

Nga Tupuna notes

1. Introduction and Mihi

Tena koutou

*Whatungarongaro he tangata
Toitu he whenua*

Tēnei te mihi atu ki a koutou i huihui mai i te kaupapa o LIANZA
Ki te whakawhiti whakaaro
Ki te whakarongo hoki tētahi ki tētahi
He take tā māua
Ka pirangi māua te whakamarama te kaupapa o tēnei pukapuka –
Ngā Tupuna o Te Whanganui-a-Tara.

He mahi uaua, engari he mahi pai hoki.

I te taha o tōku whaia
Ko Pukeatua te maunga
Ko Te Awakairangi te awa
Ko Waiwhetu te marae
Ko Te Matehou te hapu
Ko Wi Pero Te One Nukutaia te tupuna
Ko Ann Reweti ahau

Good morning and welcome to this session

As project Team Leader I stand today to describe to you the processes we worked through to complete our two publications.

2. The pathway

Two years ago in Rotorua, we were fortunate to hear Ella Henry's description of the koru of mātauranga as developed by Manuka Henare. Ella Henry exhorted libraries and like institutions to prevent the taonga that are sitting in our buildings becoming disassociated from the mātauranga that had always surrounded them through their oral history.

Last year, Whatarangi Winiata described repositories of Rōpū Tuku Iho as a contribution to the ways by which Maori as a people could survive. He described the 5 way test for determining who had the abilities to act as a human repository of iwi knowledge ; namely the ability to

- receive the information with the utmost accuracy
- store the information with integrity beyond doubt
- retrieve the information without amendment
- apply appropriate judgment on the use of the information
- pass on the information appropriately.

Yesterday Pauline Tangiora urged us to remember the intellectual property rights of indigenous people when rewriting whānau histories.

I have recently read an article by Paul Tapsell from an issue of Journal of the Polynesian Society (v. 106, no. 4, 1997), in which he described the way that taonga is underpinned always by whakapapa. The taonga possess mana but this is tempered by tapu, and surrounding that taonga is an enveloping cloak of kōrero which was once handed down orally from generation to generation. Sometimes this kōrero was expressed in karakia. He further describes how taonga taken out of context of the land and the people slowly loses its kōrero.

Iwi rich in taonga are more likely to be rich in land, people and resources. Iwi poor in taonga will correspondingly have lost control of estates, descendents and resources. I regard my own hapu, Te Matehou, of Pipitea and Waiwhetu as being poor in terms of the taonga we now hold. We have lost also the rich kōrero which would have cloaked those taonga, and I believe we are very poorly endowed with land, and mātauranga Maori.

Today Joanne and I stand here to describe our attempt to fill a gap in our library resources, but also to try to reclaim some kōrero of our land and tūpuna since 1840. So here is the pathway we took to produce two sets of a Māori heritage resource for Wellington – Ngā Tūpuna o Te Whanganui-a-Tara

In 2001 and again in 2003 we produced booklets containing a total of 48 profiles of Ngā Tūpuna who lived in the rohe of Whanganui-a-Tara from 1840's onwards. We invite you to consider whether you too would wish to follow a similar path.

This is our plan of what we're going to cover today – our rationale, how and what we did and the enormous benefits that arose from the project

3. The problem

- From work at the front desk, we were embarrassed at local queries for which we had no answers –
- the published material provided only a superficial survey of Wellington local history, there seems very little written about the Māori people – a handful of resources -
 - Transactions of Royal Society of New Zealand
 - Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives
 - Books such as
 - Best, E. *Te Whanganui-a-Tara* Carkeek *Kapiti Coast*
 - Ballara 1st chapter in *The making of Wellington 1800-1914*
 - Ward, Louis *Early Wellington* , Roberts, J. Writings -Te Aro Pa.
 - Bayly, Janet *The Heretaunga/Waiwhetu river mouth : an historical narrative*
- But very little of the published information is readily available
- Likewise, branch libraries did not have the complete resources of the main library and they also needed readily accessible material.
- **Waitangi Tribunal claims** have generated extensive research mostly connected with the land and the iwi as the Tribunal generally prefers to deal with '**large natural groups**'.
 - Ehrhardt, Penny *Te Whanganui-a-Tara customary tenure 1750-1850*
 - Ward, Alan *Māori customary interests in the Port Nicholson district 1820s to 1840s*
 - Lawton, Tata *The taking of Waiwhetu Pa for river protection purposes under the Public Works Act 1908.*
- **Whānau and whānau members are rarely named** – except for a handful of rangatira
- In Te Whanganui-a-Tara, we are very short on living iwi repositories of information. Iwi researchers tend to spend many hours covering the same ground as they struggle through the **Land Court Minute Books to make connections to land and whānau members.**
- This repetition seems unproductive -that is - to keep researching the same basic details before moving on to specific iwi research

4. The opportunity

Those were the information challenges for Wellington City Libraries,

However – there are now several search tools available to assist in researching whakapapa .

- TAPUHI at National Library – unpublished manuscripts
- Land Court Minute Books (microfilm & digitised index)
- Māori niupepa
- Timeframes- for illustrations, portraits
- **Native Land Act of 1865** brought changes
 - which led to **Individualisation of Māori land**
 - paved the way for purchase by European settlers
 - And set up the **Māori Land Court**
 - From 1873, **individual hapū owners were registered on land titles**
- Unfortunately, the **minor stories are not always indexed** either at the front of each minute book, or in the computerised indexes.

- So we have (for indigenous peoples of New Zealand) an unprecedented trail of land records – sales and successions - which include remarkable and intriguing tales of whānau history.
- Increased access, and indexing, and digitisation, have all now paved a way for projects like Ngā Tūpuna to be undertaken

5. The opportunity

We were faced with a dilemma – traditionally we regarded our main role as a selector and gatherer of material which **other people** had published.

But **resources were limited**.

We could wait many years for the publication of a comprehensive local whanau history. This was not helpful to anyone.

Alongside this, there was internal discussion on the **development of electronic tools and a concept of “linking” and signposting** and these words were being used to **evolve the role of the library**. This concept seemed very relevant to what could be possible locally and helped to define what sort of publication could be embarked upon.

We already had in our **business plan a recognition of the need to provide local information** and our **primary key performance indicator is customer satisfaction**.

These three aspects – **signposting, customer satisfaction and local information** were the justifications used to gain support in a perceived shift in our role.

6. Path towards approval

Textbook theory suggests that you **first seek your funding** (can you do it?) before deciding on the ‘how’

We chose to do it the other way round – and we’re really pleased that we did so, and suggest that this could be a way for you too to go.

The benefits of following this path meant for us that **we knew it was possible**, we were able to define what **we were asking for, in the way of funding, down to approximate format**.

We would have been lost, and out of time, without this framework which we discussed with a likely researcher before formal approval was granted by the annual plan.

Who was a **suitable person** to choose?

- Obviously this person does need knowledge of European and Māori history 1800’s especially within the rohe of Te Whanganui-a-Tara
- And also - History and general research skills
- But they also needed to be a special person with some understanding of Te Ao Maori, and tikanga
- and someone who was open to having their work critiqued by the project committee.

We approached Sandra Clarke from the Wilton Library Services and **we also made our first approaches to iwi**.

Funding Sources

Limited – No more NLNZ funding seemed available and community funding not suitable for this project
Wellington Tenths Trust supported the project but could not fund it.

It was well outside our current budget level, and there was nothing that could be given up to fund this – a likely scenario for most libraries.

We took a punt and decided on a bold move – to **request funding from Council as an entirely separate Capital Expenditure project**.

We argued that **information was an asset** just like a building or truck and therefore the construction of this asset was a worthy project for the city as a whole. And to their credit, Wellington City Council had accepted this wider view of what an asset may be, and what that funding could be used for. A downside to this was that we were constrained to completing the project within a fiscal year

Iwi Partnership :

Library managed the project, Iwi shared the ownership

The funding sought did rely heavily upon each party being very **strongly committed to the project** as each gave more **hours** and put in more **time** and **resources** than was envisaged at the beginning.

It was excellent that all parties were committed to this degree so that the project was completed.

7. Path towards approval

So how did we decide what to do ?

We were guided in our role as **signposter**.

We were not going to do the be-all and end-all of a research project

So this led us to:-

One page profiles

Reference notes at bottom of page – an important part

We hoped notes and other ‘fishhooks’ within the text would lead whānau into further research

These references could lead serious researchers to create indepth studies

We also had to think who was the main target audience?

School children especially of Te Whanganui-a-Tara - one page articles

Whānau

Wellingtonians wishing for easy access to local heritage

Scope:

Port Nicholson Block Claim lists some 350 names as a basis for iwi registration and 98 ‘rangatira’ of Te Whanganui-a-Tara are mentioned in LCMB. We knew we couldn’t do 350 or even 98 – all at once so

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We concentrated on two areas (these from the the later migrations only)

Chiefs of Te Aro – not many obvious links to wellknown whanau of the rohe today – these people were mainly from Taranaki and Ngāti Ruanui

There was also an underlying influence of Mutunga & Ngāti Tama

Pipitea / Waiwhetu Pa – Te Ati Awa, especially Te Matehou -

I was prepared to listen to criticism and if need be defend our work upon my own tūpuna but had no wish to make judgements on other people’s whānau, tūpuna

However, by the second volume, there were no dragons breathing fire at us – there seemed to be a wide acceptance of our work, and a wish to help us with corrections.

8. Considerations along the way

So where do you begin with this type of research? There are not many **living repositories of taonga tuku iho** now residing within our rohe. So this was a major reason for our decision to begin with the printed sources of information such as the LCMB. Some of you will be fortunate to have repositories of whakapapa and mātauranga residing in your midst and of course that is where you should begin.

Jock McEwen –says that Minute books are still the best source of written iwi history (although these makes no comparison with oral traditions/repositories of whānau knowledge)

He says: where there is conflicting evidence – take the middle path – and you will end up somewhere near the truth

We tried to **illustrate each page** with photograph of a tupuna, or a reproduction of painting illustrating life of the times

We tried to choose painting that were **out of 'copyright'**- some in our own collections

Each institution handled '**intellectual property**' in different ways.

National Library, once they understood the purpose of the work charged a fee and sent the illustration on disk

Te Papa asked us to contact whānau – in one case, in Auckland, considerable delays were experienced and we were making judgment calls on what to do, if permission arrived too late or was not granted

Puke Ariki staff were very supportive and even made contact with local iwi on our behalf to secure permission for the use of one photograph

Whānau & Marae were very supportive – in allowing us to use photographs of tūpuna and taonga.

We were alerted to the need to **avoid identifying location of taonga** held within whānau and on marae – in case this should trigger attempted theft.

In like manner, we were asked not to reproduce some very fine photographs of memorials and tombstones, as identification of these could lead to desecration.

These are just some of the take which we needed to address during the course of the project, and I would imagine they would be common issues that any library would need to address.

9. Project details

- I worked on the project about a third of my time,
- Lotofoa was the other main team member who had the huge task of pursuing copyright and intellect property rights approval for the illustrations for the books.
- Gabor Toth helped us immensely with his photographic skill in reproducing illustrations from our own resources.
- We needed the support of our team to maintain the desk routines and fill the gaps when we went out consulting with iwi, or attended our fortnightly meetings with the iwi researcher.

Sometimes Joanne would support us at the Wellington Tenth Office, to add a presence of the Library Leadership Team. We were grateful to have a Team Leader who understood the intricacies of dealing with whānau history, - all the pitfalls and difficulties that you encounter along the way. We also at times needed support from the Māori staff of Wellington City Council. And then areas such as our Promotions staff – who whipped up the posters, the invitations to the launches, and took photographs as a record of the events.

10. Production

- At Wellington City Libraries we were fortunate to have access to Council Print Management who worked with us on design concepts and who then outsourced the printing of the books
- Consultation – This is a really vital part of the project, but in the struggle to fit the project within a fiscal year, and meet all payment deadlines, it is an area which needs a significant planning for, & allotment of time and money.
- Consultation may bring changes to the text, and sometimes additional photographs - and these need to be incorporated in drafts, and into the index, making for ongoing work in the proofing and indexing.
- As you would imagine, correction by one whānau member of another hapū's or iwi's history was out of the question. - connections were made with hapū or iwi, but taken no further. There is a need to identify the key people within each whānau, hapū or iwi who have the knowledge and authority to speak for their people.
- Indexes – after some experimentation we decided to create these manually and so we concentrated on
 - Personal names
 - Whānau / Hapū / Iwi names
 - Marae
 - Place names

11. Electronic and Te Reo Maori considerations

With the completion of the booklets, we now have a resource which could be converted into a digitised form

At the moment we have opted for selective representation, to alert our customers to this new resource within the library. We plan to add further profiles to the web as the budget allows (and iwi permit).

A second consideration we have needed to make is whether to have some of the profiles translated into Te Reo.

We have had only three profiles translated so far, and this is a small recognition of our young people in Kura Kauapapa Māori who need many kinds of resources in Te Reo.

As with most iwi, there is very little heritage information available in Te Reo, and by creating this sort of resource, you may then have something really significant to translate, but always the intellectual property rights of the people need to be observed.

12. Launch and Release

As an indication of unexpected benefits to our library - and this could well be true for you too-- above are some photographs taken to illustrate the support we received from Mana Whenua, Tangata Whenua, Council employees, and library staff.

The Wellington Tenths Trust, with the cooperation of Council Māori staff arranged at different times ceremonies to bless and to release the publications.

For two occasions we have had magnificent support from whānau and it was great to see them making a positive and proud appearance within the library.

Council and library staff practised diligently the waiata to accompany the whaikōrero and other speeches, and on the day surely added the kinaki to the proceedings. And the support library staff coped magnificently with the hākari arrangements.

13. What did we do differently between the two publications?

- To undertake a project of this sort, you must have the support of your iwi –
- Without the direction, input and guidance of the Wellington Tenths Trust, and other iwi we would not have made much progress, let alone have completed it in a way that was satisfactory to all. In the initial project –there was a guarded response from the W10ths - we had already written a proposal to Council, and received the funding.
- In the second project, we approached W10ths at outset of the idea, gaining their affirmation for the project, support for the researcher, and a contract on partnership obligations before requesting project approval from the Council.
- The partnership for the second project included
 - Reimbursement for iwi researcher's time
 - Free/or discounted copies of the work to an agreed amount
 - Regular meetings with iwi researcher
- We were aware this second time for the need to begin as soon as possible, the process for gaining permission to use photographs or other illustrations. But even so, there were still the last minute 'hitches'.
- We tried to keep the drafts in editing mode (MSWord), but even so, every 'reading' of the draft threw up a mistake in spelling or interpretation – and these had the potential (at the end of the project) to throw the page referencing of the index into confusion.

14. Observed Mana Whenua benefits

These are some of the advantages we have observed that have spun out of this project:-

We have found that the Mana Whenua have seized upon this publication as a tool for the validation of names for their iwi register.

It is also a source of information for iwi today who are unsure of their links to the Port Nicholson Block in 1840's. For those who no longer have the luxury of turning to living repositories of taonga tuku iho, and are no longer in close touch with their marae, the published (and unpublished documents, such as ATL) are becoming the first ports of call for Tangata Whenua who are unsure of their whakapapa links.

Other members with some knowledge of whakapapa, are yet finding new links, and a new appreciation of strategic marriage alliances made in those early days to secure a foothold in the land.

Where there was once a perception of 'my hapu' or 'your whānau' we now see an intermeshing of relationships at several levels, and this is an enlightenment to us all. We have had emails from the west coast (SI) requesting detail from the footnotes of whānau that have been difficult to trace.

I have observed the book being presented by W10ths as a 'koha' to a tertiary institution, at the end of a consultation hui. The W10ths researcher rates these 2 volumes as important to him as a Waitangi Tribunal research report.

15. Benefits for Council and Libraries

These are the sorts of benefits which we have experienced from the completion of the project – some anticipated, and some beyond our expectations.

- We now have a valuable resource for the library, including branches who up until now have not had the luxury of the depth of material held at the Central Library
- Students of the heritage of Wellington now have a wider base and appreciation of the role of Mana Whenua in the land from 1840's onwards.
- Staff involvement from the Director of Treaty Relations, whānau staff of WCC, Print Management, and the combined Waiata Group of WP & WCC, plus the support of the Second Floor staff who filled the gaps when Lotofoa, Joanne and I were 'consulting' down at Wellington Tenth's etc.
- There has been interest from other Heritage Researchers – i.e. the author of a recent book on the Wesleyan Church at Khandallah, - and even the DOC officer upstairs, and a member of the Carter Observatory looking into land ownership have expressed professional interest in the project.
- There has been positive feedback from so many sides – and an appreciation and valued assessment of the books that we have been rather overwhelmed by the results of this project.
- Above all, however, we have needed the support, guidance and input from iwi and whānau members, including the partnership with the Wellington Tenth's and Waiwhetu Marae – without whose help this work would never have seen the light of day.
- We are aware that rohe which remain strong in living repositories of knowledge will not need to take this pathway.
- those of you who, like us, are short on living taonga may, unfortunately, have to turn to written documents to unfold some kind of picture of your peoples' histories.
- If you are interested in this process, but unable to find the funding – the project could be undertaken on a profile by profile process, with each profile being recorded electronically rather than as a book – (I really like the Puke Ariki profiles on their website).

