



CONVENOR'S ANNUAL REPORT—AGM 2015

*[For my Report] I printed and spoke to the August report—*Firstly as per the minutes the meeting was rushed due to a funeral everyone was going to and the opportunity to actually consider the seriousness of our situation as an Interest group under other business was not raised as to a viable way forward. It was not on the agenda and too there were many things to bring forward. Hence the nature of my November report.

Social meetings when on the road does not necessarily raise our membership and a tight group with which to work with.

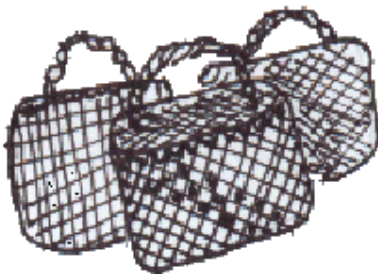
Therefore my AGM report endorses the minutes of the meeting that was held at my home in Epsom on **Saturday 12th September 2015**

Nga mihi nui kia koutou

na

Owen ORMSBY

Convenor



Convenors August 2015 Report:

Kia ora te whanau, nga mihi nui kia koutou,

Tena koe me nga ahuatanga o te wa, o tatou mate noho mai i roto i te ao wairua. Tatou o te ora, kia ora huihui mai tatou.

The above Poroporoaki is most fitting at this time as we greet each other and acknowledge our loved ones who have passed and who continue to leave us on their journey home, we are lost with their departure however we treasure what they have left us with and which we must carry on.

July and August has seen many of our marae undergoing tangihanga as the people nga hau e wha mourn the passing of our people, those tupuna who have long nurtured their culture and installed in their families ancient values of culture, language, customs and protocol, takoto mai, takoto mai, haere, haere, haere atu.

Once again we need to reflect on who we are as a people, many of our people are lost within the Pakeha world becoming more Pakeha than Maori and yet we strive to maintain Maoritanga, the action of being Maori. It is within the whakapapa of identity and acknowledgement and love of family that we can strive to maintain our dignity as Tangata Whenua, the people of the land and the keepers of the home fires.

I am mindful of George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss* who said "I desire no future that will break the ties of the past." It is our past that keeps us safe for the past is the knowledge that our ancestors Maori have left us of our culture, language, heritage and customs and it is to this end that the Maori Special Interest Group was formed, to bring about an understanding of Whakapapa, Whanaungatanga, Manaakitanga and Aro –Ha and to nurture the spirituality of Wairua, Faith, Hope and Prayer.

The song of a Lace Covered Window (1969) - Norma Ledesma, is one of memory and has an illusion to the past and fitting as we go to print for this edition, for within this song can we can feel the lament, sorrow of our people both Maori and European.

When you walk through the world all alone
And your dreams turn to ashes behind you
And the tears in your eyes will remind you
Of a view through a lace covered window

Doesn't seem very clear anymore
In your world everything is uncertain
How you wish you could pull back the curtain
Just to see through that lace covered window

*But you'll never know, just what life has in store
What's waiting there to greet you
So pull back the curtain and maybe once more
True love is there to greet you*

So you walk side by side through the world
No more times full of sadness and sorrow
Every day brings a bright new tomorrow
When you view through that lace covered window
Catch the sun through the lace covered window.

Let us once again reflect on our Maori values as the first nation people of Aotearoa, New Zealand and the role that we play in being Maori meaning the original people of this land.

Rangatiratanga: sovereign right of Maori as tangata whenua and constitutional partner to the Treaty, the right of Maori to determine and control their relationships on equal parity with non Maori and for Maori to manage themselves and to protect aspects of cultural identity including intellectual property, customary practices and language.

Kaitiakitanga: The importance of looking after the natural resources and land inclusive of wahi tapu sites applicable to whakapapa and the protection of cultural sites, flora, fauna and heritage.

Primarily our Maori Interest Group will actively maintain and protect the cultural practices and responsibilities of being tangata whenua and more importantly see opportunities for an economic wellness in research of whakapapa and the social structures based around whanau, marae and hapu in genealogical pursuits of Maori, bi cultural families of Maori/ European, Maori/ Chinese and all others associated with and connected to Maori and joining in mutual research of identity and connections to Marae and hapu.

In closing, I am pleased to announce that the Princess Tomairangi Paki, a sister to the Maori King Tuheita has agreed to be our Patron. I will be speaking with our committee as to how we can keep our patron advised of our whakapapa research and what our documents will entail for the Maori Interest Group. At this time we are still seeking a kaumatua to replace our current kaumatua who is stepping down due to ill health.

Nga mihi nui kia koutou

Owen Ormsby

Convenor