

“He ora te whakapiri, he mate te whakatākiri”

Survival in unity, disaster in separation



Tā Taihākurei Durie, Ngāti Rangatahi claimant put out a rallying call to all Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga claimants earlier this month. Speaking in Foxton at a forum of WAI-113 named claimants, he urged hapū and fellow claimants to “put kotahitanga at the heart of our mahi so we can ensure the best outcome for Ngāti Raukawa” adding “we need to mend the division and get on with the job that the Iwi has tasked us with”.

The Wai 113 Claims Forum is a group of hapū appointed people who have agreed to be listed as named claimants for the Wai 113 Iwi-wide claim lodged in 1989 by Te Maharani Jacob, Iwikatea Nicholson and Whatakaraka Davis.

The forum has emerged from a number of hui-a-iwi that have been held since the passing of Iwikatea Nicholson in June 2017. At those hui, the hapū have resolved that the claim should be managed by the hapū rather than by one of the claims management groups or Te Rūnanga o Raukawa. The last three hui a iwi have attracted attendances of between 76 and 140 iwi members demonstrating that the issue is important in the minds of our people.

A process for nominating the hapū representatives has been underway for the past six months; Judge Caren Fox has been asked to formalise the named claimants that have completed the process.

The Wai-113 Claims Forum has met a number of times to discuss and prepare the amended Statement of Claim, progress the naming of hapū representatives and organise their operational arrangements. At its first meeting, they elected two convenors; Denis Emery (Wai 1461) and Rachael Selby (Wai 113 Pareraukawa).

In coming weeks the Wai-113 Claims Forum will be discussing a joint submission on the hearing schedule with dates and venues for the Tribunal to hear Ngāti Raukawa’s evidence.

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