



HIIONA MARAE TRUST ANNUAL REPORT

For the Financial Year Ended 31 March 2024
For the Financial Year Ended 31 March 2025



**HIIONA MARAE TRUSTEES
2023 & 2024
Chair Report of Activities**

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



Nug

Chris

Ari

Kiel

Boyd

Jaydon-Lee

Te Puāwai

CHAIR REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

E te Whānau whānui
Tēnā koutou

On behalf of the trustees I am pleased to report a two-year catch-up on the annual activities for 2023 and 2024 being the last two years of our Mahere Rautaki 2020-2025 (5-Year Strategic Plan). This report presents an overview of activities that tick the boxes on our Mahere Rautaki including a featured look at our **Working Bees**.

Recap of Activities & Progress in 2022 (FY23)

At our Dec 2022 AGM, we reported a productive year centred on our *Kōpaki Whakahaere* (administration portfolio) and our *Kōpaki Whakahou* (maintenance portfolio).

Kōpaki Whakahaere

Key administrative projects included updates on our charter review, our planning, and enhancing our comms outreach to the wider whānau through our marae website, which was established in 2014 by Tania ("Tarn"), designed for simplicity with our *pepeha* on the home page – www.hiiona-marae.com.

In determining the content of our website feedback included requests from our whānau who live overseas and efforts by *ngā mātua* to teach their *tamariki* who they are, their *iwi*, *hapū*, and *papakāinga*. The site enables the marae to stay connected with whānau living in the far North, in the South Island, and abroad. Many whānau stay connected with Tarn through her research on 'te whakapapa o Ngāti Pourāhui me ngā kōrero tuku iho.'

Kōpaki Whakahou

It was good to finally return to our Wharenui for the AGM on 11 December 2022. The structural and infrastructural renovations and siteworks were finished and we're awaiting the reinstalment of all our *taonga* – *whakairo*, *kōwhaiwhai*, *tukutuku*, and *whakāhua*. Our new and revitalised carvings are done, our tukutuku panels have been re-framed, and the whakāhua of our loved ones are all black & white, standardised to size, and ready to go back into Te Avananui.

The trustees made a conscious decision not to re-install our taonga until we have completed our Whareiti project, which as we're all aware, is the third and final stage of our 3-stage rebuild.

In 2022, attention to our access was also necessary and remains an annual priority in recognition of the legal obligations of the marae to maintain our 1.5km access which follows the outer boundary line of the Martin Farm. Those obligations

are set out in the Legal Easement Agreement between the marae and the Martin Whānau. As shown in our 2022 (FY23) Annual Report, trustees brought out J Swap Contractors to do the annual upgrade and whānau attended to fixing the fencing and signage at each of our working bees.

Cyclone Gabriel

2022 ended on a not-so-happy note with the Cyclone Gabriel aftermath (“CGA”). The CGA disaster rendered a devastating impact to the Waipā and Ōtorohanga districts with months of severe weather conditions and extensive flooding across farmlands. All marae located in close proximity to Kāwhia and Aotea moana were vulnerable. The impact of CGA on our pā which is situated, rather, landlocked between the Martin Farm on the Westside and the Waiwhakāta Farm on the Eastside, was extensive. We couldn’t get to the pā due to restricted vehicle access during the festive season from late-Dec 2022 to Mar 2023.

On returning to the marae, we discovered surface damage to the westside exterior of our newly restored Wharenui, significant leak damage to the newly restored dining facility of our Wharekai, extensive flood damage to our Whareiti building site (under 2 inches of water), and including the flooding of our grounds and urupā.

ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS IN 2023 (FY24)

Kōpaki Whakahaere

2023 highlights two important milestones in our administration. The first is the completion of our 3-year Charter review project which began in Mar 2020 with the first approval of specific changes at the first AGM for the newly elected-cum-current trustees on 4 Oct 2020. Marae was closed due to COVID-19, so the AGM was held at Waikato University. Due to the shutdown of most venues in 2020 through 2021, we did not hold an AGM in 2021.

At the AGM on 11 Dec 2022, with a catchup on activities for 2021 and 2022, the whānau approved more alterations to the Charter with final consideration of the much-revised Charter at our well-attended AGM on 30 Apr 2023. The whānau resolved by special resolution to approve all alterations, hence our new Hiiona Marae Charter 2023 in replacement of the 1999 version, which was subsequently altered in 2002 (“1999-2002”).



2023 Charter



1999-2002 Charter

Per Rule 10, the Provision & Keeping of the Charter, the trustees shall attach a copy of the Charter to the marae bulletin board for inspection by the beneficiaries or such other prominent location at the marae deemed fit for this purpose.

Charter displayed on bulletin board of the kaumātua room in the Wharenui.



Charter displayed on the main bulletin board in the dining facility of the Wharekai.



The second milestone aimed at consolidating our administration was the Special General Meeting (SGM) held 10 Dec 2023. The purpose of the SGM was to resolve issues concerning the Māori Land Court Decision 2018 and Māori Appellate Court Order 2020 ("the Court Decisions").

In Apr 2020, the Māori Appellate Court ordered the current trustees to file a Report to the Māori Land Court on the recovery of marae funds **allegedly** unaccounted for by the former trustees and beneficiary, Tarn.

In mid-2023, the trustees commissioned Jefferies Law Ltd of Hamilton to conduct a review of the relevant legal and financial information of both Court decisions. The trustees convened the review report at their meeting in Nov and called an SGM set down for 10 Dec 2023, to seek endorsement of their Report and Recommendations. The beneficiaries resolved unanimously to approve the Report in its entirety which brought finality to the issues and closure for the marae.

Kōpaki Whakahou

As discussed above, the year 2023 with the CGA disaster presented a host of problems. In Jan, the trustees filed an insurance claim for the roof damage to the dining facility, and then instructed the builders, who were working concurrently on the Wharekai and the Whareiti projects, to focus only on completing the kitchen. For this reason, the trustees called a stoppage to the Whareiti project in Apr.

Whilst awaiting the outcome of our insurance claim, the marae went into a long lull due to several months of severe weather conditions. Work efforts from Apr to Oct (weather permitting) focused on fixing the westside exterior of our Wharenui and addressing the flood damage to our Whareiti site. Progress was extremely slow but manageable. Uncompromising weather conditions are not unusual for the marae particularly during the Winter season.

The highlight of 2023 was the site handover of our Wharekai project with the gas lines yet to be connected alongside the completion of our Whareiti project. The trustees did the usual retentions check and the whānau was thrilled to finally use the Wharekai, despite restrictions, alongside the use of our Wharenui.

Following the SGM in Dec, the trustees were seeing some normalcy come back into the fold. Amid the work that still needed to be done, our pā became semi-operational with the structural restoration of our Wharenui and Wharekai completed. We convened a CGA action plan together with our annual plan for 2024 and welcomed the festive break.

Activities & Progress in 2024 (FY25)

Kōpaki Whakahaere

2024 prioritised our planning in accordance with the new Charter and adjustments to the way we organise ourselves. It wasn't a big shift for the whānau. We had already determined necessary changes through the implementation of our Charter review project. In other words, most of the changes aligned with past decisions and what we were already doing.

For example, I refer to the disestablishment of all subcommittees and the deletion of separate bank accounts outlined in the 1999-2002 version, which often resulted in disputes. For this reason, operational changes occurred in 2005 by the trustees of the day with all activities centralised to one committee, i.e., the trustees committee, and one bank account.

Another key change included a longer term for trustees from 3 to 10 years based on feedback from former trustees, who claimed that 3 years wasn't long enough. Former trustees claimed that the Court process took up to almost 6 months off the first year to confirm trustee replacements followed by another waiting period for the Court to issue the Vesting Order. Importantly, with the changeover of trustees, the Vesting Order is required by all banks to verify new trustees and confirm delegated authorities to gain access to the accounts.

Other alterations prioritised an emphasis on our reo and tikanga beginning with the Objects in Rule 5 and upholding the Mana Motuhake O Ngāti Pourāhui. Commitment to our tikanga in practice was also emphasised alongside Ngā Mātāpono O Te Kiingitanga in relation to the conduct of all meetings and hui held at the marae.

Last but by no means least, the beneficiaries paid important attention to the Dispute Resolution Process set out in Rule 8 of the Charter. The process is aptly titled "Hou Te Rongo" which is the name of our carved Pare (door lintel) of Te Avananui Tuarua. The Pare was carved in the period between mid-1988 and mid-1989 alongside all our carvings in preparation for the opening of Te Avananui Tuarua in Oct 1989 by Te Arikini Kuini Te Atairangikaahu.

Hou Te Rongo
"Respect and Resolve"



Also underpinning changes to the administration of the pā was the realisation that the completion of our rebuild will put a whole different spin on our annual maintenance schedule for three new commercial buildings. The economic sustainability of the marae is wholly dependent on annual grants, koha, and fundraising proceeds.

In this context, the days when \$300 koha for use of the marae and its amenities to cover power and accommodation alone for a tangi usually 3-4 days long, are gone. Marae bookings just for a meeting is now projected to be a minimum of \$300, and an all-day hui is now a minimum of \$500. Whānau are expected to organise their own catering.

Once our rebuild is complete, and aside from tangi and hura kōwhatu which take precedence, any whānau requesting to book the marae are required to submit applications to the trustees in accordance with Regulations 9-11 of the Māori Reservations Regulations 1994. Included in the criteria of these applications is an expectation for whānau to nominate primary contacts who will liaise with the trustees prior to the date of their hui. Those contacts or nominated whānau members must attend an induction session with the trustees to become familiar with the running of the marae.

The bond, which must be paid before the hui, is \$500 per day. Bond refund is subject to the final check for any damages, loss of equipment, etc.. Koha to use the marae for an overnight stay is a minimum of \$1000 and another \$500 for each night thereafter. These calculations, which are subject to annual review, are set out in the Marae Booking Policy addendum to the Charter.

From Oct to Dec 2024, the trustees focused on our planning which led to the development of our revised Mahere Rautaki (5-Year Strategic Plan) 2025-2030 and Mahere-ā-Tau (Annual Plan) for FY26.

Kōpaki Whakahou

Work from Jan to Mar consisted of whānau transporting all our kitchen stock and equipment out of storage, returning it to the pā, and moving into our new kitchen. At the same time we brought in local community groups from Hamilton to help us address the CGA damage for almost 6 weeks consecutively. All these efforts are the result of our **"Working Bees!!!"**

Being the last year of our Mahere Rautaki 2020-2025, the trustees wanted to take a look at our annual **working bees** which often go unrecognised. On the following pages we take you back more than 5 years to our whānau working bees in Nov 2019, the other in Jan 2020, and despite COVID-19, our Auckland whānau, Henare and his Team, stayed at the pā for weeks in the period between Dec 2020 and Mar 2021, to work on our Papawhenua Siteworks in preparation for Stage 1 of our rebuild and the restoration of our Wharenui (see **Appendix A**).

We close this report with photos of the working bees held throughout 2024, showcasing the work and progress of our Mahi Whakaora (Development) projects, and our Pourāhui Rangatahi Reo & Tikanga Wānanga (see **Appendix B**).

Lest we forget the mahi of generations of our tūpuna whose commitment of time, energy, and sacrifice to the life of our pā was undeniable, whose collective focus was always on upholding the Mana Motuhake O Ngāti Pourāhui. For us generations today – GEN-K, GEN-M, and GEN-R – it's now about future proofing that legacy for our mokopuna.

For all enquiries contact me, chair@hiionamarae.co.nz, 021 330 534 or Ari, admin@hiionamarae.co.nz, 021 247 1568. And don't forget to keep updated through our pā website: www.hiiona-marae.com.

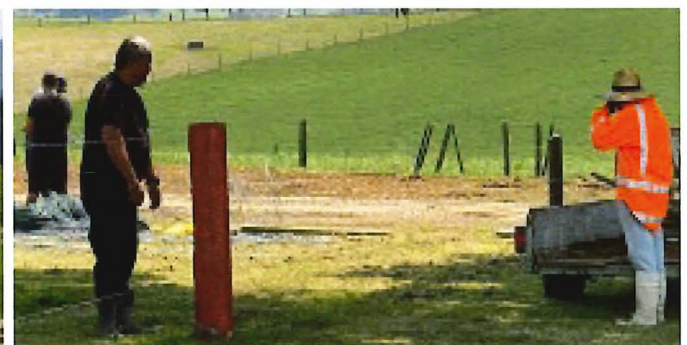
Take care out there Whānau...

Nug (Chair)

APPENDIX A

TE AVANANUI

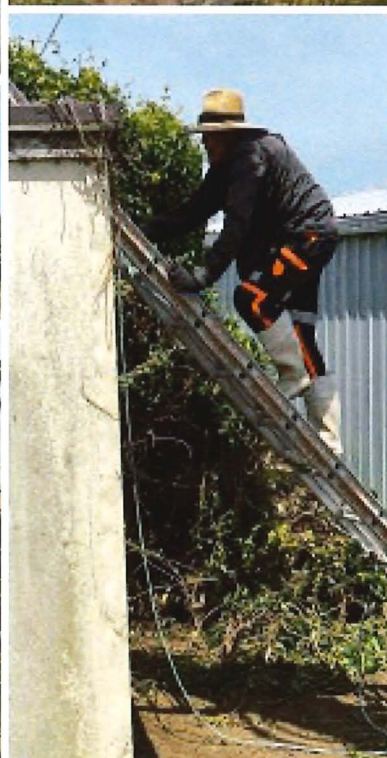
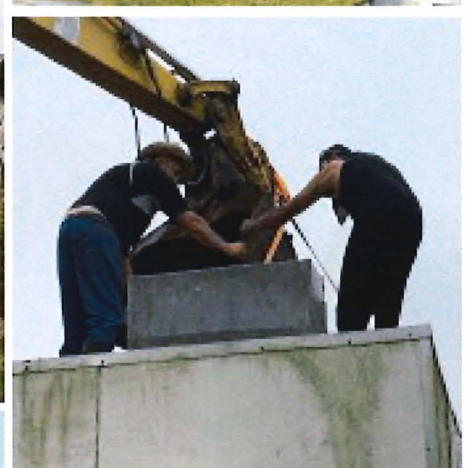
November 2019 & January 2020 Working Bees



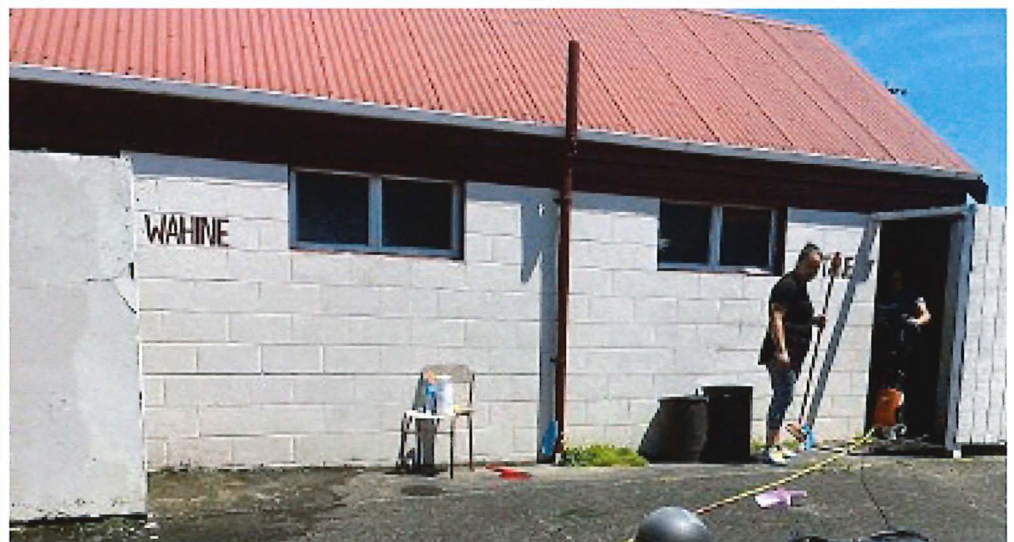
Te Avananui
November 2019 & January 2020 Working Bees



PUNA AROHA PUNA KAI
November 2019 & January 2020 Working Bees



Puna Aroha Puna Kai
November 2019 & January 2020 Working Bees



PAPA WHENUA / SITE WORKS
December 2020 to March 2021 Working Bees
 During COVID-19

MBIE, Provincial Growth Fund, Wharenui Restoration Grant



Henare Manuel
Managing Director



Crystal Manuel
Support Services



Jamie Dally
Operations Director



Lichelle Ngawini
Relations Officer



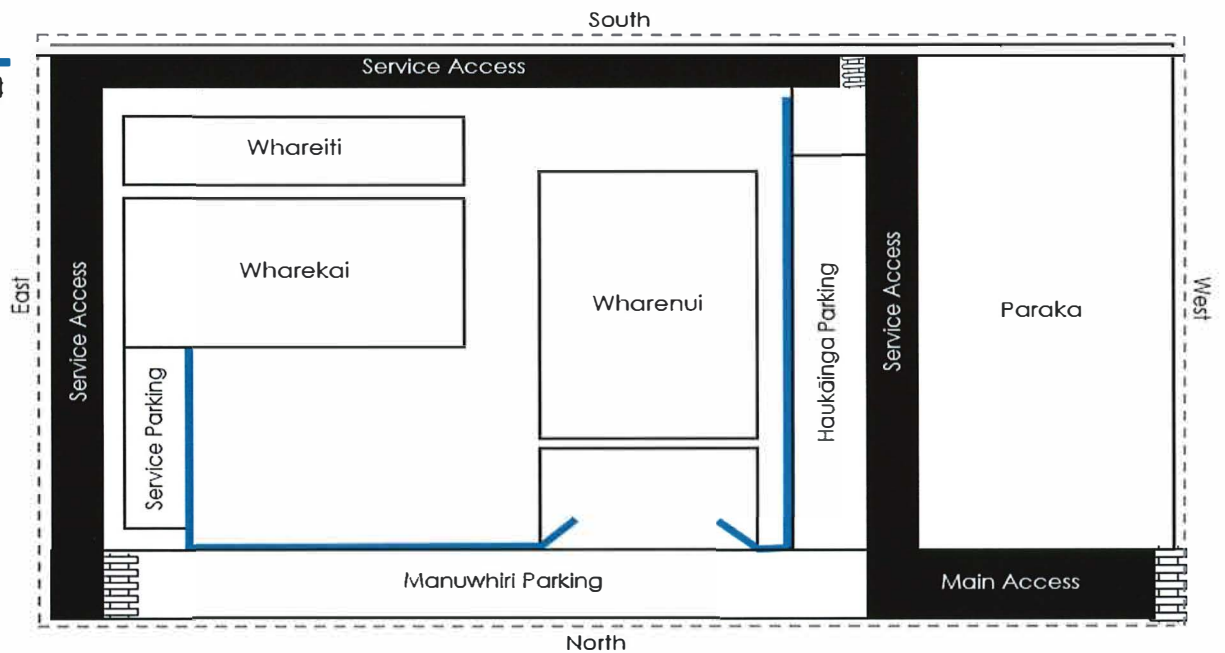
Chantelle Parker
Administration



Debbie Kelly
Administration



Boundary ---
 New Fence ---
 Gates 00000



Fence



**Papa Whenua / Site Works
December 2020 to March 2021 Working Bees**

East side



North side



West side



Marae Main Entrance & Ātea



**Papa Whenua / Site Works
December 2020 to March 2021 Working Bees**

Access & Parking



Parking & Access (North)



Parking & Service Access (West)

Service Access (South)

Service Access (East)



APPENDIX B

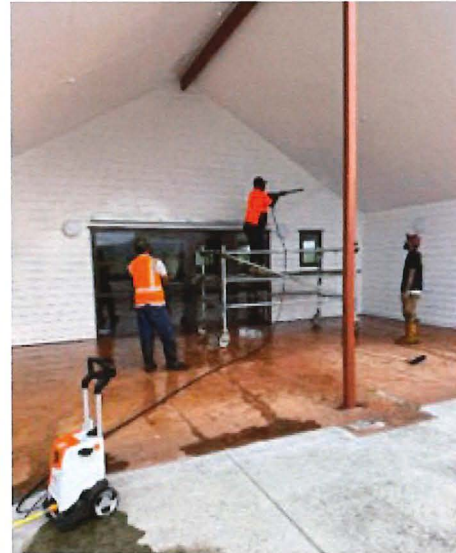
JUNE 2024 HAPORI PROJECT WORKING BEES

Fijian Community, Hamilton
Cyclone Gabriel Flood

Fijian brothers brought in to assist with resolving the flood damage.
Experienced, hardworking, and humble. "Vinaka!"



Fijian Community, Hamilton



Indian Community, Hamilton Cyclone Gabriel

Forensic clean to the interior of the Wharenui & Wharekai
Courteous, humble, and hardworking Indian brothers. Very grateful...
"Shukri... Buddyharbani!"

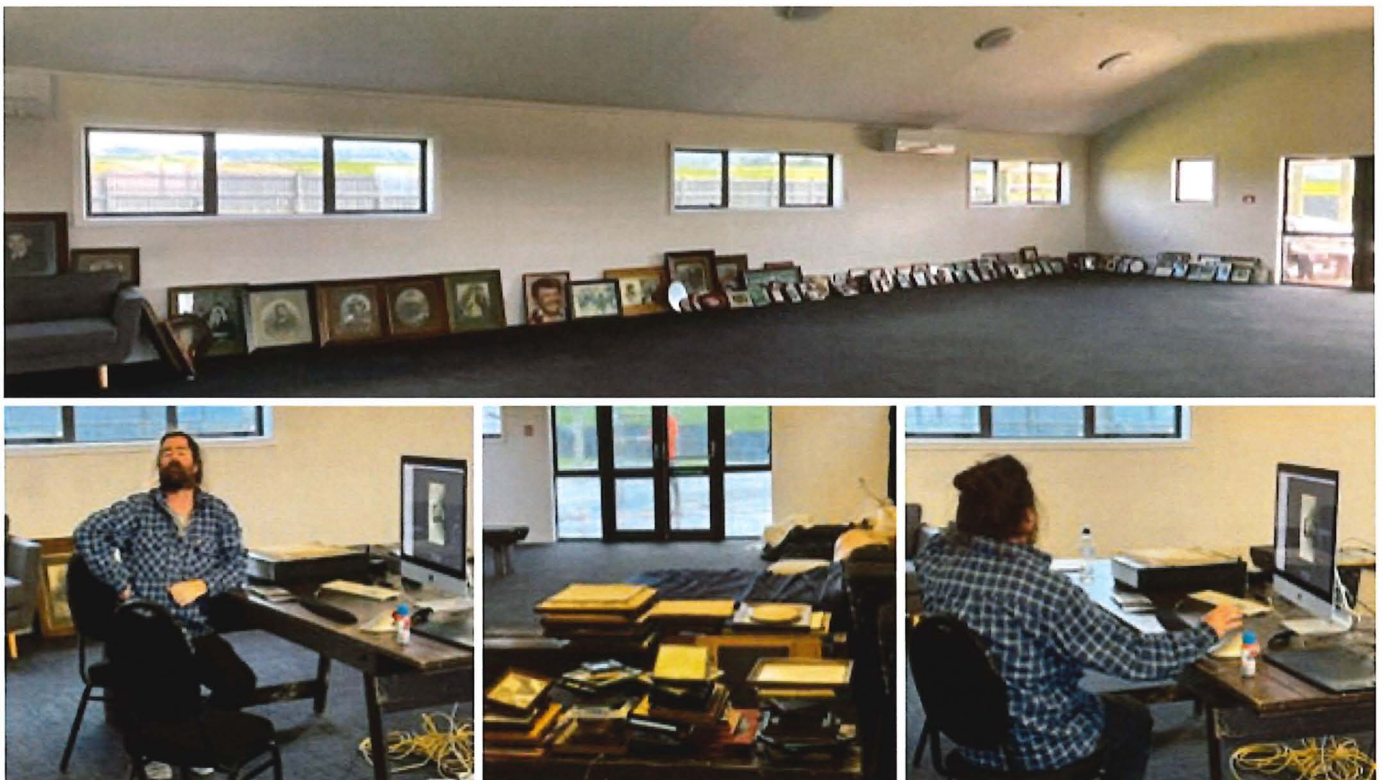


Indian Community, Hamilton



Joshua Poots, Photographer, Hastings

Josh is fixing the resolution of the old large portraits and standardising whānau portraits to one size (11 x 10).
"Mihi mutunga kore Josh!"



Hauora Waikato Māori Mental Health, Tamahere, Hamilton

Clearing and replanting of harakeke along the service road situated at the south end of the lot.

One doctor, two nurses, three managers, and twelve clients. Very structured and controlled day.

Incredible work. Incredibly humbled. Wasn't allowed to take photos of the staff and the clients.

Had a big lunch. Beautiful people, beautiful day.



Whānau

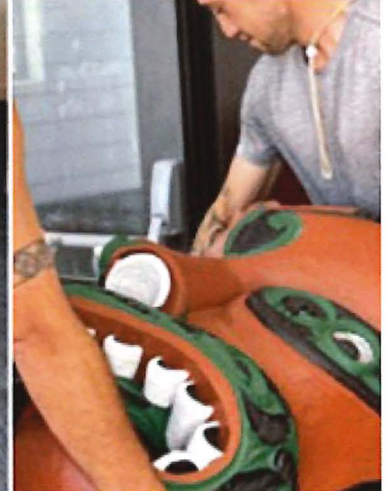
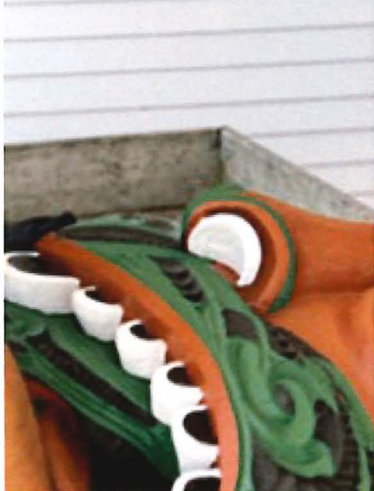
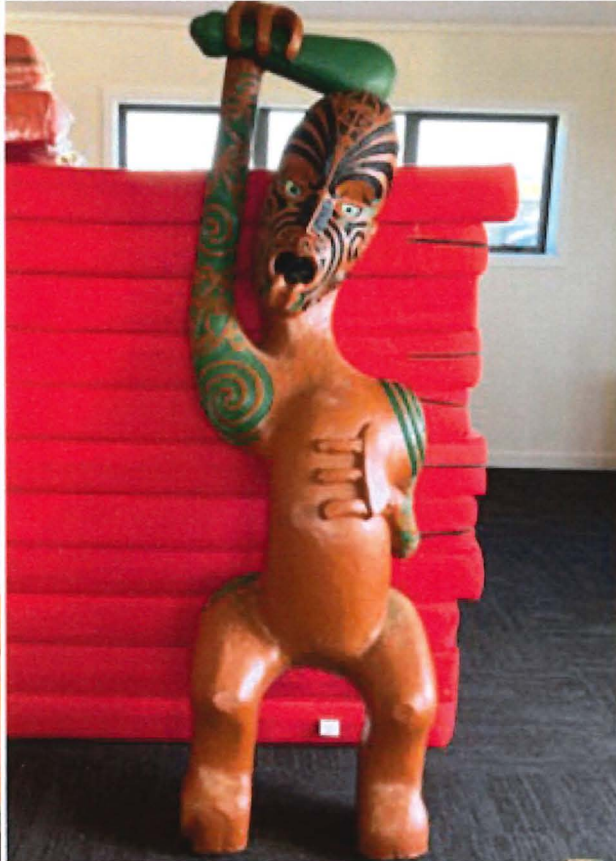
Cooking for everybody and doing inventory at the same time.



JULY 2024 POURĀHUI KAUPAPA TAONGA
Manatū Taonga MMO Grant
GEN-R Taonga Revitalisation Project

Original Carvings from the 1989 Opening of Te Avananui.
Tikitiki Te Poumua (Tekoteko), Kōruru, Hou Te Rongo (Pare)

17 July



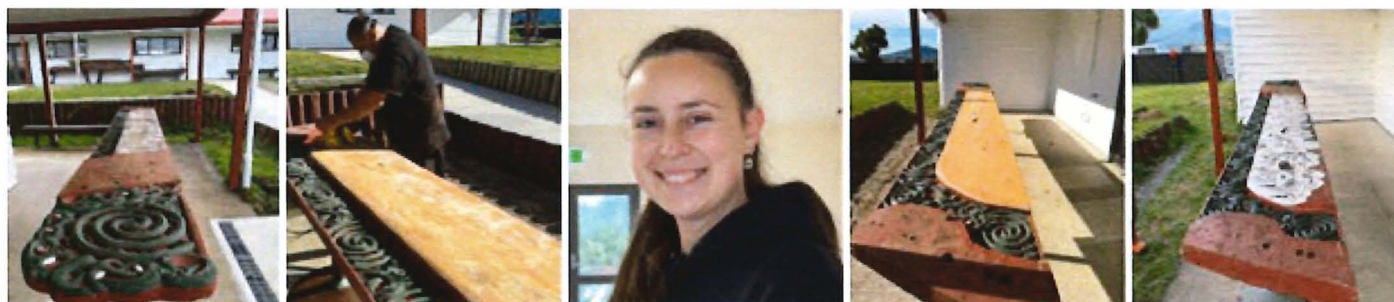
**Pourāhui Kaupapa Taonga
GEN-R Taonga Revitalisation Project**

Original Maihi from the 1989 Opening of Te Avananui.
Re-designed by Taonga Project Lead, Tyler Dixon

Preliminary Design



18 July



19-20 July



Ngā Maihi
21 July



Ngā Maihi
17-21 July



AUGUST 2024 POURĀHUI KAUPAPA REO ORA TIKANGA ORA
Waikato Tainui Tikanga-Ora-Reo-Ora (TORO) Grant
GEN-R Reo & Tikanga Wānanga

He tīmatanga ngēnei o ngā wānanga kia aro ki ngā taonga nei:
Whakapapa | Hītori | Te Reo | Ngā Tikanga | Kōrero Tuku Iho | Karakia | Kīngitanga | Mana Motuhake
Kaiārahi Kaupapa/Kaiako Matua: **Ngaringi Katipa** & Kaiako Matua: **Rodney Whanga**



Connecting with whānau overseas...



Pourāhui Rangatahi Reo Ora Tikanga Ora



