

## **Living Lake Symposium**

Measure to Manage and Managing what we measure

**Kōrero Whakataki / Opening Address by Craig Pauling**

**On behalf of the Te Waihora Management Board / Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu**

Thursday 07 November 2013  
Lincoln University

Ka whakakao mai nei kā hau  
Ahakoa i ahu mai i hea  
mai i Kaiapoi,  
mai i Te Rapaki o Te Rakiwhakaputa,  
mai i Puari i Koukourarata,  
mai i te kaika o Onuku, mai i Wairewa  
mai i te pā o Orariki e

Ko Te Kete Ika a Rākaihautū te tuatahitaka  
Te Tuna Kohaka  
Whariki o te Piharau  
Repo o te inaka  
Moeka o te mohoao

Nei anō te reo ka tukuna i te hau o whakamihi  
Ki kā reo, ki kā mana, ki kā whakaihuwaka kua whakarauika mai  
i raro i te whakaaro he ora te whakapiri  
Ka ora anō tā tātou kete kai i a tātou e whakapiri ana  
Hei whakatikatika anō i tēnei kōrero o mua  
Ko ngā hau ki ētahi wāhi, ko ngā kai ki Orariki

Tihei Mauri ora!

I stand today on behalf of my relations and elders, who represent the kaitiaki whanau of Te Waihora

- from Ngāi Tuahuriri, from Ngāti Wheke, from Ngāti Huikai, from Ngāi Tarewa, from Ngāti Mako and from Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki and also on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu who protect their interest in the lake for Ngāi Tahu Whānui.

Firstly I acknowledge the welcome from the whanau of Taumutu, Tēnā koutou te mana o te whenua nei; and next to address all of you, that have come here to honour our lake, to discuss its history, its current predicament, and the efforts being made to put the lake on an improved path, and for a better future for us all.

- To the members of the TWM Board, kaumatua and whānaunga,
- To Mark (in his absence) and staff and representatives of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu,
- To Dame Margaret and her fellow commissioners and staff at Environment Canterbury,
- To Mayor Kelvin Coe and the councilors and staff of SDC (& CCC)
- To the Honourable Amy Adams and her Honourable colleagues and officials of the Crown
- and to all of you who have come.

I do not need to recite the significance of the lake to all of us here, whatever your background and heritage. We are all here because we care and want to see this taonga set on the path to recovery and be given back some of its dignity. By doing this we are celebrating and upholding the mana of our most special taonga, Te Waihora - Te Kete Ika a Rākaihautū. Nō reira, Tēnā tātou katoa.

So to begin with, let me acknowledge all of the fantastic work that has been, and is going on - by:

- i. WET, TAK and other community groups and members – fantastic leadership and pushing the envelope for restoration ahead of statutory agencies
- ii. FNG, DOC – ongoing protection and management of key resources
- iii. The CRI's, LINCOLN and CANT UNIs – ongoing focus on investigation, gaining understanding and solutions
- iv. SDC, CCC and ECAN (including the CWMS / Zone committee)
- v. MFE – national leadership of freshwater policy
- vi. NT / TWMB -
- vii. Fonterra, Synlait, Dairy NZ and other industry parties as well as all the Landowners that are taking notice and taking the steps to give something back

I thank you and sincerely acknowledge your contributions.

In providing this address, I want to focus our minds (and hearts) on 3 things to hold close throughout the next two days of the symposium:

- i. To reflect on our shared history & Where have we come from?
- ii. To celebrate that great things we have achieved, particularly in the last decade – so: Where have we been?
- iii. To providing a tupato or caution – that we cannot get complacent about what we are doing, that we cannot ever think it is too hard and that we have a very, very long way to go – so answering... Where are we going?

1. Background – Where have we come from?

- Former extent, including Ahuriri, wetlands buffering a large lake, periodically opened
- Kemps purchase, drainage becomes paramount, loss of buffer, a thousand cuts

Let us not forget where we have come from to get here today.

Let us remember and celebrate those that have come before.

Let us understand their worldviews and actions. Let us learn.

Let us listen to their words:

The following is from Natanahira Waruwarutu of Kaiapoi writing to Native Minister FitzGerald in September 1865

- *Friend Mr. FitzGerald. Here is one word to you about our land about Waihora; you yourself have seen that sheet of water which lies behind the mountains of Port Cooper; the Maoris catch eels there, and now we wish to sell that land (?water), because during the time that the lake was full of water, Mr. Kemp and Mr. Mantell laid down their money (in payment for the surrounding land); therefore they thought it not necessary to make any further payment for that land, and now the water is being let off by the Pakehas, that is to say by the Government, so as that land may be made a sheep station by the Europeans, and now there is very little (or no) water, it has to be left for two or three years before there is sufficient water to overflow so as to enable us to catch eels; but no, it is being drained off by the Government, so as to be a source of emolument for them*

- The following is from Walter Mantell a Native Land Commissioner writing to William Rolleston in April 1866

*At almost every reserve the right to maintain the old and to make new eel-weirs was claimed, but I knew these weirs to be so great an impediment to the drainage of the country that in no case would I give way upon this point, although unfortunately my difficulty was much increased by their knowledge that at a sale then recently made in this Island, a general reservation of this right to the Natives had been conceded. At Lake Ellesmere (then called Waihora) I showed Maopo, Pohau, and others of the Kaiteruahikihiki interested at Taumutu that although years might elapse ere their old style of breaking the dam might be interfered with, the stoppage of the outlet must so seriously affect the drainage of so large an extent of country that the Government must be quite free to do as it pleased with regard to it.*

The following is the Waitangi Tribunal finding on Te Waihora within the Ngāi Tahu Land Report 1991:

*It is clear that Ngai Tahu did not intend to part with this treasured fishery. We are satisfied they fully intended to retain unimpeded access to both Waihora and the spit. This they made abundantly clear to Mantell. He deliberately chose to disregard their rights. In doing so he failed to comply with the terms of the purchase which preserved to Ngai Tahu their mahinga kai, and acted in breach of the Treaty. Serious detriment to Ngai Tahu has continued down to the present day. We were deeply impressed with the very real sense of loss and deprivation which the failure of the Crown to preserve Ngai Tahu's rights to the food resources of Waihora has caused past and present members of the Ngai Tahu people. We would recommend that the Crown recognise that it failed to meet Ngai Tahu's legitimate expectations in 1848 and takes appropriate action to remedy the situation.*

I therefore acknowledge those that have gone before, who laid the foundation for us all, through the Treaty, through the Crown Purchases, through long winter of Te Kerēme, through the Waitangi Tribunal, through the Settlement, through the Joint Management Plan, and more recently WTW, the CWMS / the ZIP & sub-regional plan, and activities such as this symposium. We are continuing the lay a path that stretches back a long way. Let us never lose sight of that.

2. Restoration efforts - Where have we been?

It is now just over two years since we gathered at Ngāti Moki to sign the WTW and Co-governance agreements. Even in that time we have achieved a lot, things have changed, we have learnt from each other and it feels like we are getting somewhere.

Let us celebrate our small steps. Let us rejoice that we are able to sit together as equals and develop ways forward with respect and in peace. Let us acknowledge what we have created together.

### **WTW: Facts and figures**

1. Plants in the ground, number of sites, number of catchments: over 100,000 / 50+ sites / 3 catchments: Huritini / Kaituna / Waikekewai + WET + TAK + others (Brailsfords) – more on this on Friday morning – Community Initiatives
2. Science investigations: 6 projects Macrophytes / Inlake / Fish / Lake opening/closing/levels / Mahinga kai - (more on Friday arvo – WTW)
3. Farm plans started/completed / community engagement hours: Lower Huritini & Kaituna Catchment Strategies/Meetings/7 farm plans + Fonterra (more tomorrow)
  - WCO and Joint Lake Opening – wow!
  - Sub Regional Plan and catchment management including Central Plains
  - Progress on Osborne's Drain and other Drainage issues

These are great and historical things we are doing. Things are children and grandchildren will thank us for. Let us be proud of what we are doing.

### 3. Kia tupato – where are we going?

Now that we have listened to our past, and acknowledged our present, it is time to dream of the future. Although in dreaming, we must be prepared to occasionally be frightened – but to not completely run from those things that are sent to wake us from our slumber – Let us take arms together. Let us fight for the future that we owe to ourselves and our children after us.

In doing this we must acknowledge those things that are real and those things that we must find solutions to, no matter how hard or scary it gets. Take heart from the road we have already been on. Of our ancestors crossing the seas, leaving things behind, of facing new environments and change. Making mistakes, and most importantly, being brave enough to fix things and make them right.

So, let us take heed of the facts and figures that we have collectively gathered, but also of those things we can see, touch, smell and taste:

- Of increasing nitrates in our groundwater, lurking in the shadows of our rural towns and communities
- The looming cloud of poor legacy water heading for the shores of our fish basket
- The silt laden, waste deep, clogged up waterways, with excess weed growth, straightened edges, deep sides, low grass and the occasional four legged visitor
- The things we don't see, and hear, smell and taste, the kekewai (freshwater crayfish), the piharau (lamprey eels), and the mata (whitebait), the karepo (macrophytes), and the bottom of our lake.

I am told that it is going to get worse before its going to get better. That just makes me angry. But, I try to maintain my dignity. And I trust that we have all heard it. And that we are going to go through this together and be better for it. And I truly believe that we can, and that we will. Even if it takes another 150 or 200 years. There is no other option. So hang in there and make your descendents proud.

I particularly acknowledge the work of the Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee, of the ZIP and Sub-regional plan. I commend you. I know you know what I speak of.

Let me finish with the words of one of the true treasures of Te Waihora, my Aunty Ake (Maria) Johnson: She has a dream. I compel you to make it yours. Take in all that is said over the next few days and keep moving, together...

A lot of families had lived here and caught fish they must have seen it happen. In my day you could go right around the Lake on a single track. Go right round and the colour, you could see the shingle bottom when I was a young kid. You could see the fish in the water, now you can't see anything and it smells.

I would not swim in the Lake any more and I wouldn't let my mokopuna swim in their either.

I can't believe my eyes that it has changed so much. I sat and thought what was going on when this was happening to the Lake.

The Lake is still special to me. It is in my blood. I dream of what it could become.

Nō reira,

*E rau rangatira mā, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, mauri ora ki tātou katoa.*