

# Maori committee shows its worth in many areas

The Maori Standing Committee is proving invaluable for groups seeking guidance with special projects.

At this month's Maori Standing Committee meeting at Te Kuha Marae, Jenni Moses said now they had 13 reserves within their responsibility and wanted to look at what it meant to have some kind of build projects at the reserves.

"We need some guidance on how we include ourselves in the consent process."

She also wanted the Maori Standing Committee to know that Ruapani was going to start moving towards its claims process to try and get itself over the line for settlement.

"We are looking to strengthen our regional networks."

She said in time they would look for some guidance so they were not crossing the paths of others.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council Maori

committee representative Duane Culshaw said that relationship could extend to the regional council as well.

Acting chair Paul Kelly said the Wairoa District Council's Maori liaison officer was ideal to help people work their way through council matters.

Committee member Peter Whaanga said if people wanted something to happen in council then "talk to the Maori Standing Committee".

Committee member Kiwa Hammond said they were here for all.

"You can come to the committee members and ask them to talk to the Maori Standing Committee.

"We are here for the betterment of the whole community."

Member Sam Jury was their first port-of-call for any issues, if someone was not available for any reason, or if there was someone who had no whakapapa here.