

Tena Koutou e te whanau

Ko **Iris Kirimaao** Toku ingoa

No Te Whakarewarewatangaoteopetauaawahiao!

My Koroua Arti Kirimaao Haira grew up in the village as a young lad then moved out to Horohoro onto the land block Waipupumahana where he and my kuia Rangitamata raised their whanau. His parents were Haira and Wiripene who lived in the village.

I was also raised on our whanau land by my parents Irihei, (the oldest son of Kirimaao) and Maureen Haira my mother. I have been involved in the development of our whanau lands having initiated and managed the development of the dairy farm operating on the block.

I have a hands on involvement in the running of the trust that umbrella these tribal farm lands. I am keen to take an active role as a trustee of our Tukiterangi Hapu.

### **Profile**

My career has led me into specialising in two key areas of indigenous participation. These sectors include Indigenous Tourism Business and Education. I Project managed the first rebuild and rebranding to the Te Puia site ensuring that the history of Ngati Wahiao was carefully woven into the fabric of the tourism offer and to maintain the integrity of our Ngati Wahiao heritage.

I also provided evidence (2022) for the Ngati Wahiao Claim along with two other researchers of the Makiha whanau. Key evidence was drawn from the Maggie Papakura Personal Diaries (Vol 1907).

### **Biography for the 2022 Adjudication Process**

**Iris Kirimaao (Master of Indigenous Studies, Postgrad Dip Mgmt) Tribal Affiliations – Tuhourangi Ngati Wāhiao, Ngati Whare, Kahungunu**



Iris has vast experience in Maori Tourism ranging from the redevelopment of a premiere site, to new product development and teaching and training initiatives in the tourism space. Iris held the role of Te Puia/s representative for the \$23mil redevelopment (2000) which included interactive galleries, carving and weaving schools, retail space, drivers amenities and car-parks, She was responsible for the co-ordination of all contractors including construction team, architects, interpretation and design, and tribal consultation of cultural integrity

In 2004 Iris held the role of General Manager of Te Puia. The role included positioning the service delivery of the organisation to a level as New Zealand's premiere Maori Tourism business following the redevelopment of the site. Iris's master's thesis (2013) explores a whenua repatriation initiative of a block of land, post the 1929 land development scheme in Horohoro, a Ngati Wahiao block named Waikaukau A5. The genesis of Maori land development came from the provision of the Native Land Amendment and Native Land Claims Adjustment Act 1929. This Act provided for large-scale development of Māori land and it set up the Native Land Development scheme. When the concept of Native Land development was first conceived by its key architect (Apirana Ngata) in 1909, 'land' the obvious component was required so that a master plan could be enacted. One of the tribal areas seen as suitable to trial the concept was Te Arawa. The Tuhourangi / Ngati Wāhiao people became involved through their extensive land base Rotomahana Parekarangi. The Maori land owners in the block chose key leaders or rangatira to represent them in the debate around the involvement of their lands in this new initiative. In the case of Kirimaao (grandfather to the writer), consultation with the Ngati Wāhiao chief of the time, a stately man known as Mita Taupopoki would have occurred as all of Ngati Wāhiao descends from him and all major decisions concerning the use of the land needed to be sanctioned by him. As a result of the land development scheme a block of land was not returned to the original owner/s and has been sold on the open market. The research methodology approach was predominantly kaupapa Maori theory that is contingent on identifying as Maori, and exercises a world view of beliefs, values and attitudes that are uniquely Maori. The key research types adopted were the use of documentary research, in particular historical records including tangata whenua claimant research; manawhenua or traditional history; and technical historical research and maps