

TE TII WAITANGI MARAE CHAIR'S REPORT

It is an honour to serve as your Marae Chair. I have the pleasure of sharing this update with you all so that everyone is across the general thrust of our Trustees strategic thinking around Governance and Operations.

Firstly, it is important to point out that we are under strict orders from the Māori Land Court (MLC) to hold this AGM before the December 1, 2023, deadline. Your current seven Trustees were appointed on June 29, 2023 - Ngati Kawa Taituha, Isaiah Apiata, Saku Taurua, Maryanne Baker, Rangi Tawhiao, Esme Sherwin, and Susan Apiata. Our Trustees have often faced criticism for holding late AGMs, but please note that the MLC process causes significant delays that are beyond our control. The gap between our last AGM on December 18, 2021, and the official Trustee MLC appointment date of June 29, 2023, clearly illustrates this.

Being a Trustee comes with its fair share of challenges, such as committing to voluntary services, addressing formal complaints, managing repairs and maintenance, insurance, health and safety, Marae bookings, hosting manuhiri, strategic planning, budgeting, contract management, ensuring compliance with funding conditions, reviewing extensive meeting minutes and documents, and maintaining a robust financial system to account for our Marae's assets and liabilities. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has entrusted us with this major administrative role. The good news is that we have not been involved in any litigation, all our bills are up to date and paid, and our bank account remains healthy. I am super proud to say that our current Trustees have worked tirelessly and often gone the extra mile to fulfil our legal obligations. Please note that this report represents the collective views of our Trustees and not just my private opinions as the Marae Chair. Therefore, we would like to salute everyone who has supported our Marae, whether it be as kitchen kaimahi during Waitangi Week, Rangatira on our taumata or whanau who maintain the lawns, toilets, laundry and refuse stations 365 days of the year. We appreciate your contributions, and while we have chosen not to mention names (to avoid upsetting people for missing them out), please know that we acknowledge each and every one of you. Special thanks go out to our previous Trustees Bella Jane Russ, Hapeta Rameka Kere, Rodney Apiata, Sharee Tito, and especially Isaiah Apiata, who recently submitted his letter of resignation. We are truly grateful for the aroha and everyone's efforts. Kia mau ki te mana o te Marae. He mihi Rangatira tenei ki a koutou katoa.

Regarding our Marae Development Project (MDP), there has been considerable progress since we last presented the kaupapa at our 2021 AGM. Without going into all the details, I will highlight key achievements. The Akau aspirations document, which is still available on our website at www.waitangiMarae.co.nz, was the result of workshops facilitated by Akau, where our whanau were invited to contribute their ideas. This document formed the basis for our subsequent collaboration with architects to refine the building design concepts. Mark Katterns, Tana Apiata, Matt Menzies and our Chartered Accountant Jim Baker have all worked diligently to coordinate the project and oversee the procurement of key construction contracts with Henwood's, Haigh Engineers, RDT, and Geometria Archaeology. We must acknowledge the pivotal role played by our funders, who have provided \$2.3 million in grants to support our mid-term aspirational endeavour. Therefore, we extend our gratitude to TPK, Internal Affairs, Oranga Marae, Lotteries Environment and Heritage Fund, Foundation North, Tupu Tonu, Ngapuhi Runanga, Focus Paihia, Ministry of Culture and Heritage, and Sky City. We recently had a heartfelt closure of our Marae doors on September 10, which included wananga in Waitangi and Oromahoe. We are indebted to Lani Apiata and Adelaide Rameka Kere Apiata for their guidance in the tohu rangatira space, particularly in the arts and crafts design concepts. We look forward to the upcoming tukutuku wananga with Trina Taurua from December 1 to 3, 2023, at Oromahoe Marae. In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that this journey has not been easy for us, but with the guidance of our legal advisor, we have navigated the technical aspects of the project successfully. As Trustees, we carry a heavy burden of responsibility, especially considering the potential legal ramifications. Risk

management is crucial. We have made efforts to educate Beneficiaries about our roles and responsibilities, as these are often misunderstood. At times, we feel pressured to succumb to "Hapu" demands. However, it is important to recognize that you, the Beneficiaries, have mandated us as the legal authority of this Marae. In accordance with our Marae Charter and the Māori Reservations Regulations, we are not permitted to delegate power to any external entities, such as Beneficiaries, Subcommittees, Kaumatua, or members of our "Hapu". Ultimately, it is only us, the Trustees, who bear the burden of carrying the legal liability. Therefore, we kindly request your continued support as we perform our Trustee duties in administering the Marae.

There are two imminent opportunities on the horizon, both stemming from the Akau aspirations document, and the input received from our Kaumatua, who encouraged these initiatives at the previous 2021 AGM. The first opportunity is the establishment of our very own independent Digital Marae Hub. Thanks to the Provincial Growth Fund, we have already benefited from free Wi-Fi, and with the addition of a fibre optic cable, we have the potential to create a world-class digital platform. Leveraging funds from the Ministry of Culture and Heritage and in collaboration with Victoria University of Wellington, we have successfully set up a digital data centre that not only ensures data sovereignty but also paves the way for an onsite studio for recording cultural stories, podcasts, web creation and secure data storage facilities that are shielded from data mining of major tech giants like Google, Microsoft, and Amazon. In addition, we have a youth development program in the works. Our intention is to hold workshops with Trustees and whanau, facilitated by Akau, to gather ideas for designing a youth development concept. This program could potentially include training for the digital hub, environmental education, sports academies, cultural ambassadors, and multifaceted business consultancy. We encourage you to register your interests with us so that we can fully capitalize on this incredible opportunity that belongs to our future generations.

Lastly, the Marae Charter needs an upgrade, as it has not been adequately reviewed since its inception in 1994. We discussed this at the previous AGM, and there was substantial support for its transformation so that our Marae Charter is fit for purpose. On November 8, 2023, Trustees were notified that the MLC approved our application for special aid funds to engage Danny Tuato'o as our Professional Marae Charter Lead Facilitator. The next step is to align the current Marae Charter with the Māori Reservations Regulations and then make the necessary improvements to suit our needs. Danny has drawn upon his experience with other Trusts and recommended starting with a draft template, which will be presented at the AGM, not for adoption but rather to provide everyone with an opportunity to explore and gain a sense of what the standard template looks like and what should be included to guarantee compliance and structural resilience. We plan to open it up for more input and feedback from all our Beneficiaries, but Danny will lead us thru the process. He will ensure that we are all clear on how we can contribute and take ownership as it is imperative that the Marae Charter reflects the collective voice of our people.

E taatou maa, hoki mai ki teenei taonga tuku iho araa ko Te Tii Waitangi Marae. Engari, waiho taatou i te whawhai mutungakore. Huri atu ki te kaupapa matua, aroha teetahi ki teetahi. Te nuinga o te hunga Maaori iaianei, he rangatahi, he taiohi. Noo reira, he waa hoou teenei. Hakawaatea te huarahi, kia tupu ake ai waa taatou tamariki mokopuna i roto i te mana o Te Ao Maaori. Mena ka hakarongo taatou ki weenei kupu aroha, ka hari, ka koa te ngaakau o raatou maa e heke mai nei ki teenei Marae rongonui o te motu. Ka ora hoki te reo tupuna me te tikanga o Ngati Kawa, Ngati Rahiri me Te Matarahurahu. Mena ka puaawai ngaa hua o weenei kupu aroha, ko toku matakitenga, ka tuu marika mai raa te rangatiratanga me te mana Motuhake o He Whakaputanga 1835 me Te Tiriti O Waitangi 1840.

Tihewa Mauri Ora,

Ngati Kawa Taituha (Waitangi Marae Chair)