

Tāhuri Whenua

Incorporated Society - Representing Māori interests in the horticulture sector

resourcing • promoting • facilitating • supporting • advising • informing

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<http://www.tahuriwhenua.org.nz/>

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Committee members:

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Simon Lambert (Christchurch) 03 325 2811
Hanui Lawrence (Hastings) 06 876 5811
Queenie Chadwick (Pahia) 09 402 7552



Massey University students prepare the hangi watched over by Nick Roskrug.

Massey University End of Year Hangi

At the end of the academic year the College of Sciences held its annual prizegiving and hangi down at the Plant Growth Unit in Palmerston North. Attendance was high with about 80 people made up of University staff, students, and Tahuri Whenua members and public for the dinner.

Earlier in the day several students braved the elements and under the guidance of Nick Roskrug and Uncle Peter and Uncle Ake began preparing the hangi pit. Behind the scenes Hanui Lawrence, Erihapeti Tuatini and Nanny Piki helped peel taewa and kumara for the dinner.

There was an abundance of food and many people commented on how nice the meal was, so the students are to be congratulated on their efforts.

Our thanks go to those who helped to prepare the food and also to those who attended the prizegiving in the evening. For many of the students it is the final event they attend at University, a chance to hone their hangi skills, and is also an opportunity for them to meet and talk to those who have helped them throughout the course of their studies.

Tahuri Whenua AGM

The AGM was held at the Parewahawaha marae in Bulls on Saturday 27 September. About 40 people made the trip from various regions to attend. The meeting began with the welcoming on to the marae at 10:30am before the matters of business were then addressed.

A late lunch was held at 2pm and the marae put on a fantastic meal that was very much appreciated. Our thanks go to the people who worked behind the scenes in the kitchen to ensure that everyone was well fed, and also to those who managed to attend the meeting.

A copy of the AGM minutes and the Chairman's report was sent out to Tahuri Whenua members but if anyone did not receive a copy or would like another copy please contact one of the Tahuri Whenua committee members and they will be able to get one out to you. It will also be accessible on the website shortly.

Plant & Food Research

As of 1 December 2008 the two Crown Research Institutes that work with food crops - Crop & Food & HortResearch – have merged and are now known as Plant & Food Research.

New Committee Members

At the AGM, Arohanui (Hanui) Lawrence and Makuini (Queenie) Chadwick were voted in as new committee members. Simon Walsh and Marie Russell have both retired from the committee. Simon now lives and works in Korea. Marie is still assisting the committee with our accounts and general tasks.

Hanui Lawrence lives in the Hawke's Bay and is a commercial grower of taewa, kumara, corn and kamokamo. This year she has also become involved in taewa trials conducted by Nick and the BBW project with Huub at Plant & Food Research. She can be contacted via e-mail aramanu.ropiha@xtra.co.nz

Makuini (Queenie) Chadwick lives in the Bay of Islands up North and grows saffron and taewa. She has been a member and supporter of Tahuri Whenua since its inception and regularly travels to our hui. Queenie can be contacted via e-mail on: queenie-akona@reconx.net.nz

Feel free to make yourself known to them if you are in their area or want to extend your networks.

Kaumātua/Kuia

During 2008 the committee of Tahuri Whenua has nominated three more Kaumātua/Kuia to the Kaumātua Roopu. They are Piki Winitana (Waimarama), Akerama Taiaki (Paraparaumu) and Erihapeti Tuatini (Paraparaumu). E nga rangatira, ka nui te mihi ki a koutou, ka nui te aroha ki a koutou, tena koutou katoa

'Best of Both Worlds'

Huub Kerckhoffs and his team are continuing to work with Maori communities with their Best of Both Worlds project. The project has been extended for another two years and Tahuri Whenua has been instrumental in

helping broaden the community involvement and we have satellite projects at the East Coast, Heretaunga (Hastings) and Rangitikei. The East Coast growers group have a website which members will find interesting: www.ecoaotearoa.com

Waipatu Marae Hui 'International Year of the Potato – 2008'

The International Year of the Potato hui was held over 2 days at Waipatu marae in Hastings back in July (which included the coldest day of the year) and was a resounding success. The event celebrated everything potato and Maori horticulture. The large numbers of visitors on the day were impressed with the level of professionalism with which the event was held and also the enthusiasm organisers and stallholders had to make the event a success.

Stands at the site included Tahuri Whenua, Crop & Food, East Coast Organic Growers, and a number of food stalls. Kapa haka and cooking displays were also held throughout the day and a hangi was prepared as a fundraiser for the local rugby club. There were also a number of 'potato' competitions run for the local schoolchildren which had a large number of entries.

Tahuri Whenua held a lunchtime 'talk' which gave people the opportunity to sit in and listen to a brief talk by Dr. Nick Roskrige on his Peru trip and taewa and the different cultivars available. It also gave people the opportunity to ask questions and share their own experiences of growing taewa and other crops.



Some of the 'potato people' entered by schoolchildren at the Waipatu Marae hui.

“Project celebrates year of the spud”

- Adapted from *Southern Rural Life* 20/8/2008

This year about 13 schools in Otago and Southland, from Riverton to Hawea Flat, Queenstown and Clutha Valley will be involved with the project.

Kakanui organic vegetable grower and Tahuri Whenua member Jim O’Gorman is the co-ordinator for the North Otago schools involved in the project and helped launch the programme last week.

“The kids are right into the growing thing,” Mr O’Gorman said.

He said the project aimed to teach pupils basic vegetable gardening skills and about traditional Maori potato species (taewa) and traditional Maori attitudes toward food and crops.

The project also aimed to build basic science skills and encourage good nutrition.



Jim O’Gorman & Kakanui school pupils Katana Perkins & Madoc Barclay prepare buckets for planting seed potatoes.

“Growers start with spud in a bucket”

- Adapted from *The Marlborough Express* 18/11/2008

This year about 120 Picton School students have received a seed potato, soil and fertiliser and were shown how to plant a potato in a bucket by Tahuri Whenua Marlborough coordinator Mr Richard Hunter.

They have taken the buckets home to cultivate the potatoes for all the family.

Mr Hunter has travelled to many schools as a Tahuri Whenua adviser and is amazed how enthusiastic the young horticulturalists are.

Picton School, with its active garden club coordinated by teacher Kirsty Saxon and managed by parent Michelle Overend, was an obvious choice for the Spud in a Bucket school project.

Mr Hunter plans to return to the school when the seed potatoes have produced a crop for the family plot.

Studies showed children were more likely to try eating something that they have had a hand in growing, looking after and cooking, Mr Hunter said.

The Spud in a Bucket initiative also exposes children to a sense of responsibility and ownership and encourages parents to interact with them about their learning.



Richard Hunter teaches Picton School pupils how to grow potatoes in a bucket.

Schools as members:

You will be interested to know that a number of schools are members of Tahuri Whenua and we are supporting them in many different ways around their pupils learning about horticulture and Maori foods;

Current schools as members include:

Oturu school, Northland; Ngati Haua School, Cambridge; Te Wharekura o Ruatoki, Ruatoki; Riverton School, Riverton; Pt Chevalier Primary School, Auckland; Mana Tamariki Kura Kaupapa, Palm. Nth; Manutuke School, Gisborne; and Te Kura a iwi whakatupuranga Rua mano, Otaki.

United Nations Association Dinner

The United Nations Association Dinner celebrating the International Year of the Potato was held at the Botanic gardens, Wellington on the 23 October 2008.

Our Chairman Nick was asked to speak at this annual dinner representing the Pacific region. Other speakers represented the embassies of Peru, India, Canada, Australia, and Iran and a number of other countries.

Each speaker talked about the place & role of potatoes in their country and provided a dish for the dinner. Nick took a dish of taewa chips (mixed colours) and sour cream and puha garnish. He was supported at the event by Uncle Akerama Taiaki, Aunty Erihapeti Tuatini and Uncle Sam Hautapu. We will put the recipe and presentation on the web.

Annual Hui

Tahuri Whenua will hold its next hui in Ruatoki near Whakatane at Tauarau marae. The date is yet to be confirmed but will be in March 2009. Mare (Molly) Turnbull and the local branch of the Maori Womens' Welfare League (Te Huinga a matariki ki Tuhoe) will be our hosts for this hui. Please keep it in mind when you are thinking ahead to March.

Subscriptions

Just a reminder that membership fees will be due after the Christmas & New Year's holiday period. All subscriptions go towards making the annual hui a success, funding local initiatives, and helping committee members attend and/or carry out workshops for members throughout the country.

Subscriptions are:

Individual	\$20 <i>per annum</i>
Group	\$50 <i>per annum</i>
Kaumātua/Kuia	\$10 <i>per annum</i>
Students/Juniors	\$10 <i>per annum</i>

If you would like to pay your sub for the 2009 year please send a cheque made out to 'Tahuri Whenua' to Tahuri Whenua Inc. Soc., P.O. Box 1458, Palmerston North 4440.

E-mail addresses

If you now have access to e-mail or have changed your e-mail address could you please send an e-mail to Nick Roskruge so that we can e-mail the newsletter to you; this saves on postage and you receive the newsletter faster. Please send your address to:

N.Roskruge@massey.ac.nz



From the committee and Kaumatua roopu of Tahuri Whenua, we wish everyone a safe and happy Xmas and New Year and hope you all enjoy your whanau time.

No reira, nga mihi nui ki a koutou mo kirihimete me te tau hou 2009. Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.

*Ka mahanga nga ra o te Hiringa
(The days of Hiringa [-a-nuku] are warm)*

This whakatauki implies we should enjoy the warmth of the summer season – Hiringa is the 8th month in the Maori calendar or January.