

Ngāmotu Marae Reservation

Chairman's Report For the Annual General Meeting Held at Te Whare Hononga, New Plymouth, 13 December 2025

Tenā koutou katoa,

I want to start by thanking everyone for being here today. Mihi to our tūpuna, whose hard work and vision brought us to this point. We've carried their hopes with us, and now, we are about to take the next steps in making our marae a reality. This is an exciting moment, and it's thanks to all of you that we've come this far.

Progress and Achievements

This year has seen real progress:

- **Resource consent with NPDC** extended to 21 May 2026
- **Building consent** extended to 22 September 2026
- **Taranaki Regional Council discharge consent** valid until 30 June 2030
- **Heritage New Zealand archaeological authority** granted in November 2024

These approvals clear the way for construction and give us confidence as we move forward.

Fundraising and Support

We've been very fortunate to have strong support from our partners:

- **NZ Community Trust** – \$75,000
- **Parininihi Ki Waitotara** – \$20,000
- **Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa** – \$500,000
- **Toi Foundation** – \$2,000,000
- **Te Taha Māori Property Trust** – \$5,000,000

While the **Regional Infrastructure Fund** application for \$3.7m was unsuccessful, the support we've received has made **Plan B** possible—a **working, functioning marae** that our hapū can use now, while continuing to build toward the future.

Plan B – A Working Marae

Plan B focuses on what can be done with the resources we have:

- Completing infrastructure and civil works
- Building the ablution block
- Altering the wharekai to serve as a wharekai/wharenuī

This means Ngāti Te Whiti will soon have a marae that is **ready to use**, a place for gathering, sharing stories, and strengthening our culture.

Construction Milestone

On 5 December 2025, we signed the contract with **Clelands** for the infrastructure and civil works. Preparations are underway with contamination assessments and planning. Early January 2026 will see security fencing go up, followed by excavations and the first visible steps of construction. This is a historic moment for us all.

Governance and Gratitude

Our **joint governance team**—trustees of the Ngāti Te Whiti Whenua Tōpu Trust and board members of the Ngāti Te Whiti Hapū Society Inc—have shown commitment and dedication. Regular meetings ensure decisions are made carefully and in line with tikanga.

Special thanks to:

- **Pauline Lockett, our General Manager**, for her leadership and commitment
- The **joint governors**, whose expertise and energy have kept us moving forward
- Our **funding partners**, for believing in this kaupapa
- All **hapū members**, past and present, for your patience and support

Looking Ahead – Early 2026 and Beyond

The journey ahead is exciting, but we know it will come with challenges—both big and small. Plan B, our **working marae**, is about to start on site: fencing, site preparation, contamination assessments, and civil works will mark the beginning of what will become a home for our people.

Through this journey, it's important to remember why we are doing this. We are creating a place for our culture, our stories, and our people to thrive. **We as a hapū deserve this, and together, we will see it completed.**

This marae is bigger than any one of us. It is about community, connection, and legacy. It will be a home for wānanga, celebrations, learning, and gathering. A place where our tamariki and mokopuna can connect with their stories, history, and identity.

In closing, I want to leave you with a kōrero that has guided me through this journey:

When something good is much bigger than yourself, you will do what is required to complete it.

Ngāmotu Marae is bigger than any one of us—but together, as a hapū, we are making it a reality.

Nāku noa, nā, **Shelton Healey** Ngāti Te Whiti