



MEDIA RELEASE

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Te Pae o Waimihia To Revitalise The Taupō Plant Nursery

Te Pae o Waimihia has signed a Management Agreement with the Department of Conservation for the former Taupō Native Plant Nursery. Te Pae O Waimihia is a Trust that represents six (6) hapū from the north and east of Lake Taupō which include; Ngāti Tutemohuta, Ngāti Hineure, Ngāti Hinerau, Ngāti Rauhoto, Ngāti Tutetawha and Ngāti Urunga.

Today (27 Sep 21) marks the handover day of the site between the two parties.

“It’s the start of a very exciting journey for us at Te Pae O Waimihia. ‘He Tipu’ is the name of the project and it represents ‘growth’ – growth for our people, our environment, our wellbeing and the growth of Te Āo Māori.” said Chairman, Ngahere Wall. *“Not only is this an important site, but our aspirations for this venture are designed to demonstrate our investment focus on social and environmental outcomes”.*

The site will be the home of ‘He Tipu’ a centre for growth, not only in terms of plants and tress but also for people. The multi-purpose site is going to accommodate a plant nursery, a training and learning centre, work-ready groups and a food-hub, and that’s just the beginning. *“The site has significant potential and our plan is to establish a solid foundation first and then look to expand”*, says Greg Stebbing who is a member on the Steering Committee.

“Mātauranga Māori will be a core thread of the way the site and venture operates in recognition of the proven strength of traditional knowledge and

traditional practices.” Says Ngatoru Wall who is also member of the Steering Committee.

‘He Tipu’ will also provide an opportunity for kaitiakitanga to be exercised throughout the rohe with the nursery, training and work-ready forces dedicated to local projects, marae, farms and Te Taiao. Te Pae o Waimihia also intend to promote regenerative themes and eco-sourcing from ‘He Tipu’.

The food-hub will be designed to support whānau in need by distributing healthy staple food supplies in order to lift all whānau to a food-secure position. ‘He Tipu’ are keen to work with the other foodbanks in the rohe to address this deprivation challenge.

‘He Tipu’ has been working with a number of training providers to be able to deliver training from ‘He Tipu’. *“We have sought to understand the local demand and the gap in the current training being delivered here. We want to make sure training and education supports our local industries, but also considers other qualifications that our rangatahi desire – to help make their aspirations become a reality”* says He Tipu Project Manager, Blandina Diamond.

This hand-over comes at the end of 18 months of discussions between the parties, first initiated through Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa.

“The site does need some extensive refurbishment, so we will be looking to balance any investment risks we make into the project”, said Mr Wall. The Nursery infrastructure has been largely neglected since the previous Native Plant Nursery closed in 2018.

Te Pae o Waimihia are aiming to have the site opening in 2022. First, out of the blocks will likely be training and learning focused services, work-ready force, food-hub and nursery products with short germination and growth lead-times.