



## **Report of the Ngatokowaru Marae Committee to the Trustees March 2009**

The Ngatokowaru Marae Committee has managed the day to day running of the marae maintaining the grounds, buildings and the driveway. For over 30 years we have been assisted with grounds maintenance by Community Corrections in Levin and we have now entered into a formal arrangement with them to continue this for 2009. To this end we have purchased 2 new mowers giving us four mowers for the use of the mowing team and we have undertaken to provide the petrol for the job. We are grateful for the assistance of the supervisor and his team.

A Working Bee held in November was very well attended and resulted in the buildings being water blasted, painting of windows in the Meeting house, and the removal and replacement of spouting on the Dining Room. Inside there was spring cleaning and stock taking. Many who were present expressed interest in another day in 2009 and this is now scheduled for April.

The driveway has been largely maintained by our neighbour in the past year and the Everton whānau provide a contribution to the ongoing maintenance. Those at the November working bee also filled potholes and undertook maintenance.

Raumatangi has been extremely well cared for by Whiwahi Winiata and whānau for some months now and it has made the job easier for those who come to contribute in smaller ways. We currently have an application for funding in to the Lottery Grants Board for the renovation of Ema Hapai Nicholson's grave. It is of historical significance and after having had some strengthening done it has been assessed by a Conservation Engineer and an architect who have recommended further structural stabilisation, cleaning and remedial work. We have a recommendation to this effect and seek your approval for this. We have whānau who have asked for the opportunity to make a regular contribution via automatic bank transfer to marae accounts such as the cemetery account. We have provided pay-in slips for this and acknowledge their contribution.

### **Marae Use**

The marae has been used regularly in the past year. A record of that use is attached. We have found that we have many whānau wanting to use the marae for a variety of activities and where possible we support these. It is notable that we have many whānau who are competent and confident to support many of these hui.

## Hapū Development

Ngatokowaru is in its third year of a partnership with the JR McKenzie Trust Board which has promoted and supported a whānau development project at Ngatokowaru, one of four throughout New Zealand. The project involved us in offering three hui each year for whānau development and in supporting a mentoring programme which has been very successful. We are moving into the final year of this being a funded programme and we have held 5-6 hui each year for this programme. It has also enabled us to support a whānau coordinator position for a two year period.

## Hapū Planning

In 2006 we developed a five year hapū plan and each year we have identified goals for the Marae Committee to achieve in that year. This has helped to focus our efforts, to consider the range of activities we wished to engage in and to invite those with particular expertise to contribute.

## Website Development

Graeme Everton has developed the website and assisted with the updating of this. We would like this to be done more regularly as we have many whānau who now rely on it for information.

## Te Patai

Leanne Harrison and Hiramoa Paurini live in the homestead Te Patai and keep an eye on the marae for us. We are pleased to have them in the house and it provides us with the opportunity to maintain the building and grounds.

## Iwi representation

Ngāti Pareraukawa has representation on various bodies such as the Raukawa Trustees, Te Runanga o Raukawa, Raukawa District Council and various sub-committees of those groups. We acknowledge those who represent us.

## **Recommendations**

1. That this report be received.
2. That an application to the Lottery Marae Heritage and Facilities Committee for \$4040 to stabilise and restore the grave of Ema Hapai Winiata (nee Nicholson) be approved.

**Rachael Selby**

**Ngatokowaru Marae Committee Chair**