

Chairpersons Report – AGM 2021

Tēnei te karanga
Tēnei te tangi
Kia tūwhera ngā tatau
I te whai ao
Ki te ao mārama.
Mai i te rangi ki te whenua
Tae noa ki ngā mea katoa i waenganui
Haumi e, hui e, tāiki e

COVID-19 has turned the world upside down. Everything has been impacted. How we live and interact with each other, how we work and communicate, how we move around and travel. Every aspect of our lives has been affected. Decisions made now and in the coming months will be some of the most important made in generations. We too must make decisions and be responsible and accountable stewards of the marae.

This was the beginning to my report for last AGM. Unfortunately, it still fits the bill. COVID-19 and now the Delta variant has cut a growing swathe of apprehension, awangawanga, mauui and wehenga tangata through our community and according to forecasters this is set to grow exponentially.

The best guidance I can give is

1. Vaccinate, vaccinate, vaccinate
2. Act as if you are a Level higher than what we are at.
3. Where and when you can, put together a pātaka ora hei oranga mou me tō whānau.

The committee continues to meet monthly and save for a couple of meetings these have mostly been on Zoom every 2nd Wed of the month. We have found that Zui has kept us timely and connected no matter where we are in the country.

As I project in my mind's eye a panorama of our marae. I turn to our whare karakia, our pou tūturu and I am impressed by the grand simplicity of its cut. He ramaroa mō te marae me te hāpori. Services held every month have been fervently shepherded by our kahui clergy. Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa. Reverends Joe, Phil, Anne and visiting clergy supported by ngā Kaikarakia – Grace, Michael, Isobella, Carolyn and Makarita.

Acknowledgement and thanks to Graham Withers and Denis Snelgar for the building of the ramp, providing the necessary access for all to the whare karakia. The high quality of work by Graham and Denis to complete the ramp is second only to the aroha that they have imbued into their mahi. Mahi tikana e kōrua.

Huritū ki ngā rārangi rākau (the Oak Trees). Thank you to Shane Mariu, who with others of his whanau completed the much needed mahi to cut back and cut down the Oak trees where required. This mahi was all about health and safety and to also protect the church. Ngā mihi to Shane me ōna pūkenga katoa.

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Hāere tonu ki te pā harakeke. We are thankful to Kairaranga Mandy Sunlite one of our extended whanau of the marae for her work in maintaining and caring for our pā harakeke. Together with helpers from Tikipunga High School and Huanui College this work is ongoing.

I want to acknowledge the mahi of teachers and students from Tikipunga High School and their swampland planting – a project to grow shade and provide a natural filter for the Mangakino stream behind the marae.

Haere tonu tāku titiro ki te maara kai. He aha te kōrero e kapi ana i tēnei mahinga. Mīharo rawa katoa te mahi o enei tohunga. The maara kai has reaped the rewards of committed hands, purposeful endeavour, and practical application. This committed ohu have fundraised the dollars (many thousands) to upgrade the garden bed, install an efficient irrigation system and a tank specifically for the garden as well as maintaining a planned planting regime that has grown multiple harvests of kai.

He kai kei aku ringa - There is food at the end of my hands. This whakatauki ably describes the resilience, empowerment, and hope of this small and determined “Gardening Club”. It covers nicely their skills and the resourcefulness they have demonstrated over the year. Ngā mihi ki a Auntie Mary, Anne, Denis, and the band of kaitūao that include, friends, mokopuna and from time to time Huanui College. I must mention and acknowledge the daily mahi undertaken by Denis to tame and beautify the area running alongside the Mangakino across the back of the marae. He ataahua.

The care and keeping of the marae relies on the tireless work of whanau kaitūao. Phil Graham and now Denis assault – marae maintenance in all its forms, inside and out, ki runga ki raro ki waenganui. Can we build it, can we fix it, can we improvise, Yes, we can (as long as its compliant) lol

Mā mua ka kite a muri, mā muri ka ora a mua -Those who lead give sight to those who follow, those who follow give life to those who lead

This whakatauki speaks to the importance of working together. It acknowledges and values the importance of leadership and te hāpai o ki muri. Both are essential and dependent on each other.

Ka piki tāku titiro ki etahi atu mahi o Pehiaweri Marae. Our accounts show that our mainstay of fundraising for the marae has been through our contracting to Ara Poutama – Corrections with the provision of tikanga programmes for tāne in their care and management. He mihi tēnei ki a Shirleyanne who has coordinated the 4-day programmes and to Joby who has maintained our connection with Ara Poutama, reporting and attending hui on our behalf. Ngā mihi to the small, committed group of whanau who have tirelessly contributed to the success of this kaupapa and ultimately the kohinga moni. At present COVID and the Delta variant has caused a hiatus in the schedule of programmes but hopefully we will be back in business soon. We have decided a different approach for the coming programmes that will see the marae holding tikanga wānanga for marae whanau to which tāne and their whanau can attend. We are looking to hold wānanga with specific focus, to build our capacity and

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capability and to share matauranga Māori with and to each other. Keep an eye out for them.

Our bookings have been capably handled managed by Carmen Snelgar. She took up this responsibility very soon after our last AGM and has been our front of house person dealing with enquiries, bookings, checking in and checking out bookings. Ngā mihi ki a koe.

The Whakairo project continues. Our status is that we have a facility along the road where we can store our rakau and where carving has been happening. A group of carvers-in-waiting under Peneamine have spent the last 30 months honing their skills to the point now where work for the marae can begin. It is an exciting work in progress. Phil & Piri are keeping a watchful eye on this mahi for the committee. We are grateful to a philanthropic trust introduced to us by Tony Kake last year for paying our rental of the facility.

Representation at the Ngāti Hau Trust Board, Whangārei Takiwā, Te Karearea has been held down by Mike, who is also our Tumu Whakarae. Jade Kake also contributes in active advocacy for our people and the community of Whangarei. Eliza has also bolstered our representation on the Ngāti Hau Trust Board.

North Haven Hospice - a continued labour of aroha for the community, mō tātou katoa. Acknowledgements to Rev Joe and our kahui kaumatua ever at the ready to support the needs of the hospice. Ngā mihi to Mike, Phil, Anne, and Grace.

Waiata Joy – a new way – during the lockdown. Uplifting ngā Wairua and flying the flag for Pehiaweri. Now Wai J is online every Tuesday night 6pm-7pm Live streamed through Ngāti Hine Fm, Pehiaweri Marae and Hātea kapa Haka Facebook (aka Meta) pages. Nga mihi ki a Joby me Marcia e kawē tonu nei i tēnei mahi.

Hātea is also in pause mode, while we wait for a level change in Tamaki so we can hold practices. It was a joy for Hātea to take the stage at the Maranga Mai E Te Iwi Whakangahau and a huge elation to have 100+ of the whanau of Pehiaweri Marae stand as Hātea Manawanui. Kaumatua, mātua, tamariki, mokopuna, I tū kotahi tātou. A kapa haka presentation of who we are fantastically done in style. Ae marika whanau he whakangahau papai rawa atu.

I return to our Komiti whakahaere and I acknowledge the mahi, the commitment, ngā piki, ngā heke, ngā mahi taumaha, ngā mahi katoa i oti ai mātou. Our Komiti had an injection of new faces with Piri, Mario, Joby, Nathan and Eliza coming onboard to join Phil, Mike, and myself. I can say that they hit the road running immediately that's for sure and have continued to do the mahi and generously contribute to the thinking that keeps Pehiaweri going. Underpinning this mahi is the skilled work of Eliza as Secretary who keeps us focussed and purposing ahead. She has also been instrumental in securing funding grants for the marae that will see much needed resources for the whare kai and whare nui. Eliza has also coordinated our latest application to Oranga marae. (watch this space) Ngā mihi ki a koe e te tuakana. Piri took over as Treasurer and in quick time made efficient changes to our systems that provided us with clarity

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and understanding of our accounts. His pūkenga tiaki putea provides us the confidence to be stewards of our financial resources and responsibilities. We are blessed to have him in charge of our financial propriety. Ka nui te mihi ki a koe e Piri.

Mike Kake as Tumu Whakarae has the responsibility of dealing with all the issues, concerns, raruraru, tangihanga enquiries and generally everything from whanau dynamics to Iwi and hapu politics and everything in between. These are important things which end up in our committee space but actually require a different skillset. Ngā mihi ki a koe e tāku tungāne.

Mine is the honour to be the Chair. I am thankful to God for his provision, for strength and support. I am thankful for this marae, to tātou nei marae. I am proud of who we are, where we have come from and where we are going. Ahakoa ngā piki me ngā heke ka ora tonu te marae o Pehiaweri

No reira e ngā mate huhua puta noa, ki a koe te hoia e Wati, haere ki Allan, ki Uncle Harry, ki a Teina, Sam, me Tai, ki a rātou ma. Haere atu ki te tini ki te mano ki tua o Paerau, ki te huinga o te kahurangi. Haere, haere, haere atu rā.

Ko te tapu o ngā kōrero ka irihia ki ngā patu o tēnei whare o tātou. Tūturu ōwhiti whakamaua kia tīna,

Haumi e hui e. Tāiki e.

Pauline Hopa

Chairperson

Pehiaweri Māori Church & Marae