

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

**Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo**

*Kāwhia Moana, Kāwhia Kai, Kāwhia Tāngata*

[www.ngatihikairo.iwi.nz](http://www.ngatihikairo.iwi.nz)

# Chair Report

**Maku te tītī, Maku te Whēwhera !  
Nā Tiriwa**

*E ngā mate huhua o Ngāti Hikairo, rātou kua wheturangtia, okioki ai, okioki ai okioki ai.  
Ko te Kīngi Māori Tūheitia Pōtatatu Te Whereowhero te Tuawhitu ki te rangi, Ko Te Arkinui Kuini Nga wai hono i te po ki te whenua, rirerire hau paimarire*

*E ngā huānga o Ngāti Hikairo kua whakarauika mai ki te tautoko ngā kaupapa e whārikihia , tēnā tātou, tēnā tātou, tēnā tātou katoa.  
Mānawatia a Matariki !*

I am pleased to provide you with the 2024/25 Annual Report for the Executive Committee of Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo. I would like to highlight our key achievements.

- We have made significant progress in our WAI 30 and Remaining Claims negotiation approach. We are now in a position to lead our own treaty negotiations alongside of Ngāti Mahuta. I would like to thank Lees Seymour for his dedication to this work.
- Our Resource Management Committee managed numerous resource management applications. We successfully represented the interests of Ngāti Hikairo. I thank Pipi Barton for her leadership, with the support of Lees Seymour, Kurutia Seymour and Mahina-a-rangi Manuel.
- Strengthened our relationships with iwi in our rohe, Ngāti Mahuta, Ngāti Apakura, and Whaingaroa iwi. To the extent that we have jointly supported a health initiative in Kāwhia through Toi Ora.
- Continued our effective management of our finances within tight resource constraints. Kurutia Seymour as Secretary to the rūnanga has also continued to ensure that our governance operates professionally. We thank Duncan Robin and Kurutia Seymour for their expertise and ongoing commitment to their respective roles.
- Most important this year has been the rebuilding of our relationship with our marae and working together more effectively.
- Provided input to key local government and central government policies and strategies such as local government plans, or legislative changes to local government, MACA, treaty principles and the regulatory standards bill.
- Continued support of the Ngāti Hikairo Kaumatua Kaunihera.

I wish to also give special recognition to Frank Thorne who has continued to provide his expertise to the work of the rūnanga.

Our focus in the next 12 months will be:

- Future economic development of our iwi, particularly opportunities across our rohe through social investment, in partnership with other iwi.
- WAI 30 and Remaining Claims Treaty Settlement. Continue to progress where possible our MACA Claim.
- Financial Sustainability.
- Continue to undertake the core business of the rūnanga successfully and ensure our interests are protected.

This financial year we co-opted new executive committee members Tiriana Anderson, Mahina-a-Rangi Manuel and Malcolm Ormsby to assist with the high workload.

Finally, I thank all the Executive Committee members who have continued in their strong commitment to the kaupapa of our iwi governance. Their ongoing dedication has resulted in the significant achievements of our iwi.

Susan Turner  
Chair

# Our Iwi

**3870**

**identify  
as Ngāti  
Hikairo**

**33.5%**

**Can hold a  
conversation  
in Te Reo**

**20.8%**

**Earn more  
than  
\$70,000**

**56.6%**

**Are under  
the age of  
30**

**19.9%**

**Hold a  
tiertary  
qualification**

**27.1%**

**Own their  
home**

**99.1%**

**Live in a  
private  
dwelling**

**77.5%**

**Employed in  
the private  
sector**

More information on <https://tewhata.io/ngati-hikairo/>

# Resource Management

Tena Koutou Katoa

The last 12 months have been challenging for a number of reasons.

The change in government has meant there has been a corresponding change in approach by the core agencies, such as Waka Kotahi and The Department of Conservation, and to a lesser extent, the territorial authorities.

Changes in central government policy have presented challenges in engagement, with a number of pieces of work being postponed or delayed. Pleasingly, the good relationships with many of these central government organisations as well as the territorial authorities which has been built over a number of years, has survived these outward changes in approach.

## **Engagement regarding Resource Consent Applications**

There have been a number of requests by Ōtorohanga District Council (ODC) and Waipā District Council (WDC) regarding Resource Consent Applications by property owners. The Resource Management Committee (RMC) have relied upon the policies outlined in Te Tahuanui: Ngāti Hikairo Heritage Management Plan to guide our responses. While it has become more common for these applications to be referred to Ngāti Hikairo for a response, this engagement has been inconsistent overall. As a result, the Rūnanganui has met with both ODC and WDC to reinforce the need for engagement with Ngāti Hikairo about resource consent applications, particularly where the proposed activity impacts on, or is close to areas of cultural significance to the iwi.

## **Engagement with the Department of Conservation**

Consultation regarding requests submitted by academic institutions, agencies and private organisations remain a continuing flow of work for the committee. These have included applications regarding the release of introduced species to support existing populations (pheasants), to phase two of the reintroduction of native mistletoe back to Pirongia National Park. The RMC has relied upon an iwi developed principles-based framework to assist with managing these requests.

## **Lake Mangakaware Restoration Programme**

Whanau will recall that Ngāti Hikairo and Ngāti Apakura jointly completed a Cultural Impact Assessment for WDC for the restoration of Lake Mangakaware. There has now been a further step in the restoration planning which requires further consultation with Ngāti Hikairo. Sadly, the authors of the Cultural Impact Assessment were not initially consulted with in a timely fashion, however this oversight is being rectified going forward.

# Resource Management

## **Ngaroto**

There has been considerable conversation between WDC, Ngāti Apakura and Ngāti Hikairo regarding the names of the features in and around the peat lakes, including for moana that have been significantly changed and others that now no longer exist. From Ngāti Hikairo's perspective, there are significant matters that require further discussion within the iwi and with our kaumatua and kuia before any response can be provided to WDC. This process is currently underway. Notably, whānau have made submissions to the council in their private capacity regarding the suggested name changes and the Rūnanganui have been supportive of the approach and recommendations they made in their submissions.

## **Te Kauri Ngahere**

In conjunction with Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Hikairo have agreed to be involved with the ongoing management of the Ngahere. Malcolm Ormsby has agreed to sit on the DOC led committee responsible for the improvement of the health of the Ngahere to ensure the voice of the Ngāti Hikairo hapu directly connected to the whenua is heard.

## **Conclusion**

It is becoming clear to me that the amount of work flowing into the committee is requiring more and more resources in order to meet our responsibilities as kaitiaki of our rohe. This has become particularly apparent as we have increased our activity in the Waipā District as well as maintaining our activities within the Ōtorohanga District. In response, Committee Members Lees Seymour and Mahina-a-Rangi Manuel have agreed to support this increased activity in the Waipa District.

Our ongoing ability to navigate this space and ensure the interests of our iwi are protected and maintained is only possible because of the unstinting support of whanau members who give of their time, knowledge and expertise. The Committee would not be able to undertake this important work without the help of whanau members like Te Papi and Rangī Cunningham, Frank Thorne, Hano and Malcolm Ormsby, Hinga and Lloyd Whiu, Jane Anderson and many, many others. We are appreciative and grateful for their ongoing support.

Pipi Barton  
Chair, Resource Management Committee

# Treaty Claims

**Maku te tītī, Maku te Whēwhera !  
Nā Tiriwa**

## **Introduction**

It is my pleasure to present this report to the 2025 Annual General Meeting of Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo

## **Wai 30**

This process is very complex, and we still have a lot of work to do before a satisfactory position for Ngāti Hikairo can be achieved. The Deed of Mandate (DOM) does not allow for Ngāti Hikairo to represent itself or to negotiate its Treaty Claims as part of the Wai 30 process. The DOM establishes a moana (harbour) by moana approach with Waikato-Tainui as the lead negotiator.

Whilst Ngāti Hikairo has not signed up to the deed of mandate we have been working in the spirit of Kotahitanga to find a way in which our interests can be represented and heard. We have been in discussions with other hapū and the negotiation team as we have worked to find a way forward, and we look forward to signing the deed of mandate in due course.

During the last 12 months, due to our efforts alongside other hapū, we have seen a major breakthrough in that a revised negotiating structure has been developed and is under consideration by hapū. The major change is that the structure of each moana negotiating team allows direct involvement of hapū representatives in this (see attached revised structure).

We have been working alongside Ngāti Mahuta, as the other significant iwi in Kāwhia, in terms of this Wai 30 claim, and we have developed a strong working relationship. The DOM also requires us to work together and we are willing to work with our huānga to negotiate a settlement.

We have discussed this revised structure within the TRONH executive as well as with several of our Kaumatua and there is support in principle for the new structure with the following exceptions;

- We want Ngāti Hikairo / Ngāti Mahuta to lead the negotiations with support from Waikato / Tainui.
- We don't support the Kāwhia Marae Representatives participation, this group is not in the DOM and has no mandate to negotiate.
- We don't support Ngāti Apakura being part of this negotiation as our view is that they have no valid claim to Kāwhia Moana

# Treaty Claims

These matters have been raised with other hapū and Waikato/Tainui and are still in the process of being resolved. We are looking to resolve them as soon as we can using the appropriate tikanga.

Our claimants have given the mandate to settle our claims to Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo, and many previous hui-a-tau have confirmed this mandate. For the record we confirm that TRONH has the mandate to settle our claims and will continue working hard to get the best outcome for ngā uri katoa o Ngāti Hikairo.

## **MACA**

There has been very little progress over the last 12 months with our MACA application, this is as a consequence to a change in Government Policy that saw;

- Te Arawhiti (the Crown entity responsible for MACA) being dis-established
- Te Tari Whakatau being established (the new Crown entity responsible for MACA)
- The Government decision to not fund any MACA applications that were not being actively heard in the high court. Noting that our application is still under development and is not ready to be heard in the high court.

Alongside this our historian is living in Israel and has been subject to the perils of war in the part of the world.

Given these challenges we are now working up a plan to get the remaining work completed within the resources we have – our people and our aroha.

The next steps are to complete the historian's report and complete our own iwi report. We have a draft Historian report in hand. The report is very comprehensive and well written, and we thank all have contributed, especially our Historian and our Iwi historian Frank Thorne.

Both the historian's report and the Iwi report will be very good documents to share with all Ngāti Hikairo once they are completed.

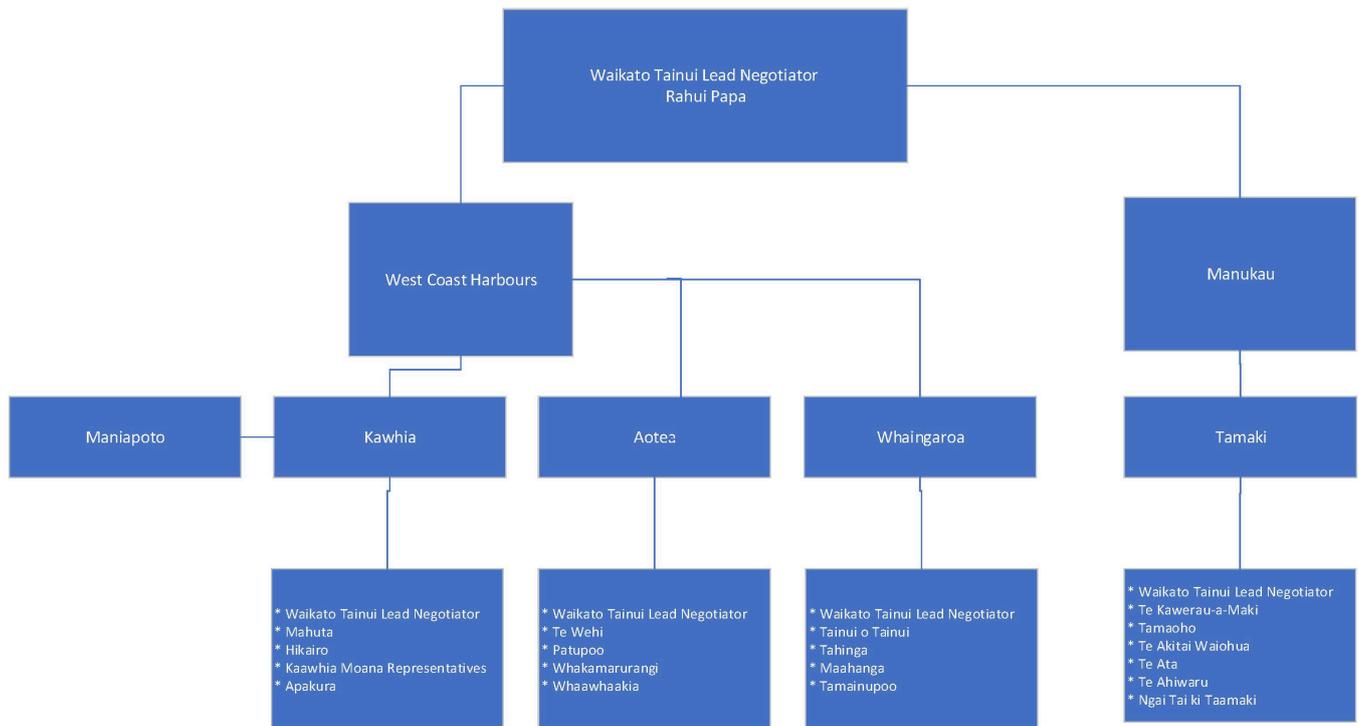
The other concerning matter is the new Government's policy to not have any further hearings apart from the ones that are already scheduled (effectively excluding us as well as many others), this is again being challenged, and we are hopeful of a positive outcome.

## **Summary**

Regardless of the difficulties that we are facing we continue to work hard to gather the information and make the case that clearly states the history, the importance, and the place of Ngāti Hikairo in Kāwhia, Aotearoa and the world !

Mauri ora  
Lees Seymour  
Project Manager

# Treaty Negotiations Framework



# Financials

# Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo – 2024-25 Financial Statements

Prepared by Duncan Robin, Treasurer, Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo

# Notes to the financial statements

1. The financial statements have been prepared by Duncan Robin, Treasurer, Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo.
2. The financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis.
3. The financial year under consideration is 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.
4. The capital gain on the Kai-Ewe Marae land occurred in the 2024 financial year, but was missed and is being recognised in this 2025 financial year. For completeness, our net income without this capital gain is \$35.12.
5. The financial statements have not been audited. This is optional. We have not pursued this due to the cost and our small size.

# Income Statement

as at 30 June 2025

	2025
Income	
Grants and other funding	\$48,800.57
Capital gain on Kai-Ewe Marae land	\$66,000.00
Koha	\$5
Interest income	\$18.28
Total income	\$114,823.85
Expenses	
Operating expenses	(\$44,318.08)
Admin expenses	(\$4,470.65)
Total expenses	(\$48,788.73)
Net income	
Net income	\$66,035.12

# Grants and other funding explained

as at 30 June 2025

	2025
Grants and other funding	
• MACA	\$43,800.57
• COGS	\$5,000
Total	\$48,800.57

# Operating and administrative expenses explained

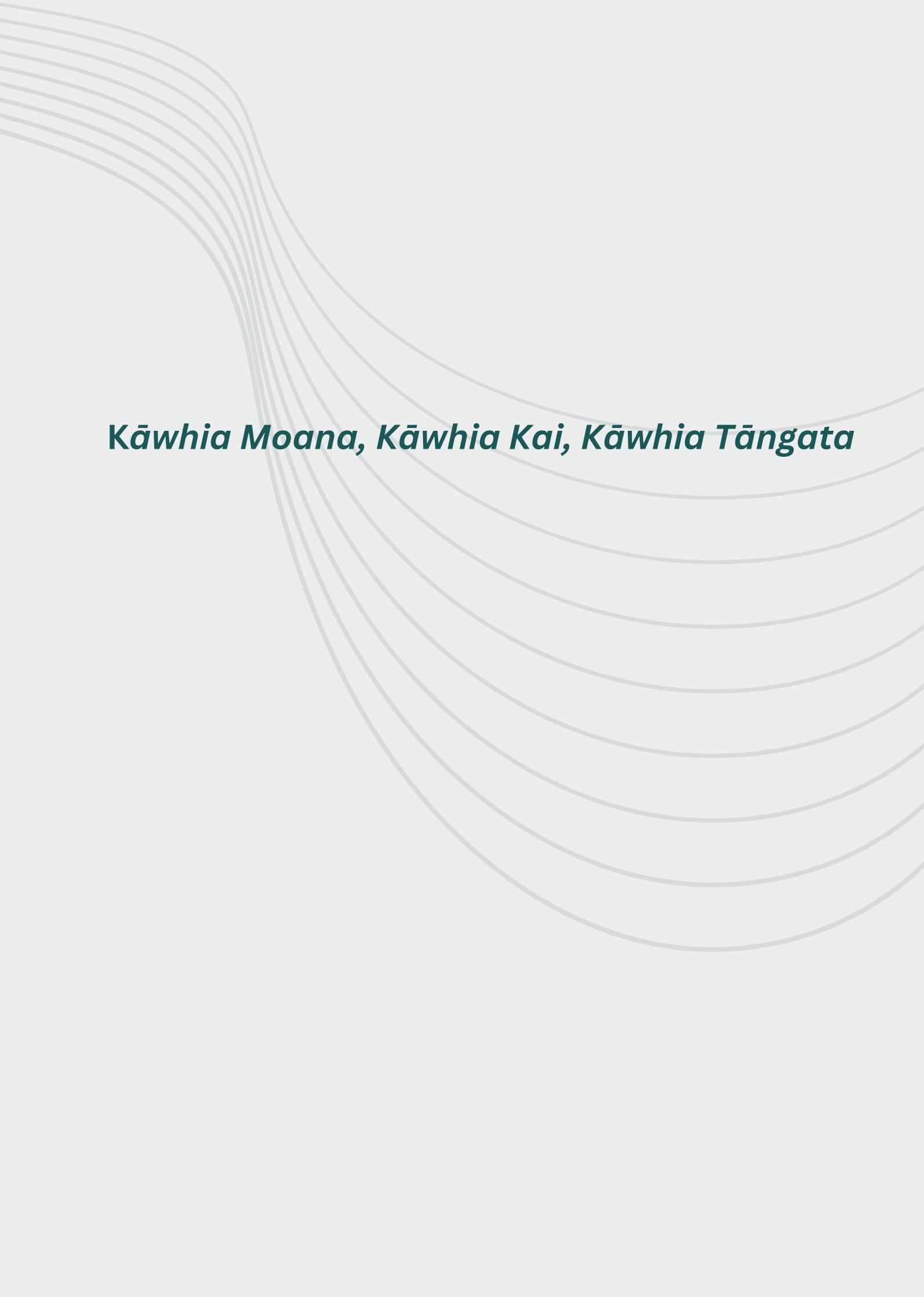
as at 30 June 2025

	2025
Operating expenses	
• MACA	(\$44,318.08)
Total	(\$44,318.08)
Administrative expenses	
• AGM	(\$3,047.94)
• Website	(\$1,371.60)
• Charities fee	(\$51.11)
Total	(\$4,470.65)

# Balance Sheet

as of 30 June 2025

	2025
Assets	
Cash	\$16,893.54
Kai-Ewe Marae land	\$125,500.00
Total assets	\$142,393.54
Equity	
Total equity	\$142,393.54

The background features a series of light grey, wavy lines that originate from the top left and curve downwards and to the right, creating a sense of movement and depth. The lines are of varying thickness and spacing, contributing to a modern and organic aesthetic.

***Kāwhia Moana, Kāwhia Kai, Kāwhia Tāngata***