

some Trust activities in 2012-2013

communication strategy

2013 saw the Trust develop initiatives to register hapu members online and in April 2014 the Trust's online database will go live allowing hapu members to register and update their own details. This will coincide with the launch of the new hapu website that will deliver more services and information to hapu members via the internet.

As part of communicating more regularly with hapu members the Trust recently launched its first e-Newsletter (Tomokia) which will go out on a quarterly basis and has appointed CJ Hemara to manage updates and queries on the Trust's face book page.

registration

Last year the Trust undertook a registration drive which resulted in over one thousand hapu members been added to the database. There are now just over 4000 people registered with the Trust. The Trust believes that there are still many hapu members who remain unregistered and encourages everyone to 'put the word out' to whanau about the importance of registering. Understanding how many hapu members there are and where they live is an important aspect of allocating resources and planning for the future.

community engagement

In 2012-2013 the Trust participated in a number of community activities including the urban structure planning process for Waitomo Caves. The purpose of the urban structure plan is to facilitate improvements to hard and soft infrastructure in the village and to manage growth and development in the area. A major focus for the Trust has been to ensure that hapu and whanau are engaged in the process so they can 'have a say' on the future of Waitomo. The Trust will continue to be involved in this process throughout 2014.

In 2012 the Trust made a contribution to the Waitomo Catchment Trust which coordinates a water quality programme in the upper catchment of the Waitomo River by encouraging landowners to fence off wetlands, streams

May the calm be widespread
May the ocean glisten like greenstone
May the shimmer of light
Ever dance across your pathway

and erosion prone areas from stock. The benefit of this programme has seen a marked improvement in the water flowing through the Glowworm Caves. This is an important programme for the Trust to continue supporting as it has a direct benefit to the habitat of the Caves.

Waitomo hosted the Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association 2013 Conference which was attended by members of the hapu including the guiding staff from the Glowworm Caves. Both Peter Douglas and Daniel Hikuroa gave presentations on the conference theme of 'Triple Bottom Line' which were well received. The conference was an excellent forum to learn more about cave habitats and management systems for tourism operations. The research provided prompted the Trust to facilitate a study of glowworms in the Glowworm Caves which is currently being undertaken by Troy Watson. The Trust was also a sponsor of the Conference.

building relationships

2012-2013 saw the Trust engage with three major Maori tourism operators, Ngai Tahu Tourism, Whalewatch Kaikoura and Mitai. At the invitation of Kaikoura Whalewatch the Trustees travelled to Kaikoura to learn more about their success as a Maori owned tourism business. The success of these businesses is inspirational and has contributed to the Trust formulating its own plans to take over the operational management of the Glowworm Caves in or before 2027.

'Ko te matakahi maire
Like a wedge of maire;
bold & committed'