

Kōtātara

The Newsletter of Ōrotokare: Art, Story, Motion
Dedicated to indigenous theatre and performing arts

No. 1, March 2005

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Established and Operational!

It is with great cheer and delight that we can announce the establishment of *Ōrotokare: Art, Story, Motion*. Our inaugural trustees – Ray Ahipene-Mercer, Piripi Walker, Parekāwhia Mclean, Kim Skelton and Mīria Pomare – have signed the trust declaration

which is dated 15 December 2004. Following the signing of the declaration, the Department of Inland Revenue have confirmed our status as a charitable trust. At our inaugural meeting on 3 March, the trustees approved four projects, including this newsletter, as activities for 2005. Kia ora!

He Kāinga Ipurangi: Website Now On-Line

The first version of the *Ōrotokare* website is now on-line. Summary information on the work of the trust is available there as are a number of

documents that explain the work of the trust. In time, financial contributions to the trust, including to the endowment fund, will be achievable through the website. *Tirohia!* www.erotokare.org.nz

Seeking Support

Ōrotokare has many projects in the planning pipeline. Like all enterprises of this kind, it takes resources and other kinds of support to see them through. If you would like to support the work of *Ōrotokare*, please let us know by contacting our Artistic Director at PO Box 12446, Thorndon, Wellington. You can support individual projects - and Charles will be happy to show you how - or you may wish to donate to our Endowment Fund. See page 3 for details.



A Profile of our Trustees

We are fortunate that five talented and energetic people have agreed to act as inaugural trustees. They are Ray Ahipene-Mercer, Piripi Walker, Parekāwhia Mclean, Kim Skelton and Mīria Pomare.

Piripi Walker (Ngāti Raukawa) is a long time broadcaster, advocate of the Māori language and researcher of traditional Māori literature. Previously he was Director of Māori Language Studies at Te Wānanga-o-Raukawa, a tribal centre of higher learning based in Ōtaki. He now works as a freelance researcher, editor and writer.

Mīria Pomare (Ngāti Toarangatira) is Claims Co-ordinator and Resource Management Advisor for Te Rūnānga-o-Toarangatira, located in Porirua City. Mīria has been active in iwi affairs for many years and is now custodian of one of the most important private collections of Māori artefacts in New Zealand, the collection of her great-grandfather, Sir Māui Pomare. Mīria is a graduate of the University of Hawai'i having completed a Master of Political Science there in 1998.

Kim Skelton (Te Āti Awa Ngāti Raukawa) is a lawyer and currently works as project manager for the *Te Awakairangi Hauora Board*, an initiative conducted in partnership with the Hutt Valley District Health Board. Her responsibilities include project management and providing administrative, budget, policy, planning and analytical services to the six-member Te Awakairangi Board. In the past, Kim has worked with the Office of Treaty Settlements, Ministry

of Agriculture and Fisheries, Te Puni Kōkiri, the Waitangi Tribunal and numerous other organisations such as the Conflict Partnership Service of Aotearoa-New Zealand.

Parekāwhia McLean (Waikato, Ngāti Maniapoto) is a senior public policy leader who has worked for numerous Government departments. Since 1992, she has maintained a number of policy positions located within the Beehive (the Parliament Buildings of New Zealand's Government) including Private Secretary and advisor to the Minister of Māori Affairs (Hon. Doug Kidd in 1992-1993) and as policy advisor in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet 1997-2001 during the tenure of three Prime Ministers (Bolger, Shipley and Clarke). Parekāwhia belongs to the Waikato and Ngāti Maniapoto peoples and holds masters degrees from the Universities of Waikato (Social Science) and Wisconsin (Public Administration and Development Policy) in the United States of America.

Ray Ahipene-Mercer (Ngāi Tara, Ngāti Ira) has been prominent in local body affairs for many years. Ray is well known for his advocacy of environmental issues in the Wellington area, leading numerous actions in relation to the outfall at Moa Point, near Wellington City Airport. Ray is currently a Wellington City Councillor however his life long passion has been with music. He is an instrument maker and has lived on the Miramar Peninsula for many years.

Attributes of our Trustees

In selecting trustees, we were looking for people who are active and dedicated to the causes they support, were enthusiastic about the vision for the trust and who are willing to add value to *Ōrotokare*. We are delighted to have five

people who fulfil all of these criteria. Except for Parekāwhia Mclean, each of the trustees have relationships with the iwi of the Te Upoko-o-te-ika region. We thank them for their support.

Proposed Projects for 2005

At the inaugural trustees meeting on 3 March, four projects were proposed and were supported by the Board. They are:

- The initiation of a quarterly newsletter
- Strategic Planning
- A committee to oversee the preparation of publications of mōteatea and kōrero from Ngāti Toarangatira and Ngāti Raukawa
- A function to celebrate the establishment of *Ōrotokare*

Three objectives were set for our newsletter entitled *Kōtātara*. They are:

1. To provide an opportunity to communicate, expose and promote the work of *Ōrotokare* to a wide audience
2. To provide information to enable fund raising
3. To provide a reporting mechanism for *Ōrotokare* projects and activities

Our Artistic Director presented a proposal for strategic planning which entailed the convention of gatherings to focus upon eight of our programme areas (kōrero, waiata, haka and so on). Also, discussions are underway concerning the work with Ngāti Toa and Ngāti Raukawa.

Endowment Fund

Ōrotokare is in the process of establishing an endowment fund. This is a long term project and we hope that in time enough funds will be available to create investments in the name of *Ōrotokare*. Profits

from investments will be made available to support projects and programmes of the trust. If you would like to contribute to the endowment fund, please let us know by email or write to PO Box 12446, Thorndon, Wellington.

A Function to celebrate the establishment of *Ōrotokare*

Planning is underway to convene a function to celebrate the establishment of *Ōrotokare*. Objectives set for this project include the presentation of samples and examples of each of the six performing arts forms (haka, waiata, kōrero, taonga pūoro,

tākaro, wharawhara) and to present an experimental theatre performance which may involve any or all of the forms. Additional objectives include creating an opportunity to raise funds and to disseminate information about the work of the Trust. This might become annual.

Ōrotokare ***Art, Story, Motion***

is a charitable trust dedicated to indigenous theatre and performing arts. *Ōrotokare* explores the traditional *whare tapere* (pā based houses of entertainment, storytelling and dance) and uses this as an inspiration and a starting point for a new indigenous theatre. The ethos of the trust is to be experimental, exploratory and *avant garde* seeking to find new ways of performing, new expressions of traditional ideas and innovative solutions to performance issues.

Contact Details

Ōrotokare: Art, Story, Motion

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Thorndon, Wellington

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Email our Artistic Director, Dr. Charles Royal, at charles@mkta.co.nz

Ōrotokare: Art, Story, Motion is supported by:



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*...korimako pae ki te **kōtātara**...
'The bellbird alights upon its perch.'*

*Taken from a traditional Ngā Puhi chant used to welcome visitors to the marae.
Its usage here is to suggest that this newsletter is like a perch upon which various
birds are able to alight and address their audiences.*

*The bird – particularly the kākā, kuaka, kōtuku, huia, toroa and so on –
is a traditional reference used in literature for the orator.*