Editorial

Over the last two months Ngati Porou has celebrated a number of historic events. The first was the Transit of Venus witnessed by thousands who gathered at the Tolaga Bay wharf to watch the planet Venus move between Earth and the Sun, something it does once every 105 years or so. It was a great celebration for hosts Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti who also re-dedicated the recently refurbished Tolaga Bay wharf and everyone who attended the organised events. We are also one step closer to building a memorial to our C Company papa after securing resource consent from the Gisborne District Council for a House to be built on Kelvin Park which will store taonga gathered by the Nga Taonga o Nga Tamatoa Trust. We have a look at some of our international connections - Ngati Porou Hauora’s by local GP, Dr Helen Gardyne talks about her work in Africa and Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou has a visiting Masters student from Hawaii studying the Ngati Porou Social Worker in Schools project. She might catch some of the preparations for the Te Rangitawaea Festival. This year’s theme is ‘A Tatou Korero – Our Stories, Our Voices’ and entries close at the end of the month. We get an update on what’s happening in the fisheries arena including a new CE for Aotearoa Fisheries Ltd and the recent Aquaculture conference held in Melbourne. It’s been another bumper season for Pakihiroa Farms Ltd. Luke Scragg and his team must be playing Barry White songs to the ewes and rams because their lambing percentage is up to 135%! Pakihiroa was a finalist in the 2011 Ahuwhenua Awards, a farming competition set up by Sir Apirana Ngata in 1932 to promote and celebrate excellence in Maori farming. Radio Ngati Porou has just produced a three-part half hour series profiling the three finalists in this year’s Ahuwhenua Dairy Farming competition for Maori Television. Sir Apirana Ngata was the ‘father’ of the Maori Battalion and ‘architect’ of the Ahuwhenua competition – fitting then that his legacy lives on, in terms of a building which will ensure we never forget the price of citizenship paid by every C Coy soldier who fought and died for us; and the fact that organisations like Pakihiroa and the Ahuwhenua finalists for 2012 are working their whanau land productively and profitably! Grab a coffee, park up in front of the fire and enjoy this issue of Nga Kohinga.

Erana Keelan-Reedy
The sun shone brightly in Uawa, as if Tamanui Te Ra knew the disappointment a ‘no show’ might create. As the national observation centre for the 2012 Transit of Venus on 6 June, Te Aitanga a Hauiti and the Tolaga Bay community showcased a programme of its achievements, milestones, and aspirations.

Representatives of the science and business communities, parliamentarians, media, and guests from around the country and overseas converged on Uawa to witness Venus, the little sister Kopu, pass across the face of the Sun. Together with the hau kainga, around 1000 people participated in a programme which included a rededication of the Tolaga Bay wharf, launch of the Uawa Sustainability Project, a special dramatic performance, and photo exhibition.

The day’s programme preceded a two-day national science forum in Gisborne.

“The forum discussed the late Professor Sir Paul Callaghan’s vision of making New Zealand ‘a place where talent wants to live’,” said Tolaga Bay Transit of Venus steering group co-chair Dr Wayne Ngata. “The late Dr Paratene Ngata also shared that vision. He said Tolaga Bay’s greatest export is its minds – he was speaking of our young people and he wanted them to have opportunities here at home in Uawa. We wanted everyone to see what Te Aitanga a Hauiti and Tolaga Bay are doing to achieve that, and share our unique perspective for community development.”

Te Aitanga a Hauiti and the Uawa community were involved with the Royal Society of New Zealand at the first transit of this pair in 2004. For the past two years, Tolaga Bay Area School’s curriculum has been based around the Transit of Venus.

A steering group from Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti and the Uawa community have been working with a core group of distinguished individuals from the MacDiarmid Institute and Victoria University of Wellington.
Kene Ariki views the Transit of Venus through another telescope set up at Tolaga Bay Area School and Kuranui.

(The Late Professor Sir Paul Callaghan, Professor Bill Manhire, Professor Lydia Wevers) and Dr Di McCarthy, Chief Executive of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

The steering group were guided by a simple message ‘Dual Heritage – Shared Future’, and were inspired by that first positive encounter at Cooks Cove-Opoutama between Maori and Pakeha, when Te Ara o Kopu also formed the backdrop. The steering group established a programme and developed science and technology, education, employment, and environmental initiatives.

“Good relationships were imperative to the exchange of information and knowledge, and technological advancement,” said Tolaga Bay Transit of Venus Project Manager Kelly Blackman. “That message is just as relevant today as it was in 1769. Relationships enabled us to send our rangatahi to Tahiti and England on education exchanges, create a sustainability plan for the Uawa River catchment, share traditional knowledge, host a science wananga, and bring home Hinematioro’s pou on loan from Auckland Museum to be centre piece of an art exhibition.”

Dr Ngata said Te Aitanga a Hauiti are developing a unique model of acknowledging a dual heritage and developing a future of shared resource, knowledge and opportunity.

“The Transit of Venus was a heavenly tohu for Te Aitanga a Hauiti,” said Dr Ngata. “That her last appearance in our timeline is parallel with the meeting of two distinct cultures, and here she is again when we’re turning another corner – it’s serendipitous.”

Our unique model of acknowledging our dual heritage and building on it to develop a shared future is something we want to focus on for the long term benefit of our community.”

ToV 2004 students: L-R (seated) Puawai Ngata-Gibson, Hana Parata-Walker, Sara Pethybridge and Rawinia Tuapawa enjoy the days events alongside Royal NZ Navy personnel, Matthew Turner (ToV 2011), Cynthia Sidney and Mihi Kutia standing behind them.

Photos courtesy of Tolaga Bay Area School & Kuranui.
Indigenous Experience for Visiting Social Work Student

A visiting international academic has swapped the balmy shores of Honolulu for the opportunity to work with the Social Worker in Schools kaimahi from Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou. Enjoli Alexander is undertaking the practical component of her Masters in International Social Work studies on the East Coast, and will also engage with students from Ruatoria, Matakaoa and Kaiti. Enjoli is looking forward to learning about how her Ngati Porou colleagues go about their mahi over a ten week period. She will be based mainly in Ruatoria, and so far she has already observed some cultural differences.

Aloha, and Osiyo!

“I was brought up in urban environments, where you don’t really get to know people in your community. But here I find everyone is quite close knit, and that’s a good thing for young people because they have an inbuilt support system in place to help them.”

My name is Enjoli, which is American Creole French for “pretty angel.” I am originally from Anchorage, Alaska – the fourth generation of my mother’s family to live there. We are from the Southeast Tribes of North America, the Western Tribes of Africa, Ireland, and France. Mattie Gibson of Oklahoma is my great-great grandmother; Vera Angles of Louisiana is my great grandmother; Geneva Henderson of Texas is my grandmother; and Teresa Hemphill of Alaska is my mother. At age 25, I am the eldest of five children.

I spent my teenage years living near Washington, DC before moving to Los Angeles at age 18 to study at the University of Southern California. I was the third person in my family to attend university, but the first one to leave home to attend. Although I lived in Hollywood, I remained focused on my studies in International and American Indigenous Politics. I also volunteered in my community, working with Spanish-speaking immigrants and high school students from Los Angeles’ tougher neighborhoods. After I earned two Bachelors Degrees, I moved to Honolulu, Hawai’i to work with Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) and Pasifika youths and families.

My volunteerism revealed to me how much helping other people makes me happy. So, I decided to return to university and am now earning my Masters Degree from the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, at the University of Hawai’i at Manoa. I am a student of Dr. Peter Mataira, of Ruatoria, and he was kind enough to coordinate me coming to his hometown to complete my course practicum with Social Workers in Schools during my summer session. This is my second time visiting Aotearoa (the first time was on exchange at the University of Otago).

My social work practice will focus on indigenous communities and the African Diaspora that lives in the United States as a result of the Slave Trade. I aim to help African- and Native Americans reconnect with our traditional ways of living, so we can reclaim our spiritual strengths and create healthier relationships with each other, our Lands, and ourselves. I also aim to empower youths - to guide them in nurturing the gifts, talents, and dreams they have as individuals, so that they can create positive changes in their world. Later in life, I hope to earn my Doctoral Degree in Law and to go into international politics. My dream is to help create a worldwide network in which indigenous youths can share ideas and support each other.

I enjoy running, dancing, bodysurfing, hiking, and vegetarian cooking. I also enjoy poetry slamming, painting, photography, and listening to elders tell stories. My other passion is Hip Hop Culture. Hip Hop was born in New York City in the 1980’s as part of Black American politics, giving African Americans a space to reclaim “Blackness” as something good, beautiful, and powerful. Black Pride became a way to keep drug abuse, family violence, and gang violence out of African American communities, and Hip Hop Culture was part of that positive change. Real Hip Hop (not that rubbish on TV!) has since then grown to become a tool of empowerment for oppressed peoples across the world – it includes visual art, dance, music, storytelling, history, and politics.

Mahalo nui loa to everyone I have already met in Ruatoria and Gisborne who has made me feel welcome. I love learning about people and sharing stories, so please feel free to come up to me and have a chat if you see me around town. Aloha!
This year’s Te Rangitawaea festival encourages rangatahi to reflect upon the theme, “A Tatou Korero- Our Stories, Our Voices”, and transform their understanding of this kaupapa into a range of digital media. The annual event, which celebrates the ICT (Information Communication Technology) achievements of Ngati Porou/East Coast students, will be held on Wednesday 26 September in Ruatoria. However the close off for entries is Friday 27th July, at the beginning of Term Three. The winners will be announced at the Nati Awards, the evening ceremonial component of the event.

Robotics will again be a part of the ICT Team Challenge, which will be held during the daytime section of the festival. To help students prepare for the challenge a series of three robotics workshops were held in June at Hiruharama kura, TKKM o Kawakawa Mai Tawhiti and Tolaga Bay Area School. Remo Williams, Zane Ashby, and Julia Williams from CodeShack Ltd delivered the workshops and encouraged rangatahi to program their robotic models to perform a range of actions.

While last year’s robotics challenge was on simulated Martian terrain, Remo and his colleagues have not yet revealed what the 2012 challenge might be. Until then the crew from CodeShack encourages all rangatahi to practice as much as they can with their robots until then. Remo’s advice is, “Try new robot configurations, new arms to pick up objects, different sensors, different programmes, even try following lines on a track…. just get in there and have some fun!”

Following on from the success of the “Ahi Kaa: Through Our Eyes” digital photography exhibition in 2010 & 2011, another showcase of Ngati Porou/East Coast secondary students’ images is planned. Brennan Thomas, from Strike Photography is helping to co-ordinate the exhibition, and conducted workshops last month with rangatahi from kura taking part in the exhibition. The kaupapa for this year’s exhibition is also “ A Tatou Korero- Our Stories, Our Voices”, and the official opening will be held at Toihoukura in Gisborne at the beginning of August.

For more information about the festival go to www.terangitawaea.com

Or contact Leeanne Morice at E Tipu E Rea, Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou.

06 8649 004 or lmorice@tronp.org.nz
Nati Award categories:
- Documentary
- Short Film
- Advertisement
- Music Video
- Graphic Animation
- Stop Motion/Clay Animation
- Original Music Composition
- Radio Jingle
- Radio Documentary
- Graphic Design Poster
- Digital Photo

Pipi Nati categories
- Pipi Slideshow
- Pipi Advertisement
- Pipi Photo
- Pipi Animation

A Tatou Korero Exhibition categories (Year 9-13)
- Colour
- Black & White/Sepia
- Digitally Enhanced or Manipulated
- Series of 3

Close off date for Nati Award entries is Friday 27 July
Pakihiroa Farms Limited (PFL) has purchased Makarika Station. Chair of Pakihiroa Farms Ltd Selwyn Parata confirmed the purchase of the 1400 hectare property which will complement its existing farming businesses, Pakihiroa and Puanga.

“The purchase marks the return of yet another iconic East Coast property to Ngati Porou ownership after 130 years of being owned and managed by the Williams and Cotterell families and latterly by Susie Percy and Fritz Oosten,” said Mr Parata.

Makarika will improve PFL’s capacity to breed and finish stock. This is an important step for the company as the PFL Group prepares to sell directly to consumers, an initiative already working for the Ngati Porou Seafoods Group which runs a truck up the East Coast selling fresh fish to Ngati Porou.

The purchase increases the farming capacity of PFL to almost 3000 hectares and around 8000 breeding ewes and about 1000 cows. The Group expects to finish about 20,000 lambs and around 1000 cattle.

Makarika will be managed by Luke Scragg with staff working between Makarika and Pakihiroa as needed. Makarika is to have about 150 ha of lucerne established during the next three years as the Group looks to ‘drought-proof’ its ability to finish stock, said Farm Supervisor Hilton Collier.

“Focussing on a consistent supply of feed enables us to control the supply chain and ultimately ensure our stock are in good nick when they’re sold so we get maximum prices,” said Hilton.

2012 Another great year for Pakihiroa Farms Ltd.

Last year was a great year for Pakihiroa Farms Limited (PFL) but this year holds even more promise according to Farm Supervisor Hilton Collier.

A finalist in the 2011 Ahuwhenua competition, its strong productivity, low cost production systems, good profitability, solid strategic and business plans, responsible environmental kaitiekitanga and regard for tikanga Maori were some of the aspects of PFL's operation that impressed the Ahuwhenua Judges.

“This year the PFL group has been determined to build on those strengths. Lambing percentages have continued to climb. This year’s result of 135% has surpassed last year’s record high of 124%,” said Mr Collier.

“The result is directly linked to Pakihiroa’s sheep breeding programme, which has seen the bedding in of high fertility genetics coupled with an excellent level of management by the Groups farm managers, Luke Scragg (Pakihiroa) and Wayne Akuhata-Brown (Puanga),” he said.

A total of 7730 lambs were bred on the two farms. Of that, 6,814 lambs were born to the 5059 ewes on Pakihiroa Station. Another 916 lambs were born from 1017 in-lamb ewe hoggets. While these ewe lambs were mated at Pakihiroa they were trucked to Puanga near Gisborne from July and returned to Pakihiroa the following February as 2-tooth ewes.
"Mating ewe lambs is only possible as a result of the way they are grown out as ewe lambs. To be mated, ewe lambs must achieve a minimum liveweight of 40kg by May 1. In three years the Group has moved from mating no ewe lambs to mating about 1000 per annum. This increase means an extra 2000 lambs each fetching about $98 per head which translates into $200,000 in revenue for the Group. This measure is hugely important to us as if the price for lamb drops, we still have 2000 lambs more to sell than we did four years ago,” said Mr Collier.

And despite the significant increase in the number of lambs born, the average lamb sale weight of 34kgs remains.

Cattle trading conditions for the Group have been more challenging Mr Collier said. PFL has countered the pressure of strong store prices by focussing on growing cattle faster. Steers at 20 months of age this year weighed in at 500kgs.

“This is almost 100kgs liveweight up on 2011 steers, a tribute to the work put in by manager Wayne Akuhata-Brown, and his Supervisor Stephen Thomson at Puanga,” Mr Collier said.

Additional income has also been brought to the business this year from the sale of timber. Encouraged by strong log prices, a 6 hectare stand of Pinus Radiata was logged at the group’s finishing farm Puanga. Almost 4,200 tonnes of high-quality saw log grade timber was trucked out.

“These factors will ensure the Group achieves another solid result for this financial year. In the longer term PFL is working to differentiate its farm production to take advantage of niche market opportunities and the changing expectations of its customers,” he said.

Recent projects include the sale of lamb’s wool to a company that manufactures felt for tennis balls. The global market for tennis balls is about 300 million, with each ball containing a handful of lamb’s wool. Another European manufacturer Klippan, contracts the purchase of wool from Pakihroa as the primary ingredient in its boutique blankets, each blanket requires about 3kg of wool and the blankets sell for about $NZ300

“The group is working hard to position itself as an anchor for these and other similar market opportunities. Whilst the premiums being achieved are modest the parties are working together to try and achieve a long term commercial relationship,” Mr Collier said.

He recently travelled to China to look at opportunities for the Group to sell product into that growing economy.

“There was a lot of Chinese interest in buying New Zealand product but there are some challenges in terms of the specification of product they want. Where we think of roast mutton and chops the Chinese prefer brisket pieces, and other cuts suitable for cooking in hot pots, a type of boil up. The distribution of product and cool chain management is not well understood in that country. At PFL we have demonstrated we can produce and perform very well, we just need to achieve a higher level of pricing. Mainstream supply and value chains will not do this for us,” he said.
Ahuwhenua – BNZ Maori Excellence in Dairy Farming 2012 is a three-part half hour series produced by Radio Ngati Porou for Maori Television which showcases the top three Maori dairy farms in the Ahuwhenua Trophy competition for 2012, Kapenga M Trust from Rotorua, Tauhara Moana Trust from Taupo and the Waewaetutuki 10 Wharepi Whanau Trust from Paengaroa.

The Ahuwhenua Trophy competition was the brainchild of Sir Apirana Ngata, who in 1933 with the support of the then Governor General, Lord Bledisloe, set up the competition which was aimed at lifting the proficiency and skill level of Maori in farming. Ahuwhenua remains the longest running and most stringently judged farming competition in New Zealand despite a short break in the 1980s. The sheep and beef competition is now run on alternate years with the dairy competition.

Producer of Ahuwhenua – BNZ Maori Excellence in Dairy Farming 2012 Erana Keelan-Reedy says ensuring excellence in the way we use our land is what underpins the competition.

“That’s what was so exciting about filming this series. There is learning in it for every Maori landowner. As someone with interests in two freehold sheep and beef farms which are currently being leased out to people who don’t whakapapa to the land, I’m inspired in to talking to my whanau about how we can take back those leases and farm the land ourselves. If Ahuwhenua inspires me, I’m sure it will inspire every other Maori with land interests,” she said.

A veteran Maori broadcaster and Maori language television programme maker, Erana has been managing Radio Ngati Porou since 2009. She was approached by the Ahuwhenua Committee last year to work on a television series.

The three part half hour series is a collaboration between Radio Ngati Porou and the Ahuwhenua Committee, who provided nearly 50% of the budget.

“I grew up on a dairy farm so the opportunity to abandon my office and get out and about on the land was too good to throw up. Though it’s been pretty full on for two months, I’ve really enjoyed the journey and I’m pretty sure it hasn’t ended here.”

The series takes the viewer on to the land and in to the cowsheds of Kapenga M, Tauhara Moana and Waewaetutuki 10 to look at how the farm operates from the governance level through to the farming operations. The viewer learns about the history of the land and the farms and what the
board, share or contract milkers, farm supervisors and workers have done to lift productivity and profitability.

“While the farms vary in size and capacity the stories are pretty similar. Owners have taken back control of their whenua, got the right expertise in place and turned those farms around positively. They are great success stories from a whanau perspective and share holders and owners are receiving benefits from the farms. From a local perspective, there are farms like Tauhara Moana which is part of a collective of other Maori farms in the CNI district who work together to use economies of scale to bulk purchase supplies and services. From a national perspective, these farms are not only contributing to the Maori economic base which is currently valued at $37billion but on a wider scale, to New Zealand’s economy.”

Kapenga M Trust in Rotorua not only runs a successful 334ha dairy farm, it’s beef and sheep farm

been really exciting to learn about how well each of these farms is doing,” she said.

Tauhara Moana Trust in Taupo is the largest of the three finalist farms for 2012. The trust has a total of 853hectares, 690hectares of which is the dairy unit. Nestled at the foot of Tauhara mountain, the Tauhara Moana dairy unit runs 1600 cows. The land covers two geothermal fields, including a sulphuric acid lake. Developing the geothermal fields to generate power and mining sulphur from the lake are future developmental objectives. Tauhara Moana supplies its milk to the newly established Miraka Ltd, a milk processing plant in Mokai, in which it has a small shareholding.

“Now Tauhara Moana is doing some exciting things. The farm was previously leased to Allan Crayfar of Plateau Farms which went in to receivership in 2009. The Trust took control of the farm back then and there’s been no looking back since. The Miraka factory is a great development. It’s 80% Maori owned and farms like Tauhara are now part of the value chain, receiving payment for their milk and also their shareholdings”.

Erana Keelan-Reedy says it’s one of the most exciting developments in Maori agribusiness to date.

“Back in the late 20’s as a result of Sir Apirana’s land consolidation and development schemes there were a number of Maori owned and operated dairy factories around the place.
Maori were in to dairy farming big time. The Ngati Porou dairy factory at its peak had 377 suppliers, so that’s 377 Ngati Porou whanau who were earning a decent living from the land. Now given many of our iwi are in post Treaty settlement phase – that’s just got to be an incentive for investment in our tribal lands and our people development”.

The last and the smallest of the three farms is Waewaetutuki 10 Wharepi Whanau Trust from Paengaroa. With 59 shareholders and a 70hectare block of low lying flat land, the trust has also surpassed industry benchmarks. Last year they produced 55000kgs of milk solids and are on target to achieving 72000kgs. The BOP benchmark is 53,000kgs.

“So Waewaetutuki are pumping. They are still paying off a loan with which they rebuilt their cowshed and improved some of their infrastructure, but this is just a small trust that’s been plodding away quietly. The trustees have reinvested their profits in to the farm and they have started talking with their wider whanau who have shares in adjacent blocks about working together in the future. There’s a Ngati Porou connection here too because the Chairman of the Trust Rehua Smallman is a nephew of Uncle Prince Ferris.”

Field Days are held on each farm to enable the Judges and interested people to learn about the farm and its operations and that includes a tour. The Judges spend half a day with the Board, Farm Supervisors and milkers and at the Field Day. This culminates in a glitzy, glamorous Awards evening where the Ahuwhenua Winner is announced.

“It was quite amazing to see the transformation of these farm people from gumboots and oilskins, to tuxedos and ball gowns. It was like the Oscars but better because you know that the final winner is going to be Maori!”

This year’s Ahuwhenua Awards included a new award – the Ahuwhenua Young Maori Cadet award sponsored by Te Punu Kokiri, AGITO, Allflex and the Maori Trustee.

“Succession planning and sustainability are real issues for every farm and the Ahuwhenua committee have gone one step further towards encouraging the development of Maori skills and expertise in the industry by starting this award”.

The award comes with an AGITO scholarship valued at $1,500, $3,000 cash and a trophy. There were 19 entrants this year, three finalists and the winner Tangaroa Walker from Ngati Pukenga.

“Who knows? One day Tangaroa could be running the Waewaetutuki farm. That was a dream of each Trust, that one day their land would be managed by their own. And that’s something we all should be thinking about and encouraging our young people to do – go and learn how to be farmers.”

Kapenga M Trust won the Ahuwhenua – BNZ Excellence in Maori Dairy Farming Award for 2012.

“Tuhourangi now have the Dairy Trophy to set alongside the Sheep and Beef Trophy on the hapu mantelpiece. But for me, all three farms are winners”.

The first episode of Ahuwhenua – BNZ Maori Excellence in Dairy Farming 2012 featuring the winner, Kapenga M Trust, airs on Maori Television on 16 September 2012.
Agnes Walker

Prior to joining the team at Ngati Porou Hauora as Clerical Team Leader Administration I worked for a couple of years as the Nga Hapu o Ngati Porou (NHONP) Foreshore & Seabed Project Manager. This involved working with hapu to establish Takutai Kaitiaki Trusts, Customary Fisheries Management Committees and develop Draft Customary Fisheries Management plans under the NHONP Foreshore and Seabed Deed of Agreement.

I was born at Waipiro Bay and spent my childhood in Mangaoporo and Whareponga. Attended Ngata College and needless to say they were turbulent and challenging years for an individual like myself who had the misfortune to possess the ability and desire to always have an opinion no matter how ill informed it may have been at times.

It was the norm at that time to leave home in order to gain employment; I was fortunate as the Maori pre-employment and trade training schemes were still in existence. I went to Wellington and spent the next 18 years in the Public Service, with the New Zealand Treasury, State Services Commission, Police Headquarters, and returned to Gisborne to the Department of Labour and finished my public service career with the Education & Training Support Agency.

This led me home to Ruatoria as owner and co-manager of the Sunrise Superette Ruatoria for a few years. I was a Tutor with Mangahanea Trust, and from there joined the Runanga and held a number of roles including, Coordinator East Coast Safer Community Council, Strengthening Families Coordinator, Whanau Hapu Development Manager, Administration Manager, and Human Resource Manager.

I spent a year as a Health & Disability Advocate with a Rotorua based company.

Being a typical Ngati, rugby has played a major part in my life, as a result of supporting Hikurangi I spent time on the East Coast Rugby Union Executive which led to a couple of years as the Chief Executive Officer of the Union.

One of the joys of living at home has been the ability to participate at many levels from whanau trusts, marae, hapu and at an Iwi level, as well as make a contribution to community. I’m presently a Member of the Tairawhiti Distribution Committee for the Tyndall Foundation a Volunteer on the Waiapu Civil Defence Headquarters and a member on the 28 Battalion Ngarimu VC Scholarship Board.

The last three years have been an exciting and challenging journey in that I finally went back to school as an adult student after my traumatic and challenging years at secondary school. I completed a Certificate in Customary Fisheries Management with Te Wananga o Awanuiorangi and a Bachelor Degree in Iwi Environmental Management with Te Wananga O Aotearoa.

I live in Ruatoria with my partner and mokopuna who attends Managahanea Kohanga Reo, my son Isaac and his family live in Western Australia like many of the Ngati’s of today who no longer go to Wellington or Auckland to work.

I believe the cornerstones of our development are about engaging the whanau at all levels, education and matauranga been affordable accessible and relevant, creating wealth and looking after the people and the environment.

I’m excited about my new role and consider myself fortunate to be part of a key team of frontline workers throughout the Ngati Porou East Coast Community Health Centres, as receptionists they not only represent the face of the organisation they are an essential cog in the wheel of achieving the Hauora vision of Nati Healthy, Wealthy and Wise.
Helen Gardyne, stalwart and intrepid doctor who has been with NPH for three years, continues to be involved with villagers in Africa when she is not here on the East Coast and returned from a visit in early April this year.

In 1986 Helen first went to visit a friend in Uganda who had trained as an Anglican Minister. Idi Amin’s reign of terror had been over for six months and she happened to arrive at the airport at the same time as Colonel Gaddafi. There were cannons and outbreaks of fighting with gun-toting 10 year olds inspecting luggage as well as shooting. At the sound of gunfire you lay on the floor and if it was at night and you had lights, these were quickly extinguished.

On her second day there Helen walked up through the slums of Kalerwe (population 100,000 adults) on the way to the hospital. The death rate for children at the time was 50% of those under 2 years died, and of that number half died from diarrhoea and others from pneumonia, malaria, and other illnesses. The slums were absolutely silent, children were present but not playing or making a noise - just quietly sitting as they did not have any energy and most were malnourished. Many fathers had been killed and if you heard a child cough, you knew that they would not be alive in a few days time. There were no schools for the children and water was a huge problem. To get one jerry can of water meant a long walk and a 4 hour queue for a family to get their one jerry can ration which had to do for cooking and drinking. There was none to spare for washing which meant that everyone was in rags and a filthy state with disease rampant. On that second day at the hospital Helen was alerted to a problem as a nurse ran out of the clinic room. She found a small baby that was unresponsive and not breathing so gave resuscitation and fed her some water and sugar and until the second day as no milk formula was available. However, the mother recovered sufficiently to feed her own baby, and now that baby is a trained nurse working at the hospital.

The World Health Organisation was upgrading the water supply from Lake Victoria and Helen noticed this happening up on the hill. That got Helen thinking about what she could do. In 1991 Bishop Ted Buckle of Auckland rang Helen to see what he could do and so a Clean Water Easter Appeal was launched to raise funds. Helen’s Ugandan friend Grace Kaiso had also undertaken a Community Development course through Auckland University when he was here and so had knowledge about getting a community working together and making decisions. Enough money was raised to start a water project and the community made all the decisions such as where the trenches
would be built for the pipes, whose land would it cross, where the stand pipes would be and the charge for using the water etc. Grace got the whole community involved and one year later they dug the trenches and put in four standpipes with taps attached. That meant four pipes for a population of 100 thousand plus, but it was a huge improvement on the previous arrangement.

By 1998 the number of taps had grown to 150 stand pipes. This time when Helen went to visit the slums rang with the laughter of children, kids were playing, there were schools, and the children even had uniforms, the momentum was huge. Markets had sprung up, there were two medical clinics, vegetable markets competed with those in Kampala - she noticed a Dry Cleaning sign with a man washing laundry in a basin underneath, there was activity all around and there was hope in the eyes of the people. Transport had improved as two roads had been put through the slums and that meant produce could get in, even motorbikes - a spectacular change. She asked the clinic medics about the death rate of those before two years - none from diarrhoea they reported and looked askance at her for asking such a question. Grandmothers proudly showed her how many mokopuna they now had as children were able to survive past two years of age.

Another project Helen is still involved with is the planting of trees. Mostly fruit trees, so that can help with getting vitamins and nourishment for the rural population who are hard pressed to find enough food in the dry season. The project is called The Kiwi Tree Nursery and is also part of a New Zealand Government grant initiative operating out of Namugongo. One of their nursery customers now has a plantation of 25,000 eucalyptus trees where three local villages provide labour for establishment, grow some of their crops under the young trees, and gather firewood from the more mature trees which will eventually be used for timber for housing and furniture.

Varieties of trees successfully grown are feijoas, Inga bean trees from the Great Barrier Island, pomegranates, guavas, and oranges to name a few. The first guava tree Helen grew from a seed from a canned one in a tin, and as they fruit at one year this has been a great success story. Some of the trees have found their way to other parts of Africa; a customer from Kenya purchased trees to take back and plant there. The trees require care the first year to get them through the dry season and to get well established and villagers are very protective of the seedlings (see photograph). Helen journeys back most years to help with the promotion of tree planting and to renew acquaintances. She says she daren’t walk through the slums as they now approach her to build two storied schools and believe she is a miracle-worker. She says the miracle was how the community pulled together to make good decisions for themselves and to raise the standard of living in such adverse and difficult circumstances.

Gisborne clinics merged

On 23rd April Ngati Porou Hauora’s two Gisborne clinics were merged to house in a newly refurbished and updated Puhi Kaiti clinic, aimed at improving NPH services. Work on the alterations took some months to complete: enlarging the facilities by taking in what was previously a hairdressing salon next door.

The staff from Te Whanau a Iwi at Lytton West moved over into the existing Puhi Kaiti Clinic while finishing work was being completed on the hairdressing building extension.

The new building was blessed and officially opened on the 30th April and is proving to be highly successful and a positive step forward for NPH in terms of housing services under one roof. This was not accomplished without some hard grind and inconvenience on the part of both staff and patients and we appreciate their tolerance. In the past the clinics were geographically separated and with the merger opportunities for economies of scale and streamlining the business are being explored.

The staff are to be congratulated for continuing to provide services under conditions which were difficult at times. However, the finished project has added more space and boasts new file storage, extra consulting rooms, and a revamped reception area.
Farewell Jeremy Fleming

This month we farewell Jeremy Fleming who is departing New Zealand for the UK after almost five years as Chief Executive of Aotearoa Fisheries Limited. Jeremy was also a director of SeaFIC and I would like to personally thank him for his guidance, support and contribution to SeaFIC and the industry as a whole. More importantly his contribution towards providing Maori more access and levels of participation within the industry leading to the ICP establishment and the inshore joint venture which Ngati Porou Seafoods is a significant part of. Our increasing footprint and takeover of Moana Pacific’s infrastructure in the inner harbour of Gisborne is also due to Jeremy’s willingness and understanding of Maori’s aspirations within this sector. His efforts are much appreciated and we wish him and his whanau all the very best. The new CE of Aotearoa Fisheries is Carl Carrington.

Bluenose Sampling Programme

The seafood industry has initiated a sampling programme to provide better information about bluenose stocks and enable more appropriate management decisions. Ngati Porou Seafoods is one of the plants that will be undertaking the sampling work to achieve the desired outcomes so better decisions can be made regarding Bluenose stocks.

New Ministry Tuned to Economic Growth

Scott Gallacher from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), made some very welcome observations about MPI’s direction at a recent industry meeting. He said the Ministry was unabashedly focussed on the economic growth of the primary sector and was very enthusiastic about the seafood industry’s potential for further development. He said the Ministry was looking at ways to remove some of the obstacles to growth and this included a more proactive presentation of the facts supporting New Zealand’s excellent fisheries management system to audiences at home and abroad.

The Ministry was also looking at stronger accountabilities for those who broke the rules supporting the QMS so that their behaviour would not reflect on the vast majority of industry which did comply with regulations. He said he wanted the Ministry to be in a position where it did not have to be overly conservative in its fisheries settings but to do that it needed more and better information. The industry’s Trident programme, which supports better information in the inshore fisheries, was held up as an example of how this could work. So positive thoughts from the new Ministry which should open more doors towards better cooperation and collaboration with industry.

Industry Restructure

The proposed industry restructure, which I have highlighted previously to you continues its consultation process. This restructure is long overdue as there is significant duplication within the industry in terms of management function and research. The new proposed structure is very much based on a ‘user pays’ mentality which is more appropriate and specific to key sectors. The five sectors identified in the new structure are; Deepwater, Lobster, Paua, Inshore Finfish, and Aquaculture. So while costs will remain largely the same they will be targeted at specific sectors rather than an overall approach. This restructure has significant relevance for iwi as it will force us to participate and be more focused in fisheries management and research activities which sadly the majority of iwi are not and know little about. Ngati Porou Seafoods is therefore a leading figure in terms of its resource management obligations and takes this mahi very seriously. We will provide whanau with regular up to date information in these areas.

New Brief’s

- Recreational – “Fight For Your Rights” article recently published is a clear example of how unorganised and ill informed the elite group within the recreational sector are. Currently they are the only sector which doesn’t report catch information, which is critical in determining stocks, yet are the most vocal in wanting more. Come on guys
- Tuna has been running recently and you would have seen more Tuna vessels in the harbour recently. Catches have been good.
- Lobster harvesting is back in action again and stock signs are very positive. Poor market pricing have restricted catches initially but are improving.
- Real Fresh wants to thank it supporters in the shop and out and about with the truck. We appreciate your support and are determined to keep improving our service to you.
A melting pot of views and experience is what makes the Skretting Australasian Aquaculture Conference an exciting event. Two representatives of NPSG were among more than 1000 participants from 9 countries at the conference, held in Melbourne in May 2012 to expand business knowledge, networks and opportunities.

‘The next ten years’ was the theme of the conference, with presentations on the very latest about finfish farming, health and hatchery technologies; planning for sustainable aquaculture development; genetic breeding programs; new species for aquaculture; future feeds for crustaceans; product preparation and marketing; and opportunities and threats to aquaculture over the next ten years.

A common thread throughout the conference presentations was that aquaculture will play an increasingly important role in supplying world demand for food as our population reaches 9 billion by 2050 requiring an increase in current global food production of 70-100% come from aquaculture”, said Mr Norman Grant, chair of Seafood Importers Australia.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 50 per cent of the world’s food fish consumption now comes from aquaculture with the global industry valued at more than $70 billion p.a.

In conjunction with the conference, Professor Thomas Lorsordo presented a short-course on Recirculating Aquaculture System Technology technology most suited to the Tairawhiti region that can reduce water consumption in land-based aquaculture facilities by 98 per cent

P o e Point slides from Australasian Aquaculture 2012 are now available at the link below.


Facts
• The FAO’s World Aquaculture 2010 report found that global production of fish from aquaculture grew more than 60 per cent between 2000 and 2008, from 32.4 million tonnes to 52.5 million tonnes.
• Fish is the world’s fastest-growing source of animal protein.

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The resource consent hearing for C Company Gallery was held 6 June 2012. As the gallery will be situated next to the Tairawhiti Museum on Kelvin Park which is reserve land, the GDC decided that the public should be notified of the application and secondly that an independent commissioner should hear it. Resource consent deals with resource management issues such as design, environmental and aesthetics impact (e.g. Parking and impact on open space).

There was a strong turnout from C Company uri who travelled from Ngai Tai, Whanau a Apanui, Ngati Porou and locally from Rongowhakaata, Ngai Tamanuhiri and Te Aitanga a Mahaki. A short
service lead by Arch Bishop Brown Turei and cup of tea was held at Tairawhiti Museum before 300 or so C Company uri proceeded to the hearing at the Lawson Field Theatre.

The Trust’s presenters were Dr Monty Soutar (Deputy Chair) who spoke about the Price of Citizenship and the C Company journey so far. The Trust also called upon the expertise of Dr Apirana Mahuika, Dr Ranginui Walker (a ‘non-C Company’ perspective on the cultural significance of the project), Mr Michael Chrisp (ex-Tairawhiti Museum Chair, and former lawyer of Miss Winifred Lysnar, the benefactor of the land on which the gallery will stand), Tere Insley (Whanau a Apanui architect) and Derek Lardelli (artistic perspective).

Submitters in support included Robyn Rauna for Te Aitanga a Mahaki, Toti Tuhaka for Korea & South East Asia Forces Association of NZ and Tom Butler for Te Whanau a Apanui and Ngai Tai. There was a small amount of objectors including a neighbour, a member of the Lysnar extended family and District Councillor Andy Cranston.

The final outcome has been to grant the resource consent. Nga Taonga A Nga Tama Toa Trust thanks you for your support and will update you all about the next steps building the C Company Gallery. Check out our Facebook page – Nga Taonga a Nga Tama Toa.