



Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara

Tumuaki (Chief Executive) of Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara Ngahere Ltd, **Malcolm Paterson**, *pictured*, has recently joined the executive committee of [NorthWest Country](#), representing the post-settlement entity for Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara.

A qualified medical doctor, Malcolm also has a master's degree in environmental management and is a published author.

The father-of-two has represented his iwi in a range of heritage and environmental issues, and co-managed the Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara Treaty of Waitangi claim team for a period. That claim was settled in 2013, part of which involved Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara acquiring the whenua (land) within Woodhill Forest.

Malcolm and his team are responsible for managing the hapū's interests in the 12,500-hectare land. These include the replanting of trees through a forestry joint venture, permitting and/or running a wide range of events, licensing bee-keeping and firewood businesses, to managing/licensing a host of adventure/recreational tourism activities.

Horse-riding, mountain biking, tree climbing, paintball, 4-wheel driving and off-road motorcycling are among the many commercial activities that help make the hapū such a growing economic force in the northwest.



[history](#)



[adventure tourism](#)

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Kake Hōiho equestrian access

<https://www.woodhillforest.co.nz/kake-hoiho/>



Woodhill Mountain Bike Park
<http://www.bikeparks.co.nz>



Tree Adventures
<http://treadventures.co.nz>



Polaris 4WD Park
<http://www.polaris4wdpark.co.nz>



The Sandpit
<http://www.thesandpit.co.nz>



Delta Force Paintball
<http://www.paintballing.co.nz>

“Since 2013, we have become the masters of our own destiny,” says Malcolm who replaced colleague Tuhi Leef as the organisation’s representative on the North-West Business Association. Another colleague, Shona Oliver (Whiti Ora o Kaipara), is one of three Helensville township reps on the BID’s governing body.

“The forest, being in Crown ownership unlike most of our ancestral land, was always going to be the cornerstone of the [treaty settlement](#). The challenge to manage our own tribal estate for our people and generations to come is now upon us,” he says.

While the forest sits outside the BID boundary and so does not pay the BID targeted rate, NorthWest Country – dubbed Auckland’s playground for discovery, culture and adventure – has taken a pragmatic rather than a dogmatic approach in welcoming the hapū to the board table, says Malcolm.

He recalls when the BID was established back in 2014, a year after the North-West Business Association was formed from the Kumeu Coast & Country Business Association and the Helensville District Business Association.

“I was busy setting up our commercial arm (at the time ‘Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara Investment Ltd’) and I could see what the new body was trying to achieve through the BID programme.

“We’re a significant economic player and provide many of the attractions that encourage people to head along State Highway 16 in search of fun and adventure. The future of this region is important to us and we’re happy to play our part.

“There’s been goodwill shown by the BID and ourselves from the start - with the opportunity for the Māori voice to be heard. (BID manager) Gary Holmes has come to me to seek guidance on work the BID is doing, including some historic insights on place names as part of their township signage programme.

“It’s a good and easy relationship which can only grow. We would welcome the formalisation of the current, casual arrangement in which Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara is part of the BID committee. That’s something we can look at going forward,” says Malcolm.