

*E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā kārangaranga Iwi, Hapū, Whānau, Marae o te Rohe o Te Wairoa, tēnā koutou, otira, tēnā tātau katoa.*

*E ngā mate huhua o te wā, nau mai haere atu. Ko te kōrero mō koutou, haere atu rā, moe mārire mai. Taipō ko koutou ki a koutou, tai awatea ko tātau ki a tātau, tēnā anō tātau katoa.*

*Tēnā tātau i te huringa mai o te tau houi roto i ōna āhuatanga katoa, ā, ko te tūmanako, kei te noho ora mai ngā whānau ki tēnei pito, ki tēnā moka o te motu i tēnei wā.*

Happy new year to all whānau of Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa. We hope that 2017 brings forth a year of opportunities and good health to each and every one of us. The pathway forward for Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa has now begun and leads only in one direction, and that is to a better future for our generations to come. On starting this pathway, we must not forget the generations that have preceded the Treaty Settlement claims process. Especially our ancestors and the many challenges they faced to keep basic preservation of our culture and our legacies alive. May we always remember to honour them with pride and dignity so their sacrifice to leave a better future for us was not in vain.

We must also acknowledge the long and arduous 14 year journey of Te Tira Whakaemi o Te Wairoa for the achievement of reaching a Deed of Settlement with the Crown to settle all our historical Treaty of Waitangi claims. We would like to especially acknowledge the hard work of all the Mandated Representatives and Negotiators in navigating our claims through the layers of Crown processes that was often fraught with difficulties and challenges. Also, a special acknowledgement must be reserved for our wider Whānau who have been in attendance at meetings and providing support in the background, without their devotion and continued perseverance over the years we would not have reached this point in our journey.

Looking to the future, the initial trustees of Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa met for their inaugural meeting in Wairoa on 20-22 January 2017. We hope in time to settle on a particular reporting format that is informative and will capture the discussion and decisions in reporting back to our members. This first meeting was critical to firstly understand and acknowledge the journey past (Te Tira Whakaemi o Te Wairoa me ōna rangatira katoa), secondly to map out the 2-year work programme ahead and, thirdly to quickly evolve a dynamic committed and effective group of Trustees. Each is significant in itself and the Trustees felt it is important to apportion time so that the foundation and culture is well-embedded for this and subsequent meetings ahead.

We have a diverse group of Trustees with varying expertise in Te Reo Maori, Māori governance, public service, banking, law, finance, education, technology, culture, farming, environmental, social services, business and grass roots abilities. This level of diversity is vital to help assess and inform a wide-ranging scope of challenges in front of us. We remain open-minded however to the advent of additional skill or expertise needed to assist in our duties. This mixture of skills at the table will help us achieve the best possible outcome for everyone.

The meeting was particularly productive and collaborative, resulting in a few key integral components of Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa being agreed. These are summarised below and are key decisions, resolutions and/or summary points from the January meeting:

Our Vision:

*“Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa: He Iwi Motuhake, He Tāngata Ōranga Ake”*

Our Mission:

*“To Enact the Work Programme”*

Our Pillars:

*“Work Programme; Engagement Plan; Settlement Matters; Operational Services”*

Our Office Holders:

*“Mr Leon Symes was appointed as Chairperson.”*

In reference to the Chairperson, Leon is locally based in Wairoa and brings a wealth of skills to the role having previously held positions of Deputy Chairperson of Te Tira Whakaemi o Te Wairoa and Chairperson of Te Tira Kōkiri Limited, the operations company of Te Tira Whakaemi. The Trustees were unanimous in their appointment and endorsement of Leon and are committed to support him in the role as we look to work together going forward. The Trustees resolved to leave the position of Deputy Chair open to allow nominations to be put to the Chairperson for his consideration and recommendation at the next meeting.

Each of our pillars represent a number of functions that Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa are required to undertake over the next 2 years. To fully understand the requirements of these functions the Trustees are continuing to further discuss and scope out the tasks required with the intent to complete this within the next 90 days. This will then provide the basis that will enable us to move forward with our Mission and Vision clearly with a focus.

In closing, the Chairperson would like to make a final comment, “The role of Trustee comes with responsibilities of making decisions that need to be in the best interests of all our members. We are tasked with the role of setting up a framework that will benefit the interests of all our Iwi, Hapū, Marae, and Whānau, both young and old, and both living here in Wairoa and living abroad.”

For further updates please continue to visit the Te Tira Whakaemi o Te Wairoa Website and Facebook pages for additional information including how to register. We will be over the coming months looking to re-launch these sites under Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa, so please be patience while we make arrangements for this transition to occur.

*Kati au i kōnei, Mā te Atua tātau e manaaki, e tiaki i ngā wā katoa.*

Signed:

**Trustees of Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa**

**31<sup>st</sup> January 2017**