

KIA ORA
TO THE 12TH SACRED STONE JOURNEY PARTICIPANTS,
SACRED PEACE TRAIL WALKERS
AND SUPPORTERS.
JANUARY 5TH - 14TH 2012

In the Beginning were the walkers!

and behind them supporters, from all over the seen and unseen world who held us safe and whispered words of encouragement sent to us through the birds, the rocks and the wind.



FROM BACK L-R: BRIAN, EV, TANGI, PAUL, GEMMA, PAULIE, PHOEBE AND BRENDAN.

ABOUT 1/4 OF THE WAY TO OUR FIRST HUT ON DAY ONE WITH VERY LITTLE IDEA OF THE CHALLENGES AHEAD.

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we send this letter to you all, wishing to express to you in some small way how much we appreciated your support and company on our last sacred stone journey.

We are also sending this to those who have supported us or journeyed with us on other journeys to let them know that they are included in our gratitude and thanks.

As Mick Collins who carved and gifted us all pieces of pounamu and to Gemma and Phoebe Aotea stone,

said..."this is just the beginning."

We hope and intend that it will be the beginning of something wonderful for us all as well as our beautiful mother earth.



For all of those who dwell on her that have the courage to follow their hearts and live their dreams.....the trail of the one hearted people.

Together on the trail we faced many challenges, personally and as a group. All were overcome with the collective wisdom and generosity of heart of each and every one of you.

One of the most special things for Paul and I was that Brendan, my son and Paul's step son chose to come with us.

We faced our fears as they arose, we looked them in the eye and pushed passed them all.

We walked each day at Phoebe's pace as she was the slowest walker and she learnt by day two to put her pride aside and take willingly the help that was offered to her by the group, so they could truly walk as one. We

EVENING TRAIL FIRE @ URQHARTS HUT all learnt to

"see" that which was around rather than running past.

A KEA VISITS US AT PARK MORPETH HUT.

We walked each day with laughter in our hearts, had moments of introspection but never lost our sense of humour or wonder at the sights we saw and the beauty that surrounded us.

Each evening a trail fire was lit and the ashes gathered to take to the next one. The morning trail fire, Karakia's and whoooooop! (for those not there: we joined our hands together in the middle of a circle and pushed them up with one intent and a huge whoop) marked our

intent for the day as we waited for the cry of the trail birds to call us on our way.

From day one it was the Kea's who called us to action followed by the small trail birds some time later in the day.

One morning we sat hesitating about whether to go for the top of the pass and the sacred lake as the weather was not looking good.

None of us will ever forget the tiny tom tit that then flew onto Brian's shirt, looked at us all and said " Well come on then, get going, we are with you."

We found at least four of the sacred trail gateways.....the men heard the whispers of the women, as well as the girls who heard the song of the stones.....and so our journey of spirit, of the heart and peace went on.





In the US our friends Lucinda and Doug created a beautiful heart centered despatcho that they burnt at the time of the ceremony on the Ridge of the Wisdom keepers.

As we reached Glenthorne Station at the end of the trail, we were met by Brian's wife, Helen...Paul's Aunty Jo and her friend Ranald.

Jo said we all looked radiant and we did.....Ev did think it might have been the chocolate overdose we had just had..lol!

Thank you Helen, Barry, Cushla, the visitors from Japan and Korea and the members of the Arahura Pa who put on a wonderful welcome back. We will never forget that welcome and the chance to

tell/share our stories of the trail with you all.

The next morning was cold and windy and we walked, trail walkers and supporters, some of us struggled, to the Ridge of the Wisdom Keepers and there the stones that had been resting in sacred places all over the world, were activated as the song of the bullroarers was sung for one time only.

For us it saw 25 years of preparation, commitment and journeying come to fruition and without your support and company and belief in what we were doing, none of it would have meant so much.

You have all given us such strength and courage to keep going, to see our calling through to its conclusion and we hope and intend that you too will be bathed in the warmth of the thanks of the Ancient Ones and the Elders who set us out on this particular vision and mission so long ago.

A POEM CAME TO PAUL THIS MORNING FOR THE TRAIL.

On Ancients wings our spirit soared and Kea marked the way.

The doors were opened, the veil we crossed, the skies were blue that day.

Through valleys deep and mountains high, we walked for days on end.

Wisdom sought in ancient places and friend was held by friend.

Fires did burn in ancient ways, Karakia split the sky,

On we went through rivers deep, we walked the trail on high.

To a mountain pass, where the old ones sit, A place of wisdom deep.

Sacred symbol of dark green stone, a gift for them to keep.

Open hearts, we walked as one on ancient tracks on high



*Fires burned in ancient ways,
 Karakias split the sky.
 And as we walked that sacred trail,
 A place that is walked by few,
 Our spirits, yes, our very souls, took on a
 different hue.*

*Walkers knew that something changed,
 as we walked that ancient range.
 something deep within our very selves,
 did shift and re-arrange.*

Courage stalks the hearts of all, yet few will follow through.

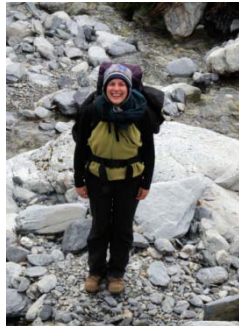
Know all you walkers of the trail, it stands tall within all of you.

The sacred lake at the top of the pass. Who will forget that incredible silence we all stepped into as we viewed it for the first time. We were so overcome with the emotion of finally being there and about to place the last stone, the 12th sacred stone symbol.

FASHIONS, PLACES AND FACES FROM THE TRAIL



BRIAN



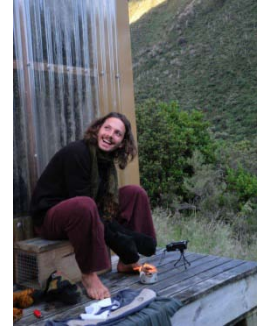
GEMMA



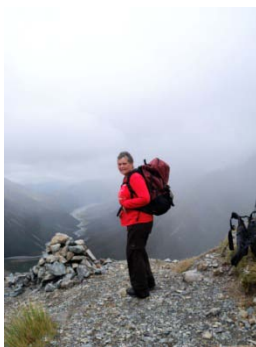
BRENDAN



TANGI



PAULIE



PHOEBE



EV



PAUL

A very special gift to you all from us and those in the videos.

The Kea's and Gemmas Songs (thank you gem and the birds for the gift of their beautiful voices.)

<http://youtu.be/5a5Yfawx7OE>

<http://youtu.be/maE45i9GOMc>

**AROHA NUI
AND ABRAZOS FUERTES
PAUL AND PHOEBE.**