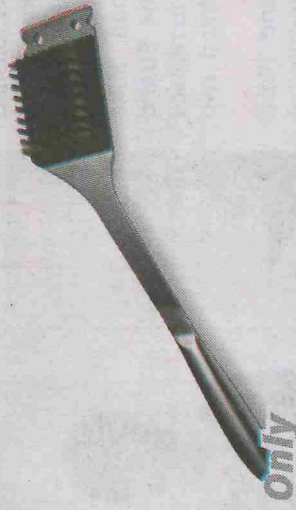


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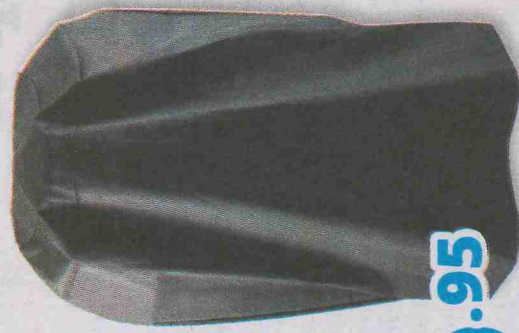
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Tuhoe grows economic capacity

Karla Akuhata
Maori affairs reporter

TUHOE is shaping up as one of the heavy hitters in the Bay of Plenty economy.

The tribe unveiled a net worth of \$250 million and a \$7 million surplus from the year to March 31, 2014, at its annual meeting last weekend.

The year was busy for Tuhoe. It reached a settlement with the Government, helped establish a new governing board for Te Urewera, opened its new \$15 million headquarters - Te Kura Whare, in Taneatua - and, subsequently, received an apology from police regarding the 2008 raids.

The meeting also marked the dissolution of the Tuhoe-Waikaremoana Maori Trust Board and a celebration was held on the day to honour the work of previous trustees.

But Tamati Kruger, chairman of Tuhoe's governing board, Te Uru Taumatua, said there was still more to be done.

The tribe's annual report identified the five key issues that had been the focus for the financial year: the settlement; completing Te Kura Whare; consolidating the governance and administration of the iwi's assets; implementing the new Te Urewera legislation; and shaping the tribe's future direction.

It was acknowledged that while the board managed to achieve near completion rates for three objectives, there



Tamati Kruger,
Te Uru Taumatua
chairman

was still more work to be done to identify the tribe's future direction and structures needed to control Te Urewera, the former national park, including the hunting permit system.

The annual report also identified "potholes", one being Tuhoe hapu unity and the wider tribe's relationships with Ngati Haka Patuheuheu, Maungapohatu, Ruapani and Upokorehe.

Mr Kruger said the meeting marked the start of the next stage for Tuhoe.

"We had approximately 150 people at the meeting. There was a good age range of people; we had some younger people in their 20s and 30s right up into their 70s.

"The majority of the questions were from people wanting to draw out more information. The complaints or hard questions were very minor.

"The highlight, in my own view, was the two workshops that were meant to be convened for an hour after the meeting where we asked participants to provide us with some answers to two questions.

"Firstly, how do we provide for the

relationships between the hapu of Tuhoe? We have had relationship problems with a number of hapu.

"The result was that they volunteered to act as intermediaries and conduits. I think they saw Te Uru Taumatua needed help.

"Secondly, we asked what does Tuhoe mean when the legislation for Te Urewera says the connection between Tuhoe and Te Urewera needs to be improved? How do we do that and what does that mean?"

Mr Kruger said the workshops were well-attended, people stayed longer than expected and had a lot to say.

"We are going to collate the ideas that have come from those two workshops - it was great."

The annual report also showed the tribe had healthy investment reserves. "Over the past three years, retained earnings have grown by \$27.5 million over the original capital settled into the trust. We have not dipped into the principal and even after paying for Te Kura Whare in full, we have returned \$27 million for further investment," Mr Kruger said.

The report identifies property, term deposits and other financial tools as part of the tribe's investment portfolio.

It lists Aaron Hing, Ian Dickson, Murray Nash and Mr Kruger as the members of the iwi's investment committee, which provides financial advice to the Te Uru Taumatua board. Former deputy prime minister and Ohope resident Michael Cullen is the investment committee's chairman.

New chairman for Ngati Rangitihiri

Karla Akuhata
Staff reporter

LEITH Comer is Te Mana o Ngati Rangitihiri Trust's new chairman.

Mr Comer was elected chairman by fellow trustees at a meeting this week. He replaces Graham Pryor, who failed in his bid to be re-elected to the trust, which has the mandate to negotiate Ngati Rangitihiri's Treaty of Waitangi settlement. Ken Raureti is deputy chairman.

Mr Comer, the former chief executive at Te Puni Kokiri (ministry of Maori development), was elected to the tribe's governing board last month with new trustee Donna Semmens.

They joined Merepeka Raukawa-Tait and Cathy Dewes, who were successful in their re-election bid, as well as the trustees not up for re-election this time

- Ken Raureti, Harina Warbrick and Tipene Marr.

Te Mana o Ngati Rangitihiri chief executive Anthony Olsen said he was looking forward to working with Mr Comer and Mr Raureti, particularly as the tribe moved to settle its comprehensive Treaty claims.

"They both have great advantages. For Leith it is those networks in Wellington as we move toward the comprehensive claim. For Ken, he chairs one of the most significant trusts in Ngati Rangitihiri in Ruawahia Trust. He is also the co-chair of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board.

"Any interaction with DoC is pretty key, but having a conservation board chairman is always helpful."

Mr Olsen said he had never worked with Mr Comer before but he was looking forward to seeing his leadership style.

"For me as hapai-o (chief executive)

my main interaction is with the chairman, rather than the trustees, unless we are working on projects together."

Mr Comer is a graduate from the United States Army General Staff College, where he received the Eisenhower Award for academic excellence as top foreign student, culminating in his retirement as the Commanding Officer of the Second First Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

He was the chief executive at Te Puni Kokiri from 2001 to 2012 and before that was the deputy secretary of the ministry of economic development.

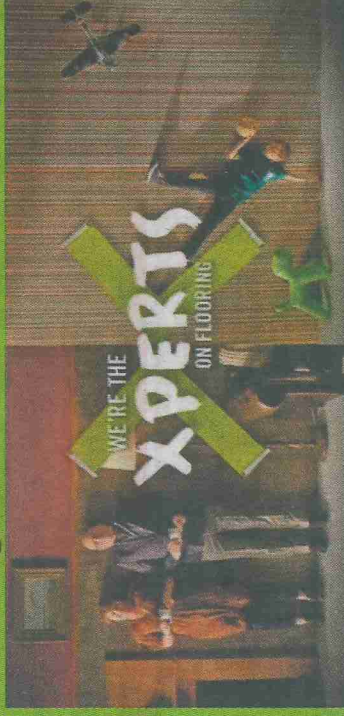
Mr Raureti is a mediator and business management consultant with his own company, Raureti Management Services. His career in human resources and employment relations includes an appointment to the Employment Relations Authority as chief mediator for the Department of Labour.

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