

## Hui Evaluation

*At the conclusion of each Hokianga Accord hui all participants are given the chance to make a closing statement or provide their feedback on their experience of the hui. The evaluation session provides a valuable opportunity to hear from people who were not presenters or the main contributors to the two-day hui.*

It has been an interesting year since the last hui. A positive is the strengthening relationship that has developed between the environmental organisations, the Accord, its various fishing entities and other iwi and hapu. The need to respond to the Fisheries 2030 proposals had been the catalyst of this more intense relationship and that has been an encouraging outcome.

The hui had reinvigorated interest in fisheries and land management issues. The depth of knowledge and willingness to share that information amongst the Accord participants was greatly appreciated. option4 was acknowledged for its effort to keep a range of people informed about a variety of issues.

It was ground-breaking to consider developing a community based Fisheries Plan as opposed to having Maori developing Iwi Fisheries Plans and Pakeha working on a separate Fisheries Plan for the same fish.

This hui had provided the opportunity for hapu to spend quality time with their Ngapuhi leaders and to assess who their elders were spending time with at these hui. It was encouraging to hear so much emphasis placed on enhancing the quality of the waterways through good land management practices.

A sample meeting observer's evaluation form was offered to the hui for future use. It had proven to be a valuable tool in ensuring people were getting value, and learning, from attending various hui. The Accord was welcome to use the evaluation form as is or amend as required.

This hui had exceeded expectations. It was an eye-opener to witness the acceptance of different people, their views and backgrounds. This was a good basis for the Hokianga Accord to achieve its lofty goals in the future. It was a pleasure to be part of the hui.

As a hui first-timer it had been very enlightening to witness the marae protocol, how people interacted so easily with each other and shared their knowledge. This generosity and experience was greatly appreciated.

The warm hospitality extended to the Accord newcomers was most welcome. There was so much to learn during the two days and that was a reflection of the breadth of the discussions. It was important to maintain peoples' right to go fishing and catch fish to put on the table. This was a tradition that our children and grandchildren ought to enjoy.

It was important to both keep the 'engine room' effort going to achieve the Accord's goals and seek to use images that strike at the heart of ordinary New Zealanders to get their support. The image used during the hui of the boy holding the fish speaks volumes. The Accord needs to find and maximise opportunities to increase public awareness of these fisheries issues.

A community Fisheries Plan has merit when compared to separate Iwi and non-Maori Fisheries Plans. A Fisheries Plan needs to provide the mechanisms to combat illegal fishing. In some areas illegal fishers harvested more than the legitimate commercial take. This activity had to stop.

A hearty thank you to Oturei Marae, its elders, the people providing the kai and to all those who participated in the hui. The Hokianga Accord was a good vehicle to achieve 'more fish in the water'.

Inspirational, aspirational and battery-charging were all terms that could describe this two-day hui. Local management had to be the ultimate goal and the community Fisheries Plan seemed like the ideal way to express how that would be achieved.

Hokianga Accord hui were always an uplifting experience. The kotahitanga [unity] that had developed amongst the forum's participants was very valuable. It was a model worth sharing with the rest of the country.

More discussion needs to occur on the inputs into aquaculture, finfish farming in particular. Given the material presented it did not seem that finfish farming was a viable operation. More investigation was recommended before the Accord makes any public statements on the issue.

A challenge for the Hokianga Accord was to distil its message down to small, manageable 'sound-bites' that the wider public can relate to. The difficulty is that most of the issues are so esoteric, hard to understand, that unless they are translated into easy language few people will engage in the debate.

Declines in the fisheries have generally been so gradual or unseen because they occur underwater. Unless people actually go fishing they may not even be aware there is a serious issue with the fisheries.

Many people rely on the government and Ministry to deliver good fisheries management, but they and all of us, have been let down. The Accord needs to devise a way to talk to people in simple terms and explain what is happening to our fisheries.

It was important to build a working relationship with Ben Dalton because he seems committed to gaining the best outcomes for Maori.

The Hokianga Accord needs to strengthen its relationship with other iwi forums. It would be a relatively simple matter to have someone from the Accord attend Te Hiku O Te Ika forum hui in the far north. Coverage would then be extended from Tamaki Makaurau [Auckland] to Cape Reinga and across to the east coast.

Victor Holloway advised this would be his last hui. He had resigned as Environmental Resource Manager for Te Runanga-a-Iwi O Ngati Kahu and was retiring to Australia.

It was sad to see Vic leave, but everyone wished him well for the future and he was welcome to attend future hui if he returned to Aotearoa.

Everyone at the hui appreciated the manaaki provided by Ngati Whatua and Otirei Marae. The warmth and hospitality shown towards the Accord's participants would be remembered and treasured.

It was also timely to recognise how fortunate the Accord was to enjoy the companionship and share the collective experience of all the contributors. These relationships had contributed to building a solid foundation that everyone could benefit from.

Having such a robust group meeting together to share ideas was an incentive for people to return to Hokianga Accord hui. It was encouraging to see more young people at the hui, given that a few of the older people were stepping away or about to move on.

As a first-timer to the Hokianga Accord hui it was an interesting experience to witness the challenges, responses and the creativity that results from the discussions. The manaakitanga [mutual respect] extended to find the common ground was encouraging.

Local management for local abundance and talking with our neighbours, at every level, were the major points gathered from the discussions.

It was appropriate to dedicate this hui to Judah Heihei who recently passed away. He was the co-chairman and attended every Hokianga Accord hui, even when he was not well. Judah was committed to making sure the Hokianga Accord succeeded in its endeavours to achieve 'more fish in the water'.

Judah's humour carried the Accord discussions through some tough encounters and that was a gift he gave to everyone at those hui.

It was an honour for Ngati Whatua and Oturei Marae to host friends from Australia, Te Hiku [far north], Bay of Islands, Wellington, Kaikoura and everywhere in between. Warm greetings were extended so people would return to the Kaipara.

Joe Bristowe closed the hui with a karakia [prayer] and wished everyone a safe journey home.

## **Himene**

### **How Great Thou Art**

**Whakaria mai**

**Tou ripeka ki a au**

**Tiaho mai**

**Ra roto i te po**

**Hei kona au**

**Titiro atu ai**

**Ora mate**

**Hei a au koe noho ai.**