

OWNER NEWSLETTER: JULY 2023



OWHAOKO
B&D LANDS TRUST

Kai Raumati - Kai Makariri I Te Hinū o Te Whenua

Tihei Mauriora!

Tuatahi ka tika ka mihi ki ngā mate kua wehe ia matou I ngā marama kua paheke. Ki te Totaranui E Arapiu E te Matua ka tangi tonu te ngakau mou. E ngā mate Haere, Haere, Haere e oki.

Tuarua e te hunga e tautoko tonu ana I ngā take mahamaha mo to tatou whenua Tenei te mihi kia 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 the latest edition of the Owhaoko B & D Trust Newsletter, following the biennial Meeting of Owners held on 2nd April 2023 at Moawhango Marae.



OHA

OWHAOKO

HONEY LP



Following up from our previous Trust Newsletter you will remember that we now have our own Honey Company - Oha Owahaoko Honey Limited Partnership.

This Limited Partnership (LP) consists of ourselves (The Trust) and Oha Honey who are owned by Ngāi Tahu and are one of the biggest Mānuka Honey companies in the country.

Our Oha partner brings scale and systems, beekeeping expertise and channels to market to our Oha Owahaoko LP and this helps us to navigate the ups and downs of the Mānuka Honey sector.

Our Honey company not only provides the honey harvesting services to our own Trust lands, but also to some of our other Mōkai Pātea whanaunga Land Trusts and some private land owners.

Update

As reported at our recent Meeting of Owners, our LP unfortunately recorded a loss of \$159,277 in the operating year to 30 June 2021. We were however quietly confident that the trend of our bottom line since Oha Honey became our partner showed that we would make break-even and profit within a year or two of them taking over the operations.

This trend came to fruition with the LP recording its first true operating profit for the 2022 year of \$120,402 based on honey harvesting and sales.



We are especially happy with this result when we know that the Mānuka Honey sector is currently badly affected by a glut of Honey and other residual effects of the Covid pandemic including a lengthy inability to re-enter the China market.

Harvest Results

The Trust of course, also gains an income from the honey harvested off its own whenua and we have been able to see positive returns in the last two years of operations. Below is a table showing our hive numbers and harvest statistics over the last two seasons -

Season	Total Hives	Total Harvest (kg's)	Trusts Share of Income
20/21	1,692	19,150	\$86,463
21/22	1,572	39,232	\$631,381

As you can see these two seasons were very different, with the 20/21 season returning a comparatively low quantity. Because we are landlocked, the cost of helicopters to access our land severely affects our bottom line when either the quantity or quality of honey is low. Contrasting this the 21/22 season produced more than double the quantity for less hives and this combination certainly mitigates the helicopter costs.

I think it is worth noting that the Trust has not experienced a loss in the eight years that we have carried out honey harvesting operations. This, in the volatile environment within which we operate, not least being weather and climate change, which so easily affects our bees, should be something to be very appreciative of.

NATIVE SEED COLLECTION & CONSERVATION

In late February 2023, a researcher was guided on to Owhaoko B&D whenua to collect native plant seeds and material as part of the New Zealand Flora Seed Bank (NZFSB) Project. The researcher - Mesu Tora from Massey University in Palmerston North - was taken in to the Ngamahanga Block for an overnight stay and he collected seed/plant material from five different species from various parts of the whenua.

Background

The NZFSB Project aims to engage with communities across New Zealand around seed conservation and currently has a specific focus on preserving alpine flora. With approximately 700 species and high endemism, the alpine flora is a critical group that requires immediate attention



Seed collection being undertaken on Owhaoko B&D whenua

due to the imminent threats of climate change. Studies predict that a 3°C temperature increase could lead to the loss of 200-300 indigenous alpine species, primarily due to habitat reduction, fragmentation, and invasive species.

Securing these plant species via seed collection and storage in seed banks is crucial, and requires a collective effort from iwi, the broader community and key stakeholders. The ultimate vision is to establish a New Zealand Flora Seed Bank that will safeguard the nation's unique biodiversity through both in-situ (on-site) and ex-situ (off-site) conservation activities.

The NZFSB is actively enhancing its partnership and collaborative effort with iwi/Māori, focusing on joint seed collection activities and capacity building.

More info on the NZFSB can be found here: http://ns-proxy1.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/colleges/college-of-sciences/clinics-and-services/new-zealand-indigenous-flora-seed-bank/new-zealand-indigenous-flora-seed-bank_home.cfm

Seed collection in the Ngamahanga Block

A total of 5 species were collected from the seed collection expedition, and in different locations within the block as shown in the map below.

1. *Lecopogon fraseri* - commonly known as Pātōtara, Dwarf Mingimingi

3. *Gaultheria macrostigma* - commonly known as Prostrate Snowberry

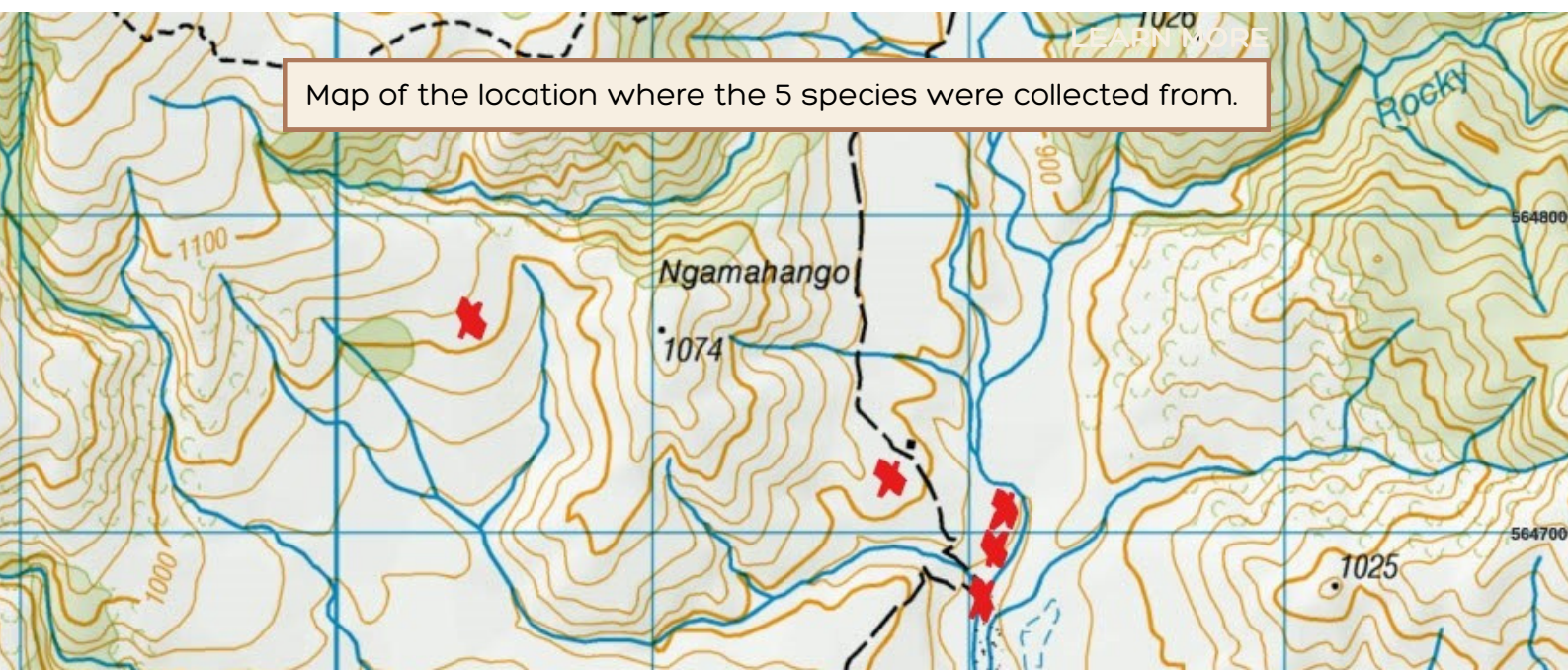
5. *Ozothamnus vauvillersii* - commonly known as Mountain Tauhinu



2. *Acrothamnus colensoi* - commonly known as Colenso's Mingimingi

4. *Chinochloa rubra* subsp. *rubra* var. *rubra* - commonly known as Red Tussock

Map of the location where the 5 species were collected from.



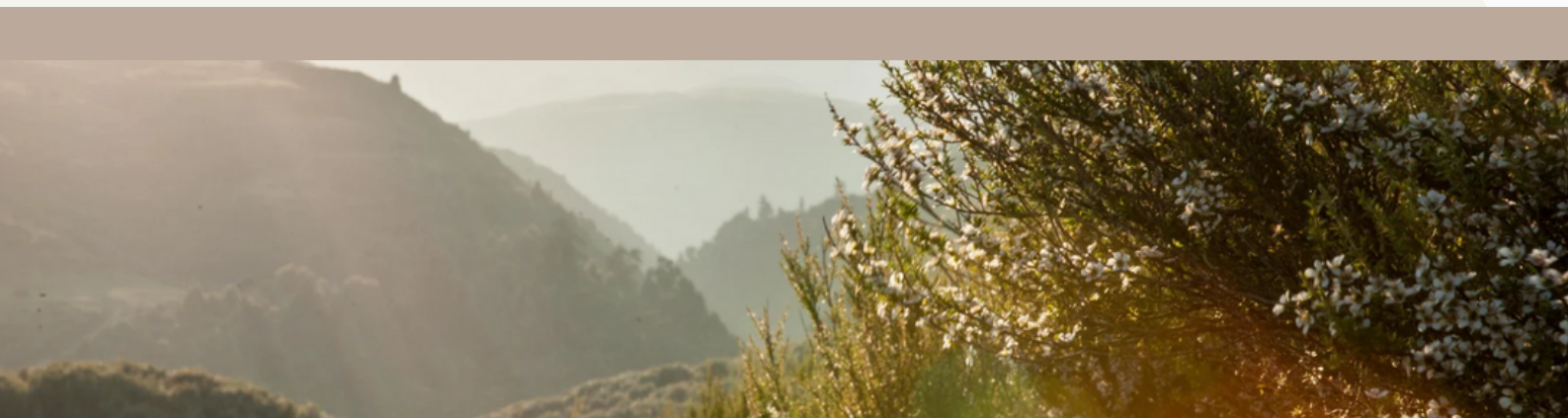
All seeds from the Owhaoko expedition have been carefully processed and are currently being stored at the NZFSB long-term storage facility in Palmerston North. If needed in the future, these seeds will provide a lifeline for restoring native plant populations and/or rejuvenating the stunning alpine ecosystems on our Owhaoko B&D whenua. The Trust is continuing to work with the NZFSB on this important work.

BEEKEEPING APPRENTICESHIP

Keen on an apprenticeship in beekeeping? Keep reading below to see what this looks like with Oha Honey:

Apprenticeship Year One (August/September to July):

- You will be assisting beekeepers with their day-to-day beekeeping responsibilities (feeding, boxing up, getting combs and queens, tidying site/truck, harvesting etc - you will soon understand this lingo!).
- By being alongside the beekeepers, you will be observing and learning what they are doing as they go about their work.
- Here is the exciting part - there will be opportunities to open up hives and check them yourself to see what is going on - do not worry, you will have a beekeeper with you.
- During your first year you will begin your Level 3 Apiculture Certification which is made up of both theory and practical work with a 3-day block course to attend.
- It is important for you to recognise diseases within the hive early on in your career, so you will undertake training and certification in recognising these. This is called the AFB Recognition course.
- Keeping each other safe is high on our priority list! We will have regular training sessions in Health, Safety and Wellbeing and will also get you First Aid certified.
- Depending on where you are at in your driving licence journey, we like to give you every opportunity to upskill. Throughout the three years of your apprenticeship, you will get licences in:
 - Class 1 4WD (light vehicle)
 - Class 2 4WD (heavy vehicle)
 - Forklift Endorsement
 - Tractor, Avant and Trailer training (operating)
- Your cultural development is important to us here at Oha, so there will be regular dedicated days where you connect *kanohi ki te kanohi* (face to face) with your Rūnanga throughout your three-year apprenticeship.



Apprenticeship Year Two (August to July):

- This will be the year you get to show off what you have learnt so far - you will be working in the hives fulltime with oversight from the experienced beekeepers in your team helping you to problem solve and guide you using best practices.
- You have likely completed your Level 3 Apiculture course, and the knowledge you have learnt through that course, and from your onsite beekeepers, will be helping you work your way through the hives this year.
- Depending on what training you undertook in your first year, we would look to see where you could pick up new training this year as above.
- Each year you will complete an AFB Recognition refresher course so you can keep on top of that disease recognition.
- If you haven't already checked out our apiary record keeping system called MyApiary, this would be the year you begin learning the ins and outs of this cool app.

Apprenticeship Year Three (August to July):

- After a year of being more hands-on in the hive, now is a good time to take up the Level 4 Apiculture Course certification. This includes a 5-day block course. Level 4 is a more in-depth course and focuses on hive management.
- You will continue to be in the hives, in a fulltime capacity.
- You may also have a new apprentice you can share your knowledge with.
- Each year you will complete an AFB Recognition refresher course so you can keep on top of that disease recognition.
- By the end of this season, you will confidently look after 400 hives and have completed your Level 3 and Level 4 Apiculture Certification.

Congratulations - you are now officially a beekeeper!

If you found this article interesting and you think you may be interested in a Beekeeping Apprenticeship, please contact the Trust office at info@owhaoko.co.nz or on 0800 274 374.

HUNTING AT NGAMAHANGA



Access to the whenua for hunting is available for all owners. Recently the Trust received a first-time booking from Caleb Hayden who stayed at the Ngamahanga Hut. He provided some awesome feedback and a photo of his experience:

"Kia ora Mark, I had a great time staying on my Owhaoko whenua and feeling connected to my ancestors. The hut was very comfortable and warm. I have no negative comments about it and I really look forward to taking my girls in next year.

Thanks to you and our trust again for doing this for our landowners. Managed to get a 6-point stag and a hind for a kai. Seen 15 animals all up."

TREATY OF WAITANGI - MOKAI PATEA SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS - NEGOTIATIONS PHASE UPDATE

Iwi Registrations and Hapū Elections - November 2023.

This is an update on the progress of the Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust (MPWCT) towards settlement of our Treaty of Waitangi claims against the Crown.

In 2021, MPWCT gained a mandate on behalf of the four Iwi of Mōkai Pātea - Ngāti Whitikaupeka, Ngāti Tamakōpiri, Ngāti Hauiti and Ngāi Te Ohuake to negotiate a settlement with the Crown and four Negotiators were appointed in late 2021. The four negotiators are Che Wilson, Tama Potaka, Tracey Pikiteora Hiroa and Richard Steedman. We asked Che Wilson to provide the following update on progress.

As negotiators we have now been operating for about 18 months since November 2022. It's been a journey of getting to understand the process and what it may be on paper is different to how it is. The negotiations team have covered a range of issues as well as navigate the different government agencies and their systems. This has been hard when they might not want to talk to each other let alone talk to the people they are supposed to serve, us!

Our first difficulty was having to work with three different Chief Crown Negotiators but we have now been working with David Tapsell for over a year so that issue has settled down. We are also working through some of our big issues which include:

- Landlocked Lands;
- Defence; and
- Awa aspirations.

Landlocked Lands

'Motuhia te ara hikoi, ka momotu te ara o te ora.'
'If you sever access, you sever livelihood.'

We are mindful that the rangatira of the landlocked lands are the trustees of the various blocks. However, settlement helps to elevate this age-old Kaupapa to another level with more visibility and using as many options to help Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu to support the various Land Trusts is a positive thing.

In more recent months, the sale of Mangaohane Station became topical. Through the settlement space, Tama Potaka was able to work towards finding opportunities from this sale including possible formal access to Pokopoko. Unfortunately, the opportunity was not able to grow wings but we continue to be hopeful for any opportunity to help our people and Land Trusts through the settlement leverage.

Our main theme of negotiations has been to secure from the Crown, a dedicated fund to assist our land-owners in engaging with their neighbours more robustly to seek solutions to their landlocked land issues.

Defence

'Ko Auahitōtara, ko Whakahaere Wahine, ko Ngā Puketuruā ngā taumata.'

'Auahitōtara, Whakahaere Wahine and Ngā Puketuruā are significant points for our iwi.'

In August 2022, the negotiations team met with then Minister of Defence Peeni Henare at Waiouru and flew over the army lands. We are looking at options to help progress aspirations around the Defence lands. We are mindful that there are no large Crown assets, like forests or large cities, in our rohe so leveraging off the Defence lands is an option that we are working on to see how we can yield opportunities.

The Defence team have only worked with treaty negotiations a few times around the country. So, having the only full training ground in our rohe, needs to be a priority for the Crown as it is for us. We have also talked with our whanaunga iwi that also have interests in the Defence lands to ensure that they are up to date with what we are doing.

Rangitikei River

'Tikei te tai runga, tikei te tai raro, tikei te taiora ki a au.'

'Rangitikei flows from the source to the sea and extends its hearts pull on me.'

Early in the negotiations journey we indicated that it is only fair that Rangitikei be given a distinctive settlement similar to our neighbours of Whangaehu and Whanganui. Therefore, we initiated hui with the iwi of the Rangitikei catchment. These hui have been positive and have included updates from our whanaunga of Whangaehu and Whanganui on their settlement journey.

There is keen interest for a collective settlement for our awa tupuna. However, we are still working to convince the Crown of the importance of our awa tupuna as a key artery for Te Ika-a-Māui and not just for ourselves as Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu.

We thank Che for submitting this update.

IWI REGISTRATIONS AND HAPŪ ELECTIONS - NOVEMBER 2023.

Iwi Registrations

As part of the negotiation of a settlement a big factor that the Crown takes into account is population. For the three Northern Iwi of Mōkai Pātea this is not easy to do as they have not long been part of the 5 yearly Census gathering of population statistics.

The other main source of population is the number of registered members we have of the four Iwi of Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu.

If you are not already registered with one or more of our Iwi please visit the MPWCT website where you will be able to check if you are registered and if not you can then register on-line at <https://members.mokaipateaclaims.maori.nz/en/registration/>.

By registering you will not only be helping to increase the amount of our settlement but you will also be able to participate in the upcoming Hāpū Elections in November this year.

If you need any help with registration please ask the Iwi contacts listed at the end of this article.

Hapū Elections - November 2023

In November this year, the MPWCT in conjunction with the four Iwi of Mōkai Pātea will be holding Hapū elections for Hapū representatives to each of the Iwi Runanga. It is the four Iwi Runanga that appoint members to MPWCT and so this is your opportunity to get more involved in the governance of your Iwi and also the governance of the Waitangi Claims process for Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu.

The elections will be run independently by postal vote and you will have the ability to vote for a representative in each Hapū that you are registered with. If you are unsure of your hapū or need more information please contact your Iwi Runanga or MPWCT contacts listed below.

NGĀTI HAUITI

Utiku Potaka - u.potaka@xtra.co.nz or Neville Lomax - ngahoa1944@gmail.com

NGĀI TE OHUAKE

Te-Rangi Hawira - raukowhai@xtra.co.nz or Richard Steedman - richard.steedman@xtra.co.nz

NGĀTI TAMAKOPIRI

Moira Raukawa-Haskell - mraukawahaskell@gmail.com or Hari Benevides - haribis@inspire.net.nz

NGĀTI WHITIKAUPEKA

Barbara Ball - baumar.tpe@gmail.com or Richard Steedman - richard.steedman@xtra.co.nz

MPWCT

The Administrator - mpwct@mokaipateaservices.org.nz