

Te Taurahere o Ngati Porou ki Poneke

Ngati Porou Trust Deed Review

A recount of how we got to where we are today.

This recounting of our history is related to the Taurahere o Ngati Porou ki Poneke. Tilly and I are perhaps the few elders of our Iwi able to tell this story. The establishment of our Taurahere o Ngati Porou occurred long before 1983. In fact, even before Te Runanga o Ngati Porou was established. We, the leaders and elders of Ngati Porou established our Taurahere to promote the matters that are of importance to Ngati Porou who live in the Wellington and other regions. I provided the name 'Taurahere' which retains the memorable saying of our uncle, Hanara Te Ohaki Reedy.

'We are but threads from the binding-human-rope of Tane'.

This piece of the proverbial saying '*the binding rope*' is referring to all of us who maintain the mana of Ngati Porou. Ngati Porou is the '*human rope*'. The descendants (all) are the muka, the threads of the rope.

The establishment of Runanga

In 1984 the Labour Government introduced policy-establishing Runanga. In 1984, Ngati Porou held its Iwi hui at Ruatoria and In 1987 Legislation was enacted for the establishment of Runanga-a-Iwi. Te Runanga o Ngati Porou was established then to represent the interests of Ngati Porou from an economic, cultural and educational perspective. This is the history of how and when our Runanga o Ngati Porou was established.

The Ngati Porou Treaty of Waitangi Settlement with the Crown

The Treaty of Waitangi Settlement with the Crown was the next major milestone. In order to reach our Treaty of Waitangi Settlement with the Crown, our Runanga was required to achieve 75% support from Ngati Porou. Our scattered population of approximately 70,000 (the second largest iwi in NZ) gave unstinting support, reaching 90% in some regions. To get this support the Runanga team travelled all over NZ and Australia. The settlement was signed with the Crown and the Ngati Porou Trust Deed (empowering the Runanganui to act on our behalf) was

established in 2010. Ngati Porou was happy! If Ngati Porou by a significant majority had not given their support there would not have been any settlement!

However, when our Runanganui was established following the Settlement, the vast majority of Ngati Porou who live outside the Rohe Potikirua ki Te Toka a Taiau found themselves excluded from involvement and decision-making of the Runanganui business. This became most apparent to us at the last elections in the bureaucratic complexity and the utter nonsense of the voting system that had been imposed on Ngati Porou outside the Rohe by the Runanganui - thus turning many away.

We conclude that the Runanganui Trust Deed of 2010 does not serve a "Fair deal" to Ngati Porou who live outside the home boundary of Potikirua ki Te Toka a Taiau. Our Taurahere o Ngati Porou ki Poneke want changes made to the Ngati Porou Trust Deed to reflect these inequities.

The changes we are proposing are:

1. Mandate a financial distribution model in the Trust Deed.
2. Amend the Runanganui Structure.
3. Change the representation model.

Sir Tamati Reedy

Chairman

Te Taurahere o Ngati Porou ki Poneke