

East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board

Media Release

Six months to 30 June 2021

February Meeting - Pōrangahau

The Board was hosted at Rongomaraeroa marae, Pōrangahau, for the first meeting of the year. The first half of the day was spent in meeting at the Pōrangahau Country Club, overlooking beautiful Te Paerahi Beach, during which time Rena Kohere was welcomed as a co-opted member. By mid-afternoon, the Board was at the marae for a pōwhiri. DOC Operations Manager, Jenny Nelson-Smith, provided the karanga manuwhiri and Board deputy-chair, Apenti Tamanui-Fransen made the whaikōrero reply. The Board were in good voice for *Tūtira mai ngā Iwi*. Following a kai, people began to assemble for the public forum.



ECHBCB members, Pōrangahau locals and Ngāti Kere in front of Te Poho o Kahungunu, Rongomaraeroa, Pōrangahau.

The generational review of Te Angiangi Marine Reserve, established in 1997, will be held in 2023. This has generated much local interest, with many attending the public forum to voice their concerns and aspirations. Represented were Ngāti Kere hapū, Ngati Kere Tangata Kaitiaki Inc, Aramoana Environmental & Education Charitable Trust, local farmers, and Blackhead and Aramoana residents.

Following the meeting, Kay Griffiths of the Conservation Company also provided a talk on pekapeka / short tail bat monitoring in the district. Heritage NZ's Anthony Tipene-Matua, then hosted the Board

over the hill to Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaturipukakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu. That's right, the world's longest place-name. We also visited historic Te Awakare pa, and had a talk from Anthony on significant local wāhi tapu and on taonga puoro. The night was spent in Te Poho o Kahungunu.

Next day, the Board departed Rongomaraeroa for Te Angiangi Marine Reserve where we were welcomed by tangata kaitiaki and kaumātua at Blackhead Beach. Further korero followed during the field trip along the beach to Aramoana, at the northern end of the reserve, where the Aramoana Environmental & Education Charitable Trust provided lunch at historic Aramoana woolshed, which is their headquarters. David Tipene-Leach gave a talk on the 700-year history of Maori interaction with the area that is now the marine reserve, and Ngāti Kere's aspirations for the reserve.

Since the meeting, DOC has held a further hui at Pōrangahau to better understand the wishes of locals for Te Angiangi Marine Reserve. A working group has been established to consider options for management of the reserve.

Combined April Meeting with NZCA - Napier

The combined ECHBCB-NZCA hui began with a pōwhiri and kai before a field trip to local sites. Lake Opouahi Scenic Reserve is a predator-fenced reserve near Tūtira (of the famous waiata) that hosts the Opouahi / Panpac Kiwi Crèche. Here, kiwi chicks are raised to sufficient weight to be released back into the wild. Next stop was Roro o Kuri, a pā site on a former island in the original Te Whanganui a Orotu lagoon. Hans Rook described the pre-1931 earthquake landscape, and talked about migratory birds that use the estuary, efforts to increase a small kautuku / bittern population, and the devastating effects of newly-established tube worm colonies. At Ahuriri Estuary, members of the Ahuriri Estuary Protection Society spoke of pressures on the estuary and their on-going battles with officials to uphold the mauri of the estuary in decision-making.

Finally, Chad Tareha guided the group around Ōtātara Pā Historic Reserve. Ōtātara Pā, together with adjacent Hikurangi Pā, was one of the most extensive pā sites in the country, covering 58 hectares and hosting an estimated 12,000 inhabitants for whom Te Whanganui a Orotu was their highway, garden and fishery.

For the Board, the second day was a mix of Board meeting time, NZCA meeting sessions and public forum. Of particular relevance to the region was Dave Charlton's report on a booming deer population, which we are only too aware of in our forest parks and front-country blocks. Chris Wootton also gave a useful update of Mahi mō te Taiao / Jobs For Nature progress in Te Matau a Māui / Hawke's Bay. The public forum was attended by Pōrangahau locals seeking updates on Te Angiangi Marine Reserve.



Members of NZCA and ECHBCB at Ōtātara Pā Historic Reserve, Taradale.

June Meeting - Gisborne

A bereavement in the Uawa community had the Board swing into Plan B for their weekend. The Board meeting was started during the morning and by mid-morning we were en-route to Tarere marae at Makauri. The Board was welcomed onto the marae by the Te Ao Tipu team who are employed through Te Rea (Tairāwhiti Agroecology Recovery Programme) and funded by Mahi mō te Taiao / Jobs For Nature. Tairāwhiti was one of the first regions to get Mahi mō te Taiao / Jobs For Nature underway and projects have completed planning and training phases, and are now well into their mahi. It was heart-warming to see the young Te Ao Tipu team displaying confidence, enthusiasm and knowledge as they demonstrated pest trapping, water monitoring, and riparian planting. It was particularly fascinating seeing the intersection of mātauranga and digital technology in everyday use.

After farewelling the team at Tarere marae, the Board travelled a short distance to Gray's Bush Scenic Reserve. This coastal plain forest remnant is unusual in comprising predominantly kahikatea / white pine and pūriri / NZ teak. A bonus was a chance meeting with two local Forest & Bird volunteers who were checking trap lines.

The public forum was well attended. Lois Easton gave a talk on conservation at Waikererū / Longbush Ecosanctuary and the Waimatā River Restoration Project. Soraya Pohatu spoke on behalf of the Rongowhakaata Taiao Group about the Rākaukākā Scenic Reserve and Te Wherowhero Lagoon.



ECHBCB members and Tairāwhiti DOC officers at the 'hugging trees', Gray's Bush Scenic Reserve, Gisborne.