

Minutes of Korongata Marae

Hui-ā-Hapū

Saturday 4th August 2018, Korongata Marae

Hui started: 9:15 am

Attendees -

Marae Trustees: Alayna Watene, Barney Tihema, Queen Ngahuka, Kathleen O'Shaughnessy, Te Aroha Sheree Manihera, Christine Tamati, Laura Kele-online (7)

Apologies: Steve Tipu, Whareki Maere (2)

Whānau: Stella Hokianga, Waereti Gray, Doreen Tipoki, Trish Tihema, Irene de Thierry, Rahunga Te Aho, Dulcy Tihema, Shona Manihera, Parlie Wainohu, Graham Brooking, Chantal Mitchell, Donna Hapuku, Jason Kingi, Raewyn Keil, Pauline Toheriri, Mere Ruru, Georgina Toheriri, Leilani Wong, Rose Reid, Harataki Manihera, Mihi Te Aho, Sandra Tamati, Geraldine Abbott (Wainohu), Fiona Wainohu, Kahui Brooking, Kevin Tamati, Crystal Deacon, Porky Mareikura, Akarana Hapi, Jules Toheriri, David Pere, Darlene Fa'alele, Kay Patena, Traci Tuimaseve, James Reid, Sue Morrison, Rangipaki Wainohu, Vanessa Sadler, Tui Kingi, Hine Parahi, Maysie Kenrick (Wainohu), Moe Taurima, Charlene Otene, Karen North, Ruth Wong, Shona Hopa and Edlan Morrison. (47)

Live streaming: Ashley Puriri, Pam Ferris, Marina SciaScia, Margaret McGuire, Lee McLean, Donna Rutter, Des Ratima, Karlene Puriri, Miria Pere, Rosina Cowan, Willie Ropez, Rose Marie Pai, Raukura Manihera, Killarny Jeffares, Cilla Abbott, Lester and Sabrina White, Iraani Vlasoff, Kelly Hapi Snr, Roseanne White, Christina Wainohu, Geraldine Cowan, (82 Comments, 3 Shares 758 views)

Mihimihi: Barney Tihema

Karakia: Edlan Morrison

Facilitator: Alayna Watene (Trustees Chair) facilitated the hui on behalf of the trustees.

Purpose: Last Friday a notice was sent out through the marae communications network – facebook, iwi pānui, website, Radio Kahungunu, letterbox drop and school/kohanga pānui, informing the whānau of the indefinite closure of the Wharenui Nukanoa due to health and safety reasons.

The purpose of this hui-ā-hapū was to meet with whānau kanohi ki te kanohi and inform the whānau of the 'Health and status of the Marae Report and recommendations that were endorsed by the Korongata Marae Trustee Committee hui' held on 3 August 2018.

Background: Last Friday 27th July the Marae Executive Committee presented a 'Health and status of the Marae Report' to the Marae Trustees Committee but there were not enough trustees in attendance to make a quorum. However due to the important nature of the report, the indefinite closure of the Wharenui Nukanoa was announced immediately after that meeting as a matter of urgency as supported by the trustees who were in attendance. The trustees met again last night, 3 August and were able to receive the report unitedly as

a quorum and endorse some of the proposed recommendations as noted hereafter.

It's important that as trustees we don't speak for Korongata unless we are united. As soon as we put the notice out, we realised that it wasn't good enough. When we put the notice out, we were being sensible and prudent, but on our tikanga side, we immediately saw the need to hold this hui today.

The Report: A summary of the 'Health and status of the Marae Report' was handed out and read aloud as follows:

KORONGATA MARAE TRUSTEES COMMITTEE DECISION PAPER 'SUMMARY'

Date: 3 August 2018
To: The Marae Trustees Committee
From: The Marae Committee
Subject: Health and Safety Status of our Marae – Fix up or Re-build?

Purpose

We love our marae and we are proud of our heritage, our culture, our customs, our traditions, our memories, our upbringing on the marae, and the history that Korongata Marae has in our hearts and minds through generations of time. It is our intention to provide this report with recommendations to preserve the values and mana of our whanau and marae for the safety, health and wellbeing of our whanau/hapu, our future generations and others who will come to the marae.

It has been brought to our attention that the marae is not 'fit for purpose' as it is deteriorating at a rapid pace. For this reason this report has been prepared for the Korongata Marae Trustee Committee to read and approve the recommendations provided.

The Marae Committee met on Wednesday 25 July 2018 and we fully endorse Option 2 in this decision paper. We now need the endorsement of the Marae Trustees to proceed accordingly. This is urgent and requires a decision from the Trustees today or as soon as possible.

Background

- 1. There are concerns for the wharenuī – Nukanoa and its building structure and strength.*
- 2. The building is 106 years old. It is natural for a building this old to weaken and deteriorate.*
- 3. Over time the wharenuī has had some little maintenance work done to help preserve its natural state and beauty. Some work has included repainting, replacing some old flooring and wall boards that had rotted away, fixing the ceiling and minor patches, and one major job was the re-roofing done around 2009-2010.*
- 4. The crazy paving around the marae was done prior to 2000 to help beautify and enhance the marae and allow for a pathway around the marae.*
- 5. Specifically over the past 10 years whanau members have noticed the crazy paving around the marae seems to be rising, which appears that the marae is sinking.*
- 6. There are issues surrounding the water drainage from the spouting of the marae because when it rains, it floods outside the back entrance area of the marae. Water seems to be draining into the ground causing the ground to be soft. It does look like the marae is slowly sinking or the ground around the marae looks to be rising.*

7. *Recently a 'Letter of Concern' was sent to some of the Marae trustees via email. A serious health and safety incident took place while whanau were staying at the marae during a tangihanga. I, (Ruth Wong) was also privy to that letter as I was also sent the email.*
8. *My advice to the Trustees Chairperson Alayna Watene was for the trustees to acknowledge the letter and authorise the Marae Committee to follow up with the work to be done to avoid future incidents. Alayna was fully supportive and gave approval.*
9. *We believe that the incident surrounded the lack of lighting at the back entrance to the marae, the extra depth of the steps which has caused whanau to miss the steps and trip over in the past, and the uneven crazy paving which may have caused damage during the fall.*
10. *In response to this incident and considering the jobs to be done at the marae, it led to other concerns ie. If we fix the steps, we need to fix the crazy paving and if we fix the crazy paving we need to fix the drainage, and to fix the drainage we need to identify the illusion of the sinking marae issue.*
11. *On Tuesday 17th July 2018 Michelle Ferris, Shona Hopa and I (Ruth Wong) met with GEMCO Construction Limited management staff, to seek advice on work needing to be done on our marae. Initially my call to them was to discuss working on the unfinished drainage work they quoted us for back in 2017 when Ryan Watene was the Marae Committee Chairman.*
12. *What transpired from the GEMCO visit was great advice from professionals to us about the state of the marae and the maraes slow deterioration. The following is a record of their verbal advice to us, followed by our recommendations to you the Trustees.*

State of our Marae

1. *It is clearly noticeable from looking at the marae from outside that the walls are bowing outward and the roof is caving inward. Because of the way the building is acting it indicates that the integrity and strength of the ridge has gone and there is a major issue.*
2. *It also appears that the crazy paving is rising or the marae is sinking. Either way, there is an issue surrounding water drainage and possibly ground water levels that may have caused further building issues hence the sinking illusion.*
3. *Basically we have two options: a) Fix up the current marae, or b) Build a new marae.*

The Trustees moved the following two motions at their Trustee meeting on Friday 3rd August:

“That the Korongata Marae Trustees acknowledge receipt of the Health and Safety Status of our Marae Report”

“That the Korongata Marae Trustees endorse the closure of the Wharenui – Nukanoa and declare it unfit for purpose due to health and safety issues”

As Trustees we are all liable. We had indications earlier that we did not comply because we are not fire compliant. We’ve known about some issues for a while but now we have been presented with a report, we cannot ignore it.

At the Trustees hui held last night Friday 3rd August, the Trustees agreed to hold a wānanga on the 22nd September 2018 which will coincide with the Korongata Marae AGM – to further discuss the history of our hapū, Nukanoa, Matariki etc. In that Wānanga we will know where we should go from there. EIT is running a marae cookery class here at the marae this month and we are hoping that they will cater and provide manaakitanga - lunch and hakari dinner for the day. Please let the whānau know about this panui, especially our elderly.

A pānui was handed out to the whānau with information about the wānanga.

- Discussion:** The hui was open for anyone to speak, to ask questions or give comments. The following was recorded. The hui-ā-hapū was also recorded and posted live on facebook for whānau who live outside the region to be kept informed. Some comments were made, however it was not appropriate to address those comments during the hui, but we have encourage our whānau to come to the wānanga.
- K Tamati: 10 years ago I was the Chair of the Trustees Committee when we had the re-fixed Nukanoa. It was a huge job. Nukanoa's main beam was replaced, the roofing replaced with a new roof, and the base of Nukanoa was repiled or levelled and the repile was concreted. 10 years ago he was firm. I'm not sure what happened with the down pipes but there are no down pipes out there at the moment. With the heavy rain we've had, and no down pipes, the water is going under the paving, it was only a matter of time before his shoes would go again. That's the situation we've got. When it rains the water falls straight down the side and underneath. The foundations have been wilting away. Sadly that's the problem we have. In regards to what we do for the future, mine is to report what happened 10 years ago. The work had been done once before.
- B Tihema: The work had been partly done. We put the iron on it. We knew there was a major problem but we just wanted to seal it temporarily to stop any more water getting into it but the ridge and all the timber in there was virtually on its way out. We also fixed the back wall, but if you touch the back wall now, it kind of shakes a little....which is probably good in an earthquake hence it hasn't fallen over. What I'd like to see is a written report. Since I've been around, the walls have always been bowed and the roof has always been like it is and it's stood the test of time. It would be really good to see an assessment to actually show that 100% this place is going to fall down. If we've got that report, we should look at that. At the moment there's nothing formal. I also want to know if there was originally a pou tuarongo at the back of the wharenuui and did it go into the ground?
- M Taurima: Do you have a report from the Hastings District Council for code of compliance for buildings or for the whare?
- B Tihema: We would have had one when we got the work done to be compliant for Te Matatini to host roopu. The only thing we were told back then was that we couldn't sleep over 40 people and we had to comply for fire safety reasons.
- M Taurima: On the Council report it will state what we need to look at to be compliant and the reason why we're only allowed to have 40. Those are the parts that we have to look at either fixing or replacing. If we have that report, we would know the parts we need to look at.
- T Tuimaseve: The only thing that restricted the amount of people who could stay in the wharenuui was regarding fire hazard.
- A Watene: We were subsidy finance from the council to help prepare our marae for Te Matatini. One of our needs was the drainage issue. Back then we were told that the drainage was a liability. I thought we could fix this, but it was an expensive job. The cost quote was \$40k. The estimate quote on repairs is around \$600k or build new at a significantly lower cost. We haven't delved into that. We totally agree that some research needs to be done. But first we need to wānanga with the whānau.

- P Mareikura: I commend the trustees for the steps they've taken. We do need to know our history and who our tipuna Nukunua was. If it goes off and I hope it does, will there be a series of Wānanga? I know we want to fix up and get our whare up and going but there's a lot of discussion to go around at the same time ie, carvings and decorating and all the other things that go along with that korero. At least we're on the starting line.
- M Taurima: My whānau give our apologies for the 22 September wānanga because we won't be here. (Christopher's 21st Birthday that same day).
- A Watene: We'll start with the korero about the history so when we make decisions, it needs to be done unitedly.
- C Tamati: This is just the first korero. There will be more to follow.
- T Tuimaseve: There will be opportunity to video and live stream for those whānau who can't make one wānanga or another. The more that can input from wherever they are would be good to hear.
- K Tamati: Surely our wānanga takes second over what we do to our tipuna.
- A Watene: If we understand the history at the time the whare was built, it will help us be informed. There are reports on various writings. We need to be wise about our plans. Do we do it up and it lasts another 50 years or do it up properly and rebuild and it lasts another 200 to 300 years. It's also about our identity because Nukunua is also about where we fit in Te Ao Māori of Kahungunu and Aotearoa and the world.
- K Tamati: I'm not arguing with you that wānanga isn't important but what's important is that our tipuna is falling over.
- A Watene: It's a huge investment and we don't know if it's a waste of time doing it that way or whether it's wiser doing it another way.
- B Tihema: The wānanga in terms of the whare kōrero is one thing and the wānanga about the mahi-a to actually get Nukunua up and going is another korero. The wānanga about the mahi will be important because it will be about making a decision. Based on all the engineers reports do we fix Nukunua or do we rebuild. There's only two questions there. If we can go yes to either then what that does for us as a hapu is that it defines what we need to do.
- A Watene: That's what the trustees agreed with last night. We need to wānanga. The trustees shouldn't make this decision. Next month is a reasonable timeframe to get started together.
- K Tamati: The reason I stood up earlier was to inform everyone that we've already spent time on repairing him (Nukunua) fixing him up. You're not in a new situation. Unfortunately we now have to decide whether we fix him up or knock him down and rebuild. Now knowing what we went through 10 years ago, unfortunately that would be my suggestion. I'm biased. I've been there before.
- D Pere: To go forward we need to hold wānanga to say we need to rebuild. Fixing it is going backwards. There's only one way forward and that's the new. Go from the bottom up, not the top down. We don't have a solid foundation and that's what we need. I agree

we need to learn the process in the wānanga. It's all about timing to get things in place. It will all work out.

- C Tamati But if we do that (pull Nukanoa down), there's the right process to do that. The right way forward is to hold our wānanga to learn the process.
- B Tihema No one is arguing about process, I think we all need a whare korero wānanga. It's just about the timeframe.
- T Tuimaseve Is the wharenuī off limits regardless of whether fix or rebuild?
- A Watene Yes it's off limits. We cannot ignore the report. Until we collect those geotech reports and until we know, yes the wharenuī Nukanoa is closed.
- M Te Aho Are the grounds open for use? Can we put up tents, a marquee?
- A Watene Yes, and the ablution block and Matariki are still available for hireage/use. For tupapaku, Mihiroa never use the wharenuī, they use a marquee. Korongata and Ngati Poporo are still with us.
- M Taurima We have used marquees in the past.
- B Tihema Yes and we are saying that that can continue. The marae will still be here to use.
- H Manihera I'm like Kevin. There's a job to do. I understand the kōrero around that. I want to know the whakapapa but we need to move on to acknowledge the mahi. We know what needs to be done. That's my voice. It should have been done, but it wasn't done. Thank you to the present and past committees that keep this waka moving. We know what needs to be done. Let's just get to it.
- P Toheriri I'm here to tautoko you. I am the one who sent in a letter of concern regarding a health and safety incident. I've come today for a positive view about moving forward. We're going in the right direction. Thank you for acknowledging my letter.
- R Marsh On behalf of the Marsh whānau, we were booked in for our reunion in April 2019. We've been around to a lot of marae's but they are booked out. Can we hire mattresses from here?
- B Marsh Bring your tent or marquee here to Korongata.
- K Patena Kia kaha whānau. It's a hard job trying to please the hapū iwi whānui. I want to see us go forward. I also booked the marae and am glad to hear we can still use the wharekai and ablution block. We'll be supportive no matter what. I will try to help out wherever I can.
- M Kenrick Taraia marae went through all of this before. The whānau became united and of one mind. This has happened here for the same reason. We can start a beautiful journey and be on the same page for our mokopuna. Let's start with the wānanga to bring us together as one.
- R Reid On behalf of the Puriri whānau I tautoko the wānanga to start bringing whānau together and also to learn our whakapapa – all these things that bring our families together as one body, one mind, for our tamariki.

- R Keil For the wānanga I'd like to see that we go ahead and work on Nukanoa. Learn the history than work on how we want Nukanoa to look.
- A Watene I visited Buffy Crawford. He's one of the oldest on the male line. He has a lot of knowledge. He was a trustee of this marae in the 1960's. We need to bring our whānau home to be on same page, one mind, one heart. It will make us stronger going forward. We need all whānau to come and we need to hear their whakaaro.
- P Mareikura Tautoko, that kōrero. Once our kaumātua go, their gone. We need to ask questions and get that knowledge. I never realised growing up how special they are, but they are.
- A Watene Whānau want to feel safe and positive. They say they don't want to be pulled down.
- P Wainohu Have come back for our dad who isn't well. I love seeing all the youtube clips and seeing pictures on facebook about Korongata. Even though we're over there (Australia), I will always be from Bridge Pa. I'm still Ngati Poporo. Growing up the kai hall was in a different place. So many people have passed on. I used to talk to Aunty Joyce and we always used to talk about Bridge Pa. I have good memories of Bridge Pa. Good to be home.
- C Otene Grateful to have been brought up in Bridge Pa. With our Dad not being well, our whānau are here. Grateful to have all the brothers and sisters together. We thought we could bring dad here when he passes away but its not meant to be. We've talked about it. I want to know if we can use the showers. We expected 9 but there are about 39 of us. All my nannies and my upbringing made me the person I am today. Grateful for being here. Let's all be positive and build up Nukanoa.
- R Wainohu The most important thing I've heard today is that when you push the back wall it shakes. When we were kids and pushed the back wall it shook then. But this is serious. This is a perfect opportunity to firm him up, not for us but for our future. Too much hui, not enough doey.
- A Watene Thanked everyone for coming to the hui and for all the contribution.
- R Wong Please ensure you have filled in the attendance register so you can be kept informed.

Future Bookings:

It was agreed that the marae ablution block and wharekai can still be hired out to whānau. For this purpose we will be adjusting the hireage information slightly to reflect this. The marae committee will meet before this information can be uploaded onto the website and whānau informed.

Karakia: Edlan Morrison

Hui ended: 10:35am

Note taker: Ruth Wong.

HE PĀNUI	
KORONGATA MARAE	
AGM & WĀNANGA	
22 September 2018, 9am	
• 9-10am	AGM
• 10:15am	Morning Tea
• 10:30am	Wānanga
• 1:00pm	Lunch
• 2:00pm	Wānanga
• 6:00pm	Hakari
	Kuamutu