

Meeting of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council Māori Committee

Date: 6 November 2024
Time: 11.00am
Venue: Council Chamber
Hawke's Bay Regional Council
159 Dalton Street
NAPIER

Attachments Excluded From Agenda

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6.	Take Ripoata ā Takiwā – Taiwhenua representatives' updates	
	Attachment 1: Henare Mita - Wairoa Taiwhenua report	2

**HBRC Māori Committee Meeting 11am,
Wenerei 6th Noema 2024
Nuhaka Purongo ā-Takiwā,
Henare Mita (Wairoa Taiwhenua)**

E tika ana kia aro ake te titiro ki Ihowa-ō-ngā-mano nāna nei ngā mea katoa i hanga. Kia whakanuia a ia me te tangi mōteatea ki a rātou kua nunumi ki te po. Ka tae po, rātou ki a rātou, ka tae awatea, tātau ki a tātau. E te ti, e te taa, tēnā tātau me ngā kaupapa o te wā hei whakaarotanga, hei kōrerotanga ma tātau, ma te Komiti Māori. Tēnei ahau e mihi atu ana.

[This report is informational only and requires no decisions to be made on the part of the HBRC Māori Committee. It is recommended that this committee receive the report.]

Te Iwi o Rakaipaaka Trust (TIORT) Taiao Wānanga:

On Saturday the 5th of October TIORT held a Taiao Wānanga, hosted at Kahungunu Marae and facilitated by taiao advisor Leana Bariball who has been contracted to develop a Ngāti Rakaipaaka Taiao Management Plan. Leana addressed a number of salient topics such as identifying sites of significance and the history relating to them. We discussed mahinga kai areas, our values and aspirations pertaining to the environment and the type of working relationship we are seeking to foster with our local authorities. We are fortunate to have someone of her calibre to guide us through these many tasks, her knowledge, experience and insight as a scientist, absolutely invaluable to us. Her presentation focused on three areas: Mōrere, Kōkohu and the Hīrere Stream.

Ngā Hua o Mōrere:



In time and in association with Rongomaiwahine Iwi Trust (RIT) and the Department of Conservation (DOC), TIORT will assume the management of Ngā Hua o Mōrere, our visit a glimpse into how this matter is progressing. Graeme Symes spoke about some of the history of Mōrere, followed by Leana demonstrating procedures and protocols related to water testing. Naturally enough there was a discussion about the medicinal and weaving properties of different plants, all of us, with so little indigenous flora left in Nuhaka, soaking up our surroundings.

Kōkohu:

Kōkohu is an area of cultural significance to Rakaipaaka but more specifically the hapū, Ngai Te Kauwaha/Kauaha. Their mountain Mauwhiri stands here and Leana, herself of Ngai Te Kauwaha descent, was eager to hear information relating to this area. The photo below (far right) shows the Kōkohu Limestone Quarry, some whanau alarmed at its growth, while others

are unhappy that there are no locals amongst their workers. Next to it, is a photo with whānau in the foreground, and a line of large hills acting as a backdrop. Derrick Hickling was told that tucked away in a valley amongst these hills, situated about half-way up one of them and trickling out of solid bedrock, flows a continuous stream of fresh water. It is believed that this water originates from Waikaremoana.

On the far left, we have a photo of an area where some Ngai Te Kauwaha whānau once lived. A member of one of those whānau, Jayell Smith recalled some of her childhood memories here, while Moira Ropitini spoke about the experiences of her mother. Both were surprised at how small the waterfall in the background was, usually the volume of water cascading down from these hills is far greater. They also spoke of a more recent initiative where an earthquake monitoring system was installed on this property along with satellite telemetry technology to record and transmit the gathered data.



Hīrere Stream:



Our last site visit was the Hīrere Stream. For those of us brought up in the village, the Hīrere was a special area, a place where we could get away from our parents and not get into too much trouble. We would fish, eel, swim, whitebait and generally run amuck. Work undertaken by TIORT has transformed the landscape here and some whānau now use the newly prepared path as their regular walk. However the Hīrere forms part of the Aramātua Incorporated Landblocks, and so access can be an issue. This aside, the entire area in terms of its cultural significance to Rakaipaaka is hugely important, so gathering information on the Hīrere, the Nuhaka river and surrounding lands is crucial to our Taiao Management Plan.

The photo to the far right is a recently excavated drain that runs from Tamakahu Street to the Hīrere and forms part of TIORT’s flood mitigation plan for this area following floods during Cyclone Gabrielle and the later November storm.

Second Taiao Wānanga:

On Tuesday the 15th of October, another Taiao Wānanga was held at Kahungunu Marae. The facilitators of this wānanga were Poipoia Limited, acting on behalf of Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa (TToTW). Poipoia staff, Pia Pohatu and Kate Walker were tasked with assisting TIORT in the development of a Ngāti Rakaipaaka Taiao Management Plan with a specific focus on Te Mana o Te Wai. The ultimate goal is for all TToTW kāhui to develop their own individual Taiao Management Plans, that will sit collectively, under the umbrella of their parent body. As a member of the TToTW Taiao team, Leana Bariball was present to help guide and advise us, as Pia and Kate led us through their programme.

To help break up our day, the itinerary also included guest speakers. Benita Tahuri for instance delivered an informative discussion on certain aspects of Rongoa Māori, while Moira of the Department of Conservation (DoC) gave a detailed talk about Mōrere. She was followed by her colleague Theresa Chick, who spoke about the need for kāhui to develop policy, processes and procedures regarding whale strandings. All three speakers were well received and provoked healthy, robust discourse. Our final activity focussed on the Hīrere Stream, Pia and Kate by now, having to work overtime to extract as much information as possible from us; it had been a long, tiring day.

[It is recommended that this committee receive this report]