

**Te Roopu Ahi Kaa: Te Ripoata Tiamana
Whiringa a Nuku 2025**

E ngā raurangatira ma o te rohe e huihui mai nei, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa!

I'd like to acknowledge whanau, hapu, & Iwi Maori across the Rangitikei and the motu who recently attended the Koroneihana held up at Turangawaewae Marae. This year we saw the ascension of the Kingitanga monarch, Te Arikinui Kuini, Nga wai hono I te po! This is a new generation, that will bring a new pool of thought! Maoridom look forward to following in her journey!

We also acknowledge the many mate we have seen across the rohe in this time period and also send our aroha to the whanau whanui of Tuwharetoa with the passing of Chief, Ta Tumu Te Heuheu VIII. His many attributes and legacies will be remembered and he will be sadly missed by Iwi Maori across the motu!

I would like to thank my fellow Te Roopu Ahi Kaa representatives who have given your time, whakaaro and attention to being a part of this Komiti. I would also like to acknowledge Mayor Andy, past CEO's Peter Beggs, Kevin Ross & our current CEO Carol Gordon for your collective mentoring and support given to me in this space. This is our last meeting for this triennium but also my last meeting as the Chair of Te Roopu Ahi. I have learnt a lot from you all and hopefully been an effective and efficient Chair over the last 3 years. The work never stops and at today's meeting we will be covering a number of BAU kaupapa and I'd like to mention just a couple of others of interest;

Our Mana whenua Strategic Advisor will be taking us through the

- Marae Development Fund
 - Applications will be sort
- Marae Responsiveness Framework
 - This is open for discussion

We will also be given an update of submissions that are before council at the moment

Finally, I would like to thank the staff that have provided support to this Komiti over the last triennium, thank you for allowing delegates the opportunity to ask questions, for showing your professionalism and standing in your own mana when things may have been challenging but ultimately for your willingness and openness to work with Te Roopu Ahi Kaa for the benefit of all residents & ratepayers Iwi, Maori and non Maori across the Rangitikei rohe.

If you haven't voted yet, please get out and let your voice be heard!

Whakatauaki!

"Kia mate ururoa, kei mate wheke!"

"Fight like a shark, don't surrender like an octopus!"

This proverb encourages a fighting spirit and perseverance. Just as a shark will fight to the end when caught, one should not give up when things get difficult.

Piki Te Ora Hiroa, Tiamana
Ngati Whitikaupeka