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Tena koutou

Hope all is good throughout the marua. This newsletter updates you on our projects as we go into spring 2011.

### **Further Tawa Extraction and Milling**

We have been working for some time to arrange the extraction and milling some tawa for Ngati Manunui to use for their flooring for the refurbishment of their hall. Finally in September, things came together and we had Carl Peterson of Peterson portable sawmills fame come to do this milling job, using his prototype Turbo sawmill. Overall we found that the sawmill did a good job and compared well with the bandsawmill we used in the first trial of tawa extraction. Both sawmills have pros and cons!

Ngati Manunui got right into the job, and within a couple of days off the mill, they had carted their timber off to begin the process for finishing as flooring. A feature of the milling operation was the skilful manipulation of the logs into place for the mill by the operator on the digger from Te Urewera Contractors. Take a bow Jules!!

The boys from Ngati Manunui also collected data on converting the logs to sawn timber in the milling process which will be carefully analysed to help determine our logging approach in future operations.



*The Peterson sawmill at work*

*Boys hard at work*



*Beautiful timber produced*



*Roy Edwards, tree felling*

This was a job well done by all showing that, with little notice, we are able to pull together such an operation, albeit using contractors and machinery that we don't (as yet!) have in the marua. It's also been an example of how the Tuawhenua Trust can support specific marae projects in Ruatahuna, whilst at the same time furthering our objectives for Tuawhenua people and lands.

Our next developments in this area include taking our tawa timber from the first trial through the drying and finishing process for flooring, so that we understand the economics and issues associated with this whole process. We are also looking at a helicopter trial as part of the feasibility testing and preparation for the recovery of trees to be removed in making way for the power line to Papueru.

### **Training in Forestry Management**

The Waiariki Polytech has a useful course in forest management and is supportive of school leavers where it pays the first year of fees. The Trust is keen to identify a young person in the marua who is interested in when they leave school, to study on forest management. A tohu in this area would be useful for indigenous forest management in the Tuawhenua, or for use in a career in pine forestry where there will be opportunities in the CNI or other forests in the future.

The Tuawhenua Trust would like to be supportive of such a young person and would look to award a Tuawhenua Trust Scholarship to the person who takes up this challenge. If you are at all interested please contact Kerewai or Brenda at our office 3663166.

### **Pig-hunting and the TB Survey**

The first phase of the survey was successful with Tuawhenua hunters bringing in 11 pigs which were all accepted for testing. We had a good spread across the rohe for the pigs submitted – from Te Huia to Heipipi, across to Te Houhi and Paripari. The report back from the Animal Health Board is that all heads found were correctly removed. No TB was found on the heads submitted.

The second phase is now underway. And we have several heads to date. Keep up the hunting! It takes a little time for the money to come back, but you'll get it in the end.

We feature te poaka puihi in our information section this week....some interesting bits!

## Matauranga o Te Tuawhenua

This project aims to collect the precious matauranga about the flora and fauna of the Tuawhenua, including plants, trees, insects, birds, lizards and fish. We are looking to find out about what are the species in the Tuawhenua; what makes them special for Tuawhenua hapu or Tuhoe as a whole; how were they used and how harvested; what changes have occurred over time, and what might we do about it.

Kirituia Tumarae and Tangiora Tawhara are working on team as researchers, with Abel Teka on film. Makere Biddle started our transcribing but has gone to Wellington to work for 6 weeks with the Chief Judge of the Maori Land Court (go Makere!!). Ruhia Temara will take up some of the transcribing for the project. Kerewai Morunga is providing support for the project and will cover the project for still photography.

We are well into the interviews for the project and we are building a fascinating record of how Tuawhenua whanau and hapu viewed, knew about and used different things in our ngahere and awa. It's so interesting for all involved - we are only just realizing how much people know that it is not usually talked about!!

We aim to finish interviews and transcripts by the end of October and we will run a wananga in November for everyone interested to listen to and view what we have gathered in this project.

At a later stage, the matauranga from this project will be used for producing resource materials in written and electronic form so that the whanau and hapu of the Tuawhenua, as well as our kura, have access to this kind of knowledge. The Tuawhenua Trust will also bring this matauranga into its planning and the way in which it approaches management of our ngahere and awa as a whole.



*Korotau Tamiana started our matauranga project by pointing out some of the key features of the Tuawhenua, from a point at Hukanui. This photo looks down river to places like Paripari, Manatihono, Te Mapara and Te Iho o Kataka.*

## **The Geology of the Urewera**

It has been hugely satisfying for the Tuawhenua Trust to have supported GNS Science in their project for mapping the geology of the Urewera. John Begg of GNS presented the main points about the geology of the Tuawhenua region at our trust meeting in August and then sent through a stack of copies of the final book for distribution throughout the marua. Copies have been sent out to each hapu, Te Wharekura o Huiarau and the Tribal. Thanks to John Begg and the team at GNS for their generosity in supplying these precious reports. If people are interested in these matters further and you want to send off a question or would like John Begg to come to do a presentation on the geology of this area then just let Kerewai or Brenda know at the office.

## **Deer Control**

In March this year we had planned to run a deer control trial but it was postponed at first and then finally cancelled as it ran too close to the roar. Meantime we have been observing the impacts of deer in the bush, where they are browsing on shrubs and seedlings, such as podocarps, the regeneration of which we have been working so hard to enhance.

We are planning to run our deer control trial in mid-October. We understand this is a sensitive issue for hunters and hunting tour operators, but our local efforts are not enough currently to get some control over the ever-increasing population of deer in the more inaccessible parts of the Tuawhenua. We will post a notice and map at the shop with the specific dates and places for the trial in the Tuawhenua region.

For the last trial we planned, a number of hunters indicated areas that they wanted set as no-go areas. We will assume that these same areas will be no-go for this new trial. If you wish to check on or add to the areas to be set as no-go areas for this trial, please let the office 3663 166 or one of the trustees know.

The Trust is aware that it is a challenge to monitor a chopper when it is up in the air, (short of sending someone on the chopper every time it flies!) We are working out with the chopper operator how we obtain not only the GPS data for the deer but also their flight tracks so we can see precisely where they hunt and hold up to recover deer. Further we are restricting the trial to no more than 7 days so that we are able to assess the trial for results and fairness. If it doesn't work well, we will want to know why, and we are not bound into any arrangement going beyond the trial.

Look out for the notice at the shop about the timing and places for the trial....

## **Trust Snippets**

### **Changes for the Tuawhenua Trust**

We are pleased to announce that Doris Rurehe was nominated and supported as the only nomination for trustee of the Tuawhenua Trust at our General Meeting in August. In the Trust office, Kerewai Morunga has been appointed as the Executive Assistant for the Trust

### **Trust Publications**

We have copies of the Trust Report 2008-11 and Strategic Intent available at the office. If you would like a copy, just let us know. You can also get copies of the Tuawhenua Claim Report at the office \$80 for both volumes I & II.

Do you know this about Poaka Puihi....?

### **Te Poaka Puihi<sup>1</sup>**

A pig, in a broad sense, is a rotund-bodied animal having short legs and a small tail. It has an even number of toes with two functional and two nonfunctional digits. It has a thick skin from which grows short, coarse bristles, and has a long and extremely mobile snout. In maturity a pig has forty-four teeth and it universally carries its head low so that it eats, drinks, and breathes close to the ground.

Of all the animals that were introduced into New Zealand and have since reverted to a completely wild state, only the pig has become a true game animal.

A mature New Zealand wild boar is by any reckoning a formidable adversary. He may, for instance, stand around three feet high at the shoulder and weigh well in excess of three hundred pounds. His nature is generally belligerent and unpredictable, his temper short fused. He is armed with devastating weapons – his razor-sharp tusks, which can protrude six inches from his bottom jaw. With these characteristics and with very good eye sight and sense of smell, a wild boar can be a very challenging animal to hunt.



*Poaka Puihi –A formidable boar!*

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<sup>1</sup> Thanks to Phillip Holden 'The Wild Pig NZ' from which much of this information and the photos have been drawn.

Pigs multiply prolifically if left unchecked. Like domestic breeds, the wild pig of New Zealand all have a gestation period of around 115 days (“3 months, 3 weeks, 3 days”), with a twenty- one day interval between periods of estrus. Pigs can also breed at a very early age — a sow when she is about eight months old, a boar when he is a year old. A boar is said to be in his prime at eight years old (pigs live well in excess of ten years and some have been known to reach twenty years of age). As a guideline, a boar can mate with fifteen to forty-five sows a year and a sow farrows around four to six pigs in the wild state and eight to ten when she is living in a domestic situation; she will produce 1.5 litters or more a year.

### **Na te aha, na wai ranei, i tae mai ai ki Aotearoa?**

It is generally held that Captain Cook introduced pigs into this country, through liberations in the North and South Islands. Maori across the country took to keeping pigs in those early days. This seems fitting as in our ancestral home of central Polynesia the pig was held in great esteem as the food of the wealthy. Somehow pigs and fowl were left behind or, more likely, they died on the voyages of our waka to New Zealand, which explains why of the three Polynesian domesticated animals, only the kurii landed in this country.

The rapid increase of pigs in pre-settlement days was extraordinary. They could be found from one end of the country to the other. It has been said that almost every sealing and whaling ship that left these waters had on board a large number of pigs. Whalers would often journey up the big inland rivers and the crew would kill large numbers of pigs on the grassy river flats or in the adjacent bush. They could fetch high prices across the Tasman, in Sydney. Other men, known as 'pork traders' travelled up the same waterways and obtained pigs from the Maoris. They could then be sold for a substantial profit to the captains of ships or to people in the fast-growing settlements.

The availability of pigs was to prove of enormous benefit to the early explorers and gold prospectors. Once their supplies ran out they had no option but to live off the land and what better dinner than the succulent flesh of a wild pig.

By all accounts it seems quite certain that pigs were firmly established in many parts of the country by 1840. They thrived in the New Zealand bush, their numbers increasing rapidly between 1840 and 1880, but dwindling once food became more scarce.

### **He pai.....**

The pig became a valuable article of barter between tribes, as it was considered the real highlight of the tangi feasts. In his book *The Game Animals of New Zealand*, T. E. Donne says, ‘The Poaka (the porker) figures largely on the menu in the ta ngi feasts of the Maoris, and I have seen the dressed carcass of a fine fat pig literally covered with one, five, and ten-pound banknotes, this valuable carcass forming the principal offering to members of a visiting tribe on their departure after a funeral ceremony.’

Pigs were kept for a valuable inclusion in the Maori diet. They were also kept for trade. The early days saw Maori taking their pigs some distance to markets in coastal towns. Pigs were kept right in here in Ruatahuna in this way. Tahae can tell you about his kuia Motoi taking her pigs all the way from Tarapounamu to market in Whakatane – going all that way by the river was no problem at all!!!



*Offering of pigs and potatoes to visiting tribe after tangi in 1902 (NZ Graphic)*

### **He kino....**

In yesteryear, pigs were often kept in a semi-feral state and without fencing some of these pigs would wander off into the bush. In a wild state, the pig soon discovered that food was plentiful, that the ridiculously tame native birds, many of them flightless, were simply there for the taking. With his extremely powerful sense of smell a pig is able to scent out the burrows and the runs of birds such as the kakapo, kiwi, and kiore and the habitats of land snails. With his snout he is able to root out whatever he might find in there – eggs, chicks, healthy or sick birds were all gobbled down with enthusiasm.

Once the Pakeha settlement of New Zealand began in earnest, wild pigs came to be looked upon with loathing: they uprooted cultivated land, destroyed crops and even worse, they killed and ate lambs. The Pakeha answer to this was to hunt them. Thousands of these pigs were killed in the 1880s by hunters and farmers. Numbers rose again during both world wars, when there was a shortage of hunters, ammunition, and petrol for transport. However, they have decreased since, as a result of bounty schemes after the war, forest clearance and hunting. Since the late 1950s, Captain Cookers have steadily declined nationwide – hunting them remains popular.

### **Poaka Kunekune**

Among the various types of pigs that were brought into this country there was one breed in particular that our old people and Maori throughout the country prized above all others – the 'kunekune', meaning 'round and fat'. The kune-kune pig, with its short characteristic beads (or dewlaps) hanging from his lower jaw, possessed a remarkable ability to fatten quickly on hardly more than a subsistence diet. Our matua, tipuna were astounded by both the goodness and the amount of its fat, which was of vital importance as a preservative – hai tahu manu, miti ranei. Moreover, the kunekune pig, unlike other breeds, wasn't inclined to wander and was therefore much easier to look after.

How this type of pig reached New Zealand is a complete mystery and one can only speculate. They strongly resemble, both in general form and coloration, the Old Poland China breed that was common in the United States of America in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Probably the kunekune are the descendants of that breed brought here by North American whalers in that time.

### **Paku hitori**

Some of you will remember Pahiri Haumate or if not, I'm sure you will remember Paki – his son – who was brought up by Te Hauauru and Pakitu Wharekiri at Mataatua. It was said that Pahiri Haumate was a great hunter. Te Hauauru would recount how, when Pahiri was working on the road at Te Whaiti, he would come back to Mataatua at the end of the week on his horse and go straight down the river for the weekend hunting pigs. He always caught pigs and the whanau would await his return for the meat that he shared out to the different homes at Mataatua. Sharing the bounty from a hunt with all the whanau was just part of how things were done.

Pahiri's feats as a hunter and bushman were particularly admirable given that he suffered from epilepsy. He knew how to manage the fits from this ailment and when he felt a fit coming on when at the bush, he would get to ground, off his horse, and wait for the fit to pass, then carry on.

Other pig hunters famous in their hey-day too were Nikora Hikawera, Davis Temara, John Kiira, and Smoky Tawhara.