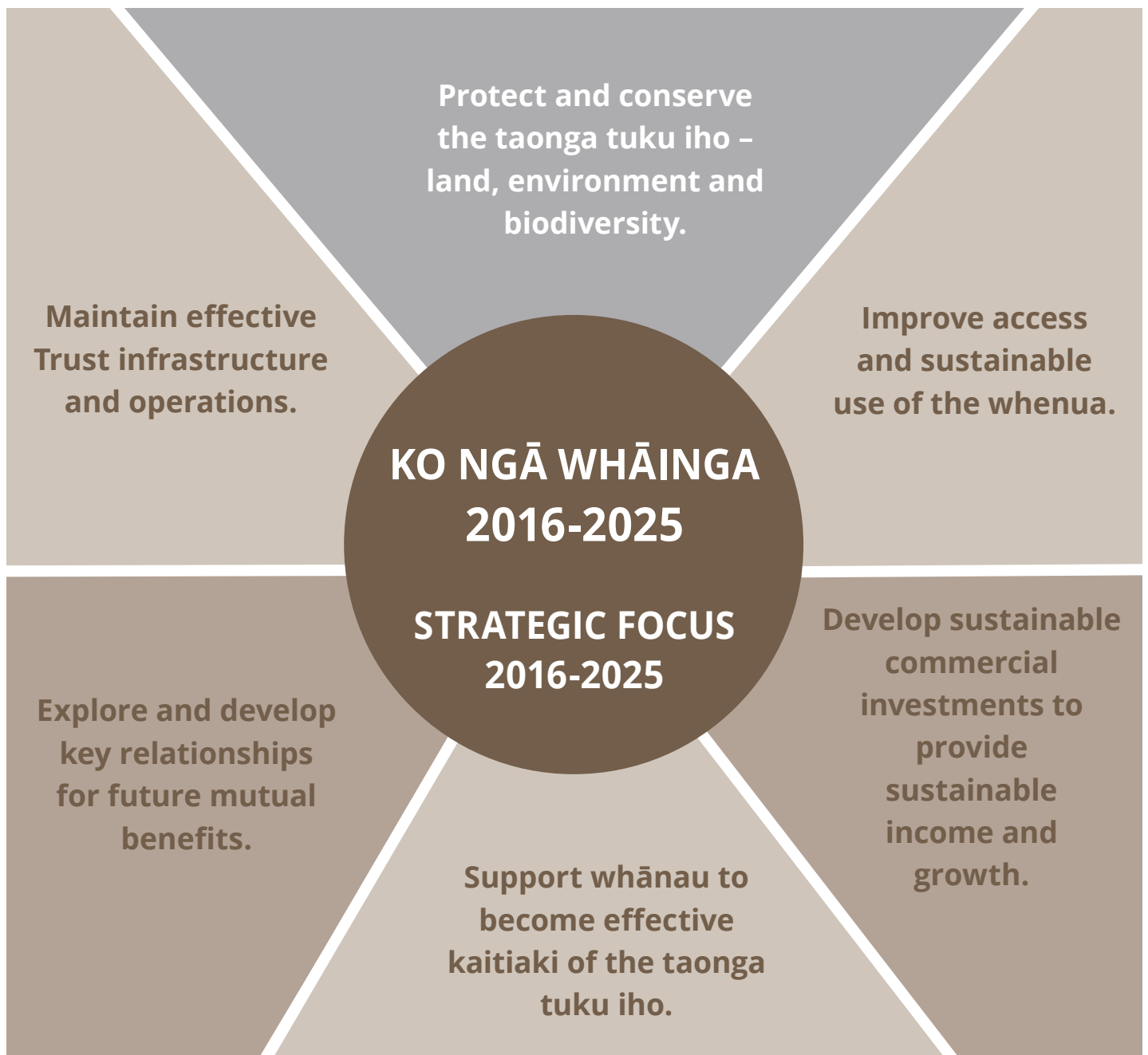
KO TE MOEMOEĀ

Kia manaakitia ngā taonga tuku iho, ko te pōtae o Awarua.

To sustainably conserve, protect and develop the land and people of Aorangi Awarua.

VALUES / KO NGA MEA KAINGAKAU

Kaitiakitanga
Manaakitanga
Mana
Ahi kaa
Tino Rangatiratanga
Whai Hua



CHAIR'S REPORT



***E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā karangaranga maha
tēnā koutou katoa***

Te hunga mate kua wehe atu ki te pō, haere, haere, haere atu rā.

***Ko tātou rā ēnei ngā mahuetanga iho e whakakaha nei ki te pupuri,
ki te hāpai i ngā taonga tuku iho mai i a rātou mā; ngā mātua, tūpuna,***

Na reira tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.

Mauri ora!

Since our last Owners hui at Omaha Marae in September 2017 one of our long serving and respected Chairperson and Kaumatua Issac Hunter retired as a Chairperson and Trustee.

At the last Owners hui a motion was moved and seconded to vary the Trust Deed to allow for the amalgamation of the Awarua o Hinemanu block as well as the retirement (2-year rotation) of three of the longest standing Trustees. When varying the Trust Deed for the retirement of Trustees, Judge Harvey stated that five trustees would be elected at this Owners hui.

With the resignation of Issac Hunter the other two longest standing Trustees are Peter Steedman and Tama Wipaki. Due to commitments, two other Trustees Richard Steedman and Adell Gilchrist have also resigned. These are the five Trust vacancies to be filled at this owners meeting. Both Peter and Tama are standing for re-election.

At the same court hearing the amalgamation of the Awarua o Hinemanu block was formally included into the Aorangi Awarua Trust.

The Trusts statement of financial position as at the 31st March 2017 was \$1,407,310.00, as at the 31st March 2019 the Trusts statement of financial position showed \$1,592,459.00. This is a growth of \$185,149.00 during the past two years.

Our experienced Trustees will provide reports on the Trusts Land Management portfolios of Manuka Honey, Hunting, Conservation and Pest Control, Erewhon Rural Water Supply Scheme, Rangatahi and the Emission Trading Scheme.

The Trust has now developed our Health and Safety Policy and Procedures with ongoing monitoring and evaluation to enable any changes to manage risk.

Due to the unavailability of Peter Fraser to complete the Taihape Cascade Project reports the Trust met with Te Puni Kokiri, the Trust is no longer pursuing the Taihape Cascade Project.

Currently the Trust is negotiating an Economic Joint Venture with the Māori Carbon Foundation under the Emission Trading Scheme. This is an exciting opportunity for us to be a part of Farming Carbon Credits to address climate change in this new era. We envisage great economic prospects for our owners and beneficiaries. During the meeting today members of the Māori Carbon Foundation will be providing a presentation on the Emission Trading Scheme.

Noho raa

Nā Lewis Winiata (Chairperson)



LAND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

PEST CONTROL MANAGEMENT

Te Potae o Awarua Stoatline

Pests that are a nuisance to Trust land are - deer, pigs, possums and stoats.

Weeds that are a nuisance are - old man's beard (vine), wilding conifers (tree bearing cones), white bryony.

The Aorangi Awarua Trust has been a part of the stoat trapping network in the Northern Ruahine Range since 2007. The trapping network now includes Awarua o Hinemanu. The trap lines continue to be extended by dedicated whanau, volunteers, and DOC staff from October to March.

The Kawenata lists a number of objectives that can only be achieved through pest management. One of those is to protect and enhance the natural character of the land with particular regard to the indigenous flora and fauna.

The Trust continues to focus on conservation and pest management without the use of toxin. Meanwhile considering a network of traps only to control possum and stoats would be a big 'ask' considering the vastness of the land area and a limited number of workers. As we develop the land better tools will have to be found to deal with the pest.

I attend hui with Department of Conservation (DoC) in Palmerston North at least twice a year to discuss planning and best practices. This allows us as a Trust to proactively be involved in the decision-making process when it comes to pest control management on neighbouring lands as well as our own.

We have been successful with funding from Horizon Regional Council, DoC and Central North Island Blue Duck. We intend sitting at the table with Ngā Whenua Rahui to support our next plans.

Pests

There are 180 stoat traps are spread across two major lines, Ohuitu Ridge and Ohuitu Stream. The traps are checked, and repairs/maintenance carried out as the workers walk the line. A further 20 self setting traps A24's

have been placed either side of the Ohuitu Stream to help protect the adult whio and their ducklings from pest invasion. A further 20 self setting traps had be set in the Waiokotore stream catchment last season.

The number of stoats killed last season had doubled from previous years because of the heavy beech seeding (mast) that has occurred in many native forests across the country. It is expected to drive introduced predators such as rats, mice, and stoats to even higher numbers than usual because of the overabundance of plant foods.

We support and carryout data collecting while in the field to help us best utilise our GIS program and gather evidence that helps inform decision making. The data we collect each time is number of predators, noting bird life, fungi, etc. weather conditions, hut and trap repairs.

Weeds

Old Man's Beard – this is prevalent in the Rangitikei Valley, it has the potential to seriously impact on the forest on the western slopes of Aorangi.

Wilding conifers – the establishment of these pests in the tussock grassland areas will jeopardise the natural and ecological character of these parts of our land.

White bryony - present in the Mokai Valley competes with native vegetation and it can smother and shade out the plants that it grows on. Control work is carried out annually thanks to Horizon's.

The Trust supports DoC's programme of work to remove these pest and weeds. Local workers and volunteers are sourced through our networks and on Facebook, sometimes with limited success.

The Trust through other portfolios are encouraging owners back on to the land. We welcome any Owner who wishes to learn and or participate in pest control management.

Ngā mihi,

Tama Wi Paki

CONSERVATION, MANU TIORIORI, DIGIHUB, COMMUNICATION

Our guiding whakatauki:
"E kore te kaitiaki e moe"

Rangipō Metekingi and Richard Steedman's mahi in Conservation with the pest management expertise of Tama Wipaki continue to uphold the mana and mauri of our Maunga Tapu me ōna taonga tuku iho. Conservation is our agreed overarching kaupapa.

Through our Whio mahi alongside DoC and Ruahine Whio Collective we have learned that the Ruahine is renowned for being the most rugged of the eight whio recovery areas in Aotearoa. The Ruahine are known as 'young' mountains due to their steep terrain and shallow soil structure. The extreme weather events resulting in flooding, erosion and sedimentation of waterways as predicted by meteorologists globally, has increased. When the forests are over browsed and pests not managed, soil that is not held in place by good root structure is easily dislodged in rain events.

Understanding that **AOTEAROA is NOW experiencing the HIGHEST BIODIVERSITY LOSS in the WORLD!!!** The Ruahine Forest Collapse is well documented in the 1960's e.g. "A Century Of Change In The Forests Of The Ruahine Range, North Island, New Zealand : 1870-1970" (<https://newzealandecology.org/nzje/1444.pdf>).



Horopito showing ring barking by deer. Noticeable lack of seedlings or saplings in the understory between Kokopunui (Lake Colenso) and Mangatera. This picture leads to forest collapse.

Bush condition

Apart from regenerating bush surrounding Colenso Hut, there is complete loss of the Kamahi Rimu Forest surrounding Kokopunui / Lake Colenso that has not recovered from early deer introductions. The lack of regenerating bush to the extent that decaying Totara are not being replaced. Huge light wells where seedlings and saplings would normally be found is where weeds such as ragwort and thistles are taking hold. The only seedlings and sub-canopy visible were the unpalatable Horopito. Signs of deer ring-barking, browsing, stripping bark and branches off trees the Horopito and other trees were obvious.

On a positive note the monthly efforts of the Ruahine Whio Trust is paying off with abundant and varied birdlife, including Riroriro. DoC 200 traps surrounding Lake Colenso and Colenso Hut have just been replaced with new Stainless Steel plates.

I interviewed Andy Glaser extensively for his expertise as DoC's National Whio Manager. He suggests speaking with Tuhoe regarding their Te Kawa o Te Urewera or in English "Te Urewera Mainland Island Management Plan" and others.

Health Checks to assess the condition of our forests, tarns and tussock lands is yet to be undertaken to assess the state of our whenua, forest cover, seedling and sapling regeneration, snails, bees, bats, ruru, kereru, kaka, kahu, karearea, whio etc, many species of plants, snails and hopefully a lot more that alive within the tuku whenua. They are rare and endangered in Aotearoa & therefore globally.

The Track Network requires management to deter introduced ngangara to enter and proliferate in our delicate environment in harmony with diverse land-use options on our whenua tapu. Fencing off deer access to the top has yet to happen resulting in damage to ancient, sentinel trees on Aorangi.

Makirikiri Tarns & Tussock unique in the world!



Makirikiri Tarns & Tussock looking North to Mangaohane



Makirikiri David Steedman & Lewis Winiata



Makirikiri Tussock looking South

Northern Ruahine Whio Survey 2019

A whio survey showed an increase of fledgling and adults in the Mangatera, Apias and Ohuitu in February 2019. A forth consecutive year of surveys will be undertaken 2020.

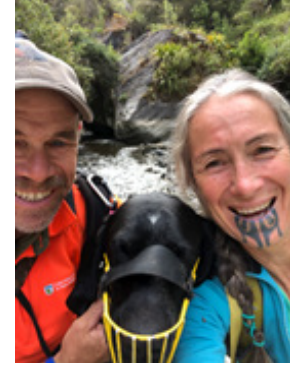
Northern Ruahine widescale trapping to 100% eliminate stoats and possums in that area with landowners on board, ideally transitioning from trapping being largely volunteer based to being funded and trap clearing being carried out by paid employees. Rough boundaries from Mokai Patea station area to Waipawa Saddle and north from there around 30,000 ha.



Whio dogs and their handlers waiting for pick up at Mokai Station.



The Waterfall blowout to the true right on the Mangatera in the extreme weather event / weather bomb June 2018



Andy Glaser, Beau & Jenny, dry up on The Waterfall

DIGIHUB STORAGE / PORTAL

Digital Audio-Visual Capture, Storage - work in progress to store all data, reports, minutes, maps, pictures, videos and interviews.

Data

- "Catch it" database design for holding data for trapping, by Rachel Fewster, University of Auckland. They / we could find a student.
- Remote sensing and remote viewing
- Digital monitoring using motion sensors
- Training / Succession planning in discussion with all portfolio holders. Includes **STUDENT Attendance at PLACE** 13-15th November in Rotorua.

Māori GIS Facebook Group via YouTube, Zoom, Google Hangouts, Facebook training every Monday night. Equipment that is affordable and compatible with our partners

Quite a few free courses, online, onsite and sometimes with charges through DoC (Weblinks)

COMMUNICATION

Has recently returned to the Administrator. We plan to improve our digital technology to efficiently interact store & retrieve communications and data across all portfolios.

Nā,

Jenny Mauger

People • Landscapes • Assets • Communication • Education

www.tekahuimanuhokai.org <https://www.tekahuimanuhokai.org/programme/>

Please advise if you or a mokopuna are interested

POHOKURA - RANGATAHI REPORT

Kia ora whanau,

It has been a privilege to be able to organise and to lead the "Aorangi Awarua Trust Rangatahi Portfolio".

We have had 2 major "Rangatahi Noho" on the whenua over the past 18 months, along with many day trips with Rangatahi.

All trips are held on the Narrows Block, Te Papa a Tari Nuku.

Our first noho was in July 2018 we had 37 attend, we have just had our second noho in September 2019 with 24 attendees. This was made up of parents, Kaumatua, Rangatahi, Gilberts Whanau (we have access through Gilberts Farm), Owners and Trustees.

The basic itinerary for our noho is:

- Meet at Gilbert's Farm, Pukeokahu
- Health and Safety Brief
- Wait for the helicopter – we are land locked and work with Mark Tillyard to fly Rangatahi into the Narrows. This is due to it being the safest way in and to dream build, you never know, one of our Rangatahi may choose to be a helicopter pilot.
- Karakia, morning tea
- Hikoi and wananga through bush (Identity, Wairua, Tinana, Hinegaro, Whakaro), naming and identifying our native trees (Rongoa) and native bird species, checking and setting our stoat traps (kaitiakitanga) pest control.
- Lunch
- Hikoi to the Narrows Awa, have a korero about the history of the area.
- Free time – swim in the awa, put up tents, help with prepping for dinner, hut maintenance
- Dinner
- Korero about our day, look and study the Matariki

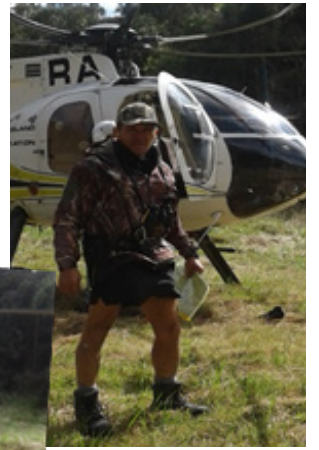
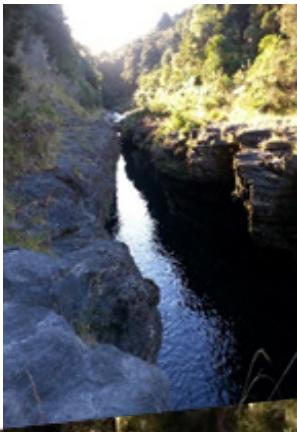
We were able to secure funding for 20 stoat line traps. These are situated at the Narrows, and are placed strategically along the ridge line of the Narrows awa. We have been very successful in catching stoats, rats, hedgehogs and weasels. With the great work done by the Rangatahi, Pest Management Team, and River Valley we have seen our native Whio (Blue Duck) return to the Narrows Awa. Six were sighted last season, we are going to apply for more funding to purchase 20 possum traps to compliment the stoat line.

Our Goals:

- Look at options for a sustainable way to access the Narrows.
- Have noho scheduled in each school holidays, along with our day trip.
- Place some Honey Hives at the Narrows, for the Rangatahi.
- Explore Economic Development for Rangatahi.
- Purchase possum traps and extend stoat line – Kaitiakitanga.
- Track maintenance, wild pig and deer eradication (hunt and gather kai).
- For further information check out our Rangatahi page on
- <https://www.facebook.com/Pohokura-Rangatahi-Noho-Aorangi-Awarua>

Steven Stoney – Rangatahi Noho

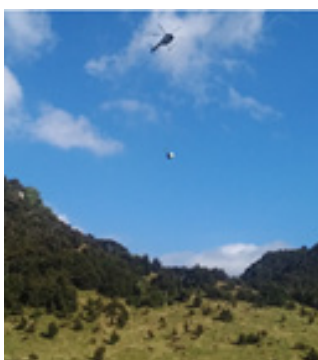




Hapaitia te ara tika pumau ai te
rangatiratanga mo nga uri whakatipu.
Foster the pathway
of knowledge to strength, independence
and growth for future generations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

MIERE - MANUKA HONEY



Summary Table of Yearly Manuka Honey Harvests:

Year	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
Number Hives	40	148	240	240
Gross Kg	604.85	4,043	4,536	4,613.5
Kg Honey per hive	15.1	27.3	18.9	19.2
average \$/kg	29	38/42	36/40	74.45
Average UMF/NPA	6/7	10-11	10	15
Net income	\$3,508	\$32,135	\$33,355	\$66,602

UMF/NPA is the measurement of manuka quality.

Previous climate conditions made manuka harvesting challenging affecting the flowering and harvesting of nectar by the bees. This led to Beekeepers adapting methods to improve harvesting results by targeting higher UMF/NPA through the closer monitoring of hives and using specially bred bee's hence the improved outcome for the 18/19 season.

This coming season the Trust is expanding the number of hives from 240 hives to 400 hives. Test hives will be flown onto the Awarua o Hinemanu Block at Rockslide and Mistake Bivy to assess its commercial potential.

Lewis Winiata



Omahu Marae



Winiata Marae

RECREATION HUNTING

To introduce myself I am Peter Steedman and my Portfolio on this Trust is to promote and administer all the hunting on the three land blocks now under the administration of the Aorangi Awarua Trust. These are Aorangi - 391 hectares, Awarua 1DB2 - 4751 hectares and Hinemanu o Awarua - 2561 hectares.

In 2008 The Trustees of Aorangi Awarua Trust introduced recreation hunting to generate an additional income stream. I take all inquiries and bookings and issue the permits, Health & Safety documents and arrange the helicopter flights into and out of the particular hunting zones at \$1750 per hour. Most trips average 45-60 minutes in and out, the Hinemanu block approximately 90mins.

Records are kept of all transactions with banking and relevant details submitted and recorded regularly at our Trustee hui every 2 months.

Maintenance and accommodation

Trustee Steven Stoney and others (whanau) assist in the regular maintenance of the six hunting cabins which are basic but comfortable. A cabin consists of 4/6 bunks, a wood fire box for heating and cooking plus all the necessary utensils for cooking, eating and large meat safes are provided.

The cost to the public to utilise these facilities is \$100 per person per night, eg 4 clients for 4 nights = \$1,600 incl GST.

Access to these facilities is free to Owners, beneficiaries, school age children, and Kaumatua, however access to these areas is entirely responsibility of users. It is noted however that the Trust Policy on hunting for owners of

this category does not include the months of the roar 5/6 weeks around March/April and some popular public holidays.

The annual income from hunting is recorded in the annual accounts which rose from approximately \$35,000 in 2017-18 to \$40,000 in 2018-2019.

Access and tracking

As most of you know these lands are landlocked, that means there is no legal access, to get access for Trustee driven projects it is necessary to get permission from the adjoining land owners. Where this is not possible it is necessary to use a helicopter as there is limited internal track/road.

Last year the trust authorised the upgrading of 11km of the 60 year old tracks within the Aorangi blocks to allow 4x4 side x side ATV safer access which will be a great asset for future use, there is possibly a further 11 km could be done this coming summer if the Trust and conservation department approve.

With the Trust moving into the future of Carbon Farming it is an important part of the necessary infrastructure.

Logistics

I assist in the logistics of the potential Carbon Farming Programme with David and also assist the Chairman Lewis with the logistics of the placement of bee hives on Aorangi Awarua Trust lands.

Peter Steedman – Recreation Hunting



EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

Due Diligence

The Trust began looking into the opportunities that exist on Aorangi Awarua Trust Lands if we were to develop positive carbon activities and what benefits would be returned commercially in the Emissions Trading Scheme.

From March 2019 through to August we explored and engaged in meetings, consultation seminars facilitated by Te Puni Kokiri, Ministry of Primary Industries as well as successful Māori business leaders where there was detailed discussion regarding land diversification and land suitability and what steps would need to be taken to advance.

The NZ government is committed to its national and international climate change responsibilities to reduce its carbon emissions in line with the Paris Agreement 2050. This also compliments their environmental and conservation obligations that lead to more environmentally friendly land use which has opened up other economic development opportunities.

Maori landowners are now in a unique position with both the government and corporate emitters (polluters) as planting trees to produce carbon can now be registered with the government to offset emissions via the Emissions Trading Scheme.

Māori as the indigenous peoples of Aotearoa have practiced environmental sustainable concepts for many years (kaitiakitanga). With so many environmental problems now becoming major issues Māori are finally being recognised and consulted, although there is still much work to be done to ensure the crowns obligations to fully align these concepts with Te Tiriti O Waitangi.

After various economic development reports being submitted back to the Trust and six month due diligence period the decision was made based on the recommendations of the Team Leader to engage with the Māori Carbon Collective.

MAORI CARBON COLLECTIVE

The Māori Carbon Collective (MCC) is chaired by Sir Mark Solomon who leads the board of directors which include Hone Harawira, Hon. Murray McCully, Michelle Boag and Maru Nihoniho.

Core Objectives

MCC core objective is to grow intergenerational value by providing returns to landowners, delivering an asset to the landowner with significant long term value. They do this by planting trees to sequester carbon credits, creating jobs and investing and improving wellbeing in Regional New Zealand.

How it works

The establishment of the Māori Carbon Collective provides new options for owners of rural, marginal and erosion prone land throughout New Zealand to achieve long term returns from participating in the carbon mitigation economy. The establishment of the Māori Carbon Collective is a significant step in achieving the Government's objective of planting one billion trees to help meet New Zealand's emission reduction targets.

MCC offers carbon planting solutions to all landowners, and are particularly excited about the economic and social benefits that are offered to Maori landowners from participating in the MCC planting programme.

MCC meets individually with landowners to discuss their



land holdings, talk about how much of those holdings are likely to be eligible for planting under the ETS and put a tailored programme in place to plant fast growing trees to generate carbon credits which are shared with the landowner on a 50/50 profit share basis.

The landowner does not have to meet the costs of planting, but must agree to look after the land and not use it for any purpose that would detract from the tree growth.

AAT & MCC Partnership Opportunities

- Training & employment both fulltime & part time
- The chance to lead local/regional carbon initiatives, biodiversity & environmental protection
- National & international exposure as indigenous carbon & environmental leaders
- Opportunities to develop other land diversification possibilities to create more options for whanau to reconnect back to the whenua
- Whenua infrastructure improvements to incorporate the necessary health & safety requirements
- Improved track maintenance & onsite base capable of providing for various operations including training, equipment storage & shelter, cooking & sleeping facilities
- Quality controlled access & communications to ensure health & safety requirements are met
- Create programs & wananga to incorporate tamariki, rangatahi, pakeke & kaumatua to practice customary roles by participation in activities aimed at reconnecting owners & beneficiaries back to the whenua.
- Access to prominent networks with the required expertise ranging from carbon through to conservation, commercial business operations to data/analysts & scientific expertise.

Trust Portfolio Participation

Current trust portfolios can be incorporated & developed into carbon planting activities throughout various stages of the project.

Pest control, conservation & land management are seen as vital elements regarding planting & the survival of those plants, which means training programmes need to be initiated to upskill trustees & any owners/beneficiaries prepared to engage in employment opportunities

Rangatahi programmes are currently operational with future opportunities to extend & engage pakeke & kaumatua as an onsite facility will allow other possibilities to prosper.

Our current Manuka Honey operations can be expanded with Manuka Oil extraction becoming a productive market worth looking into.

The Process

Since August 19 there have been a number of meetings that have taken place between AAT & MCC. This has included MCC Director Hone Harawira and the Chair Sir Mark Solomon visiting Taihape on multiple occasions committed to building a relationship and understanding the aspirations of land owners.

Together Aorangi Awarua Trust lands has been assessed to confirm eligibility for carbon planting and was visited by a land assessment team to start marking our plan to develop carbon solutions commencing as early as 2020 next year.

The benefits will be considerable and have a significant impact on our whanau and wider community.

David Steedman
Project Leader

