



# Rakiura Haupukapuka

DECEMBER 2004

## Kia ora



For some time there has been discussion about producing a newsletter as a way of keeping in touch and up-to-date with the Rakiura

community and the Trust's activities. Following the very successful Annual General Meeting in September, a commitment was made to getting some form of regular communication underway by Christmas.

Hence, I am pleased to introduce the first edition of the Rakiura Maori Land Trust's newsletter, Rakiura Haupukapuka, a twice-yearly publication, with the second edition following in six months. A website is also under development which will allow for more regular information and updates.

As trustees of the Rakiura Maori Land Trust, we are volunteers committed to our community. Our role is to ensure the Rakiura resource is professionally managed to maintain our unique asset for the benefit of future generations.

Over the up-coming editions of this newsletter, we will introduce some of the trustees. This month, I am pleased to announce the Trust's new chairman, Stephen Hartevelde, who has been a trustee for four years.

Our hope is that this publication is as inclusive of the wider Rakiura community and owners as possible. Not only should it be a forum to inform and entertain, we encourage you to share your views and will endeavour to publish any of your correspondence that raises important or thought-provoking issues about our Rakiura resources. (All correspondence can be sent to Liz Wright, PO Box 77, Bluff, email [liz.rakiura@ihug.co.nz](mailto:liz.rakiura@ihug.co.nz), or phone 03 212 8075).

Regards

Richard Manning, Trust Secretary

## AGM on Rakiura

The Rakiura Maori Land Trust's Annual General Meeting, held on Rakiura in September, was a resounding success, with owners giving a vote of confidence to the current administration. About 50 of the Trust's shareholders gathered from around the country for this year's annual general meeting, held for the first time on the island. They overwhelmingly voted to reinstate the current trustees that sought re-election.

Phillip Smith, Trust chairman at the AGM (now former chair), said that the AGM was positive and productive, with a fantastic turnout by owners from far and wide.

"Many of the whanau had never visited Rakiura and were blown-away by the beauty and mana of the land, and the unexpectedly strong feelings that being there stirred up.

"Many owners had never met each other. This was an opportunity to bring the whanau together to learn more about our whakapapa, the issues involved with managing the land and the responsibilities that we are vested with."

The other highlight from the meeting was approval by the trustees of the budget for the implementation of the Lord's River Management Plan (refer back page).

This funding has enabled the monitoring and research work, so urgently needed on Rakiura to get underway.

It has also allowed for the provision of better hunting facilities; including the installation of several new huts on the island mainly used by recreational hunters.

### AGM participant's comments

These are just some of the messages received at the conclusion of the Trust's Annual General Meeting. (Unfortunately we could not publish all of your comments but thank you to those who took the time to leave messages. They were all appreciated).

"Felt emotionally at peace and privileged to be with the whanau on the trip. This is where we belong, our turanga wae wae."

"Wonderful opportunity to learn more about my heritage and will prove the catalyst to discover more. Thanks for the great weekend."

"What a unique experience after 75 years of waiting. Thank you for the planning RMLT. Lovely weekend. I saw the Lords River at last."

*Continues on back page*



Deep Bay, Lords River

## **New Chair appointed**



The Trust appointed Stephen Harteveld to the position of chairman in October. He takes over the role from Phillip

Smith, who stepped down from the position he held for six years.

With a background in general management, information systems and business process development, Stephen is currently a systems manager for a large contracting company in the power utilities industry and has been a board member for over four years.

## **Report from the Chair**

It is with a lot of pleasure that I am able to bring a few quick comments to you as the new Chairperson of the Rakiura Maori Land Trust. It was a great privilege to gain the support of the trustees to fill the spot of chairperson.

Phillip Smith has decided to take a well earned break from the chair role after providing good leadership for a number of years. Phillip has done an excellent job and remains a key member of the Trust. As the only Trustee residing on Rakiura I am personally looking forward to working with Phillip and learning from him.

I would also like to thank Phillip, on your behalf, for the hard work he has done for the Trust in his role as Chairperson. Phillip provided leadership during some difficult times for the trust as we developed an understanding of what was required following the settlement of the Lords River agreement with the Crown.

The production of this newsletter is a step forward for the Trust in its efforts to keep owners properly informed of its activities and direction. We hope in the near future to provide continuous access to information via a website. This is a project that has already been approved in concept, and it simply requires getting the work done.

With Christmas so close, on behalf of the trustees, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the owners and their families the very best for a great Christmas and very rewarding new year. We look forward to working with you and being part of making 2005 a very productive year for the Trust, its beneficial owners and families, and its many working partners.

Regards

Stephen Harteveld, Trust Chair

# **2004 Financial Results**

**by Mark Tynan, Trust Accountant**

The financial position of the Trust was presented at the AGM in September. The following is a summary.

- The Spicer portfolio funds have recovered the ground lost in 2003.
- The trust made a small surplus for the year from positive hunting receipts, investment returns, and well-managed costs of running the office and trust.
- A Putea account (allowed under s218 of the Maori Land Act 1993), has been set up to record the interest earned on unclaimed dividends. These funds may be used for the health, social, cultural and economic welfare, education and vocational training of the beneficiaries. Allocations will be advised via the newsletter.
- The independent audit is complete and the Trust's accounts have been given a clean bill of health.
- We expect to make the financial statements available to all owners through a website (once established).

## **Dividend distribution**

The trustees intend to issue a dividend to owners prior to Christmas 2004. Final figures are currently being worked on, with an update on the portfolio performance awaited before a final dividend is declared. The dividend will be sourced from the original settlement and accordingly is of a capital (tax free) nature.

## **Owners database update**

The Trust is currently updating its owners' database to report under the new IRD Maori

Authority status from 1 April 2004. Owners will have been sent a form to complete and return by 15 November.

The form required some additional information. Firstly, we need your IRD number if you are a NZ resident. This is a requirement under the Tax Act. If we have no IRD number we are required to tax any revenue dividends at 39% rather than 19.5% if we have the number.

The second request was for a bank account for any dividends to be paid into. There are just too many cheques to be signed manually. Automatic payments will save us time and cost by doing the same. Some owners have expressed concern at releasing all their information. The Trust's records are confidential and the details will not be shared with any other party.

If you have not yet returned the completed form, please do so as soon as possible. Any queries, feel free to contact the Trust accountants, Ashton Wheelans & Hegan in Christchurch, 03 366 7154 (ask for Kylie Mowat or Mark Tynan) or [kcm@awh.co.nz](mailto:kcm@awh.co.nz)

## **Changing address**

If you do change address, don't forget to tell the office or our accountants so we can keep in touch with you. The details are:

Office phone and fax: 03 212 8075

Ashton Wheelans & Hegan:

phone 03 366 7154,

fax 03 365 4098,

or email [rmlt@awh.co.nz](mailto:rmlt@awh.co.nz)



*Surveyors Bay Campsite*



# The Mahara Rakiura project

The Mahara Rakiura project is a Trust initiative to capture and record all of the detailed history of the Rakiura Maori Lands into one archive.

We have a unique opportunity to record the local knowledge and experiences of several kaumatua, before these people and their memories are gone and the Rakiura histories of our people are lost forever.

The Tutae-Ka-Wetoweto Forest management report that covered the natural heritage resources on Tutae Ka Wetoweto, attracted some criticism that it did not cover Maori issues of importance. Although it was not intended to cover these issues, it did highlight the need for a document that covers the natural heritage of Rakiura from the perspective of Maori, hence the Mahara project.

A Whakatau Kaupapa would include Maori place names, the wahi tapu and places of mahika kai and kai moana, the customs and histories that give Rakiura a distinctly Maori history and define the Trust's importance as kaitiaki of the Maori lands on Rakiura.

It would also act as a general guide for distant owners of Trust lands, other members of iwi, DOC and others interested in Rakiura. It would act in much the same way as those whose whakatau kaupapa compiled for Murihiku, Otago and Canterbury do for iwi and the various local councils of those areas.

## The histories

The scoping report for the Mahara Rakiura project established the following aspects (or themes), that need to be included in any history of Rakiura:

- Rakiura and the Islands of Stillness;
- Who are Rakiura Maori;
- Wahi taoka, wahi tapu, kaa wahi a mahika kai me moana (the places where treasures have been found or are known to be buried, where ancestors are known to be buried or where disasters took place in the Maori past and wher mahika kai and kai moana resources were exploited;
- Naming and history of places;
- Traditional history;
- 19th and 20th century specific Rakiura Maori histories; and,
- The missing blocks of land on Rakiura that became part of the DOC estate with no clear reason recorded.

The exhaustive process of collecting and recording the oral histories began about four months ago. By the end of February 2005, it is hoped that all the recording should be complete, then the editing and possible publishing of some of the history can start.

## Mahara Rakiura – The Islands of Stillness

Up-coming editions of this newsletter will cover aspects of Rakiura history in greater depth. In this edition we start at the very beginning. As the anchor stone of Maui's waka, Rakiura played a stabilising role, and similarly with its outlying Titi Islands, they provided a stabilising force in the lives of southern Waitaha me Mamoe me Kai Tahu Hoki.

In pre-European histories it is clear Rakiura was often used as an island of refuge from the conflict on the mainland. From 1840, the island provided fisherman and those journeying to the Titi Islands with shelter. These interactions, based on mutton-birding and fishing, were relatively harmonious, and account for the maintenance of Taha Maori in the south, albeit modified by a loss of cultural elements in common with Maori elsewhere.

In this way, Rakiura and the outlying islands became the Islands of Stillness in the ever-changing currents of history, and 'anchored' the lives of many Maori of ancestry who remained in the south.

In a similar way Rakiura and the Titi Islands have become refuges for wildlife, islands of safety from the predation and environmental destruction that has characterised human history on the main islands of the country.

This convergence of human and natural history in the south is something that has not been emphasised but, given the national park status of most of Rakiura and the potential for tourism, it is a theme that can be developed.



Lower Lords River

## Development planning *by Stephen Hartevelde, Trust Chair*

The Trust has identified the need to plan a path forward. The Trustees have been confronted with the many things that can be done, could be done, and should be done, but finding a balance without an overall direction has been difficult. To develop a common understanding of where the Trust needs to be heading, its priorities, and timeframes, we have engaged an approved provider and funds have been set aside for this work.

Integral to planning for the future, is further developing the skills of the Trustees. By building capacity within the Trust we can more effectively implement the plans that will be developed from the review.

The Trust has a large number of assets on Rakiura and it is essential that we begin to identify their potential and make them more productive.

If assets are more productive, we have the opportunity to increase benefits to the current and future beneficial land owners. This is going to be a long task but one that needs to start, and I am pleased it is underway.

Over the next three months the trustees will continue to work on this process so that we can provide some outcomes to owners in the next scheduled newsletter. To increase input into the process we have invited two of the candidates who stood for trustee positions at the recent AGM to participate. Moving forward, I am hopeful that we can provide further opportunities to extend participation in the Trust's activities.



# Tutae-Ka-Wetoweto Forest Management Plan – 2003

The Trust's first management plan for the Lords River, Rakiura, is now complete and has been given the official thumbs up by the Minister of Conservation, Chris Carter.

The management plan is a requirement under the Conservation Covenant between the Trust and the Crown. It covers the land involved, the issues arising from the land, and a number of objectives to help manage the resource today and plan for the future.

In developing the plan, a comprehensive inventory of resources had to be completed. This was an ambitious task but with the help of local knowledge, volumes of recorded information, and recent field observations, a description of the land, its resources, and its uses, was developed.

The Trusts objectives are to:

1. Promote the restoration of the forest including indigenous flora and fauna;
2. Promote the repatriation / reestablishment of native species that were once present;
3. Reduce the degradation of the forest;
4. Protect and enhance Taonga, cultural and heritage values;
5. Provide owners and the public with safe access to the forest while minimising the impacts on the environment;
6. Generate sufficient funds from the land to at least cover management costs;

7. Be a model of Maori conservation on private land;
8. Minimise the use of poisons for pest control; and
9. Develop appropriate recreational facilities.

The plan identifies a number of procedures for implementation. These measures include:

- An affordable vegetation monitoring programme to measure the survival and regeneration of the areas of natural forest.
- Simplify and reduce the cost of monitoring vegetation.
- A simple, affordable and scientifically sound programme to monitor selected indigenous fauna (such as the kiwi).
- An affordable and long-term strategy for managing animal pests.

The management plan provides for ongoing review and modification as, over time, the information is gathered from monitoring programmes and external sources.

These measures and numerous others are now underway on Rakiura and will form the basis of a body of knowledge about the current state of our resource, while providing benchmarks against which we can measure any changes.

For more information, contact Roger Lough, Land Management Consultant, on 03 329 0111.



Cooley Bay Campsite

*Continued from front page*

"What a fantastic experience and privilege to have been invited here to Rakiura. The people, the kai, the land, sea and bush are all vital ingredients to what has been a unique opportunity. Special thanks to the trustees and all those that helped make the weekend so successful!"

"Great to meet more of the whanau and to share our beautiful island with them. May our great, great grandchildren enjoy our lands as we have. And thank you to the organisers for Saturday's Lords River trip."

"A great weekend. I feel privileged and honoured to have been asked by the trustees. Our tipana tested us at the 'Passage' on entry to the

Lords River. An unforgettable experience – we made it...and then the rain, the sun, the snow, and the kai!

Thank your trustees – a massive experience. Aroha-nui."

"A wonderful time of learning for me. I very much appreciate the opportunity to absorb the beauty and mana of this unique land. I congratulate all those responsible for facilitating this fabulous weekend." (All names have been withheld).

## 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](mailto:liz.rakiura@ihug.co.nz), or phone 03 212 8075.

