

Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Meeting

Tabled Documents

8 September 2020

Item 23

Update on path to Well-being Initiative

Late item

Te Maruata 2020 reports from Cr Hiroa and Cr Panapa

REPORT

TO: Policy/Planning Committee

FROM: Nardia Gower, Strategy & Community Planning Manager

DATE: 30 August 2020

SUBJECT: Policy & Community Planning Project and Activity Report - August 2020

FILE: 1-CO-4-8

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1 Background

- 1.1 This report summarises the programmes, activities and focus areas of staff within the Policy & Community Planning Team. Added commentary is provided where necessary.
- 1.2 This report also covers applications for external funding made by Council.
- 1.3 This report covers the month of August 2020.

2 Economic Development

- 2.1 At the 20 November 2019 Council workshop the Economic Development Strategy was reviewed by Councillors. While at the time Councillors agreed to the draft strategic direction presented, the COVID-19 pandemic event has since changed the landscape of the economy. The alignment of the draft Economic Development Strategy with Council's 30 year Strategic Vision is being considered by the Executive Management team, and will be presented to Council through the Long Term Plan workshops.
- 2.2 Below are activities undertaken or initiated as part of Council's Economic Development and COVID-19 Recovery.

Programme/Activity	
Business and Community Support	United in Recovery page Business Support page created on Council's website https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/covid-19/united-in-recovery is a resource for businesses and community to find the latest support from Government, Economic Development Agencies and information relating to recovery.
Surveys	Central Economic Development Agency (CEDA) requested we circulate a fifth survey with the intention of this survey being to measure any impacts on businesses of the current COVID-19 alert level 2. The survey results from the four surveys in CEDA's series "Understanding the Impact of Covid-19 on our Business Community" can be found at https://ceda.nz/covid-19-business-support/business-surveys/


Programme/Activity	
Shop Local Rangitikei	<p>During Level three lockdown Council started the Shop Local Rangitikei Facebook Group. The purpose of this group is to promote local business and encourage community to shop local first.</p> <p>The page continues to be updated with reposting of current businesses and loading new business.</p> <p>Staff have set up and encouraged the page to be used by the business owners themselves to update their details and offers and to entice greater customer interaction.</p>
Branding and District Promotion	<p>In late 2019 Council undertook to rebrand and redevelop the rangitikei.com website to be more visitor focused than what is currently offered. The then Strategic Advisor for Economic Development, Gioia Damasso, presented to the pre-hui of Te Roopu Ahi the initial logo proposal by Blacksheep designers where the word Rangitikei was separated and stacked. Feedback received in the pre-hui was to not separate 'Rangitikei' and a request was made to incorporate Māori design elements, with artwork being provided by Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa. During the same period a district promotional video was created awaiting the new branding.</p> <p>Blacksheep reworked the logo but were unable to incorporate the Māori design elements. The new design was scheduled for presentation to Council and Te Roopu Ahi when New Zealand entered COVID-19 lockdown.</p> <p>At the 28 May 2020 Council meeting Crs Duncan, Lambert, Dalgety, Dunn and Ash were delegated to work with Council staff in finalising and approving the branding for the District promotional video and www.rangitikei.com.</p> <p>In light of COVID-19, reprioritisation of budget and the push for domestic tourism marketing council's current economic development and marketing team have reconsidered the website and branding.</p> <p>The visitor website is currently being designed and rebuilt by staff and will have a new domain name, visitrangitikei.co.nz. The branding will remain in line with Councils font however, replacing the kowhai icon will be an icon incorporating artwork supplied by Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa.</p> <p>While the website is due to be completed by end of October 2020 a soft launch of visitrangitikei and the district promotions video will be made via social media in the next couple of weeks.</p>
Mahi Tahī	<p>In May 2020 Rangitikei District Council was successful in securing funding for the Mayor's Task Force for Jobs (MTJF) Community Recovery Pilot supported by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). On the back of the success of the pilot, 23 Councils have been offered the programme for 2020-21 financial year, of which Rangitikei is one. This comes with funding of \$250,000 in tranche one with up to another \$250,000 in tranche two. The Mahi Tahī Rangitikei Employment Programme is being delivered in partnership with Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa and their Te Puna - Education, Training and Employability branch, Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), with potential for further relationships to develop with other</p>

Programme/Activity	<p>organisations. James Towers continues to be contracted as the Employment Co-ordinator and Jen Britton is employed for 20 hours to assist with the programme delivery.</p> <p>The below graph shows the total work placement as at 31 August 2020, including the pilot placements.</p> <div><h3>Mahi Tahī 53 Work placements as at 31 August 2020</h3><table><thead><tr><th>Category</th><th>Count</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>CV 19 Displaced</td><td>29</td><td>54.7%</td></tr><tr><td>Youth</td><td>14</td><td>26.4%</td></tr><tr><td>Other</td><td>10</td><td>18.9%</td></tr></tbody></table></div>	Category	Count	Percentage	CV 19 Displaced	29	54.7%	Youth	14	26.4%	Other	10	18.9%
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3 Community Engagement & Development

3.1 The following highlights the key programmes, activities and progress of staff in this area.

Programme/Activity	Progress For This Period
Township Signage	<u>Taihape</u> Completed. <u>Mangaweka</u>

Programme/Activity	Progress For This Period
	<p>The Heritage Committee to provide their preference for incorporating the cantilever bridge and white cliffs into the signage image. Staff are currently working on producing an image. Completion is anticipated to be end of October</p> <p><u>Hunternville</u> Completed.</p> <p><u>Marton</u> The process of engaging landowners on the State highways has commenced, for the placement of the sign structures.</p> <p>At its meeting 30 July meeting Liz Rayner addressed Council expressing her view that the wider community was not consulted with by either the Marton Community Committee or Council and wished for Council to reconsider and base the sign image on the wheel that has been used to represent Marton before, with the eight spokes depicting the multiple roads that all lead into Marton. Council agreed to further explore this option consulting with Liz Rayner, Marton Community Committee and Iwi.</p> <p>The redesigned logo has been agreed to by Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa and is currently before Liz Rayner and the Marton Community Committee. An update on that consultation will be provided to the meeting.</p> <div data-bbox="576 1093 823 1131"> <p>MARTON WHEEL HUB LOGO Option B</p> </div>  <p>Each spoke represent the Eight roads into Marton</p> <p>Vintage wooden wagon wheel</p> <p>Historically Barley was grown in the Marton region in abundance</p> <p>Koru Wheel hub resembles a pīpīka/tom front which symbolises the two people, two cultures with Marton</p>

Programme/Activity	Progress For This Period
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Council staff work are working with Project Marton to utilise their State highway structures to display upcoming events in the town.

The Lions Club of Marton have agreed to the use of their brick frames on the inward bound roads to house the new signs. In order to fit the space as requested by Lions the below sign will be used, that excludes the imagery.

Bulls

At Council's meeting on 27 August Tricia Falkner, on behalf of the Bulls and District Community Trust and Bulls Community Committee, spoke during Public Forum presenting the process and consultation of developing the new Bulls Township Sign image. The presentation highlighted the two option pamphlet drop consultation and preference for of submitters for option A. At the same meeting, and prior to the presentation by Ms Falkner, Heather Thorby raised her concern to Elected Members questioning community input into the design and rigour of the consultation process. A report is being prepared for the September Council meeting with the following options for councils consideration:

- (a) approve Option A (on the basis of the outcome of the recent pamphlet drop)
- (B) require a further period of consultation and clarification of the options beyond Option A and Option B.

Turakina

Completed.

Programme/Activity	Progress For This Period
	<u>Koitiata</u> Completed. <u>Rātana</u> Completed. <u>Whangaehu</u> The working group has presented staff with a list of preferred of images. This was circulated through to iwi for consultation. An update will be provided to the meeting <u>Scott's Ferry</u> Completed.
Programme/Activity	Upcoming
Township Signage	All township signage to be complete and installed by September 2020.
District Signage	Develop District Signage concepts to Council for comment.

4 Youth/Rangatahi Development

4.1 The following highlights the key programmes, activities and progress of staff in this area.

Programme/Activity	Progress For This Period
Youth Space - Taihape	Due to COVID-19 Alert Level two both youth spaces have been closed.
Youth Space - Marton	Due to COVID-19 Alert Level two both youth spaces have been closed.
Youth Council	Youth Council has held 2 meetings, 21st July in Taihape and 18th August in Marton with the next scheduled for 15th September in Taihape. Rangitikei Youth Council have been actively involved in planning and promoting upcoming events.
Youth/TRYB Website	Constantly updated.
Networking Meetings	Local skills and talent hui – Whanganui Youth Council Collaboration MDC - Feilding Young people in apprenticeships – Nga Wairiki O Ngati Apa

Programme/Activity	Progress For This Period
Youth Opportunities and Support	<p>The John Turkington Rangitikei Youth Awards 2020 received 50 nominations. Due to COVID, the awards event cannot go ahead. Finalists were announced via Facebook and Instagram 30th August 2020. Youth Council made the decision to hit the road and take the Youth Awards to the community, rather than planning another event that may be subject to ongoing COVID restrictions. This will take place September 7th, moving from Taihape, Marton, Bulls and Feilding, with winners, runners up and nominees being publically recognised through social media and newspaper outlets.</p> <p>YES Programme (Youth Employment Success) Since 2016, YES has seen 112 businesses across the country offering their time, close to 1,500 opportunity requests and nearly 20,000 unique visitors. The Whanganui/Rangitikei district platform was launched at the beginning of June, with over 80 businesses so far on-board offering opportunities for our youth.</p> <p>Council, along with 100% Sweet, are engaging with local businesses to offer the same opportunities to youth to connect to local businesses in a real world way. It involves a professional short video clip of business and their staff, talking about what the job entails and how the business and industry is a great career path option. Further the business can choose from a selection of real world help they can offer an interested youth. Such options include a coffee catch up, business walk through, CV review, desk shadow, internship and lots more. Each business decides what, from the offers, they can genuinely deliver.</p>
Programme/Activity	Upcoming
Youth/TRYB Website	Continue to update and promote opportunities for Youth as they arise.
Youth Council	John Turkington Youth Awards, Meet the Candidates, Te wiki O Te Reo Maori, Bulls Community Centre Grand Opening.
Youth Opportunities and Support	<p>Meet the Candidates – Youth Council are working in collaboration with Project Marton to deliver this event ahead of the 2020 elections. Due to Alert 2 COVID-19 restrictions the 1 September event was postponed. The ability to reschedule will depend on lifting of restrictions and candidate availability.</p> <p>SALT Youth - Social activity based group within Marton. Run on a weekly Wednesday night schedule during term time.</p> <p>Youth Employment Success (YES) is an online platform that launched in 2016 partnering with a variety of industries to offer free employment-based opportunities to 16-24-year-olds.</p>

5 Iwi/Hapū Engagement & Development

5.1 The following highlights the key programmes, activities and progress of staff in this area.

Programme/Activity	Progress For This Period
Internal Organisation development	<p>Met with the Strategic Property Advisor Graeme Pointon with regards to Bulls Surplus Property (Lands For Disposal in Bulls). Councils 2015 Policy on Disposal of Surplus Land and Buildings requires consideration of “cultural significance to Hapū and Iwi”. Iwi have been informed and we are now awaiting some feedback.</p> <p>In many circumstances Council finds themselves relying on the knowledge and input of Iwi to carry out projects. Requests have been made for some form of reimbursement when Iwi provide their time and knowledge. A Policy is currently underway for how Iwi are reimbursed for their time in helping Council progress projects.</p> <p>When Council is making an important decision involving land or a body of water, it must take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, wāhi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga.</p> <p>This Policy will include the current reimbursement given to TRAK members for attending meetings, both TRAK and Council committees. The last review for this was in 2003.</p> <p>A Māori Cultural Capacity Development Framework has been developed which will guide staff and elected members to engage confidently and effectively with iwi representatives, Māori clients, Māori communities, Māori stakeholders and Māori colleagues. This will help deliver positive outcomes for all. The framework was proposed and presented to the Executive Leadership Team on Wednesday 12 August. ELT have given their full support towards the framework. CEO Peter Beggs has asked to meet in the near future to discuss a Council Vision that would complement the Framework.</p> <p>Attended the TRAK Workshop at Te Poho o Tuariki. The purpose was to review the Māori Responsiveness Framework. Alterations and changes have been made to the document and a draft sent to TRAK for their approval. It will need to go to Council also.</p>
Oranga Marae Programme	<p>To continue the on-going support, commitment and dialogue with marae and hapū. Engagement with each marae are being organised to book in with their respective hapū members. This is an opportunity for each marae and hapū to share their further aspirations for the marae and hapū. Oranga Marae gives marae the chance to have a Feasibility Study conducted for their marae.</p>

Programme/Activity	Progress For This Period
	The full process for each Oranga Marae project takes approximately 10 – 12 months depending on the commitment level and capacity of each marae.

6 Policy and Bylaw Programme

- 6.1 The following highlights activities of staff in this area. The work programme for Policy and Bylaw 2020 is attached at **Appendix 1.**

Programme/Activity	Progress For This Period
Annual Residents Survey	A report will go to Council on the Annual Residents Survey in September following this improvement plans will go to relevant Council Committees.

7 Funding

- 7.1 An update on all funding applications is summarised in **Appendix 2.**

8 Recommendations

- 8.1 That the 'Policy & Community Planning Project and Activity Report - August 2020' to the Policy/Planning Committee on 10 September 2020 be received.

Nardia Gower

Strategy & Community Planning Manager | Kaiwhakahaere Rautaki me te Hāpori

Appendix 1

Policy Work Schedule 2019-2022	KEY	Complete	Underway	Upcoming	Future work
Policy/Bylaw/Work	Responsible	Rationale	Main Legislation	Dates	Workshop/Comment
Rates Remission Policy	Policy/Finance	Operational	Local Government Act 2002	Council adopted 25 June 2020	
Rates Postponement Policy	Policy/Finance	Operational	Local Government Act 2002	Council adopted 25 June 2020	
TAB Venue Policy	Policy/Regulatory	Statutory	Gambling Act 2003	Council adopted September 2019	
Gambling Venue (Class 4) Policy	Policy/Regulatory	Statutory	Gambling Act 2003	Council adopted December 2019	
Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy	Policy/Regulatory	Statutory	Building Act 2004	Council adopted 25 June 2020	
Water Related Services Bylaw	Policy/Infrastructure	Statutory	Local Government Act 2002	Council adopted April 2020	
Local Approved Products Policy	Policy/Regulatory	Operational	Psychoactive Substances Act 2013	Late 2020 Policy Planning	
Annual Residents Survey	Policy	Operational/Research		Mid 2020	
Significance and Engagement Policy	Policy	Statutory	Local Government Act 2002	2020/21	
Control of Dogs Bylaw	Policy	Operational	Dog Control Act 1996	Mid/late 2020	Amendment
Flying Drones on Council Parks - Interim Guideline	Policy/Roading/Regulatory	Operational	Civil Aviation Authority	Late 2020	
Speed Limits Bylaw	Policy/Roading	Statutory	Land Transport Act 1998	Late 2020 Policy Planning	Yes - Dates TBC
Food Business Grading Bylaw	Policy/Regulatory	Statutory	Local Government Act 2002	Late 2020 Policy Planning	
Youth Strategy	Policy/Youth Advisor	Strategic Direction for Youth	N/A	Initial Staff Scoping	Yes - Dates TBC
Naming of Streets and Roads	Policy/Roading/Regulatory	Operational	Local Government Act 1974	2020 Policy Planning	Consult on names for a register
Street Tree Policy	Policy/Parks and Reserves	Operational	N/A	Late 2020	

Appendix 2

Fund	Project description	How much	Desired outcomes and milestones	Lead Agency	Council role	Policy Team Role	Status	Final report due
Community Facilities Fund, Lottery	Capital contribution to the Bulls multi-purpose community centre (\$700,000 applied for)	\$500,000	To develop the centre in Bulls	RDC	Lead agency, fundholder	Prepared application, holds funds, manages project, reports back to funder	Successful - Reporting Required. Grant paid once evidence of Council having land title.	30-Oct-20
JBS Dudding Trust	Capital contribution to the Bulls multi-purpose community centre	\$200,000	To develop the centre in Bulls + ongoing support to libraries	RDC	Lead agency, fundholder	Prepared application, holds funds, manages project, reports back to funder	Successful - Reporting Required	To be advised
Freshwater Improvement Fund	Contribution to the Upgrade of the Ratana Wastewater treatment	\$875,000	To dispose of treated effluent to land rather than Lake Waipu	Horizons	Support Agency	None	Successful - Pending Works	To be advised
Lottery Heritage	Proposed new Marton Civic Centre - contribution to heritage assessment in preparing concept designs	\$ 50,000.00	Design options for Cobbler/Davenport/Abraham & Williams include assessment of heritage (external and internal)	RDC	Lead agency, fundholder	None	Successful (but a lesser amount than requested)	Following project completion
Te Uru Rākau	Marton B&C Dam Development	\$ 73,000.00	Contribution for a native planting restoration programme	RDC	Lead agency, fundholder	None	Successful - Pending Works	To be advised
Whanganui Community Foundation	Swim 4 All Programme	\$5,000 requested \$10,000	Contribution to schools transport costs	RDC	Lead agency, fundholder	Prepared application, holds funds, manages project, reports back to funder	Successful	To be advised
Mayors Task For Jobs / MSD	Community recovery Programme (Mahi Tahī)	\$100,000	30 employment placements by end June 2020 pRimary focus Youth not in employment or Education (NEETS) and those displaced by COVID	RDC	Lead agency, fundholder	Prepared application, holds funds, manages project, reports back to funder	Successful	Jun-21
Mayors Task For Jobs / MSD	Community recovery Programme (Mahi Tahī)	\$250,000 tranche one	50 employment placements by end June 2021 Primary focus on Youth not in employment or Education (NEETS) and those displaced by COVID19	RDC	Lead agency, fundholder	Prepared application, holds funds, manages project, reports back to funder	Successful	Jun-21

Te Maruata 2020 Report

11 March

- Waiokura Marae

12 March

- Waiokura Marae, Parihaka

Tracey Hiroa

Northern Ward Councilor

Rangitikei District Council

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Tabled at Te Roopu Ahi Kaa
on 8 September 2020

Kaupapa korero

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Mayor and CEO for allowing for myself, fellow Councillor Waru Panapa and our Kairaranga Strategic Advisor Lequan Mahana to attend the two day Local Government New Zealand Te Maruata Hui that was held at two locations in the Taranaki back in March.

The Hui was based at Waiokura Marae in Manaia and happened at a time when the effects and threat of COVID 19 in our country was still a burgeoning development and very much on people's minds. This was translated through this Hui right from the start where tikanga was adapted and hongis were optional.

Our Agenda for the first part of the Hui was around mihimihi/whanaungatanga (*who are you, where are you from, who do you represent & making connections*) and then shifted to a presentation from Te Maruata Chairperson, Bonita Bigham who spoke about the role of Te Maruata and how its connected to Local Government NZ. The key functions of this network include

- promoting increased representation of Māori as elected members of local government;
- enhancing Māori participation in local government processes;
- providing support for councils in building strong relationships with iwi, hapu and Māori groups; and providing Māori input on development of future policies or legislation relating to local government
- fostering and supporting a network of Māori elected members and staff of local government for the purpose of sharing information, challenges and aspirations relevant to kaupapa Māori.

As a new councillor into this space the statistics around Maori representation into the local government space was alarming but not surprising. Bonita who had been part of the Te Maruata Group as a member and then as the Chair from 2016 to current day talked about the growth over the years from just a handful of representatives to now nearly 50 plus elected Maori representatives across the motu from Community Boards, Councillors, Regional Council, and even a Mayor who had registered for the Hui.

One of the other key actions that fell out of the Saturday session was a election process for the new Te Maruata Board to be selected. Several people had put their names up for consideration and the majority were given the opportunity to “sell themselves”. Some of the people who stood were first time elected representatives but there were also some that had been part of Te Maruata and elected into LGNZ spaces for more than one term.

The newly elected Te Maruata Roopu Whakahaere

Metro Sector Representative:

- Alf Filipaina, Councillor, Auckland Council

Rural and Provincial Sector Representative:

- Meredith Akuhata-Brown, Councillor, Gisborne District Council

Regional Sector Representative:

- Tipa Mahuta, Councillor, Waikato Regional Council

Young Elected Members Representative:

- Moko Tepania, Councillor, Far North District Council

Members elected at large:

- Bonita Bigham, Community Board Member, South Taranaki District Council (Chair)
- Bayden Barber, Councillor, Hastings District Council (Deputy Chair)
- Shane Epiha, Councillor, Selwyn District Council
- Jackie Te Amo, Community Board Member, Whakatane District Council

All but one of these people was present at the Hui.

The other key presentation on this day was a korero given by the Ex New Plymouth Mayor – Andrew Judd. His feedback was powerful and gave a real reflection on his community’s thoughts and ingrained prejudices around the establishment of Maori Wards. Despite the backlash that he experienced throughout this period , his mana, compassion and

***HE AHA TO MEA NUI O TE AO?
HE TANGATA, HE TANGATA, HE TANGATA!***

drive to highlight an unjust system was plain to see and a legacy that squarely differentiates him from the rest of elected members who have ultimately stood up for something

they believe in. If the opportunity was to ever arise, I believe that having him come in to talk to our council would be a positive thing to do.

We were very fortunate on the Thursday to be welcomed and hosted at Parihaka by prominent Taranaki Kuia and personality Maata Wharehoka. This waahi (area/place) holds many deep and hurtful memories for the whanau, Hapu and Iwi of this region and I felt very privileged to be a part of the day.

Kuia Maata gave us a tour of the complex and spoke about the colonial wars that happened in the late 1800's and the effects on the people still today of those atrocities that befell that community. We had other presenters in on the day from LGNZ, from Creative New Zealand and an overview of DIA work programmes.

All in all, I am pleased that I had the opportunity to take part in this Hui. It has given me a bigger picture understanding of where Maori as a people sit in the local government sector space for our country. Statistics garnered from the 2016 census shows that Maori make up 10% of the overall elected members across the country. That means that 90% of the decision-making is being made by people that don't necessarily have an understanding, connection or even a willingness to embrace what gives us one of our points of difference in this world. It also highlights in my opinion why having diversity reflects your community and gives people the opportunity to see themselves in the Local Government and Central Government decision making around the table. I would be very much interested in keeping connected into this network throughout my term.

TABLED DOCUMENT

Te Maruata report

Tabled at Te Roopu Ahi Kaa
on 8 September 2020

Hutia te rito o te harakeke

If the centre shoot of the flax is pulled out (and the flax dies) where will the bellbird sing?

Kei hea te komako e ko

Ki mai ki ahau

If you were to ask me what is the most important thing in the world. I would reply:

He aha te mea nui o tenei ao

Maku e ki atu

It is people, it is people, it is people!

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata!

The LGNZ commitment to engaging with Māori in a real and meaningful way was truly displayed by the wealth of capacity present in the Maruata conference held in at Waiokura Marae and Parihaka Marae in Taranaki on the 11th and 12th March respectively.

Te Maruata is a sub-committee of the National Council of LGNZ. Its role is to promote increased representation of Māori as elected members of local government, enhance Māori participation in local government processes, provide support for councils in building strong relationships with Iwi, Hapu and Māori groups, and provide Māori input on development of future policies or legislation relating to local government.

The stellar turnout which included at least one Mayor of Māori descent, revealed that the level of prowess in both intellectual and cultural awareness was impressive. Held on two Marae in Taranaki, the first day was pure administration. Electing the members of the Roopu Whakahaere, or National Council Committee this showed abundantly the high calibre of Māori representation on various Councils around the Country and each nominee shared their passion for the opportunity to play a leadership role in LGNZ.

There were speeches by then President David Cull as well as the outgoing CEO Malcolm Alexander.

The highlight of the first day was the impassioned speech delivered by the self proclaimed 'recovering racist' Andrew Judd. He outlined his transition from ignorance to awareness to anger over how Iwi are continually disadvantaged in a legally racist model, referring in particular the controversy around the establishment of Māori Wards.

Day two was the jewel of the Hui, based at the legendary Parihaka Marae, the scene of the historic peaceful protest of the Maori Seers Whiti o Rongomai and Tohu Kakahi. We were given an unforgettable insight into the events that unfolded in the last years of the 19th Century and the scars that remain even after genuine attempts by the Crown toward redress.

The key words that came out for me in that sacred place were, and I am paraphrasing “No matter what Māori bring to the table, it is still not our house, parliament is not our house, District Council is not our house, yet our house is in disorder. How do we hope to influence the powers that be, if we are not united as a people?”

The overall impact of this Hui upon me was that there is evidence of effective Māori leadership that has the potential to engage with mainstream governmental institutions so that our voice is heard above the cacophony of the machinery of societal change. That in the onward march of progress we are able to ensure that there is a spirituality that is distinctly Māori and practicably delivered.

However until there is an opportunity for Māori to be considered among those eligible to be elected as President or CEO, it is still a token gesture, but an important token to be sure, in the struggle of nation building Te Maruata has fired a warning shot over the bow of colonialism. ‘We are Maori, we are proud and we are here to stay!.