

# Onuku

MAORI LANDS TRUST

Chairpersons

Report for 2018-2019



Kia Ora Tatou Katoa....

In all my time as a trustee and chairperson of OMLT.. since 1982, there has never been a year like this past year. OMLT reached the pinnacle of success by being acknowledged by the judges of the Ahu Whenua Maori Dairy Farming Excellence Award , as the winner for 2018...which was celebrated by many at the Wigram Air Base in Christ Church on May 25<sup>th</sup>. A lot of time and work had to be completed and many questions replied to.

Many inspections of the property were undertaken by the judges, the owners and a Field Day was held, for all interested , to see how OMLT operates. They were entertained , catered to and bussed over our farm for a full days familiarization of what we do and how we do it.....This all culminated with the announcement at Wigram by the Governor General that we, OMLT had won.....

Then on June 19<sup>th</sup>, while Les was accompanying a honey client around the farm , another great "tohu" appeared in the sky that was fortunately captured by the client and is framed for all to see this message from above. He was in the right place at the right time as it only lasted a few seconds but we have a record of that momentous connection with those who have gone before us....



A few weeks later we were invited to enter the Westpac Rotorua Business Awards, which we also won. Our category being...Primary Industries....While we were at Wigram, we were approached by Country Calendar to do a segment on OMLT....which has been completed and aired on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. We hope you got to see this.

Onuku has had a busy year over and above the Ahuwhenua and Westpac awards. We decided to consider diversifying further to be ready if the present industry threat Mycoplasma Bovis decides to spread. We are at the moment breeding milking sheep and as a diversification. It is a new innovation and if proves to be lucrative we will expand into a milking programme...in the meantime we are just content to breed the stock. It has just been announced that three interested parties , one being Landcorp, have decided to spend 20 million building a processing plant for sheep milk...so the future for this venture is looking up.

The Onuku Honey Brand is going from strength to strength and Les will explain in his report at the AGM.

In spite of all the extra workload that has been inflicted on our staff and trustees..OMLT has continued to produce a respectable return for this season and the usual grants will be available for

all sectors...with one exception. With the generosity of Peter Livingston and Agfirst we are able to offer a scholarship of \$3000, for a student pursuing a career , either in Dairy or Agriculture or any of the Primary Industries..We are eternally grateful to Peter and Agfirst in recognizing the need for Maori to be more proactive in taking care of the whenua ..... learning how to nurture and produce gains to share with the present and future generations....Technology is enticing our youth to follow that path which is needed but papatuanuku needs to be cared for , protected and encouraged to produce the sustenance required to care for the people and also provide income for the nation so that Aotearoa can sustain a decent way of life for us all. Our Kaumatua Grants have been paid on Monday 17th December to all those over 65 years. If you are over 65 and are not receiving this grant be sure to get in touch with Amber at Perpetual Guardian to register for this grant.

We are replanting pine trees in the areas that had been harvested last year and hopefully will produce excellent returns

Allan Rondon who is Len Rondon's nephew has made a tremendous impact on the Boundary Road farm and is proving to be a valued employee...who is demonstrating managerial qualities at this early stage in his career .OMLT will nurture him and guide to where he needs to be to further his career in the Dairy industry.

To my fellow trustees, Peter Livingston and farm staff and all those involved with the success of OMLT my gratitude and ever lasting aroha for bringing OMLT to this point in time...both present and past trustees have a lot to be proud of and 2018 has been a wondrous year and culmination of all those who participated in the evolution of this great asset that has risen out of the dust and mud of a great eruption that destroyed so much but also left a legacy for us all to benefit from.

A very special Thank you to Angela Wharekura who as our General Manager has worked tirelessly in organizing the meetings and her workload has been tripled with all these competitions....Her organizational skills have been invaluable in enabling OMLT to achieve what we have....A big thank you to Perpetual Guardian Trust who have made their rooms available for our meetings, provided a base for our shareholders to register their information and for continued support for Angela with the financial organization of OMLT.

Ehara taku toa  
I te toa takitahi  
He toa takitini  
Te hei Mauriora

My strength is not as  
an individual  
but as a collective.  
That is life

*Mouya Te Ariki Bramley*

We look forward to seeing you all at the AGM at the Distinction Hotel, Rotorua on Saturday February 16th, 2019.



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