

TE RŪNANGANUI O NGĀTI HIKAIRO

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2021



MIHI

Whakarongo ake au ki te tangi a te manu

Tui, Tui, Tuia

Tuia i runga

Tuia i raro

Tuia i roto

Tuia i waho

Tuia i te here tangata

Ka rongo te po

Ka rongo te ao

Haumi e hui e

Taiki e !

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 Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo.

Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti 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.

- Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo were contracted by the Waipā District Council to undertake the cultural review of Mangakaware. We are working in partnership with Ngāti Apakura. The assessment is near completion.
- Te Runanganui o Ngāti Hikairo were involved in iwi related Commemorations such as the planning of the Waiari and Mātakitaki Commemorations. Due to COVID these events have been deferred.
- The new website for the Runanga is an important way for us to share information but also to set up an online registration system. We hope our whanau can contact us where-ever they are in the world, and become more involved in iwi affairs. We also reach Ngāti Hikairo through one of the largest public forums in the world, Facebook.
- Our Project Manager, Waitangi Claims is reporting today on the Takutai Moana High Court Proceedings, and options for WAI 30 and remaining Claims. Advocacy for our mana motuhake and rangatiratanga has required careful navigation of iwi politics and Crown policies. I consider we have been extremely successful in strengthening our position in these negotiations. For example, Te Arawhiti continue to refuse to recognise te mana o Ngāti Hikairo, and Waikato continue to exclude Ngāti Hikairo in the WAI 30 negotiations. We are now moving toward inclusion in the WAI 30 negotiations for the Harbour along with Waikato and Ngāti Maniapoto. I am confident that as we implement strategy, we will achieve our aspirations.
- Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo have recommenced our participation in Te Taiao o Kawhia Moana, which is a community entity working collaboratively together to progress the wellbeing of our moana.
- Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo has also been working with the Otorohonga District Council, Waipā District Council, and the Waikato Regional Council. We've had input into environmental and planning for Kawhia Moana, Three Waters Reform, and local strategic planning.
- Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo made a written submission on the Pae Ora Futures Bill that covers the restructure of the entire health system and also made an oral submission to the Parliament Pae Ora Select Committee.

CHAIR REPORT

Continued

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 has recruited a Treasurer who holds degrees in Accounting and Law who will be able to manage our finances and accountability.

The above events highlight that Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti 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 whānau 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 whānau stories for the Takutai Moana Claim and Lesley Kelly with her support for Tirohanga and Lees. I would also like to thank our Historian Paul Thomas who is drafting a significant report that evidences our customary rights to the moana.
- The Commemoration Celebrations of Waiari and Mātakitaki has involved other key whānau, Gina Ngarongorong, Frank Thorne, and Hinga Whiu in terms of Waiari and Frank and Hinga in terms of Mātakitaki. These whānau 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 whānau 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 ki a tātou katoa

Susan Turner
Chair