

## **Timoti Castle: Commitment to Kaupapa Māori; and relationships with Iwi Māori**

In support of my expression of interest for appointment I confirm that over almost 30 years I have unconditionally applied myself professionally and personally to championing the substantive recognition of indigenous, that is, Māori, rights in Aotearoa New Zealand. This commitment **began** at the time of the watershed events in the late 1980s and early 1990s during which Māori land and fisheries rights recognition achieved significance in the Waitangi Tribunal, the Courts and New Zealand society - and **continues to this day** most recently in the context of the takutai moana claims around the motu; and as Lead Negotiator (currently for Ngāti Haua, Iwi of the Whanganui awa, and for whom Taumarunui is their principal town centre) for Iwi Māori Treaty settlements.

In the period from 1992 through to the present time, as **legal counsel, negotiator and facilitator** for Māori, I advocated, represented and petitioned for Māori Treaty of Waitangi rights recognition in all the Courts of New Zealand, including the Privy Council in London, as well as in many many claims and hearings before the Waitangi Tribunal. Then I was appointed a Member of the Waitangi Tribunal in 2008. I am currently sitting as a Tribunal member on the Mangatu Crown Forest Licensed Land Resumption Inquiry.

In the period through the 1990s and for the last 21 years of this century beginning in 2000 I have been appointed a **Negotiator** on behalf of and for Iwi (and hapu and whanau) to negotiate settlement of a number of historical Treaty claims – including, for example, the \$100m Māori Aquaculture Claims settled with the Crown in 2006/07; and Te Hau Ihu Iwi settled in 2008-2011.

In **2003 and 2004** I was honoured with the appointment by the Clerk of the House of Representatives as Independent Specialist Adviser to Parliament (through two of its Select Committees) to examine and make recommendations to the House of Representatives on the substance of proposed legislation settling Māori Treaty claims to the foreshore and seabed; and for the allocation of the assets of the Māori commercial fisheries Treaty settlement. In this work I was responsible to, and accountable to, Parliament itself and also to responsible Ministers. In achieving legislative foundations for the recognition, development and implementation of durable commercial and cultural Māori Treaty rights I worked intimately with Māori and necessarily secured the trust and confidence of iwi and hapu Māori throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

In 2014-2015 I was appointed by Māori leaders from all around the country as **Independent Statutory Reviewer** of all the commercial governance and management structures and protocols of and for the Māori Fisheries Settlement now represented by assets of NZ\$1 billion.

With the awhi, maanaki and aroha from kaumatua and kuia I have been able to learn to walk in, and work in, two worlds: Te Ao Māori and Te Ao Pākehā. I returned to Victoria University to study Te reo Māori in 2003; and have studied and been tutored in te reo continuously since 1993. I have received tuition and guidance in Matauranga Māori from so many elders who sadly have now passed. I have felt the warmth of the Māori home; the welcoming call of karanga; risen to the demand of the wero; respected the kawa of marae; taken, with modesty, a place on the paepae; and done my share of the mahi in the whareniui and wharekai! I have embraced the customs of tikanga Māori.

I am Pākehā; and unsurprisingly I remain comfortable in Te Ao Pākehā. I express my whakapapa as a connection with my ancestors accompanied by my relationship with the whenua of Aotearoa New Zealand- across time and geography.

I am reminded of the words of one of Aotearoa New Zealand's great reformers and leaders of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, Sir Apirana Ngata on the subject of whakapapa. He is reported as describing (and I respectfully adopt his words) whakapapa as "*the process of laying one thing upon another*" - ancestral connections and relationships with the whenua you might say.

In his book "The Good Doctor: Breaking the Rules, Making a Difference" it is said by Dr Lance O'Sullivan that "*... whakapapa is not just about an individual's lineage but the entire sense of connectedness it provides through time and across geography*". This, it seems to me, is entirely consistent with the concept of whanaungatanga as the mauri of that word embraces extended kinship. I have been blessed to be a beneficiary of the leanings of Mātauranga Māori in the best traditions of manaakitanga which that concept embodies.

In 2012 I was honoured to be appointed by the Office of Treaty Settlements to the Crown Treaty Negotiators Panel.

I am deeply familiar with and have 30 plus years of experience and knowledge relating to governance, the Treaty of Waitangi and business. I believe I have proven skills in these matters. I hope I may be given the opportunity of demonstrating these attributes to best advantage to Ngāpuhi Asset Holding Company Limited.

Kia piki te ora.

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