



09 June 2006

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Welcome

Tena koutou. This is the first edition of our Maori Legal Services Group newsletter. The objective of this newsletter is to provide you with an update on key issues that could affect or be of interest to you and your iwi or hapu. It also provides information on Waitangi Tribunal Inquiries we are involved with as well as international developments regarding Indigenous people.

REACTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR REPORT

Regretfully, the report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur into human rights issues in New Zealand has received a less than positive response from the Government. Our reaction to the report can be found on our [website](#).

WAITANGI TRIBUNAL INQUIRIES

The Maori Legal Services Group is involved in a number of Waitangi Tribunal Inquiries. For an update on the progress of these Inquiries. [Read more...](#)

CONSULTATION

New Water Management Strategy: Sustainable Water Programme of Action

The Government recently agreed on a new strategy for managing New Zealand's freshwater resources which will potentially have far-reaching implications for Maori. Kensington Swan assisted several clients in making submissions in 2004 on this issue. One of the outcomes identified by Government in this programme is to 'improve the quality and efficient use of freshwater by building and enhancing partnerships with Maori'. [Read more](#)

Walking Access

A new round of consultation on the issue of walking access to and along rivers, lakes and the coast for the public has begun with the release of the discussion document: Outdoor Walking Access - [Read more](#)

IN PARLIAMENT

Te Arawa Lakes Settlement Bill

The Te Arawa Lakes Settlement Bill was introduced into Parliament in April 2006. The Bill gives effect to the Deed of Settlement, signed in December 2004, to settle all the historical claims of Te Arawa in relation to the 14 lakes in the district. [Read more](#)

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INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held its Fifth Session in May 2006 in New York. [Read more...](#)

WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

The World Intellectual Property Organisation Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore held its Ninth Session in April 2006 in Geneva. [Read more ...](#)

GENERAL ISSUES

Environmental Legal Assistance

The Ministry for the Environment has provided updated information regarding the Environmental Legal Assistance Fund which helps environmental, community, iwi and hapu groups to participate more effectively in the resource management process. [Read more ...](#)

Waterways Cultural Health Index

The Cultural Health Index (CHI) is a tool that Maori can use to assess and manage waterways in their area. The index allows iwi and hapu to assess the cultural and biological health of a stream or catchment of their choosing and then communicate this information to water managers in a way which can be understood and integrated into resource management processes. [Read more ...](#)

Ngai Tahu have had taiapure recognised

Ngai Tahu have had a taiapure, or customary fisheries management scheme, recognised to manage fish stocks in Akaroa Harbour. [Read more ...](#)

Government Approves Mt Maunganui Transfer

The Minister of Maori Affairs announced in April 2006 that the Government is prepared to proceed with the transfer of Mauao to the Tauranga Moana iwi and Waitaha. [Read more ...](#)

OFFICE OF TREATY SETTLEMENTS LANDBANKING

The Office of Treaty Settlements has recently advertised a schedule of landbank properties that are under review. Applications for the continued landbanking of the listed properties are due by 4pm Friday 7 July. [Click here](#) to view the list of properties under review.

'Te Aratika' by Steven Kaye.

The image in our logo is based on a woodcut carved by a Maori artist, Brian Gunson, of Ngati Toa Rangitira. It is based on a carving by Tohunga Whakairo (master carver), Steven Kaye of Rangitane. The wood carving was presented to Kensington Swan in appreciation of our professional fostering within the Treaty team of a member of Rangitane iwi.

CONTACT US

Our Maori Legal Services Group specialises in all aspects of Treaty Settlements, Maori Business Development and Maori Law.

Business Development and Maori Law.

For further information contact maorilegal@kensingtonswan.com

If you would like more information on Kensington Swan's Maori Legal Services Group and the services we offer, please visit the [Treaty Settlements](#), [Maori Business Development](#), [Maori Law](#) pages on our website.

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