



Deed of Settlement Signing Ceremony

Chair's Response to the Crown

20 April 2013 at Onetahua Marae

*Ko Wharepapa tōku maunga
Ko Motueka tōku awa
Ko Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu tōku Iwi
Ko Fred Te Miha ahau*

Tēnā koutou katoa

Welcome to the Minister, Office of Treaty Settlements representatives, invited guests, our good friends Ngai Tahu, and most importantly, Ngāti Tama whānui.

We are here today to celebrate an important landmark in what has been a long journey for Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu – the signing of our Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu.

Over the 20 years since Ngāti Tama Manawhenua ki Te Tau Ihu Trust was established, a lot of energy has been focussed on settling our long standing grievances with the Crown, first through the Waitangi Tribunal, and more recently in direct negotiations with the Crown.

This struggle has been driven by our strong belief in the future of Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu, and over time has required a huge commitment from many.

Without singling out any one persons as there are too many to name, I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has assisted us to getting to this point today, including those who are sadly no longer with us.

It has been a long and difficult journey. There have been frustrations, delays and disappointments along the way, but I will not dwell on those today.

There are also matters still to be resolved, issues relating to freshwater, and the foreshore and seabed, including Wakapuaka Mudflats.

We now stand at the entrance of a new journey, with the aim of ensuring that our mokopuna are able to grasp the opportunities that were denied to our tupuna.

Building on this settlement, we hope to further develop the social, cultural and economic health and wellbeing of Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu as an Iwi, and the many generations of Ngāti Tama uri to come.

However, importantly, this is not the time to forgive and forget. It is a time to remember and reflect.



While the Crown's acknowledgements and apology in our settlement are important, they do not remove the pain and suffering that our tupuna and generations of Ngāti Tama have endured in Te Tau Ihu since 1840.

Whilst the redress provided in this settlement might be viewed by some as significant, it is trifling when viewed against what we lost in land, resources, tribal structure, language and opportunity.

As I have said today, this settlement signals a beginning for Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu.

When our tupuna arrived here in the 1820's, they were seeking new opportunities. When the New Zealand Company arrived in Nelson in 1841, our tupuna had a vision of two peoples working and living side by side in partnership.

Our tupuna were clear that they wished to maintain and protect their pā, kainga and cultivations, but they were also clear that they wanted the settler economy to thrive and that they wanted to fairly share the fruits of that developing economy. Sadly, that was not to be, as this settlement records.

Promises were broken, reserves were not provided, land was taken, and access to resources was prevented – with the result that Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu were left virtually landless.

Nonetheless – we survived.

The Deed of Settlement recognises and re-affirms our status as an Iwi of mana, an Iwi who has held ahi kā roa in Mohua, Motueka, Whakatū and Wakapuaka since 1828.

The Iwi of Te Tau Ihu, including Ngāti Tama, have taken gradual steps in recent years with the fisheries and aquaculture settlements, and we are starting to build the base for a viable future.

This settlement will allow us to further build upon that base and open up new opportunities moving forward.

Now, more than ever, Iwi need to work together to ensure the future health and wellbeing of our mokopuna and our communities as a whole.

Our communities, comprising all cultures, must work together.

And finally, and importantly, Iwi and the Crown must work together in the spirit of good faith and partnership, as the Treaty of Waitangi truly intended.

Good faith and partnership is the real significance of today. The start of a renewed relationship with the Crown founded on the Treaty.

The signing of this Deed of Settlement and the settlement legislation to follow signal the first steps in this new partnership with the Crown.

As a symbol to recognise this new relationship based on good faith, mutual trust and cooperation, I offer this gift to Chris Finlayson.

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.