

HE PANUI – RUAWAIPU CLUSTER

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Ruawaipu Tangata Whenua

Ruawaipu are the pre-migration tangata whenua peoples who occupy the lands of the East Cape region (from Potaka to Tikapa). Ruawaipu descend from the eponymous ancestor, the great Chieftainess and original holder of the mana whenua, Ruawaipu, who was of Toi and Maui. Ruawaipu enjoyed a peaceful existence for over 200 years before the descendants of Porourangi (the Ngati Porou) of Whangara began to marry into the Ruawaipu territory. Ruawaipu social organization is based around the hapu, and whilst each hapu maintained its own political independence, it was the whakapapa to Ruawaipu that formed the basis of inter-kinship relationships and defined rights and interests in the land, such rights and interests passing down the Ruawaipu bloodline.

The Ruawaipu Cluster

Individuals who have submitted claims to the Waitangi Tribunal on behalf of Ruawaipu whanau and hapu, have formed a claimant collective known as the Ruawaipu Cluster.



Ruawaipu Cluster hui ó 12 September 2009

The Ruawaipu cluster is funded by the Crown Forestry Rental Trust and is concerned primarily with achieving the just settlement of all Ruawaipu historical Treaty claims through the Tribunal hearings process.

Progress with Ruawaipu claims

Research into the claims is well underway.

The research casebook for the East Coast Inquiry is likely to be completed mid 2010. One of the key reports to emerge is the Ruawaipu Traditional History Report which aims to show that Ruawaipu are the ones who were prejudicially affected by Crown actions. The draft report, entitled *ōTe Papatipu o Ruawaipuō* should be finalized this month. What is significant about the report findings is the overwhelming evidence of Ruawaipu mana whenua, and that according to tradition, *ōa* monolithic identity called Ngati Porou did not exist.ō

Ngati Porou direct negotiations

In April 2008 the Crown recognized the mandate of Te Runanga o Ngati Porou to settle all Ngati Porou historical Treaty claims and to include Ruawaipu claims within the scope of the mandate without the consent of Ruawaipu. Ruawaipu claim that the Crown intends to legislate to remove the jurisdiction of the Tribunal from inquiring further into Ruawaipu claims. As a consequence, Ruawaipu have made an application to the Tribunal for an urgent hearing. Ruawaipu are asking that the Tribunal recommend to the Crown that it hold off on settling with Ngati Porou until after the Crown has had the benefit of reading a Tribunal report on the Ruawaipu claims. The application for urgent hearing has been put on hold to see if the matter can be resolved through facilitated discussion. If the matter is not resolved by 2 October 2009 then the Tribunal will determine the application for urgency. If the application for urgency is granted then an urgent hearing is likely to be held in Gisborne in late October 2009. Ruawaipu want their story told!

How to register, and contact us.

You can register on line via the Cluster website www.ruawaipu.com or if you contact our administration we can send you a registration form.

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