

Te Roopu Ahi Kaa: Te Ripoata Tiamana Hereturikōkā 2026

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

Morena koutou, and welcome to our Hui for this glorious August day!

Firstly, he mihi aroha ki te Kaiwhakaere matūa, mo te tangihanga o tana pāpā i te wā nei, haere, haere, haere e te pāpā ki tō moenga roa!

The multitude of kaupapa that are sitting in front of Marae, Hapu, Iwi, Te Ao Tūroa, Aotearoa and Te Aō katoa is mind blowing and fraught with dire consequences if we get things wrong.

With what we have on today's Agenda, I'd like to acknowledge the effort that has been put in by this council and our Mayor in several areas

1. Hui with Iwi around the rohē looking to initiate Mana Whakahono a rohe processes
2. Additional workshop hui with Te Roopu ahi Kaa and the Head Start Process
3. Recruitment of the new Strategic Advisor- Mana Whenua kaimahi
4. Relationship maintenance and building done with ratepayers, residents, community and networks/businesses

Our newly appointed Mana Whenua – Strategic Advisor has provided a clear report on some of the hui he has attended but also networks he will be able to grow and strengthen over time. I'd like to acknowledge, the northern and southern Marae that he has met with so far and encourage the rest of Te Roopu Ahī Kaa to open the door for him to meet with your respective Marae representatives.

In regard, to the sign off for the Updated Marae Development Fund and Guidelines, I'd like to thank everyone for their work in this space and am confident this will be dealt with today.

The Resource Management Act reform space is another one of those kaupapa where the diminishing of Māori/Iwi voice is imminent and planned. This will be another interesting korero to be had with our Strategy Manager in this space!

Changes that are being pushed forward by the co-alition government around the Simplifying Local Government reform program, and the implications this has on Māori/Iwi voice is clear. We are being told that Statutory Treaty commitments and localised arrangements will remain however nothing is certain. This very issue is relevant to the actual existence of networks such as Te Rōpu Ahi Kaa in the future. With the four northern Iwi, still in the midst of a Waitangi Claims Settlement Process and our settled Iwi, Ngā Wīriki Ngāti Apa, navigating through the effects of proposed changes is still to be seen.

We will also need to keep a close eye on how well the newly established "Central Districts Water" CCO delivers for the ratepayers, residents, rural water scheme users, Marae who fit the category of water suppliers and businesses of the Rangitikei once this comes into effect.

Lastly, those on the Māori electoral role, have three candidates contesting the Te Tai Hauāuru seat in this election, I implore you all to ensure you advocate and encourage whanau, Hapu, Iwi and community to get out and vote in this election! Things to think about and get yourselves informed on are whether you are prepared to support the policies, programs, initiatives, and bills that have come out in this term or use your voice and pen to vote for change!

Whakatauaki!

"Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu!" "Adorn the bird with feathers so it can fly!"

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This proverb recognises that we must provide ourselves and others with the right support and care to succeed.

Piki Te Ora Hiroa, Tiamana
Ngati Whitikaupeka