



Te Avananui

HIIONA MARAE TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT
Financial Year ended 31 March 2026
Annual General Meeting
2 August 2026



Puna Aroha Puna Kai



HIIONA MARAE TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2025 (FY26)

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

CHAIR REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

E te Whānau whānui
Tēnā koutou katoa...

Kōpaki Whakaora



Nug

Kōpaki Whakahou



Chris

Kōpaki Whakahaere



Ari



Kiel



Boyd



Jaydon-Lee



Te Puāwai

On behalf of the trustees I report another year of business as usual for the Trust ("our Pā") as follows:

- A recap on activities with 2024 being our first full year officially operating under our revised Tūtohunga 2023.
- A report on activities in 2025, being the first year implementing our revised Mahere Rautaki for the 5 years from 2025 to 2030, and our Mahere-ā-Tau for FY26; and then the trustees take...
- A step back in time with a visual overview of the first two stages of our rebuild featuring our Wharenui and Wharekai with a snapshot of the state of both whare in 2020 and then a 5-year leap to 2024.

To get things started, I take time out to refer to our charter review project and the demand for more "reo and tikanga" particularly from our rangatahi (GEN-R). In all our reports to date, we have translated the reo Māori terms we use for key management areas of the Trust. We begin this report with the **Reo** and **English** translations of those areas with a polite request for whānau to learn the terms.

Tūtohunga

Mahere Rautaki

Mahere-ā-Tau

Kōpaki Whakahaere

Kōpaki Whakahou

Kōpaki Whakaora

Kōpaki

Whāinga

Kaupapa

Charter (2023)

Strategic Plan (2025-2030)

Annual Plan

Administration Portfolio

Maintenance Portfolio

Development Portfolio

Portfolio

Priorities

Projects

In short, our tūtohunga underpins the governance and management of our pā, our mahere rautaki presents an aspirational footprint for the next 5 years, and our mahere-ā-tau outlines key whāinga for each year and how we intend to operationalise those whāinga through our kōpaki and kaupapa.

Brief Recap FY24 & FY25

As discussed in our catchup on both years, activities for the 2-year period concentrated on consolidating our administration and addressing flood damage as a result of the CGA disaster. Summary of administrative and maintenance activities, which includes our 3-stage rebuild is as follows:

Kōpaki Whakahaere

- Confirmation of our revised tūtohunga at the AGM held 30 Apr 2023;
- Closure for the pā on outstanding Court decisions at the SGM held 10 Dec 2023;
- Recap on key changes to administration: (i) no more subcommittees and separate accounts – one committee, one bank account; (ii) longer term for trustees from 3 to 10 years; (iii) increasing the use of our reo and tikanga; (iv) ensuring our tikanga and ngā mātāpono o te Kiingitanga underpin the conduct of all meetings and hui; and (v) attention to the dispute resolution process set out in Rule 8 of our Tūtohunga;
- Brief overview of operational changes once our rebuild is completed, and projected costs thereafter, to maintain our pā. Trustees anticipate a substantial increase in annual maintenance costs, which will affect not only the cost for whānau to use the pā, but the booking process. That process is set out in our Marae Booking Policy, which includes the requirement for whānau to submit applications (check out the policy).

Kōpaki Whakahou

- No one anticipated another disaster following COVID-19, but the aftermath of Cyclone Gabriel rendered a devastating impact across all farmlands located in the Waipā and Ōtorohanga districts, with months of severe weather conditions and extensive flooding. Addressing the flood damage was laborious and costly.
- Our 2024 report on activities also included prioritising our planning with the completion of our Mahere Rautaki for the next 5 years (2025-2030) and our Mahere-ā-Tau for FY26.
- We concluded our FY24-FY25 report with a visual overview of our working bees in preparation for our 3-stage rebuild 2019-2021, and then a leap forward to our working bees and other hui throughout 2024.

Activities & Progress in 2025 (FY26)

Kōpaki Whakahaere

2025 was a defining year for the whānau with many still getting used to the changes in our administration:

- Firstly, trustees are requesting that whānau please familiarise yourselves with our tūtohunga. As discussed in our last report, there are copies of our tūtohunga for your inspection on the bulletin board in our kaumātua room as well as the bulletin board in our Wharekai. Going forward, whānau, you will see a lot of references to our tūtohunga in all our information. So, it will pay to learn and keep yourselves updated on its content.
- Secondly, all activities in the trustees' report align with our Mahere Rautaki for the next five years 2025-2030 and ticking the boxes on the delivery of our objectives and priorities in our Mahere-ā-Tau for each year.

For our Annual General Meeting (AGM) held 29 Jun 2025, preparation looked at the means for catering to the needs of our generation groups: **Gen-K:** Kaumātua, **Gen-M:** Mātua, and **Gen-R:** Rangatahi.

Our Gen-K holds the knowledge and wisdom of our past, our Gen-M oversees our present, and our Gen-R focuses on our future. Trustees thought it timely to create space for Gen-R to have their own meeting by way of a breakout after the main agenda items of the AGM have been discussed.

Led by our young trustees: Kiel; Boyd; Jaydon-Lee; and Te Puāwai, our Gen-R group oversee our kōpaki whakaora: (i) kaupapa mātauranga / reo & tikanga; (ii) kaupapa taonga; and our (iii) kaupapa taiao. The breakout at our June AGM was well received. Project leader for taonga, Tyler, presented our newly designed “Maihi” and Ngāpera, project leader for taiao, presented progress on “Mangonui Awa” and project plan.

For clarity, it has become necessary, again, to revisit our kōpaki whakahaere if only to avoid any further misunderstandings around how our administration works, particularly by whānau who don't attend our AGMs, working bees, wānanga, or other meetings.

Our kōpaki whakahaere is managed by Ari, our secretary-treasurer, alongside assistant secretary, Jaydon-Lee, and assistant treasurer, Te Puāwai, and consists of three files: Information, Finance, and Communications.

1. Information

- a. Puna Mātauranga (Knowledge Bank) Database;
- b. Charter & Policy Addendums;
- c. Plans and Trustee Reports & Correspondence; and
- d. Minutes & Attendance Registers.

A reminder that the trustees are required to hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) each calendar year to report on the activities and financial status of the Trust. Please note that our pā is a private Trust so our information is also private. At every meeting, or during any visit to the pā, whānau can request material copies of any plans, chair reports of activities for the year (excluding financial reports), and AGM minutes. The trustees do not provide this information electronically via the internet, email, or any social media.

2. Finance

- a. Annual Financial Statements, Bank Statements, and Policies; and
- b. Grant Funding Applications and Contracts & Procurement and Service Contracts.

The financial year ("FY") for the Trust is from 1 Apr in a given year to 31 Mar of the following year. The trustees make available all past financial statements and related information at every AGM for perusal only. The trustees do not distribute material copies of the financial information of the pā. At each AGM, we present a visual presentation of the draft financial statements for consideration.

3. Communications

- a. Correspondence (Inward & Outward); and
- b. Website, FB Business Page, Email Accounts.

Whānau have been constantly reminded that our Paetukutuku (website) is the main comms tool for the pā – www.hiiona-marae.com. Notices of meetings, working bees, wānanga, and other hui, including updates on what's happening at the pā, are posted on our website. Going forward, trustees are deactivating our FB page. We will only be using the 'messenger facility' to post brief updates and links to our website. Whānau who get the links are asked to share them as widely as possible to all members of your own whānau.

Overall, the trustees wish to make very clear, the tikanga we continue to adhere to, being the ongoing comms priorities/practices handed down by our tūpuna. These are as follows:

- Whānau who want to keep updated on what's happening at the pā, come to our meetings or keep up via our website. The 'whakapā mai' page is the best way to contact us via the website for any queries.
- For all AGMs and SGMs the required quorum is 15 beneficiaries. As shown in the attendance registers of all our AGMs since 2020, we have had more than 50 beneficiaries (on average) attending our meetings;
- Given the volume of verbal and material information shared at each AGM, there is also a rule-of-thumb expectation that whānau who attend our meetings will update members of your own whānau who did not attend, even supply photocopies to them of the information you receive like our reports and minutes.
- Last but by no means least, whānau who do not attend any meetings at the pā, must accept that decisions will be made in your absence, whether or not you agree with those decisions.

Kōpaki Whakahou

As is known, our kōpaki whakahou is managed by me and our deputy-chair, Chris, together with our assistant chair, Kiel, and assistant deputy-chair, Boyd, who roster the implementation of all activities concerning the overall maintenance, safety, security, and storage of our assets.

Activities include but are not limited to:

- Ensuring compliance with the health and safety regulations ("H&S"), e.g., H&S inspections of the buildings, including the maintenance and servicing of the buildings and facilities, and all machinery and equipment.
- Holding working bees and contracting caretaker services for the general upkeep of the buildings, grounds, and urupā, including the annual upgrades to our roadway-access to the pā from the public road located on the Westside and the public road at the Northend, as well as the service access and all parking areas.

Waipā & Ōtorohanga Districts – Closure of Public Roads

On 12 Feb 2026, the public roads in the Waipā and Ōtorohanga districts were closed, including power cuts in the remote rural parts of both districts, and extreme flooding across farmlands due to the worst storm since the aftermath of Cyclone Gabriel in 2022 through 2023.

The whānau will recall all efforts in 2024 to resolve the damage of the Cyclone aftermath only to encounter the same flooding problems in 2026 and restricted vehicle access to the pā.

Home / Waikato News

Waipā and Ōtorohanga districts extend states of emergency after recent wild weather

Waikato Herald
20 Feb, 2026 12:09 PM 3 mins to read

Save Share



Waipā District Council has asked residents of Corcoran Rd, Te Pahu, who were evacuated after the weekend's severe weather, not to return home yet. Photo / Waipā District Council

Waipā and Ōtorohanga districts have extended their states of emergency for a further seven days.

The decision follows response efforts by both councils, emergency services, iwi and partner agencies after the recent severe weather events.

Thunderstorms and downpours drenched parts of the North Island last weekend, causing heavy surface flooding and slips.

Several key roads were closed well into this week, cutting off some communities, and infrastructure remains severely affected.

The states of emergency in Waipā and Ōtorohanga now remain in place until February 28.

Whānau who know the history of the land and our pā, particularly our older generations, Gen-K and Gen-M, have knowledge and experience coping with the struggles we have in severe weather conditions. We are accustomed to those struggles and deal with them as best we can.

Many thanks to James, the Chair of the Waiwhakāta Farm Trust for reaching out and offers from the Rūnanga O Ngāti Apakura and Maniapoto Iwi to help marae and papakāinga like Hiona who are vulnerable in bad weather conditions and subjected to flooding during storms. For our pā, restricted vehicle access from the public roads means no access at all until the public roads are opened. I discuss this more fully below.

As shown in the images below (taken in mid-2025), the Wharenuī is situated on a rise, and our Wharekai and Whareiti is at the foot of that rise. So, flooding to the lower ground level over long periods is inevitable.

Trustees gained restricted access on 18 Feb and returned in early-Mar to assess any damage. Unlike the situation for us with the Cyclone aftermath, there was no damage to our Wharenuī and Wharekai but the flood damage to our grounds, especially our Whareiti building site, was extensive.



Access from the Public Roads

Access to the pā from Robertson Road on the Westside is roughly 1.5km by easement order around the outer boundary of the Martin Farm owned under general title by the immediate whānau of Fraser ("Ginger") Martin.

Access to the pā from Ormsby (Ōtorohanga) Road at the Northend of the pā is roughly the same distance through another farm owned under general title, as well as the 142 hectare of Māori freehold land owned by the descendants of Ngāti Pourāhui and managed by the Waiwhakāta Farm Trust.

Our pā is landlocked between the two farms with no direct permanent access from both public roads.

Whareiti Project

In 2022, as discussed in previous reports, the trustees entered into a Oranga Marae grant funding contract with the NZ Lottery Board via the Department of Internal Affairs. With the exception of whānau who regularly attend our meetings, the terms and conditions of such contracts are not properly understood among the wider whānau as it relates to 'variations to those contracts' which must be approved by DIA.

In early-2023, the trustees requested a variation to the project timeline for the completion of our Wharekai and subsequently our Whareiti due to COVID-19. Following the aftermath of Cyclone Gabriel, trustees requested another variation to the timeline for completion of our Whareiti project which was initially extended to Sep 2025 but extended again to Mar 2026. To date, the trustees are still resolving the flood damage from the storm and yet to apply to DIA for another variation to the timeline for completion of our Whareiti project. All going well, it is hoped that we will be back on track to complete our Whareiti this side of Christmas.

Kōpaki Whakaora

The kōpaki whakaora is coordinated in consultation with the trustees by Tarn, who is one of our two advisory trustees appointed in Mar 2020 and that appointment was confirmed at the AGM in Oct. Tarn is also the funding advisor and the primary contact on behalf of the pā with all Government grant funding providers, regional authorities, and Iwi organisations. She works with Gen-R on grants for each kaupapa.

In our last two annual reports, we have not discussed in any great length, the three kaupapa in our kōpaki whakaora. It's important for the whānau to understand that these kaupapa are interdependent and underpin all three stages of our marae rebuild:

1. **MRT** – Mātauranga / Reo & Tikanga;
2. **TAO** – Taonga; and
3. **TAI** – Taiao.

Over and above other initiatives being implemented for each kaupapa in alignment with the key principles of our Mahere Rautaki – *Rangatiratanga, Orangatanga, Toitūtanga*; and our shared vision and aspirations:

- **MRT** are integral to decisions essentially concerned with the kawa, tikanga, and use of each of our whare;
- **TAO** decisions include among other things, the personification of our history, heritage, kōrero tuku iho, reo, and our tikanga through design and aesthetic decisions for the three whare; and
- **TAI** encompasses our environmental decisions and responsibilities as kaitiaki o te whenua and our natural resources, and how such responsibilities contribute to how and where our whare are situated at the pā.

Conclusion

As highlighted above, the trustees conclude this report by reminding ourselves of our growth as Ngāti Pourāhui and celebrating the progress we've made against the backdrop of struggle through a global pandemic, the aftermath of a national disaster, and a local disaster in the 5 years from 2020 to 2024.

On the following pages we present the before-and-after of the conditions of our Wharenuī and Wharekai in 2020, and a 5-year leap to look at our whare in late 2024. We're moving forward whānau.

As always, for any/all enquiries, please don't hesitate to contact me or Ari:

Nug – P: 021 330 534 or E: chair@hiionamarae.co.nz

Ari – P: 021 247 1568 or E: admin@hiionamarae.co.nz

Keep safe and warm and take care out there whānau...
Ngā manākitanga



Nug (Chair)

TE AVANANUI TUARUA
Tupuna Whare

Te Avananui Tuatahi was pulled down in Jan 1975 after sitting condemned and uninhabitable for more than two decades. Te Avananui Tuarua was opened in Oct 1989 by Te Arikinui Kuini Te Atairangikaahu. Our tupuna whare is known by two names. Except for one letter, there is little to no difference, i.e., Te Avananui and Te Awananui. The latter name was a change through the generations from use of the "V" in Te Avananui (te reo o Rarotonga) to use of the "W" (te reo Māori). The images below present a before-and-after of Te Avananui Tuarua in 2020 and again in 2024 upon completion of the structural and infrastructural renovations and siteworks, i.e., **Stage 1** of our 3-stage marae rebuild. The second image from the top (right side) is the new extension to Te Avananui – outside covered walkway.

2020



2024



The images (below) present a comparative of the inside of Te Avananui and shows the extent of structural restoration including the much-needed facelift of the interior with the instalment of air conditioners, new lighting, a new alarm system, and fire prevention measures per the health and safety regulations.

What is not shown is the instalment of new toilets x 2, an accessibility toilet and shower, and the conversion of the old storage room into our newly renovated Kaumātua Room. The remaining photos present the old paepae manuwhiri and the new paepae. What is not shown is our new haukāinga paepae.

It is important to point out that the reinstalment of all our taonga – new and revitalised carvings, newly designed kōwhaiwhai, reframed tukutuku panels, and whakāhua will occur upon completion of all three stages of our rebuild. In 2024, Stage 3, Ngā Whareiti, our new toilet and shower block is still in progress.

2020



2024



PUNA AROHA PUNA KAI
Wharekai

Puna Aroha Puna Kai was named by Māreikura, the late Pākira Hemara-Wahanui, who was brought up at the old papakāinga. The name commemorates the multiple puna of Waiwhakāta whenua me ngā mahinga kai a ngā tūpuna. Our Wharekai was initially a large garage brought out to the marae in 1976 which served as a wharemoe and a wharekai.

Following the opening of Te Avananui Tuarua in 1989, the whānau focused all fundraising efforts and the like on rebuilding our wharekai. The garage was renovated into a kitchen alongside the construction of a new dining facility. Puna Aroha Puna Kai was opened in 1992. The images below present the conditions of our kitchen and dining facility in 2020 and a 5-year leap forward to 2024 following the construction of our new commercial kitchen and newly restored dining facility.

2020

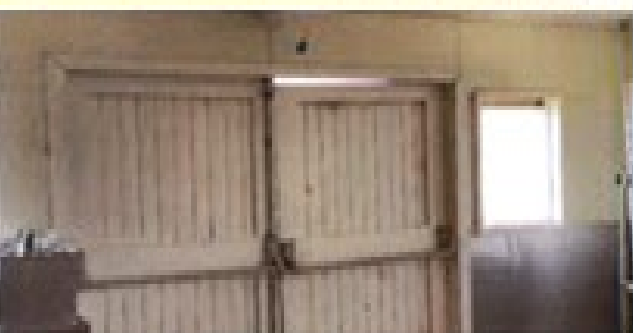


2024

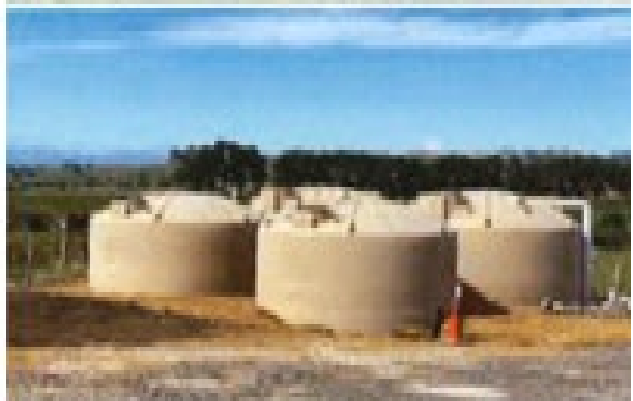


Images on the previous page present the declining state of our old kitchen in 2020. In 2024, the two images from the top (right side) is the new covered extension to our new kitchen which is the outside cooking area (OCA), a key alteration to the plans by our men, which includes an accessibility ramp and handrails.

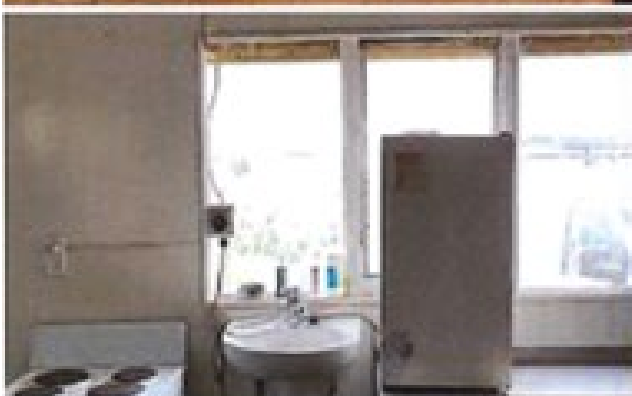
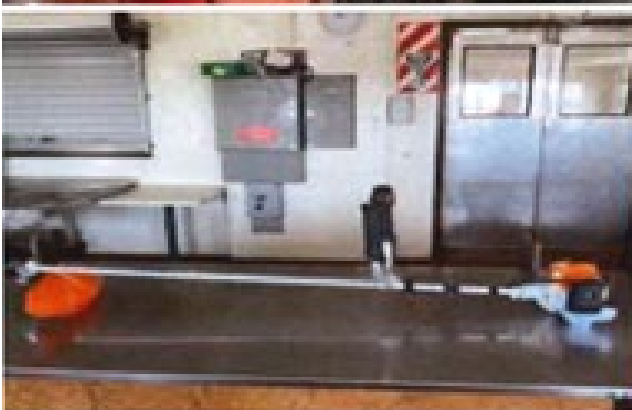
2020



2024



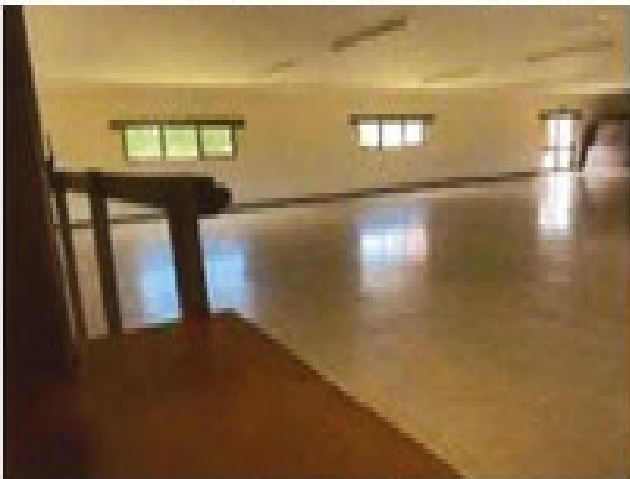
2020



2024



2020



2024



