



OWHAOKO  
B&D LANDS TRUST

# OWHAOKO B & D TRUST

April 2021

## Kai Raumati – Kai Makariri I Te Hinu o Te Whenua

### *Tihei Mauriora!*

*Tena koutou E te nui E te rahi Ko tenei te Pānui Whenua o Owhaoko – Ko te pataka kai mo te Iwi. Tena koutou, tena koutou, aa tena ra tatou katoa*

Welcome to this our latest Owhaoko B&D Trust Newsletter post our recent biennial Meeting of Owners held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at Moawhango Marae.

### Change of Trustees

Our sincerest thanks to outgoing trustee Angus Hartley for his many years of service on the Trust. His expertise and experience was of great benefit to the Trust. We also welcome trustee elect Lisa Chase and look forward to the valuable contributions she will bring to the board table.

I hope you enjoy the contents of this newsletter and we look forward to any feedback or questions you may have.

### Owners Services

Every year in January we have a hikoi for about 15 owners and their descendants to re-engage with their whenua. There is no cost to the participants although the walk is not easy and this year, we brought in more helicopters so those unable to complete the walk could still be catered for.

We also have a number of free trips per year available to owners to use the owners hut at Ngā Māhanga. Again, our lands are rugged, remote and landlocked so it is not easy to access and to stay on the land does require some back country know how and a good amount of mobility and fitness.

Both these activities are part of our re-engagement strategy for our people with the whenua and the Trust is concerned that there are not enough of our owners that are taking these opportunities up. See the article in this newsletter for more information.

*Ma te atua e manaaki I a koutou I a tatou katoa.*

*Ngā mihi,*  
**Richard Steedman,**  
Chairman



## Improving Communication

Owhaoko B & D Trust administers the following seven (7) land blocks:

<b>Owhaoko B No.1B</b>	<b>Owhaoko D No. 1</b>	<b>Owhaoko D No. 3</b>
<b>Owhaoko D No .4B</b>	<b>Owhaoko D No. 8B</b>	<b>Part Owhaoko D7B</b>
	<b>Owhaoko B East</b>	

If you are an Owner, or know Owners who are in the blocks above, you can assist us to update our register by providing contact details. Registration gives you the opportunity to receive important Trust communications. We encourage Owners and Beneficiaries to share the newsletter with their whanau.

**Contact details for Owhaoko B & D Trust are set out below.** You will find that the Owhaoko B&D Trust website has information about Owner Registration (look under the heading 'ABOUT'). Alternatively, email us your contact details and we will send you a Registration form to complete.

### **CONTACT DETAILS:**

**PHONE:** 0800 274 374 **EMAIL:** [info@owhaoko.co.nz](mailto:info@owhaoko.co.nz) **WEBSITE:** [www.owhaoko.co.nz](http://www.owhaoko.co.nz)

# Owhaoko B&D Trust Announce Strong Partnership with Oha Honey



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OHA HONEY

The strong partnership between the marketing power of Oha Honey and the access to land and mānuka from Owhaoko B & D Trust is a great example of iwi collaboration done right.

Owhaoko B & D Trust administers seven land blocks forming part of the Mōkai Pātea lands between the Kaimanawa, Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges northeast of Taihape which belong to Ngāti Whitikaupeka and Ngāti Tamakōpiri. Oha Honey is owned by Ngāi Tahu Holdings and is one of the leaders in the mānuka honey market.

The iwi partners have been working together for more than a year farming 3,000 hectares of landlocked mānuka on rugged and remote land north and south of the Napier-Taihape Road and stretching up into the Central Plateau. The land is accessible only by helicopter and the mānuka bush takes over the sloping hills at the lower altitudes. This geographical remoteness makes for very pure honey.

Owhaoko B & D Trust Chairman Richard Steedman says he is delighted to be connected with an iwi partner and is keen to move forward with a focus on their shared Māori values.



He says Oha Honey is a well-respected company with deeper channels to market, while Owhaoko B & D Trust offers access to land and inter-tribal connections.

The parties have built their relationship based on their respective iwi values of kaitiakitanga, manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, tohungatanga and rangatiratanga. Oha Honey Chief Commercial Officer Ben Bateman says that together the partners understand the intrinsic value of mānuka honey as a taonga.

“The partnership is valuable because each partner brings respective strengths to it. Owhaoko B & D brings a deep connection to their Whenua, which has a fantastic mānuka resource. Oha brings scale and systems, beekeeping expertise and channels to market.”

Bateman hoped the partnership could grow and deepen over time to support intergenerational outcomes.

# **Mokai Patea Tiriti Settlement Mandate Achieved with Help from Owhaoko B&D Trust**

The Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust welcomes the Crown's recognition of its mandate, the critical first formal step towards Tiriti settlement, and warmly thanks the whanau, hapū and iwi of the Mōkai Pātea rohe who have supported and enabled this mahi to date.

“The Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust thanks the iwi Rūnanga and people of Ngāti Tamakōpiri, Ngāti Whitikaupeka, Ngāi Te Ohuake and Ngāti Hauiti and the Owhaoko B&D Trust and the Aorangi Awarua Trust for their ongoing tautoko during this process,” says Trust chair Utiku Potaka. “The feeling is primarily just relief at this point. Any sense of success is heavily tempered by the knowledge that although it has already taken many years to reach this point and yet the hīkoi to restore the mana of the iwi of Mōkai Pātea still has a long way to go.”

“The Mōkai Pātea people of this rohe made submissions on our Draft Mandate Strategy in 2017 and in 2018, voted in the Mandate Vote in 2019, and then made submissions on the Draft Deed of Mandate in 2020. Our board and team acknowledge the effort and views of everyone who took part in those important engagements. We have listened intently to all the kōrero, made amendments and improvements where appropriate, and we thank all who participated for your patience and understanding,” says Mr Potaka.

Eighty percent of those who participated in the 2019 Mandate poll voted for The Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust to represent the claimant community in negotiations with the Crown for the comprehensive settlement of all of the historical claims of Mōkai Pātea.

We are humbled by the strength of that mandate and will continue to work for the aspirations and benefit of all Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu, including those who have not yet supported the Trust's role and mission. As ever, the door is open to them and we hope that now the Mandate has been confirmed by a proper and legitimate process, they will join us in moving the settlement process forward.

“Now that our Deed of Mandate is ratified, we can get on with developing the terms of negotiation for the settlement negotiations with the Crown. This will again be a challenge, but we hope it can be achieved reasonably quickly and this process will now accelerate,” says Utiku.

The Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust has progressed its claims in the Wai 2180 Waitangi Tribunal Taihape Inquiry, which is scheduled to conclude in early 2021, and has participated in the separate direct negotiations process with the Crown, for which the Deed of Mandate is the critical prerequisite. Mōkai Pātea is a rohe (region) in the centre of Te Ika-a-Māui-(the North Island) that extends from the summit of the Desert Road in the north to just south of Rata in the south, and from just to the west of SH1 and Taihape across to the Ngaruroro River and the summit of the Ruahine in the east, and encompasses Taihape, Moawhango, Opaea, Winiata, Utiku, Mangaweka and Rātā and borders Waiouru, Mataroa and Hunterville.

The rūnanga of Ngāti Tamakōpiri, Ngāti Whitikaupeka, Ngāi Te Ohuake and Ngāti Hauiti, the four iwi of Mōkai Pātea, established the Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust in the spirit of kotahitanga and tino rangatiratanga that has historically and traditionally characterised collective relationships in the rohe.

Mōkai Pātea was one of the last areas of Aotearoa-New Zealand in which Māori land was alienated by the Crown and Pākehā settlers. This included Tiriti breaches that occurred when well-developed Māori sheep farms and kāinga were lost in the 1890s, most infamously when Winiata Te Whaaro was arrested and his whānau evicted from Pokopoko, and when the Waiouru Military Training Area was being set up in in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.



## Golden Hills Hut Restoration



In the Matariki 2019 newsletter, we gave a preliminary report on the restoration of the Golden Hills Hut. We are happy to report that restoration work is nearing complete.

On the inside they have tried to keep the original character for the bunks, table, seating, shelving and fireplace. The bunks were rebuilt using existing framing where possible, with local beech trees used for new framing. Number 8 wire has been used to connect all the rails together. With the original hut table, new legs were built and attached to the table top.



Big thanks to Murray Nichols and those who have accompanied him for their hard work in restoring the hut. Murray used his contacts in the building industry in Tauranga and Mt Maunganui to get most of the building materials donated. We would like to thank all of those suppliers. We also acknowledge the support of Helisika for delivering all of these materials to Golden Hills.

Nga mihinui kia koutou katoa.

*Written by Cyril Mako and Terry Steedman*



# Marae Donation Recipients



Deputy Chair Cyril Mako presenting Otahuhu Marae Chair Angus Hartley with the Marae donation cheque



Trustee Barbara Ball presenting Moawhango Marae Chair Marj Heeney with the Marae donation cheque



Deputy Chair Cyril Mako presenting Winiata Marae Terry Steedman with the Marae donation cheque.



Trustee Ngaire Anne Kauika Stephens presenting Opaea Marae Chair Moira Raukawa Haskell with the Marae donation cheque

Photographs courtesy of Barbara Ball and Ngaire Kauika-Steven



Rangitikei river at the southwest boundary of trust lands

## Our Hikoi and Huts — Improving Owner Access to the Whenua

The kaupapa of “*out there doing it*” was a way of life for our ancestors before the era of colonisation, commoditisation, urbanisation and whanau not having to catch or grow their own food (‘KFC-isation’). Increasing the range of opportunities for our owners to actively connect with their whenua is a key goal. Owahaoko is remote natural wilderness, so we aim to do this in a way that meets best practice outdoor safety, while being affordable for both Owners and the Trust.

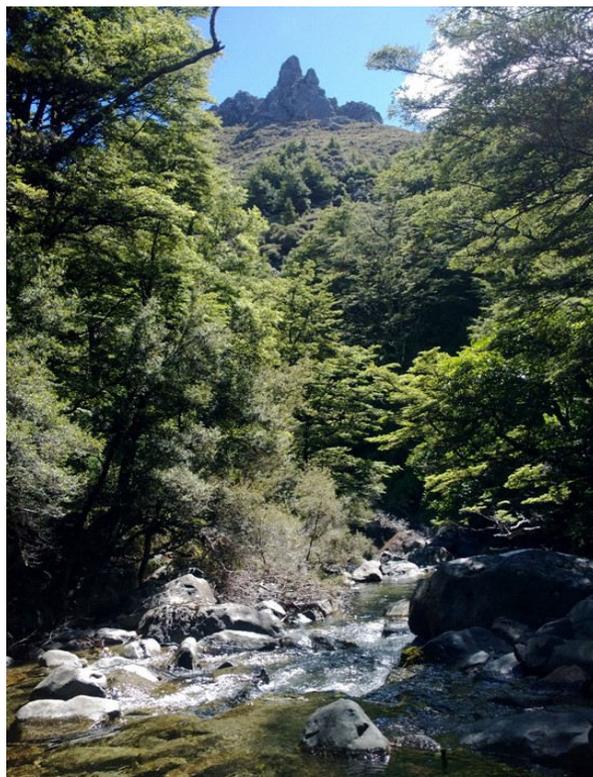
Currently these opportunities include:

**Annual Hikoi** – a 3 day guided trek across trust lands each summer; main meals and tent accommodation are prepared in advance of arriving at each campsite.

**Ngamahanga “Owners Whare”** – hut accommodation and helicopter transport are provided at no cost for up to 10 bookings by owner parties at the Ngamahanga Owners block each year; and

**Voucher System for Other Huts** – hut accommodation is provided at no cost and helicopter transport at a discounted rate for up to 20 bookings by owner parties, to other huts on Trust lands each year.

Parties requesting to book huts should contain no more than 5 members and include a majority of members who are owners, or descendants of an owner, in Owahaoko B&D Trust. All parties are provided a health and safety induction with a Trust field officer prior to visiting Trust lands.



In considering applications for participating on the hikoi or booking huts, preference is given to parties with Owners or descendants who have not visited their Trust lands before. **For more information** about our Hikoi & Huts, please contact the Owahaoko B&D Trust office via email: [info@owhaoko.co.nz](mailto:info@owhaoko.co.nz) or visit [www.owhaoko.co.nz](http://www.owhaoko.co.nz))

**Written by:**

**Mark Ross**



Image: Environment Southland

## Watching Out for Wilding Pines

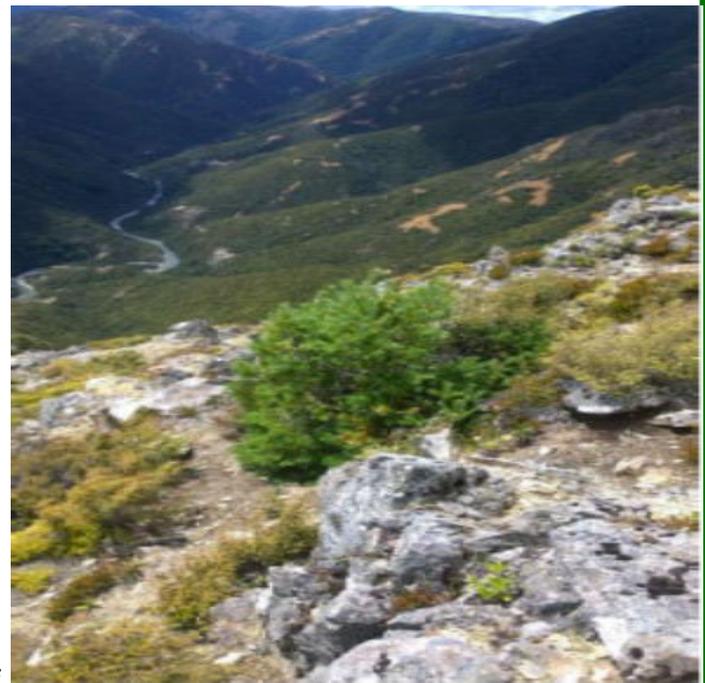
Our land is vulnerable to introduced wilding conifer trees which include pines, cedars, firs, cypress, larches, and spruces.

“Wilding conifer” is the general term for these type of invasive plants that spread across the landscape – self-sown and unwanted. They are a threat to natural biodiversity and land productivity and often invade tussock grasslands. These wilding trees can quickly grow into dense forest which could become costly to control.

The photos below were taken over 17 years from Mid Dome, Southland. They show how rapidly wilding conifers colonise the landscape when left unchecked. Once they form a closed canopy virtually all native plants are replaced because they cannot grow in deep shade. Also the quantity of water flowing from the catchment is reduced by more than 40% through water vapour released to the atmosphere through the leaves of the trees.

The Trust continues to carry out annual monitoring and eradication of wilding pines in association with relevant agencies. Our aim is to be part of the New Zealand wilding conifer management strategy to prevent the spread of wilding conifers to contain or eradicate areas of concern by 2030.

I am looking forward to taking up the challenge of understanding more of this environmental hazard on behalf of the Trust and attend the 2020 National Conference.



Wilding Pine in the Waingakia Valley prior to termination

**Written by**

***Ngaire Anne Kauika-Stevens***