



Rakiura Haupukapuka

AUGUST 2005

Tena koutou



What's been happening

The past six months have been spent advancing and managing existing projects that the Trust undertook. These will be covered in more specific detail as you read through the newsletter (Rakiura Haupukapuka).

For those owners unfamiliar with the projects, they consist of:

Implementation of the Lord's River Management Plan - replacement of flyhuts with huts and implementing management systems to monitor pest damage and control of pests.

The Mahara Project - recording and filming of Kaumatua historical information.

Development of a Business Plan - identifying and prioritising specific business objectives relating to trust assets and resources.

In addition to these projects, several large administrative tasks have had to be carried out.

Investment Review - this has been necessary to ensure that the Trust's managed funds are performing in a way that will enable the Trust to meet those objectives identified in their Business Planning process.

Governance review - this is an ongoing process and is focused on ensuring that procedures and systems are in place for those who will succeed the present trustees.

The Trust has also committed to putting trustees through training programmes run by organisations such as the Institute of Directors, and the like.

Charter boat and helicopter renewals - the carriage of the public to trust lands, including the safety and maintenance issues surrounding the public while on trust lands, is always going to be an extremely important role for the trustees to manage. Considerable time and effort has been spent on addressing out-dated agreements and contracts.

Enjoy the Haupukapuka, and your feedback is always welcomed.

Kia ora

Richard Manning, Trust Secretary

Development planning

Over the last six months since our last newsletter the Trust and its Trustees have been able to progress the development planning to help take the trust forward. To get a wider perspective and input into the development planning process we also included Harold Ashwell, our kaum_tua, and Joseph Moss, an owner and active participant in the Trust's affairs, in the initial stages of the programme.

With funding from TPK under the capacity building programme we have been able to undertake a strategic planning review of the current status of the Trust and develop an action plan and implementation programme to help the Trust make better use of the Assets under its control and ultimately deliver improved benefits to beneficial owners. The initiative has given the Trust a clear focus on its role through the development of the following mission statement,

"Rakiura Moari Land Trust is entrusted to liaise with interested groups and prudently manage the affairs of all financial assets and land holdings for the ultimate benefit of current and future stakeholders"

In addition to the mission statement the Trustees have also set a vision for the future, which has become the focus of the action plan that has been developed and is now under implementation. The following is the vision developed by the Trustees for the Trust.

To be recognised in the community as a successful Trust providing a gateway to Rakiura ("Stewart Island") for a unique experience by embracing the natural, cultural and historical stories of our taonga ("Treasures").

In order to start heading towards the vision, a number of tasks have been identified and will be progressively implemented over the next couple of years. An overview of the action plan will be presented at this year's AGM but in summary it involves:

- researching and identifying the assets we have
- researching the customers who would be interested in accessing and using our assets
- organising our finances, resources, and procedures maximise the potential to use the assets
- developing the skills of current and future trustees to successfully implement development options of the assets

We look forward to providing you further updates on the implementation of the plan in future newsletters and the coming AGM. The opportunities for the Trust are exciting and the successful implementation of the plan will go a long way towards ensuring the Trust can provide real benefits to the owners. The Trustees look forward to the support of owners as the trust moves forward.

Stephen Hartevelde, Trust Chair

Happy Birthday Harold

All the owners would like to wish Harold Ashwell a very happy 89th birthday on Monday 15 August.

Have a wonderful day Harold.



New projects and issues on the horizon

New developments with Trust lands

The new sewage scheme for Rakiura, which took in parts of Halfmoon Bay and Horseshoe Bay, has forced the hand of the trust to begin a planning process for several sections located in these areas. When time permits, the trustees will be in contact with the descendants of these sections to discuss in depth the issues.

The Regional Council has also announced, in recent days, plans to construct a new road in Halfmoon Bay, which, depending on your views, could be positive or negative for some sections.

The trustees remain committed to providing to beneficial owners the resources and skills to make an informed judgment as to the best future direction and use of land currently under their administration.

RML current structure

At some point in the future the debate of what is the best structure to take the "Trust" forward must arise. As the work for the trustees continues to expand through the "evolution of progress", greater pressure is placed on trustees' voluntary time.

While this issue is only in its infancy, the trustees will endeavour, in the near future, to develop a discussion paper on the subject for circulation amongst owners for comment and advice. The success of models such as Mawhara and Wakatu Incorporations are merely good examples of what the future could hold for the Rakiura Maori Lands Trust. Both organisations started out as being solely communal landowners, but today they are also shareholders in large assets.

Kia ora

Richard Manning, Trust Secretary

Pleasing financial year

Preliminary figures for the financial year to the end of March, 2005, are pleasing with both our Spicer Investment funds and mortgage investments showing good growth.

Our Spicer Investment fund grew 5.27% (net of charges), while a small diversification of the Trust's short-term investment occurred with funds being invested with Canterbury Mortgage Trust, retuning an average of 7.5% after charges.

The records are currently under the normal annual audit review, and once their findings are presented we can finalise the results.

Among the other highlights of the financial year were:-

- Hunting receipts remained consistent with prior years.
- Approximately \$60,000 was spent on land management initiatives in the year.
- The Mahara project was underwritten to the tune of \$23,000 by the trust. Funding for this project came from the 218 Fund, which can only be used for community purposes under the Act. This is after all expenses have been deducted from income raised for the project.
- The trustees approved a second distribution of \$120 per share in December 2004. Funds were then passed out to the owners.

Mark Tynan, Trust Accountant

Profile

Theona (Ona) Heaslip – trustee

Born and bred in Bluff, Theona Heaslip (nee Bryce) was the granddaughter of Bill and Mina Fisher - her mother was Cavell and her father was Dick Bryce.

Despite a difficult birth, mother and child both survived and became well known Bluff citizens. Ona, as she was called, received her primary education in Bluff and secondary in Invercargill. In those days Bluff children had to travel to Invercargill by train - an hour each way and plenty of time for hijinks.

As a young girl, Ona went mutton birding on Kaimohu Island in company with Walla and Amy Mcquarrie, two of the nicest people you could wish to meet. It was these trips that gave her the grounding in how to catch and process mutton birds.

Ona's right to enter on to the mutton bird islands was inherited from her Fisher whanau, who descended from the Mamoe tribe of Rakiura.

The right to enter on to a mutton bird island is a fundamental right held by all Rakiura Maori.

Upon leaving school, Ona took up employment with the Ocean Beach freezing works and the local fish processing factories during the off-season. It was at the freezing works that she met her future husband, Tony Heaslip, a member of the Ngapuhi tribe from the North Island. They were married in Invercargill in 1971 and have two children and two grandchildren.

Ona and Tony have been mutton birding for 32 years on Rerewhakapako, commonly called Soloman's Island, where Ona has a traditional right of entry.

Always interested in Maori affairs, she has attended most Maori meetings and in 2000 was elected a Trustee in the Rakiura Maori Land Trust, a position she has held ever since. She has been, and still is, an energetic worker on behalf of the trust shareholders - a thankless task but one that has to be done to retain the Maori lands of Rakiura in Maori ownership.



The Mahara Project

The Mahara project, a Trust initiative to collect and record a complete history of the Rakiura Maori lands, has been completed.

The project was an enormous undertaking that involved gathering, researching and documenting a detailed history all of the Rakiura Maori Lands.

The project's three main objectives were all achieved. These were:

- To produce a Whakatau Kaupapa for Rakiura which would include Maori place names; the wahi tapu and places of mahika kai and kai moana; and the customs and histories of Rakiura Maori researched and recorded.
- To build and maintain a digital archive allowing the information to be readily accessible and provide material for a wide range of different products that could be used to foster developments on Rakiura Maori Lands.
- To produce a professional photographic record to back up the digital camera recordings in order to provide a record of the journeys. This will be added to the set of archive images.

To generate income for the Trust and ultimately the beneficiaries, the information collected can be developed into a number of different resources, such as:

- History of the Rakiura Maori Land Trust - a short written history of the trust - its early history as a committee, transition to a trust and the court battles involved; the other battles it has fought on behalf of its beneficiaries and the potential for it to help develop the Maori lands of Rakiura.



- A short pictorial history of Rakiura Maori - a small volume of photographs, both modern and historical that illustrate the history of Rakiura from a Maori perspective. It should be a concise mix of both historical fact and images marketed to tourists and the not-so-serious reading public and competitively priced to sell in a greater volume than a larger more comprehensive history.
- Huka 1 - Harold Ashwell - a combination of the published and unpublished texts by Harold Ashwell and a biography written by Terry Nicholas, based on the historic recordings made with Harold.
- Kaumatua Memories
- A comprehensive history of Rakiura from

a Maori perspective - a very important work for New Zealand historiography, it would present a new view of Rakiura history created through the Mahara project.

- Map creation

Other potential products are:

- Having copies of the above maps stored digitally has created the possibility of creating Maori maps of Rakiura for use by the Trust and beneficiaries.
- An illustrated map with Maori designs and wildlife designs, and annotated with historic events could be a counterpart to current DOC maps designed and marketed for tourists. Given the interest in things Maori, it has income earning potential.

Who are the Rakiura Maori? *By Bill Decker...?*

Following on from our first newsletter at the end of last year which included an overview of the Mahara project and the first of seven aspects that make up a complete history of Rakiura, this edition we look to a second theme - 'who are Rakiura Maori?'

This fundamental question is integral to the Rakiura history and affects those exploring the island's past and people. It is also important to those working with the Rakiura Maori Land Trust, the beneficiaries and the wider iwi who debate the issue of who represents Rakiura in local and national forums.

To date, two definitions have been used. Firstly, a wider definition (Aroowa Whanui); and secondly, a narrow definition (Aroowa Whaaiti). The wider definition includes all the families whose ancestors were given rights to the land through the landless native grants.

Another wide definition includes those whose life is in some major way was shaped by Rakiura. This wider group includes the

muttonbirding whanau and the fisherman of the surrounding seas who have ancestry within Kai Tahu, Kati Mamoe me Waitaha hoki.

Among those who can be defined in the wide sense are the families who have bones of ancestors buried on Rakiura. Among this smaller group is an even smaller group - those who are actively engaged in activities concerning Rakiura and the Rakiura Maori Land Trust. The smallest group are those who still live on Rakiura.

The narrowest definition of Rakiura Maori are those who can be defined by all of the above.

The question of who represents the people of these varied groups is a vital one for Rakiura Maori Land Trust and the runanga of the southern coast. Only through a thorough exploration of the history of the island can we hope to establish a widely accepted definition.

For more information contact...?



Profile

Phillip Smith

Immediate past chairman of the Rakiura Maori Land Trust, and owner of Bravo Tours, a Kiwi spotting business.

Considering the Kiwi is our national bird, few New Zealanders have actually seen one in the wild.

Phillip Smith, the immediate past chairman of the Rakiura Maori Land Trust, is one New Zealander trying to change all this. His Bravo tours, out of Halfmoon Bay, have a worldwide reputation for the regularity with which they find the big Stewart Island Brown Kiwi in the wild. Only on one occasion has his group failed to see a Kiwi.

The secret of his Kiwi-spotting success is seeking them on an isolated beach where their dark feathers are visible against the white sands, even at night, when they come out

to the beach to forage for sandhoppers which they find beneath the kelp that is washed up.

The Stewart Island Brown Kiwi, also known as the Southern Tokoeka, is the largest of the Brown Kiwis and is different from the rest because it often comes out in the daytime. It is also the only variety of Kiwi where the female takes turns with the male to sit on the egg. A pair mates for life. Another unusual behaviour is that they join with other family members and live in the same burrow, sometimes there are up to six Kiwis in the same hole. There are an estimated 20,000 Kiwis on Stewart Island.

Late winter is one of the best times to spot Kiwis as they seem more numerous as they become more vocal as mating season approaches and their calls become more insistent.

Phillip prides himself on disturbing the Kiwis as little as possible, and this must be working, as they often come up and pick at his boots.

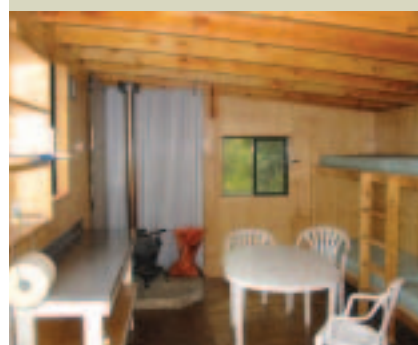
Phillip's trips cost \$90, take three and a half to four hours, and go throughout the winter, weather and passenger numbers permitting. Such is the sensitivity of Kiwi spotting on the island that the Department of Conservation continually monitors visitor numbers.

Despite the growing popularity of these trips, Kiwi numbers appear to be increasing. At Mason Bay, which is at the opposite end of the island to where Phillip takes his visitors, DOC have carried out studies which show that no birds banded over the last five years have been lost. Phillip also helps with the Kiwi count by keeping records each night.

Huts

The Trust has begun to replace the old flycamps with huts, as signalled in the management plan. The first 6-bunk hut at Little Kuri Bay has already been built (see photo) and three more are planned for Big Kuri, South Lords and North Lords campsites.

These sites are regularly used by hunting parties and the huts will lessen the impact of users on the local environment while providing more reliable, weatherproof shelter.



Monitoring/research

Landcare Research has been helping to develop monitoring programmes for native plants and animals and pests. This is a major project. A well-designed monitoring programme will enable the Trust to track the condition of the coastal and inland forests and assess the most likely causes of any long-term decline or improvement. Good information on what changes are occurring and why they are occurring will enable better management decisions on how

to respond to threats such as possum browsing. Forest monitoring is likely to take place every five years and will measure mortality and recruitment of forest species. Information on the present composition, density, distribution and abundance of species will be used to determine the design of the programme. Investigations are also being made into how to best assess the different impacts of possums, deer and possibly rats.

Contact details

Your views and comments are important to us and all feedback is welcome. For information about the minutes of Trust meetings, the management plan, or any other correspondence with the trustees, please contact:

Liz Wright, PO Box 77, Bluff, email liz.rakiura@ihug.co.nz, or phone 03 212 8075.