

## **Nominations for Officers and Executive Committee Members for Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo at 2023 Annual General Meeting on Saturday 30 September 2023.**

Below are the biographies of the 8 Tribal Members who have put their names forward for Nomination to the Executive of Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo. Three of the nominations are for Officers (one each for the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) and five as Executive Committee Members.

Please note that the Rangatahi Representative and the Kamaatua Representative are elected by these groups in a separate process.

### **Nominations for Executive Committee**

#### **Lees Seymour (Executive Committee Member)**

Ko Tainui te Waka

Ko Hoturoa raua ko Rakataura nga tangata

Ko Pirongia te Maunga

Ko Waipapa te Marae

Ko Ngati Hikairo te iwi

Ko Kawhia Moana te Moana

Tihei Mauriora

Ko Lees Seymour te ingoa.

My background and experience is as follows

3 Years on Te Runanganui o Ngati Hikairo

Passionate about Ngati Hikairo and our aspirations

Previous senior management experience in Forestry Industry. CEO for 19 years of Nelson Forests Ltd.

Current;y Claims Manager for Ngaati Hikairo Takutai Moana Application and WAI30 and Remaining Claims.

Would like to continue serving and work for my people Ngati Hikairo.

#### **Burt Marae Cunningham (Executive Committee Member)**

Ko Pirongia Te Maunga

Ko Tainui Te Waka

Ko Kāwhia Moana, Kāwhia Tangata, Kāwhia Kai

Ko Ngāti Hikairo Te Iwi

Ko Jack Te Papi Te Onehahau rāua Ko Rangitutaki ōku Matua

Ko Marae Cunningham tōku ingoa

Tēnā koutou, Tēnā koutou, Tēnā tātou katoa.

I live and work in Hamilton.

I have been a member of Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo since 2020 and was recently nominated on to the executive committee at the AGM.

I have been a n.d.u union delegate 20 years plus.

#### **Gareth Seymour (Executive Committee Member)**

As a team the Ruunanga has dedicated hours and hours of mahi for the Ruunanga – e mihi and e raatou kia taatou.

Much of this mahi is behind the scenes, noo reira, I am proud to join the team to do this for Papa o Kaarewa, Maungakaware, for our comms for our claims, e whia kee ngaa taatou kaupapa. My wawata for the Ruunanga is for all three of our marae to be fully on board and for all ages of whaanau to be aware, to be involved to know what the ruunanga is up to. Thanks to my whaanau for their nomination and as uncle Fred used to say:

Kia mau, kia mau, kia mau

**Pipi Barton (Executive Committee Member)**

Ko Ngāti Horotakere me Ngāti Puhiaawe ngōku hapū  
Ko Rangiahua toku whanau papakainga  
Ko Ngāti Hikairo toku iwi  
Tēnā koutou

My name is Pipi Barton. My father is Wally Barton, and my grandmother is Kaaho Ponui. I am a Registered Nurse, with extensive experience in health. I bring to my role on the Runanga many years of working for my iwi going back to the year 2003. I took some time off, then recently returned to the Runanga Exec in 2019. Over the years I have been involved in iwi development through mahi on the Resource Management Committee, where I was actively involved in kaitiakitanga within our rohe, some of this work involved developing long term management of many of our land based taonga within our rohe. Over the years I have also been involved in the Waitangi Tribunal Claims process.

**Thomas Tai (Executive Committee Member)**

Ko Pirongia-te-aroaro-o-Kahu te maunga

Ko Kaawhia te moana

Ko Waipapa te marae

Ko Te Whaanau Pani te Hapuu

Ko Ngaati Hikairo te iwi

Ko Thomas Tai Ahau

Ko Lucy raaua ko Joseph Tai ooku kaumaatua

I grew up in between Porirua and Kaawhia, going home every second weekend or so with my father to do mahi here and there. What I offer Te Ruunanganui o Ngaati Hikairo is my heart, my soul and a promise to be true to the Kaupapa of Ngaati Hikairo. This is a role I seek not for myself but for whanau and our iwi.

## **Nominations for Officers**

### **Susan Turner (Nominated for Chair)**

Tēnā Koutou e te Whānau

**“Māku te tītī, māku te whewhera” (I will be the wedge, and I will make my own gap)** is a whakataua of our Tūpuna Tiriwa.

It is likely that Tiriwa made this statement as Ngāti Hikairo was being pressed between Waikato and Ngāti Maniapoto. I can only assume that the reason this would have been said at the time were the attempts to subsume us with either of these iwi. This challenge still faces us today perhaps not in the form of conquest from those days but the way in which contemporary Māori and iwi are now forming in our modern times. It seeks to redefine us as an iwi and our hikairo tangā.

It is for this reason that I wish to be considered by whānau in another term as the Chair of Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo. I have been in the Chair role since late 2019, and we have focused on building the capability of our iwi governance, tackling the complex treaty negotiations and the substantial work undertaken in the Resource Management arena.

Our next phase of development has been set out in the draft Strategic Plan for you all to consider and this focus is on revitalising our iwi and our future which is not reliant on any future settlement of our treaty claims. It is exactly as Tiriwa has expressed for Ngāti Hikairo that we are the wedge by that meaning that we hold firm to who we are and where we have come from to then make our own gap or way in this world.

Having been brought up by Rato and Ted Seymour this outlook has been instilled in me and now I have a much deeper understanding of that belief as a wahine from Ngāti Hikairo and as a mokopuna of my tūpuna. So, I am highly committed to seeing this through by laying down the foundation of our future for the next generation to continue this work in a manner that is strategic and transformative for our iwi.

No reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

Susan Turner

### **Kurutia Seymour (Nominated for Secretary)**

Kurutia joined the Executive Committee after the AGM on 5 June 2021. In the absence of a person standing for Secretary, Kurutia agreed to be co-opted into this role.

He is semi-retired and comes from a governance background within the government sector. He has been board and corporate secretary for a number of companies and agencies and also held senior executive positions responsible for Policy, Legal Services, Research and Governance. He worked in the government sector for thirty years and in his last role was responsible for the relationship between ACC and the Ministries of Health, Business Innovation and Employment and Justice. He was also responsible for managing the relationship between ACC and the offices of the Ministers for ACC, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Justice and the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Kurutia hopes that he will be able to assist the Runanga build best practice processes and good governance models to assist with decision making and planning.

### **Duncan Robin (Nominated for Treasurer)**

Duncan joined the Executive Committee on 26 February 2022, when he was co-opted into the Treasurer role. He stood for and was successful in securing the role of Treasurer at the 2022 AGM.

He has a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in accounting from Victoria University, and he comes from a legal, regulatory and business analysis background.

Duncan is a descendant of Pumipi Moke. He hopes to better connect with his Ngāti Hikairo whakapapa, particularly for his four children (David 4, Maia 2, Ethan and Levi 4 months). He also hopes to grow Te Rūnanganui's financial management capacity and capability, and support Ngāti Hikairo's broader aspirations.