



Te Puni Kōkiri
REALISING MĀORI POTENTIAL

Aroha ki te Tangata Māori Wardens Newsletter



MĀORI WARDENS MANAAKI CHRISTCHURCH

■ AT 12.51 PM ON TUESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2011 AN EARTHQUAKE MEASURING 6.3 ON THE RICHTER SCALE SHOOK CHRISTCHURCH AND ITS PEOPLE. IT WAS A CRIPPLING REMINDER TO AOTEAROA-NEW ZEALAND OF OUR GEOGRAPHICAL VULNERABILITY.



Just a few of the Māori Wardens who assisted in the post-earthquake relief delivery of services and support to the people of Christchurch. Left to right: Te Aroha Kora (Aotea Māori Wardens Sub-association), Pena Hikuwai (Whangaroa Māori Wardens Sub-association), Tata 'Tuckson' Henry (Kirikiriroa Māori Wardens Sub-association), and Dora-Lee Smith (Tauranga Māori Wardens Sub-association).

Matariki hunga nui – The Pleiades have many people

This pēpeha speaks of the rising of the Matariki, or Pleiades, constellation. For our tipuna the appearance of Matariki in our night skies called them together to prepare the whenua for planting and begin again the cycle of food gathering. In today's setting, Matariki is a time to come together to celebrate our achievements and each other, as well as look forward to our goals and supporting one another to achieve them.

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa

In the following days, Māori Wardens from around Aotearoa came together in Christchurch to continue their proud work history of protecting and supporting their communities.

Gloria Hughes, on behalf of the New Zealand Māori Wardens Association, was amongst the first to arrive in Christchurch not to view the damage but to get an understanding on how Māori Wardens could enter and support the delivery of resources to the people.

"We had quite a few who wanted to go (to Christchurch) straight away," says Gloria. "But I had to visit Ōtautahi first and determine if it was appropriate for the Māori Wardens to go in."

"We were responding to iwi and our people. We met with Ngāi Tahu iwi and other

organisations, and quickly worked out the plan for a co-ordinated iwi approach. Herewini Te Koha (Te Puni Kōkiri Deputy Secretary Relationships and Information) was a big part of leading that."

Te Puni Kōkiri worked alongside of Ngāi Tahu, Whānau Ora providers, taura here groups, the Māori Wardens and other Māori groups to provide post-earthquake relief to Māori and the people of Christchurch.

Gloria says Whanganui Māori Wardens had completed NZ Fire Service Emergency Evacuation, Suppression of Fire and Incident Training delivered by the New Zealand Fire Service, only a week before the earthquake.



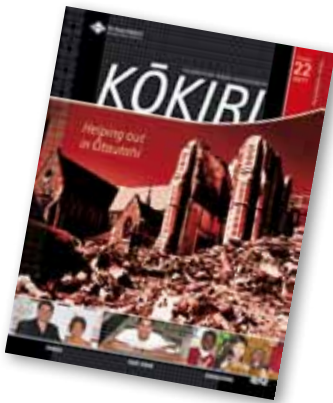
"The training gave us an enhanced understanding as to how emergency services are delivered in times of disaster," she said.

The training is part of the training and development programme delivered through Māori Wardens Project, administered by Te Puni Kōkiri. The Project provides training and support to an increasing number of Māori Wardens throughout New Zealand. In doing so, Wardens are able to go about their duties safely.

Up to 50 Māori Wardens from Tāmaki Makaurau, Waikato, Hauraki, Waiariki and Whānganui joined Murihiku, Ōtepoti, Te Taihū, Ōtautahi, Te Rau Aroha, and Hokitika sub-associations were deployed at any one time in and around Christchurch following the earthquake.

Gloria described that the Māori Wardens working in Christchurch were "self-sufficient" with their own whānau support to manaaki the wardens during their down-time. "We are in our own accommodation with whānau taking care of

us. We have kaumātua and kuia with us too, to provide the holistic value and support of Tikanga Māori under the banner of "Aroha Ki Te Tangata."



Read more about the Māori Wardens in Kōkiri 22. Tāmaki Ki Te Tonga Māori Warden Gordon Wright talks to Kōkiri magazine in the story "Special People".

Also a member of the Interim Māori Wardens Governance Board, Gloria says this historic event tested and proved the value of the Māori Wardens role in their communities. "If there was one message I'd like to share with the people, is that while nothing could have prepared Aotearoa for the earthquake in Christchurch, Māori Wardens can respond in these situations and support their communities."

The Training and Development Programme for Māori Wardens is a Government initiative to directly support Māori Wardens to deliver a sound community-based voluntary service. There is no cost to attend these courses; however you must be a Māori Warden with a current warrant. Read more online about the Māori Wardens Project Training and Development Programme, www.maoriwardens.tpk.govt.nz



SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO MAORI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT

Since the last newsletter, the Māori Affairs Committee has presented its report on its inquiry into the Maori Community Development Act 1962 (the Act).

In its report, the select committee's recommendations referred to Māori Wardens as "...an invaluable body of volunteers who deserve comprehensive support".

The select committee then went on to recommend that before any changes to the Act are made, there should be comprehensive consultation with Māori.

The Government has welcomed the report, which identified a number of important issues. The Government has indicated that it will consult with Māori on specific options to improve

arrangements for Māori Wardens, and on options for the future role of the New Zealand Māori Council.

We will provide further information about the planned consultation as this becomes available.

If you want to have a look at the select committee report and the Government response, they are available on Parliament's website: www.parliament.nz

The Minister of Māori Affairs' press release is also on-line: www.beehive.govt.nz

MĀORI WARDENS AT AVALON



Māori Wardens from around the Wellington and Manawatu regions gathered at Avalon Fire Station for the first part of the NZ Fire Service Emergency Evacuation, Suppression of Fire and Incident Training, in April 2011.

The Māori Wardens featured in the New Zealand Fire Service newsletter. If you haven't seen it, Piki Thomas and the whānau at the NZ Fire Service have kindly agreed that we can reproduce the story here for your enjoyment.

A joint initiative by the New Zealand Fire Service and Te Puni Kōkiri to provide a national fire related training package for Māori Wardens has completed its second course.

A team of 20 Māori Wardens predominantly from Whanganui met at the Whanganui fire station to participate in the training. Course instructors, Phil & Theresa Nesbit commented on how enthusiastic and engaged the participants were during their day.

The New Zealand Fire Service's Pou Herenga Māori / National Māori Advisor, Piki Thomas said that initially the Māori Wardens came to us with a request to learn how to put fires out. However with a bit of discussion,

a more relevant, unit standards based training package was developed that included:

- Co-ordinated Incident Management System (CIMS Level 2,
- Evacuation of large crowds,
- Portable Fire Extinguisher Handling, and
- Familiarisation of Fire Service equipment, vehicles (Hazmat/Command) and personnel.

Benefits from the training programme have already been seen at two major events where Māori Wardens have been deployed. The first was at Te Matatini o te Rā (National Kapa Haka Festival) in Gisborne and more recently at the latest Christchurch earthquake.

Māori wardens will better understand the co-ordinated structures that exist in times of emergencies and more importantly how they can contribute to such structures.

There are four more courses programmed for this financial year, the next being Wellington on April 8th.

Thanks to Ngatokorua Miratana of Te Puni Kōkiri, Management & staff of the Whanganui Fire Area and course trainers Phil & Theresa Nesbit.





FINAL WORD - MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

With Matariki comes winter, both of which are fast approaching. Already we are seeing a number changes in the landscape, such as colder and wetter days, leaf-less trees and shorter days – and longer nights!

The Māori Wardens Project too has entered a transition period. In this column, we review the year so far.

CHRISTCHURCH DISASTER

The devastation following February's quake has changed the city of Christchurch and many of those living and providing relief in the city since it happened.

Māori Wardens from both the South and North Islands have participated in the response following the fateful day. The work carried out by all those concerned was tremendous. As many have said this was truly 'Aroha Ki Te Tangata' at its best!

You can read more about the role of the Māori Wardens in providing post-earthquake relief and assurance in the latest edition of Kōkiri magazine.

THE REVIEW OF THE MAORI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT 1962

The Māori Affairs Select Committee review is complete, now it is in time for the wider community and say what they want. A consultation plan is being developed to show how consultation will happen. Government will approve in May as well as confirm a timeframe. Wardens and the wider community groups need to be aware of these dates and ensure they are available to have their say. This is extremely important!!!

The Project will continue in the mean time to support Māori Wardens through its resourcing programme. Contact your Regional Coordinator in your area to find out what is on offer training wise and funding wise in your region.

I look forward to finishing the remainder of this financial year strongly and building on the positives achieved in preparation for a defining new year starting in July.

Te Rau Clarke, National Project Manager – *on behalf of the Māori Wardens Project team.*

DISCLAIMER The information contained in this publication is for general information only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, because the information is generalised, its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Readers are advised to seek independent advice on particular matters and not rely on this publication. No liability is assumed by Te Puni Kōkiri for any losses suffered directly or indirectly by any person relying on the information contained in this publication.

© Te Puni Kōkiri 2011
PIPIRI 2011
JUNE 2011