



## **ISSUE 12 – August 2019**

Whatungarongaro te tangata, toitū te whenua. Ko te whenua me era atu taonga katoa, he taonga tuku iho mai i ngā tūpuna, mo ngā uri e tupu ake. Te mana whenua he taonga tuku iho mai no ngā tūpuna, hei oranga mo te wairua o te tinana, ngā kaitiaki o enei taonga he uri na roto i te Mātauranga o te ao hou.

### **THIS ISSUE OF TOMOKIA**

Welcome to the August issue of Tomokia. Winter has been and gone and we are on the warmer side of it and getting closer to Spring. Since our last issue, the Te Nehenehenui Reo wānanga for 2019 has finished in June and hapū members attended this to learn more about Maniapoto reo and Maniapototanga. The reo wānanga are part of a wider tribal strategy to ignite and encourage whānau, marae and hapū to wānanga and talk about localised tikanga, kawa, reo and practices within their respective marae and rohe.

The Trustees have been undertaking professional development with GHA and have recently completed an overall Board evaluation process. This allowed the trustees to review governance practices and identify areas that may need strengthening. It was also an opportunity to share with each other feedback and assessment in a positive setting.

In this issue we update you on changes within the Trust, AGM and Trustee Elections for this year and profile hapū member Sierra Keung. It is always exciting and inspirational to see our whānau achieving great things.

### **RESIGNATION OF GENERAL MANAGER MIRIA DAVIS**

The General Manager of the Ruapuha Uekaha Hapū Trust, Miria Davis resigned after twelve years of hard work and loyal service. Miria began working for the trust in 2006 and has managed all of its affairs until February 2019. During this time, amongst other things, the Trust has worked through claims in the Māori Land Court; the re-establishment of the Trust under a new Trust Order; and the negotiation and implementation of a new lease regime with Tourism Holdings Ltd. Miria has been integral throughout all of these processes and her knowledge and passion for the development of our hapū has been a driving force. Miria will be working with our Trainme candidates to develop the next generation and prepare them for work in the Tourism industry throughout the rest of the year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Miria for her service and dedication to the work of the Trust.

The Trust has temporarily appointed an interim management support service offered by Hamilton based company - Tira o Kōwhai (Kōwhai). Kōwhai were previously based in Waitomo and specialises in Māori development. Piki Knap and her team will be working alongside Trustees and staff to provide operational support for the Trust. The interim management service will also include an assessment of the role of the General Manager which will assist Trustees with the recruitment of a new General Manager.

### **2019 RUHT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & TRUSTEE ELECTION**

The Annual General Meeting for 2019 will be held Saturday, 05<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 10am. We will also hold an election of a new trustee this year and nominations for potential candidates has begun.

The Trustee Election pack with the candidates will be sent by post and email mid- August. This will also contain the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting.

All details relating to the Annual General Meeting and Trustee Elections will be posted on the RUHT facebook page and RUHT website. We will also advertise details in the local newspapers.

### **WAITOMO GLOWORM CAVE FOC POLICY**

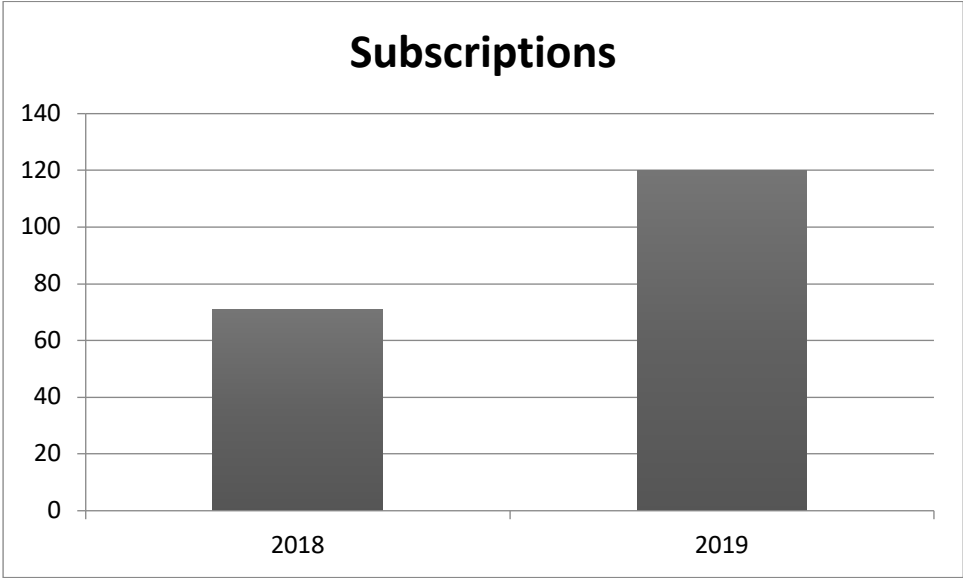
Following is the policy relating to free visits to the Waitomo Glowworm Caves.

Free of charge (FOC) entry to the Waitomo Glowworm Caves is for the benefit of members of the Ruapuha Uekaha Hapū Trust who whakapapa to one (or more) of the following tūpuna;

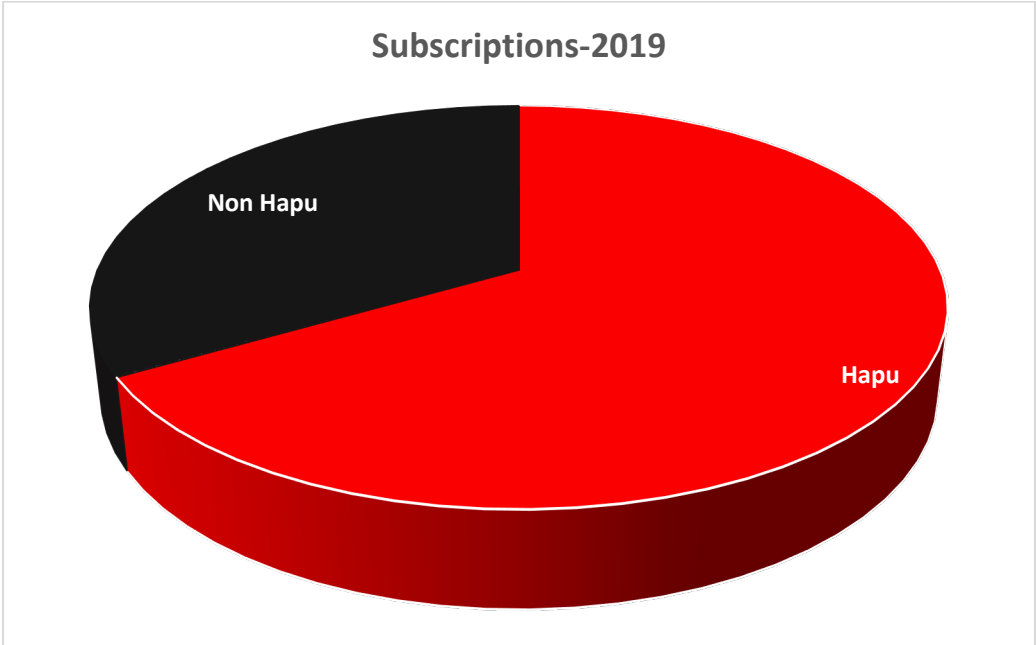
1. Te Riutoto Aihe
2. Whatakaraka
3. Te Aroa Haereiti
4. Tanetinorau Opataia

- Hapū Trust members wanting to visit the Caves are required to make a booking. Please contact the RUHT Office on 0800 525 626, within office hours to arrange this.
- Bookings are to be arranged outside of the busiest period of the day – before 10am and after 2pm.
- Group visits of 10 or more people are required to give 3-4 days' notice prior to the date of the visit.
- Individuals or small groups (under 10 people) who arrive at the Caves without a prior booking can state their tūpuna and can visit during peak times as long as it does not disrupt daily operations.
- The FOC policy is for the benefit of Hapū Trust members and their spouses and whānau only and not for groups they may be affiliated to, such as sports teams, schools, marae and so forth.

The Maths Buddy programme helps to build numeracy skills in tamariki aged 4-16 years. We have seen a steady rise in uptake of this online programme. Lloyd Keung, Jane Davis and Liane Green currently co-ordinate and ensure that this programme is delivered at Waitomo School, Pukenui and in Otorohanga. We have a number of parents who are also showing an interest in helping with co-ordinating the programme. Last year we had a total of 71 subscriptions. This year we have 120 subscriptions. This is an increase of 40.8%.



The graph shows subscriptions for 2019 and the breakdown between hapū and non-hapū members. It is important to note that as a hapū driven initiative we are also mindful that there are wider community benefits for related whānau to be able to participate in the Maths Buddy programme. The Trust is investigating funding partners to leverage with should demand continue to grow in this space.



We would like to thank our co-ordinators and administrator for all the work involved in providing this service for our tamariki.

## OUR PEOPLE – PROFILE SIERRA KEUNG COMPLETION OF PHD IN SPORTS AND RECREATION

“Life is not a series of wins and losses, life is a series of wins and LESSONS”



If there's anything I have learned whilst completing my doctoral degree, it was this, enjoy the wins and embrace the lessons. From May 2015 – June 2018 I learned, laughed, achieved, failed, cried and burned the midnight oil a million times over as I rushed to put the finishing touches to my novel of a thesis. December 2018 I officially put all of that behind me and walked across the stage as

newly capped Doctor of Philosophy graduate from Auckland University of Technology (AUT). Though I wore the korowai of my great-grandfather from my mother's side, I took pride in representing my Maniapoto side too. I have been blessed beyond measure for the support our Ruapuha Uekaha Hapū Trust have provided me along this journey. Not having to worry about my finances meant that I could “stress” about how to think and articulate myself in such a rigorous academic setting. I have met beautiful people along the way, been presented with primo opportunities since graduating and most importantly, have gained a greater love and appreciation for being Māori, and our ways of seeing and doing.

I am now in my second year as a full-time Kaiako at AUT in the School of Sport & Recreation. I research and engage in the Athlete Development space; and am currently working on varying projects associated with professional sporting bodies (e.g. NZR and NRL). It is quite astounding the difference 3 little letters, “PhD”, can make when talking with someone. Seeing their demeanour change on the spot has been quite comical to witness, especially being a brown woman in a pale-male-dominant space. I just keep reminding myself that this journey was and is never about me. This has always been about pushing for more appropriate education and welfare support for our people and our Pasifika cousins in the athlete development space by utilising our ways of seeing, doing and being. Hopefully I get to work with our whānau in this space. Again, a massive mihi to the Trust for supporting me on this journey. Enjoy the wins, embrace the lessons whānau.

Ngā mihi maioha,

Sierra Keung (PhD)

## CONTACT DETAILS & OPENING HOURS

We are always looking for whānau to add to “Our People” stories. So if you want to share your story or would like to profile a whānau member please let us know 😊.

Address:

*Level One*

*46 Taupiri Street, Te Kuiti*

*Phone: 07 878 3688*

*www.ruht.co.nz*

Opening Hours:

*Monday-Friday*

*8.30am-4.30pm*

*Closed Public Holidays*