

Ngāmotu Marae Reservation

Chairperson's Report

For the Annual General Meeting

Held on

19 January 2025 in New Plymouth

Tenā koutou katoa.

In this financial year we experienced a number of highs and are slowly but surely inching our way to our targeted amount. Realising the aspirations of our whanau members, those before us who started this project and those of us who continue this kaupapa and remain steadfast in our desire to have our marae for our Hapū.

At this meeting there are amendments to the Charter which need to be ratified by you all. One of those amendments is to include the board members of the Hapū Society Inc being interim Trustees of the Ngāmotu Marae Reservation, joining the Trustees of the Ngāti Te Whiti Whenua Tōpu Trust in this role.

Despite the board members of the Hapū Society Inc not currently being interim Trustees, they have been attending marae meetings on a regular basis and supporting the current Trustees at community meetings which have been predominantly with potential funders.

Our relationship with Taranaki Foundation is developing. I mihi to Julie Healey and Kristie McCulloch for their work with Destination Kawaora as this has assisted us in forming the relationship with the Foundation and the wider community. The Foundation is hosting our Ngāmotu Marae funding website. Please check this site out and spread the word amongst your whanau and friends. This is the pathway for Hapu members to make a personal donation to the Marae or you and your friends can click on the QR code at the bottom of your agenda to make a donation.

As you will be aware our vision is that the marae is home for Ngāti Te Whiti and, as we do in our homes, host manuhiri and create authentic engagement with our community. A place where people feel welcomed in the spirit of manaakitanga. Envision how on Tupuna lived pre-colonisation where our marae is the hub for all Hapū activities, a place which is alive with people, our activities span across, cultural, economic and social domains. To exercise your right to be able to perform karanga, whaikorero, waiata. To have these experiences that some of us to date have never had, most importantly that our mokopuna do not have these experiences that by not having a marae and all that encompasses physically and spiritually. This is what we will create for our Hapu and our community.

I mihi to you, whom continue to support this kaupapa, who have the vision to see the value physically and spiritually that a marae will bring to Ngāti Te Whiti Hapū. I acknowledge the enormous work Pauline Lockett is doing in keeping our project going, the support from our Trustees and the contribution from the Ngāti Te Whiti Hapū Society Inc board members.

Ngā mihi

Linda McCulloch
Chairperson until 5 December 2024