



Pirongia Maunga

Kāwhia Moana

NGĀTI POURĀHUI
HIIONA MARAE
ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Waipā Awa

*Kakepuku Maunga &
Waiwhakāta Whenua*



HE PŪRONGO

Chair Report

He hōnore he korōria ki te Atua.
He maungārongo ki te mata o te whenua.
He whakāro pai ki ngā tāngata katoa...
Paimārire.

E te Whānau
Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā anō tātou...



Nug
Chair



Chris
Dep-Chair



Ari
Secretary-Treasurer



Kiel
Asst. Chair



Boyd
Asst. Dep-Chair



Jaydon-Lee
Asst. Secretary



Te Puāwai
Asst. Treasurer

On behalf of the trustees, I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2023. It was an eventful year for the marae. Still feeling the presence of Covid-19 in the air but settling down. In our last Annual Report, we did a catch-up on our activities for FY21 and FY22, with no one at the marae in 2020 through 2021 due to Covid-19. For FY23 we are doing a brief recap against a backdrop of updates. Trustees know how frustrating marae closure is for everyone and thank the whānau for your understanding.

HIIONA MARAE CHARTER

The charter review project is going really well, with Tania having interviewed kaumātua, small focus groups, and conversations here and there about the old days. Since 2020, there's been major input from across the families and former trustees too. Key alterations include the addition of a key objective, deletion of subcommittees, reduction in trustees, and a longer term. These alterations fit with our new management structure and alignment with our marae development plan 2020-2025.

The key objective likely to be included in the revised version is "to uphold the mana motuhake of Ngāti Pourāhui" which was initially brought to our attention at the first AGM in October 2020 and it resonated with everyone. Also, as discussed in our last Annual Report, all activities are projects, no more subcommittees, and projects are managed through our three business portfolios.

The reduction of trustees from eleven to nine just happened. We defaulted to nine at the 2015 and 2019 elections of trustees. At least now, we will have it in writing. The other key alteration is the 3-year term. Some of the former trustees commented that newly elected trustees were not trustees until they were confirmed by the Māori Land Court (MLC). Confirmation was important because the new trustees needed a copy of the Vesting Order as verification to the bank of the change of trustees and who of those trustees would be authorised signatories.

The 2015-2019 trustees were elected in January 2015 and the MLC sitting to confirm them was in August. Current trustees were elected in June 2019, the MLC confirmed seven of us in October, convened again in November, but we did not get a copy of the Vesting Order until January 2020. Overall, by the time trustees were confirmed, the 3-year term turned into a 2-year term. Whānau agreed that the should be 5 or 10 years. The majority reportedly favoured 10 years and if any trustee wanted to resign or became inactive during their tenure, then they simply stand down.

HIIONA MARAE ADMINISTRATION (HMA)

Our three business portfolios include our HMA consisting of information, finance, and communications ("comms"). Instead of reverting to the 1999 version of our charter, which was going to be changed anyway, we focused on the do's-and-don'ts of the 1994 Māori Reservations Regulations. Key guidelines for us included Regulations ("reg.") 5, 6, 7 and 8. Reg 5 is to display permanent notice of the reservation (marae), reg. 6 duties of the trustees, and reg. 7 is the charter, hence the charter review project. Reg. 8 is the powers of the trustees.

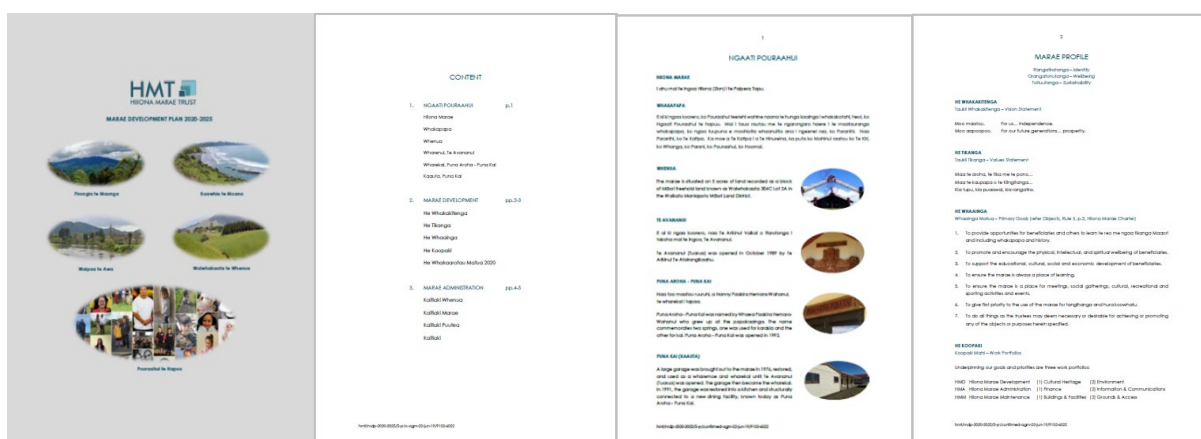
Most of us trustees were learning these regulations for the first time. So, it was a big learning curve all round. Reg. 14 is all about meetings and reg. 15 about records and accounts, which led to our information and finance files. The information file is mostly our minutes and attendance registers.

The finance file is kept on par, thanks to Tupu Ake Chartered Accountants of Hamilton (formerly known as MAS), who have been with the marae since 2015 through the previous trustees. Ari and Te Puāwai did the Xero training with Tupu Ake in 2021, and they monitor and reconcile the accounts with Tupu Ake through automatic bank feeds to the Xero system.

As for comms, Tania established the marae website in 2014 and maintains it today at no cost to the marae except for the apps and upgrades to the annual domain protection and premium subscription plans. Around the same time, Tania also established the Hiiona Marae Trust facebook business page, which is one-way communication only for the purpose of pānui and meeting notices. The FB page and our website have a much wider outreach than newspapers, which no one reads these days. The FB page provides direct links to our website for information.

HIIONA MARAE DEVELOPMENT (HMD)

Most of you will remember our first ever 5-year marae development plan (MDP) 2020 to 2025.





Over the months that followed, while the smaller projects were happening, the upgrading of our access to the marae needed urgent attention. Trustees contracted J Swap Contractors from Morrinsville who excavated our 1.5km access from the Robertson public road and they laid the metal. Thereafter, our deputy chair, Chris and brother, Shane, took over the access, including the access to our urupā and they also focused on clearing the urupā.



Puna Aroha Puna Kai, Wharekai

Meanwhile, the builders, having completed most of the restoration of Te Avananui, were busy with our Wharekai. The following photos were taken in June through July 2022.



There were two stoppages in April through June due to builders and their families isolating.



In August-September, our kitchen and dining facility were starting to take shape. Progress was great despite the stoppages and struggles with Covid-19 and its Variants.



In October through November, trustees were pleased with progress on both our Wharenui and Wharekai. In late November, trustees were stoked that the Wharenui was nearing completion with the electricity and plumbing installed, two new toilets as well as an accessible toilet and shower, and accessible ramps were also progress.

Key priorities in the plans included an entirely new wastewater system and the new extension of an outside covered walkway. Once the building inspectors gave the green light the trustees prepared to bring the whānau back for our AGM on 11 December 2022.



Aftermath of Cyclone Gabriel

If it's not an epidemic, it's a storm and flooding. We all know how vulnerable our marae is to severe weather conditions and flooding across our farmlands. Vehicle access to the marae was restricted from late-December to early March 2023, resulting in more delays.

By that time the builders had begun the initial stages of our Whareiti project, and they got to the marae around late-December to check on the Wharekai and the Whareiti site. Tractors were the only transport for almost a month. Builders provided an incident report of the damage.

The storm caused surface damage to the west side exterior of our newly restored Wharenui and internal damage to the roof of our newly restored dining facility. Water leakage made it through vulnerable ceiling panels causing holes. The roof damage resulted in a marae insurance claim.

The worst was the flood damage. As expected, with our Wharenui situated on a rise up from the Wharekai, much of the flooding happened around the Wharekai and adversely affected our Whareiti site at the rear of the Wharekai. The trustees are working on resolving the flood damage.

Going Forward...

We have a few issues to work through, but the trustees are extremely grateful to whānau and local community groups who rallied and came in to help, including our neighbouring farmers, whose tractors were very useful in getting us through the access to our urupā.

We're confident that normalcy will return and we'll be back on track to finishing our rebuild. Keep a watch brief on our website or posts on our FB page for updates.

Kia kaha tātou.

Nug

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