



WAITUTU INCORPORATION

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Pānui – April 2024

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON – Janice Cushing

Kia ora koutou Shareholders,



Welcome to our “new” committee that is now six months old. We have some great talents on the committee and the seven of us plus our secretary Maria Elstone and Lodge

Manager Alan McLeod are busy developing our working relationships. Maria replaced our previous secretary Linda Te Nahu who helped us through the organisation of the 2023 AGM and is now focussing on her other business ventures. We thank Linda for the wonderful support she provided. Down at the lodge we have Alan McLeod, our Lodge Manager, who a number of you will have had the pleasure of staying with at the lodge. Alan spends his time taking care of our taonga, the Waitutu Forest Lodge – you will see his interesting report below. The committee meets at least once a month, often more, and is generally in agreement in their decisions and bring ideas to the table from a number of angles that lead to robust, valuable discussion. I feel they are a very supportive committee and I register my appreciation of their support.

The committee, pre and post the 2023 AGM, has made substantial progress in the last year. A number of them are mentioned in the report below. We are happy to be sending out our April 2024 panui today. The Committee is currently receiving governance training from Deloitte that is funded and overseen by Te Puni Kokiri. Both of whom are fully involved in the delivery and assessment of this governance training. This training is over a period of six months and will be completed in May 2024.

The committee initiated training sessions from our Financial Investment Advisors at Craig’s Investments and from Forsyth Barr. Our portfolios have subsequently been reviewed and consolidated, with the whole committee being involved in this decision-making process.

I recently invited the IRD Kaitakawaenga, to spend a session with myself and Maria to discuss a range of IRD matters. This was very useful to confirm that we are complying with their requirements and was an opportunity to establish a contact at the IRD who will be available to advise on our special Māori Incorporation that is unique in itself. We must follow specific rules when dealing with eg funds belonging to lost shareholders; and understanding the importance of making every effort to locate IRD numbers for our members who may be currently “lost”. Tim will continue to work on this.

A question so often asked of me is “What is the Waitutu Holding Company and how is it connected to the Waitutu Incorporation?”. Just tonight a shareholder asked this question.

The Waitutu Incorporation was established in 1972. In 1996 the Incorporation received a settlement, from the government, of money and forest cutting rights to another forest (not ownership of the land that this forest sits on).

In 2006 the cutting rights were transferred into a new registered company (not a Māori Incorporation) thus leaving the Incorporation with cash and the continued running of the Waitutu Forest Lodge established in 2003.

When the Holding Company was formed the shareholders of the Incorporation at that date were given 10 Holding Company shares for every 1 Incorporation share. So, for our fictitious example shareholder “John Doe”: John had 5 Incorporation

shares - he received an additional 50 Holding Company shares in the separate entity.

Scenario 1: A few years later John Doe passed away and in his will he left his Incorporation shares to his daughter Matilda; and he left his Holding Company shares to his son Adam. This is why the shareholders in the Incorporation and Holding Company are now completely different members; some of you will have shares in both entities.

Scenario 2: HEADS UP RE WILLS: If John Doe had put in his will that he leaves all his Māori Land shares to Matilda and everything else is to be divided equally; Matilda would receive the Incorporation shares, but

the Waitutu Holding Company shares would be split equally between Matilda and Adam. The Holding Company shares are not considered to be Māori Land shares in this context as they are in a Registered Company.

The Committee looks forward to continued contact with all shareholders.

Ngā mihi nui

Janice Cushing
Chairperson

Update Māori Land Court Proceedings

We have been advised by our lawyers that they have not received any update on the Māori land court proceedings as at 8 April 2024.

Committee Member Reports

Tim Dyer (Lost shareholders)

Kia Ora Waitutu Shareholders and whanau,



The committee of management of the Waitutu Incorporation are committed to moving forward to secure interest

and commitment for the future generations of our shareholders. As part of this we are reaching out to the Waitutu whanau to find our lost shareholders families. Please take some time to look at the shareholders list on the shareholders page of the Waitutu website www.waitutu.co.nz which includes lost shareholders information and see if you know any of the wider shareholding whanau and their contact details so we can contact them or they can contact us. It would help us immensely. We are currently working through how the shares can be transferred to the new generation so that future dividends can be paid. My email address: timdyermedia@gmail.com

Just an extra 'nudge'.
Cheers, Tim

Miles Dunnett (Chairperson of the lodge sub-committee)

As this report is going to print, Alan, tradesmen and I are working on a few deferred maintenance projects at the lodge.

A gas califont is being installed at caretaker's lodge so Alan will no longer need to have a fire burning in summer to heat hot water.

New cladding, windows and doors to be installed at caretaker's lodge which



will bring it up to the same standard as lodge. It really has been a long time coming and will look stunning. After these are completed, next on the agenda we will be upgrading the sewerage system.

On a personal note, in February some old school and rugby mates and I spent 2 days walking the Humpridge



track. At the conclusion of this walk we then carried on into the lodge where we stayed for 2 nights, with

Alan being a fantastic host. A great time was had by all, and it was awesome to spend time with Alan when it was not all work related. To cap it off we had a great jet boat trip out on a very flat Lake Haurako.

Ngā mihi
Miles Dunnett

Sue McKenna (Marketing)

Kia Ora Waitutu Shareholders,



Over the past three months since our last panui, we have had an update of the booking system which has produced a more streamlined booking platform and the website has also had a little “face lift”.

Bookings at the Lodge have increased substantially with many 5 star google reviews – the result of making the lodge visible through various marketing strategies. We have a variety of regular guests such as Newzeal – a Wanaka rafting company, Wrightson’s Seeds and Milton Tramping Club – each of these companies book the entire Lodge for their stay.

My main focus has centred on developing a rangatahi program targeted at a minimum age of 18 year-olds and above to come into the Waitutu and develop a connection with their whenua. As next generation shareholders, it's essential they understand the importance of ensuring our whenua is protected and preserved for the future. Within the programme, tikanga Māori values will be embedded into many of the activities which will centre around the ecological aspects of the forest, conservation, and pest eradication. The story behind the SILNA agreement, learning Waiata, Karakia, as well as the skills of eeling and flax weaving, will all feature in the programme.

Further programmes will be offered in the future. The 2024 programme will be for three nights, beginning with an exhilarating jet boat ride via Lake Hauroko,

then two days of activities and presentations from the Department of Conservation rangers and others. Numbers will be restricted to 10. It is envisaged the programme will be mid-October 2024.

Links to further detailed information about the programme and application form is on our website: www.waitutu.co.nz. Closing date 30 June 2024.

A further vision is to develop a guest email database where we can maintain contact with guests and keep them updated on any new happenings at the Lodge such as co-marketing packages, south coast track upgrade etc.

Ngā mihi
Sue McKenna

Alan McLeod (Lodge Manager)



Its April and we are about to get our annual influx of hunters for the Roar - one group back

from Auckland for the fourth time. Their exploits here end up on social media and are worth following on You Tube, especially Ollie Craig - he’s done some outstanding media work of their efforts here.

The 1080 programme is scheduled for end of April/early May. It is certainly welcomed as it will further improve our abundance of our native bird species. The last programme demonstrably effective as shown in Chris Bishop’s report to us in September last year and the noted increase in birdsong in the Waitutu.... this one will ensure the good done then carries on.

At the Lodge we continue to focus on delivery of quality hosting. Miles and I are pushing along with programming important maintenance initiatives.

Feedback continues to glow about the whole Waitutu experience.

Our occupancy over the past few months has remained very solid and the "Visibility" lift of the Lodge brought via upgrading of the Booking System and our Website is beginning to show its merit through this increase.

It helps to have the river being consistently at operational levels.

I note already October bookings are thickening. This is a trend new to our experience based on old patterns.

There are clear indications now the work of the Committee to focus on quality of experience at the Lodge - is bearing fruit. Word of mouth serves us well also because the experience here is so enthusiastically enjoyed. Waitutu is special.

We are also attending to practical matters at the Lodge site. Important maintenance work to the Manager's Hut (Managers accommodation) such as improved hot water and plumbing delivery as well as other improvements to the hut porch and hot house which will also enhance heating and light input into the hut.

All looking promising for a productive year ahead.

Ngā mihi
Alan McLeod



Members of the Milton Tramping Club wondering through the Waitutu Forest.

GOOGLE REVIEW

Waitutu Forest Lodge

South Coast Track, Fiordland, Southland

[Write a review](#)

5.0 ★★★★★ 7 reviews

I loved staying here. We jetboated in and out, stayed 3 nights at the lodge. The lodge is terrific. Really well equipped kitchen. Comfy beds. Good flyscreens to keep the sandflies out (Whew). And a superb drying room. The showers were good. There was heaps of hot water and the whole place is clean, dry, light and spacious. We'll be back!

We tramped in the forest each day - its amazing. And walked down to the estuary. Great trip.

Rooms: 5/5 | **Service:** 5/5 | **Location:** 5/5

The new swing bridge over the Wairaurahiri River

The new swing bridge was completed last year by Department of Conservation Contractors, and is somewhat more substantial than the old swing bridge which remains.



Ngāi Tahu Fund

<https://ngaitahu.iwi.nz/whanau/opportunities/ngaitahu-fund/about-the-ngai-tahu-fund/>

Registered tribal members and Ngāi Tahu associated groups can apply for funding for projects designed to meet specific cultural objectives, including building cultural knowledge, encouraging cultural practices and leadership.

If you would like to have a whanau hikoī to the Lodge, as Ngai Tahu registered tribal members, you can apply for funding. Apply through their grant portal.

<https://tekopaora.ngaitahu.iwi.nz/>

If you are interested in applying for a grant and require assistance to complete the forms (that can be somewhat challenging) please email the office and assistance can be provided.