

# NEW BEGINNINGS

“The Crown profoundly regrets and unreservedly apologises to the affiliate Te Arawa iwi and hapū for the breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.”

PRIME MINISTER JOHN KEY AT ŌWHATA MARAE, 28 AUGUST 2009



The Hon John Key, Te Pūmāutanga o Te Arawa Representatives Rawiri Te Whare and Eru George, and the Hon Chris Finlayson at Ōwhata Marae. Courtesy of Te Pūmāutanga o Te Arawa Trust

Ever since the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840, Māori have sought to defend their mana whenua (authority over the land). Te Arawa did not sign the Treaty, but agreed to its terms in 1860. Like iwi all over the country they suffered from many negative effects of colonisation.

In 2009, the government formally apologised to Te Arawa for past wrongs as part of New Zealand’s largest ever Treaty settlement. It included the return of land and a multi-million dollar cash injection. With other outstanding claims still in the pipeline, the Te Arawa Treaty settlements will permanently change this region’s economy. Now the iwi faces its greatest challenge - managing its assets for future generations.



Te Arawa representatives signing the ‘Treelords’ Treaty settlement. L-R: Pihopa Kingi, Mitai Rolleston and George Mutu, and the Hon. Helen Clark. *getty images*

## TREELORDS

Forestry is a huge part of our local industry. In the 1930s, the government planted almost 14,000 hectares of the Kaingaroa Plateau with millions of pine trees.

By the 1950s these plantations were being harvested by a predominantly Māori workforce. But the boom years ended in the 1980s when restructuring and sales of forests created major job losses.

Ownership of the forests has been hotly debated. In 2008, a Treaty settlement was signed by a collective of central North Island iwi to regain possession of Crown forest land. Dubbed the ‘Treelords’ deal, it saw Te Arawa receive commercial redress of \$38.6 million in cash, over \$40 million in back rentals, and ongoing rental income.

“To us it will go a long way to ending our grieving because we do want to get into development mode. We want to grow and develop economically and socially.”

RAWIRI TE WHARE, TE ARAWA CHIEF NEGOTIATOR