

Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo



*Kāwhia Moana
Kāwhia Kai
Kāwhia Tāngata*



CHAIR REPORT

I am pleased to provide the annual report for the financial year 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2021 and a year-to-date report from 1 November 2021 to 30 April 2022, on behalf of Te Runanganui o Ngati Hikairo. Te Runanganui o Ngati Hikairo had an ambitious work programme in the last 12 months, and despite all of the challenges of COVID 19, lockdowns and a new way of living, we have been able to make considerable progress. My Chair's report will highlight key successes and progress.

- ✚ Enhancing Governance Capability – The Runanga has worked hard to establish robust governance policies and practices in the areas of financial management, risk and audit and being able to recruit a Treasurer, Duncan Robin, who holds dual degrees in Accounting and Law.
- ✚ Lees Seymour, Project Manager, Waitangi Claims, has provided a more detailed report on the Takutai Moana High Court Proceedings, and options for WAI 30 and Remaining Claims. The advancement of our mana motuhake and rangatiratanga has required a robust strategy particularly in the navigation of the iwi politics and the crown policies. I consider we have been extremely successful in strengthening our position in these negotiations, for example, Te Arawhiti refused to recognise our iwi as well as Waikato Tainui exclusion of Ngati Hikairo in the WAI 30 negotiations to now achieving our inclusion as an iwi in the WAI 30 negotiations along with Waikato Tainui and Ngati Maniapoto. I am confident that as we implement our options and strategy, we will achieve our iwi aspirations.
- ✚ Te Runanganui o Ngati Hikairo has been actively involved in Te Taiao Kawhia Moana, which is a community entity working collaboratively together to progress the wellbeing of our moana.
- ✚ Te Runanganui o Ngati Hikairo have been highly involved in iwi related Commemorations, where we have been involved in the planning of the Waiari and Mātakitaki Commemorations but due to COVID these events have been deferred.
- ✚ Te Runanganui o Ngati Hikairo were contracted by the Waipā District Council to undertake the cultural review of Mangakaware. We are working in partnership with Ngati Apakura. The assessment is near completion.
- ✚ Te Runanganui o Ngati Hikairo has also been extensively engaged with the Otorohonga District Council, Waipā District Council, and the Waikato Regional Council. Our key involvement has centred on environment and planning of Kawhia Moana, Three Waters Reform, and local strategic planning.
- ✚ Te Runanganui o Ngati Hikairo also made a written submission on the Pae Ora Futures Bill and also made an oral submission to the Parliament Pae Ora Select Committee.

The above events highlight that Te Runanganui o Ngati Hikairo has worked to stabilise our governance and building capability through our systems and practice, but it also highlights that much of what we do is reactive to issues or events external to the iwi.

We need to turn our minds and hearts to build our future and as Chair, I would like us to consider the next 100 years and where we as an iwi wish to be for our tamariki and mokopuna. To start this process, we have updated our constitution and prepared a discussion document on a development framework to consider our future. We welcome your feedback.

It's been an incredibly busy year for the Runanga and there are a number of whanau I want to thank for their commitment to our iwi and our rūnanga.

- ✚ I thank all of the Executive Committee Members for their dedication and hard work. In the tenure of this board, we have had 18 meetings and many hours of volunteer work to execute the business of the Runanga. Our passion has been to continue the challenging work and aspirations of our tupuna. We hope to continue to do so.
- ✚ The Treaty of Waitangi work programme is fundamental to the future of our iwi. Lees Seymour has led a significantly complex work programme, relationships, and in the face of significant resistance. Lees has been extraordinarily successful in representing our interests and I am confident this will lead us to achieve our iwi aspirations. Tirohanga Johnson has also been instrumental in collecting our whanau stories for the Takutai Moana Claim and Lesley Kelly with her support for Tirohanga and Lees.
- ✚ The Commemoration Celebrations of Waiari and Mātakitaki has involved other key whanau, Gina Ngarongorongo, Frank Thorne, and Hinga Whiu in terms of Waiari and Frank and Hinga in terms of Mātakitaki. These whanau have also been supported by our kaumatua Jack Cunningham.
- ✚ The Mangakaware Cultural Assessment has been jointly completed by Frank Thorne and Pipi Barton which is a complex work covering cultural and environment frameworks.
- ✚ Finally, Geoff Barton for developing our website and voting system which has been a time consuming, complex, and technical work programme.

I want to thank all of our whanau involved in the above work programme, gifting their time, and passionately contributing to our iwi mahi. We thank you and express our gratitude for your work.

Ngā mihi kau ana k a tātaou katoa

Susan Turner
Chair