

Te Puāwaitanga

*‘Kia tipu he puāwai hōnore, mō te
pani, mō te rawakore e’*

Serving the Community for
Forty Years.

1984
2024



TE WHĀNAU O WAIPAREIRA
KŌKIRITIA | ROTO | TE KOTAHITANGA



He Hokinga Mahara, He Maimai Aroha

Kei aku rau tītapu o te pō moe mai rā



E rongo

E rongo, ki te tangi o te ngākau e kapa ana
Mō te tira kua rere ki te pae o ngā rangi
Rangi runga, papa raro, tipu ana e ngā uri
Pū te wai o Pareira, inuhia kia ora e

E te kura, e takoto i tō waka tapu ana
Koe te huia, kua ngaro mai te hunga, o te ora
Rere runga, tiro raro, mahuetia i ō uri
Ringihia ō roimata, mākū ai kia noa e

Kōtuku reretahi ki te toi o ngā rangi
Rite ki a Rarohenga, kia rite ki a mataora
Pū ko te Whānau Ora, ara mai he tētēkura
Kura nui, kura roa, whakamau kia ora e

E te hau kōrure ana ki runga o te Huia
Tini whetū ki te rangi whiti nuku whiti rangi
Ko taku koroingo, ko te iwi momoho
Kōkiritia e. Mana motuhake e

Poutamatia te ora ki te wai o Rēhua
Tāuwhitia te iwi. Āio pīpipi
Kia pou ko te aho, kia rewa te wawata
Maiorotia te ora, kia mau, kirikawa
Mā te huru ka rere te manu e

*Nā Mereana
Rangihuna April
2009*

*Nā Te Kurataiaho
Kapea & Rawiri
Waititi 2012*

*Nā Rawiri Waititi
2016*

*Nā Te Kurataiaho
Kapea 2021*

Preface

RAY HALL

*Tihei mauri ora
Ki te whaiao, ki te ao mārama.
Ko te inoi ki te Kaihanga, whakaungia mai tō aroha ki ō mātou ngākau.
Ki ō tātou tini mate, e kore koutou e warewaretia.
Nō reira, atu i a rātou mā, ko tātou e toe ana, arā ko te hunga ora, tēnā tātou e noho nei.
Anei e whai atu nei ko ā mātou kōrero hei pānuitanga mā koutou. Kei taua rerenga whānui ētahi kupu whakamārama hei tirohanga atu.
Ka mutu, mā te Atua koutou me ō koutou whānau e manaaki, e tiaki, tēnā koutou katoa*

What a magnificent achievement, serving our community for forty years.

The moemoeā of those who have come before us have blossomed into this wonderful expression of to Māori by Māori, for Māori success which Te Whānau o Waipareira represents.

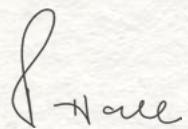
We remember fondly all those who have brought us to where we are today as urban Māori and acknowledge everyone who continues to work tirelessly so our mokopuna may enjoy a brilliant future.

Through the highs and lows, the challenges and triumphs, we have remained united. At every step, our commitment to whānau Māori and one another has never wavered.

This is our greatest strength and will serve us well as we continue united into the future.

Kōkiritia i roto i te kotahitanga.

We hope you enjoy this reminder of our proud journey together as Te Whānau o Waipareira.



Ngā manaakitanga,
Raymond Hall
Chair, Te Whānau o Waipareira Trust



Foreword

JOHN TAMIHERE

*Ka rere taku manu kaewa ki te keokeonga tapu o Titirangi
Ka whai atu i ngā waiora o Waikūmete, ka puta atu rā ki ngā tai karekare o Te Waitematā.
Hokaina whakateuru ki ngā whenua haumako o Hoani Waititi Marae, te āhuru mōwai
mō tātou e noho tāone nei. Ka tau atu taku manu ki runga o te Whare Whānau. Matike,
maranga, e tū Te Whānau o Waipareira.*

*Whārikihia mai ko ngā mate huhua e takoto mai nā ki ngā marae maha puta noa i te
motu, kia tangihia, kia mihia, kia poroporoakitia, haere, haere, moe mai rā.
Hoki mai ki a tātou ngā kanohi ora, nau mai ki tēnei maumaharatanga ki ngā 40 tau o
Whānau Waipareira. Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa.*

After years of recognising the struggle Māori were having adjusting to urbanisation, a smart cohort of kaumātua got together in the mid 1960s and informed Māori Committees under the Māori Community Development Act 1961.

We are talking about members of our community with a range of blue-collar occupations like housewives, teachers, apprentices, storemen, social workers, railway workers, freezing workers and wharf workers. All regular people, but with the pivotal difference of taking an idea and actively following it through.

By the early 1980's there were 56 Māori organisations in West Auckland. Five branches of the Māori Women's Welfare League, eight Tū Tangata school parent support groups, five Māori committees under the Māori Community Development Act 1962; Kokiri Basic Skills Centre management group, Rōpu Kaumātua, ten Kohanga Reo, five marae committees, two Māori Warden's Associations and an Honorary Officers Committee alongside various youth and sports groups.

These multiple Māori movements helped fund and set up Hoani Waititi Marae. The movement grew and culminated.

On August 21, 1984, twenty of these kaumātua signed the Application to Incorporate a Trust Declaration certifying Te Whānau o Waipareira Trust.

Where you come from has a lot to do with where you are going. Feeling displaced and adjusting to a colonised city environment put Māori at an instant disadvantage. Our founders had the nous to collectively set in motion a movement that would support Māori to adjust, to grow, to settle and a place to belong too, somewhere they were always welcome. They created a connection. And it was accomplished with manaakitanga, whakawhanaungatanga, aroha and wairuatanga, the exact same values that make up our Te Kauhau Ora.

That nous then transitioned ten years later to our Wai 414 claim that was essentially about fairness, due process and equality of opportunity. It was about our right as a pan-tribal whānau in the urban area to be acknowledged as a Treaty partner and our right as urban Māori to organise ourselves in accordance with our own tikanga to address our problems, our way.

Advocacy is part of our DNA, and we are not afraid to take it to the highest court in the land as Uncle Jack Wihongi, Ricky Houghton and I did at the Privy Council in London with the Sealord and Fisheries Case in 1996. Over the past four decades we have consistently advocated for whānau in the justice, education, employment, training, social welfare, housing and health systems. It has also finally led to the establishment of Te Atatu Marae in West Auckland.

Our growth has been phenomenal. In 1987, Wai Tech was established as the training and employment arm for whānau and in the same year became the largest Māori provider of training services in Auckland with five campuses. We have also confirmed our Whānau Ora Degree.

Collectively we established the National Urban Māori Authority, Whānau Tahī (an IT and Data Māori centric company) Hāpai Te Hauora (National Māori Public Health Provider), Wai Rangahau (Waipareira Research Unit), Social Value Aotearoa (New Zealand's foremost Social Value Network) and of course we won the contract for the Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency. We opened Te Rito o Waipareira for our babies, started an Alternative Education Unit, created our own Rugby League tournament and ensured a Māori team participated in a World Cup In Europe, rangatahi sports days and worked alongside the Māori Wardens, Māori Women's Welfare League and Hoani Waititi Marae. We have forged crucial indigenous and global relationships around the world from one of our first Kaimahi exchanges to explore the indigenous culture of Canada, to guest speaking events across Europe, Australia, America and more recently China.



We have been through the toughest of times like the arson attack that caused \$70,000 worth of damage in 1992; asset fluctuations, losses of whānau, the COVID pandemic and the relentless criticism and challenges from external parties trying to drag us down. Our tunnel vision to support whānau shields us from such negativity as does our drive for progress.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of Waipareira over the years, no matter what your role or how long you held it for, you are part of the waipareiratanga here, part of our history. Those of us fortunate enough to join Waipareira with a certain skillset were fortunate to be a part of it.

We could not survive without our Rōpū Kaumātua who are dependable, appreciated and whose presence is extraordinarily important, thank you.

We are really just a group of Westies with some genuinely great ideas, intellect and a bit of money in the bank. Money is not a measure; money is a tool. The way we operate as a people and a community should be measured by the way we look after those who are less advantaged than ourselves. The following timeline really showcases exactly what we have achieved over 40 years, and it is extraordinary.

Finally, this year we lost our founding Chairperson, Dame June Mariu who created and steered our ship for years with grace and integrity. She was an incredible achiever and advocate who dedicated her life as a servant of the people in our communities and actively made significant differences.

It is fitting to end on the words of Aunty June, a Pou in our Waipareira foundations, "Let us rejoice in our progress, let us learn from our mistakes and be guided in our periods of disharmony by our whakatauki: Kokiritia i Roto i Te Kotahitanga, Progressively Work and Act In Unity".

Ngā manaakitanga,

John Tamihere
Chief Executive Officer,
Te Whānau o Waipareira Trust



Contents

E Rongo	2
Preface Ray Hall	3
Foreword John Tamihere	5
Celebrating Our Journey: Highlights of Te Whānau o Waipareira	9
Whakapapa	11
Our Formative Years	13
Te Whānau o Waipareira: A Journey of Waipareiratanga	17
1980's	19
1990's	23
2000's	31
2010's	35
2020's	39

Celebrating Our Journey: *Highlights of Te Whānau o Waipareira*

KŌKIRITIA I ROTO I TE KOTAHITANGA

PROGRESSIVELY ACT IN UNITY

Over the past 40 years, Te Whānau o Waipareira Trust (Waipareira) has embarked on an inspiring journey shaped by the dreams and aspirations of countless whānau who have played a vital role in our collective story. As a result of urbanisation, many whānau found themselves in large cities like Tāmaki Makaurau, disconnected from their tribal homelands, communities, support networks and experiencing cultural loss. In this context, Waipareira has been a beacon of support and cultural connection for whānau living in West Auckland, creating a nurturing space and a sense of community.

From our establishment as a trust in 1984 to the creation of essential social, health and education services, and our own research centre, our legacy is deeply grounded in the commitment of our community. Each milestone reflects the dedication of those who came before us, and the perseverance of our whānau who continue to push boundaries and advocate for positive change.

As we celebrate our history, we honour the whānau whose unwavering support and passion have paved the way for a brighter future for our mokopuna. Together, in the spirit of kotahitanga, we stand united, amplifying our voices and fostering community strength, ensuring that the values and vision of Waipareira continue to thrive for generations to come.



1980s Highlights



1984

- Te Whānau o Waipareira becomes a trust.
- Kōhanga Reo opened at Hoani Waititi Marae.



1988

- Former police station is purchased for Waipareira Head Quarters, on the corner of Edmonton and Great North Road, Henderson.



1985

- First ever Te Kura Kaupapa Māori opened at Hoani Waititi Marae.



1987

- Wai Tech is established, the training and employment arm of Waipareira and the largest Māori training provider in Auckland.

2000s Highlights



2000

- Aotearoa Māori Rugby League are the first and only Māori rugby league team to compete at a Rugby League World Cup after successful advocacy from Waipareira.



2002

- Te Rito o Waipareira the bilingual early childhood centre opens.
- Alternative Education Unit is established | National Urban Māori Authority is formed.



2006

- June Mariu is appointed a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

Whakapapa

1990s Highlights



1990

- Wai Health Clinic is established.



1992

- Waipareira Corporate Building opens on Rankin Ave, New Lynn.
- Wai Health Limited creates mobile health units.



1994

- Wai 414 lodged by Jack Wihongi
- Hāpai Te Hauora is formed in a joint venture with Ngāti Whātua, Tainui and Waipareira.

2010s to Present Highlights



2010

- Whānau Centre opened.
- Whānau Tahi established.
- Whānau Ora launched.



2012

- Investiture of Dame June Mariu is celebrated.
- National Urban Māori Authority wins the bid to become a commissioning agency.



2014

- Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency – Te Pou Matakana is established.
- First Waitangi @ Waititi concert.
- Waipareira Research Centre, Wai Research is established.
- Wai Atamai – Social Innovation Hub is established.



1996

- Waipareira win the prestigious best trust award from the Trustees Association of New Zealand. A special tribute is made to Uncle Jack Wihongi and the kaumātua that give so generously.



1997

- Jack Wihongi, John Tamihere and Ricky Houghton present the Sealord fisheries case to the Privy Council in England.



1998

- Waipareira is awarded rangatiratanga status by the Waitangi Tribunal granting the Trust authority over our affairs after Wai 414 reaches the Privy Council.
- Manukau Urban Māori Authority (MUMA) and Waipareira secure 603 AM/96 FM



2018

- Urban Māori and Heke Tangata books published.



2020

- COVID-19 lockdowns/ Testing Stations/ Vaccinations/Far North Battalion.
- Proud To Be Māori launch.



2022

- Flooding and cyclone response/#Maranga Rise Up Aotearoa concert.
- Oranga Tamariki signing.
- Waipareira wins two Purple Pins at New Zealand's Designer Best Awards.

Our Formative Years

*E rongō ki te tangi o te ngākau e kapa ana
Mō te tira kua rere ki te pae o ngā rangi
Rangi runga, Papa raro tipu ana e ngā uri
Pū te wai o Pareira inuhia kia ora e*

*E te kura e takoto i tō waka tapu ana
(Ko) koe te huia kua ngaro mai i te hunga o te ora
Rere runga, tiro raro mahuetia i ō uri
Ringihia ō roimata mākū ai kia noa e*

The moemoeā of Te Whānau o Waipareira (Waipareira) has always been in the hearts and minds of those who have come before us, with our genesis stretching back many years in time. Today, it is how the mokopuna enliven that vision and navigate new challenges.

By 1959, it was estimated that a full 10 percent of Māori were involved in an official committee and/or the Māori Women's Welfare League, which worked with the Māori Welfare Organisation. The passage of the Māori Development Act in 1962 led to the establishment of the New Zealand Māori Council, Māori Wardens and Community Officers. This played a significant role in shaping the social and political landscape for Māori development, including the eventual establishment of Te Whānau o Waipareira.

In the mid 1960s the Māori Committee was formed under the Māori Committee Development Act 1961 to represent different wards of Tāmaki Makaurau on issues like health and education. Among the initial committees, were the Waipareira Māori Committee, the Warden's Association and the Henderson Māori Committee.

1980 marked the opening of Hoani Waititi Marae, a significant achievement made possible by a dedicated fundraising drive by the Western District Marae Campaign Committee, who pushed for a pan-tribal marae to be built in Tāmaki Makaurau.

In 1982, Te Tohu o Waipareira was designed by Mei Collins. That same year, the Waipareira mantra, Kōkiritia i roto i te kotahitanga (Progressively act in unity) was established by Dame June Mariu, Tuini Hakaraia and Don Rameka.

Also in 1982, the West Auckland Māori Management group was formed during a hui at Hoani Waititi Marae, with Dame June Mariu as chair. This group included the Māori Wardens, the Māori Women's Welfare League and Kōkiri Whānau Group and other Māori Committees. It was later renamed Te Whānau o Waipareira.

These developments marked a significant period of growth and strength for whānau in West Auckland. Through whanaungatanga (kinship) and kotahitanga (unity), various committees and groups were able to work together to improve the wellbeing of Māori in the community, leading to the establishment of important institutions, such as Hoani Waititi Marae and Waipareira. This period also saw the emergence of new leaders such as Dame June Mariu, who played a crucial role in advocating for Māori rights and pushing for social change.



Board of Trustees Chairs

June Mariu – *Founding Chair*
 Tuck Nathan
 Haki Wihongi
 June Mariu
 Reg Ratahi
 Eynon Delamere
 Evelyn Taumaunu
 Airini Tukerangi
 Josie Smith
 Ray Hall

Rōpū Kaumātua Chairs

Monty Rihari
 Raye Clark
 Tom Kaka
 Sam Waiti
 Paul Taumaunu
 Poata Northcroft
 Sonny Niha
 Mere Tunks
 Albie Tepania

Chief Executive Officers

Pat Hanley
 Marea Brown
 Ian Milne
 Liz Munro
 John Tamihere
 Ian Mackintosh
 Reg Ratahi
 John Tamihere



- 2 -

6. THE names of the trustees are as follows:-

Morgan Pueni	43 Beach Road, Te Atatu North
Danny Craven Fane	106 Avondale Road, Avondale
Ami Tokamini Hawke	8 Glendune Avenue, Kaitake
Peter Rangiahua Sharples	10 Tairua Crescent, Te Atatu North
Cuini Hakarara	18 Hanui Place, Massey
Gary James Williams	39 Frank Evans Place, Henderson
Wilfred Canning	22 Sunray Avenue, Titirangi
Taro Ramaka	50 Tairua Road, Te Atatu North
Tai John Nathan	24 Royal View Road, Te Atatu North
Peter Cooke	19 Roselin Street, Glenfield
Jane Hinekamukura Marau	29 Tawa Road, Te Atatu North
Puanani Betty Hart	57A Swanson Road, Henderson
Oswald John Peri	5 Norman Road, Titirangi
Bec Te Ninini Tawhiti	19 Gloria Avenue, Te Atatu North
John Lee	24 Cadman Street, Waterview
Paukatewhiti Alieta Hall	5 Glen Norman Avenue, Henderson
Lance Takimoona Hodkinson	33 Strid Road, Te Atatu South
Violet Kaihe	3 Brougham Place, Massey
John Joseph Turei	44 Boundary Road, Blockhouse Bay
Barney Tupara	62 St Michaels Avenue, Pt Chevillier

7. THE following documents are attached to this Application:

(a) Deed of Trust bearing date the 30th day of May 1984.

(b) Statutory Declaration.

DATED this 30th day of May, 1984.

SIGNED by the said MORGAN PUENI in the presence of: *M. Pueni* of 43 Beach Road, Te Atatu North, School Manager

SIGNED by the said DANNY CRAVEN FANE in the presence of: *D. Craven* of 106 Avondale Road, Avondale, Public Servant

SIGNED by the said PETER RANGIAHUA SHARPLES in the presence of: *P. Rangiahua* of 10 Tairua Crescent, Te Atatu North, Cultural Officer

- 3 -

SIGNED by the said AMI TOKAMINI HAWKE in the presence of: *A. Tokamini* of 8 Glendune Avenue, Kaitake, Housewife

SIGNED by the said CUINI HAKARARA in the presence of: *C. Cuini* of 18 Hanui Place, Massey, Social Worker

SIGNED by the said GARY JAMES WILLIAMS in the presence of: *G. Williams* of 39 Frank Evans Place, Henderson, Public Servant

SIGNED by the said WILFRED CANNING in the presence of: *W. Canning* of 22 Sunray Avenue, Titirangi, Public Servant

SIGNED by the said TAO RAMAKA in the presence of: *T. Ramaka* of 50 Tairua Road, Te Atatu North, School Manager

SIGNED by the said TAI JOHN NATHAN in the presence of: *J. Nathan* of 24 Royal View Road, Te Atatu North, Motorist

SIGNED by the said PETER COOKE in the presence of: *P. Cooke* of 19 Roselin Street, Glenfield, Public Servant

- 4 -

SIGNED by the said JANE HINEKAMUKURA MARAU in the presence of: *J. Marau* of 57A Swanson Road, Henderson, Housewife

SIGNED by the said PUANANI BETTY HART in the presence of: *P. Hart* of 5 Norman Road, Titirangi, Public Servant

SIGNED by the said OSWALD JOHN PERI in the presence of: *O. Peri* of 5 Glen Norman Avenue, Henderson, Housewife

SIGNED by the said BEC TE NININI TAWHITI in the presence of: *B. Tawhiti* of 19 Gloria Avenue, Te Atatu North, Storeman Manager

SIGNED by the said JOHN LEE in the presence of: *J. Lee* of 24 Cadman Street, Waterview, Apprentice Engineer

SIGNED by the said PAUKATEWHITI ALIETA HALL in the presence of: *A. Hall* of 5 Glen Norman Avenue, Henderson, Housewife

SIGNED by the said LANCE TAKIMOONA HODKINSON in the presence of: *L. Hodkinson* of 33 Strid Road, Te Atatu South, Gymnasium Instructor

- 5 -

SIGNED by the said VIOLET KAIHE in the presence of: *V. Kaihe* of 3 Brougham Place, Massey, Commercial Cleaner

SIGNED by the said JOHN JOSEPH TUREI in the presence of: *J. Turei* of 44 Boundary Road, Blockhouse Bay, Social Worker

SIGNED by the said BARNEY TUPARA in the presence of: *B. Tupara* of 62 St Michaels Avenue, Pt Chevillier, Solicitor

Te Whānau o Waipareira: A Journey of Waipareiratanga

"Here is the application signed by 20 of our founding kaumātua on May 30, 1984, to have Te Whānau o Waipareira incorporated as a Trust."

1980s

The 1980s were a major turning point, the product of massive Government urbanisation programmes over previous years designed to turn us into nice brown white-people.

It was a time of aggressive right-wing economic policies that hit Māori especially hard. We were not in positions of power within industries and our communities lacked the skills necessary to weather major change.

Waipareira found itself in the middle of this change and had to adapt quickly. Our cultural values helped unite people who might otherwise have clashed. That is a key part of our story.

Women played a vital role in the development of Waipareira, leading to our mission: Kōkiritia i roto i te kotahitanga, which emphasises working together for our community's advancement.

The formal establishment of Waipareira in 1984 was the result of 20 years of discussion starting in 1963 and came from a call from our people in the West Auckland community with the purpose of uplifting urban Māori. We cannot forget the impact of urbanisation on our people, which weakened knowledge of our hau kāinga and also the vital importance of helping each other so we all survive.

The flavour of the decade is important as a backstory to Waipareira. It took five years of hui with diverse groups, including Te Whau in Avondale, Māori committees in Henderson and the Māori Women's Welfare League, to bring everyone together to establish our organisation.

A significant achievement is how all these groups raised funds to build Hoani Waititi Marae. Built in the 1970s and opened in 1980, it was a key moment that united everyone around a shared purpose.

It is important to recognise that when we do things for ourselves, they always work. It is when there are constant external forces getting in our way that division always arises. That is a form of colonisation again.

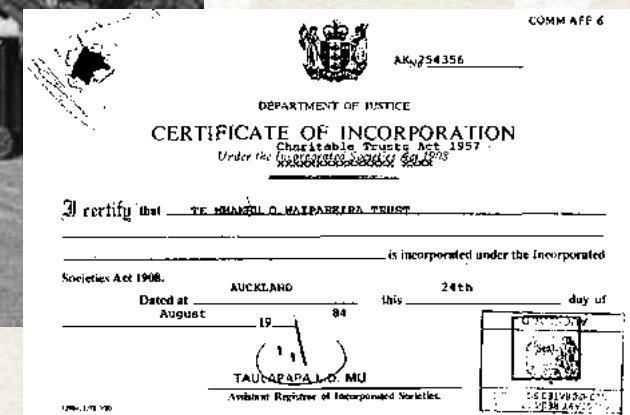


1982

Kaumātua lead the way in supporting whānau to create the West Auckland Management Group at a public hui at Hoani Waititi Marae. June Mariu becomes the chair, Ossie Peri and Jerry Taingahue the joint vice-chairs and Judge Michael Brown the patron. The group is renamed Te Whānau o Waipareira (Waipareira). Waipareira refers to the geographical area named after Pareira, a wahine from Te Kawerau-a-Maki and the waters she bathed in. Whānau refers to us as extended family.

Our tohu is designed by Mei Collins. It depicts 'Forever Progressing Forward' under the umbrella of Waipareira, and the koru underneath represents the other organisations that are under the umbrella of the Trust. The progressive movement comes from the onward and upward thrust of the logo.

Kōkiritia i roto i te kotahitanga. (Progressively Act In Unity) is determined by Dame June Mariu, Tuini Hakaraia, Ossie Perry, Craven Tane and Don Rameka.





“In the early days when I started as Education, Training and Employment Manager, I had like 25 staff, mostly males and they would always go over me and straight to John. And John would always point them back to me saying “whatever I said, went”. So, he always supported the women that he put in the positions he had them [in]. He never let the men go over us.”

– Theresa Christie



1983

Waipareira passes a resolution to set up a charitable trust. A primary reason is to co-ordinate efforts to secure funding and create a robust structure more favourable to external agencies.

1984

Waipareira becomes an incorporated charitable trust.

1985

Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Hoani Waititi Marae is established at Hoani Waititi Marae, the first school of its kind in Aotearoa.

June Mariu is awarded a Queen's Service Medal.



PUAO-TE-ATA-TU

(day break)

THE REPORT OF THE
MINISTERIAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON A
MAORI PERSPECTIVE FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
WELFARE

INCLUDES APPENDIX

(Established under Section 13 of the
Department of Social Welfare Act 1971)

Wellington
NEW ZEALAND
September 1988
Reprinted March 2001

SW 429
1988 0-479-80255-0

1986

The Pūao-te-Āta-tū Report is released and is the founding document of Māori social work in Aotearoa. The report is highly influential in the development of social work practices by Māori with whānau Māori. The report is referred to eight years later in the Wai 414 claim.

1987

Wai Tech is developed as the training and employment arm of Waipareira and becomes the largest provider of training services in Auckland. It secures private training establishment (PTE) registration, marking Waipareira as one of the first organisations to achieve PTE status in New Zealand.

Waipareira is officially recognised as a Māori authority for West Auckland by the Department of Māori Affairs. This enables it to implement the Mana Enterprises and Māori Access schemes in West Auckland.

1988

Former Henderson police station is purchased as the new headquarters for Waipareira.

1990s



Waipareira Maranga ki te awhi i tō iwi O te rohe o Tāmaki e whakarua nei Ngā wawata rā ēnei mō ngā rangatahi e Kia whiwhi ai rātou i te oranga

Written by Jack Wihongi 1992

The 1990s were very tough for Māori. Neoliberal economics was placed on steroids, and we had the 'Mother' of all budgets. In West Auckland, \$5 million a year was cut from domestic purposes benefits. Most of our men were thrown on the unemployment queue, lacking skills to transition to new mahi with the arrival of the internet. Our women with typewriting skills found new jobs and opportunities more easily.

This was the time of the fiscal envelope for treaty settlements, with Waikato and Ngāi Tahu reaching agreements. There was fighting between whānau, hapū and iwi as a consequence of this new approach to settlements when we should have been uniting against the crown. These were brutal confrontations.

Te Whānau o Waipareira (Waipareira) played a key role by staying focused on our mission. While we had no say in iwi politics, we made sure our marae welcomed and embraced everyone, promoting unity instead of division.

During this decade, we recognised the importance of having political representation at the heart of government. The election of Tau Henare and later Willie Jackson raised our aspirations and hopes of our generation, as they became ministers of the Crown inside one of the biggest boardrooms in the country, overseeing the largest budgets in Aotearoa.



1990

Dr Pita Sharples is appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire for services to Māori.

1991

Wai Health Clinic is established.

Marae Restorative Justice is established at Hoani Waititi Marae.

“School wouldn’t take them back and the family wouldn’t do anything with them. John would be having these heated discussions with principals and with Unitec. They would kick the kids out of school, but their funding wouldn’t follow them. So Waipareira was picking them up. It was really a result of inadequate educational support from the schools.”

– Mere Tunks



1992

Landmark Sealord deal is agreed with the Government. Māori secure a 50 per cent stake in the Sealord fishing company, which provides Māori with a substantial stake in New Zealand's commercial fishing industry. This enables Māori organisations to benefit through increased resources and opportunities to improve the wellbeing of Māori communities.

The Waipareira Alternative Education Unit offers support to West Auckland urban rangatahi.

The waiata Waipareira Maranga is composed by Jack Wihongi.



“In 1993, we set out to provide services for our women and our children because we always believed they are the future of Māoridom. Here 0 to 16-years-old are free. Incidentally, the Government began with 0 to 5-years-old being free and I see they are struggling in the House at the moment to retain that. Here our kaumātua are also free, so again that’s added dividend to our client base from the womb to the tomb really.”

– Reg Ratahi, Wai Health Manager



1993

Wai Health is established.

Partnership signed with ACC.

Waipareira operates seven companies providing training and employment opportunities for West Auckland: Wai Tech, Wai Health, Waipareira Building Company, Man-Tech Waste Disposal, New Zealand Guard Services, Waipareira Properties, Waipareira Sewing Company, and Waipareira Developments.

Wraparound services continue to grow with services for women’s welfare, boys and girl’s homes, and a rehabilitation centre for whānau transitioning from prison.



1994

Wai 414 claim is lodged with the Waitangi Tribunal over the Crown’s failure to recognise urban Māori communities and their rights under the Treaty.

Waipareira kaumātua welcome Prince Charles to Waitākere.

Te Taonga a Te Whānau o Waipareira Trust Trophy is presented at the 1994 Aotearoa Traditional Māori Performing Arts Festival in Taranaki.



“Wai 414 was essentially about the fairness, due process and equality of opportunity for Māori and the earliest reference to the concept of ‘urban Māori’. The claim sought to assert the legal rights of Māori living within an urban context. It was about extending the boundaries of what legalities and rights were afforded to Māori under the Treaty of Waitangi alongside the judicial duties and responsibilities of the Crown. In short, urban Māori who were displaced from their own iwi and brought into West Auckland had the right to be recognised as their own iwi and therefore access to the same resources as other iwi. With Wai 414, Te Whānau o Waipareira was able to properly serve and advocate urban Māori, and West Auckland Māori. And the ability to organise ourselves in accordance with our own tikanga to address our own problems our way.”

– John Tamihere

“I was the first referral. I used to go up to the prison and John got me out, so did Uncle Jack and Judge Mick Brown, I was given a chance. John uses the word ‘reflection’ in some of his kōrero and he will let you reflect yourself through somebody else. And that’s how I got to run the Girl’s Home. I said to John, ‘that he knew where I had just come from’, and [he] told me ‘that’s why I was the best person to run it because I would understand it’.”

– Maria Patrick, Waipareira Girls Home Manager



1994

Waipareira Girls Home in Graham Ave, Te Atatū opens.

John Da Silva is awarded the Queen's Service Medal for his work with troubled youth and Ada Lau'ese the same award for services to the community.

1995

Urban Māori groups including Waipareira take legal action over the allocation of treaty settlement resources, which left urban Māori out of the decision-making process and allocation of resources. The claim goes to the Waitangi Tribunal and eventually to the Privy Council.

Hāpai Te Hauora Tapui is established with Ngāti Whātua, Raukura Hauora o Tainui and Waipareira.

John Turei is named an Ordinary Commander of the Civil Division of the said Most Excellent Order for services to Māori.

1996

Founding kaumātua Wilfred Canning receives a Queen's Service Medal for public services.



1997

Waipareira partners with the New Zealand Employment Service to increase employment opportunities.

Waipareira backs Aotearoa Māori Rugby League's bid to have a Māori representative team compete at the 1998 World Cup.

John Tamihere, Jack Wihongi and Ricky Houghton travel to the United Kingdom to attend the Sealord and fisheries case at the Privy Council.



“With Hoani Waititi Marae, there is a total picture here. From babies to adults, kōhanga reo, kura kaupapa, high school. And, of course, Māori is one of the basic subjects as well as tikanga and all things Māori. Māori language is certainly living here. It won’t die here. Kids are taught speaking Māori all the time. It’s lovely to listen to actually.”

- Dame June Mariu



1998

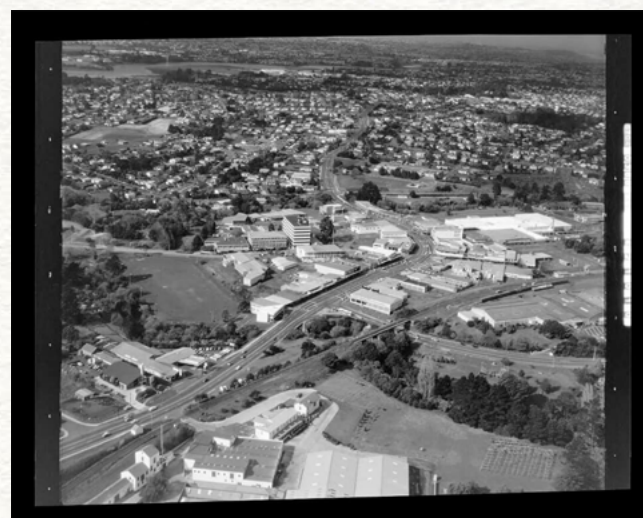
Waipareira is awarded rangatiratanga status by the Waitangi Tribunal allowing it to be self-governed.

Waipareira purchase 12.6ha of land next to Hoani Waititi Marae for the development of a Māori tertiary institution.

Waipareira Pasifika is formed to provide Family Start services to Māori, Pasifika and other families in West Auckland.

Jack Wihongi is appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to the community.

Waipareira are successful in advocating for a Māori rugby league team to participate in the 2000 Rugby League World Cup.



1999

MUMA and Waipareira secure 603 AM and 96.8 FM for Māori. Radio Waatea begins broadcasting on 603 AM.

Wai Health Medical Clinic opens in Ratanui Street, Henderson.



“Regardless of what critics or courts may decree, we will be there in support of our whānau, ‘as we were yesterday, as we are today and as we will be tomorrow’.”

- June Mariu



2000s

*Kōtuku reretahi ki te toi o ngā rangi
Rite ki a rarohenga kia rite ki a Mataora
Pū ko te Whānau Ora ara mai he tētēkura
Kura nui, kura roa, whakamau kia ora e*



By the 2000s, our goal was to become a half-billion-dollar whānau. It was not about the money, it was about how we earned it and what we did with it. At the start of the decade, we owned half of Westgate Shopping Centre, 40 acres near Hoani Waititi Marae for our wānanga and a property on State Highway 16 for our trade training programmes. We also had health facilities in Henderson. We were doing well but to develop further we needed policy change at central government. Our Chief Executive, John Tamihere, went to Wellington as part of the Labour Government to help make that happen.

However, in the intervening period from 1999 to 2005, Te Whānau o Waipareira (Waipareira) faced a rocky period in governance and management. Within five years, we were reduced to owning just one property—the old Henderson Police Station. We ran into trouble with our own standards of obligation, duty and responsibility to community.

Fortunately, we had the opportunity to reset and recommit to our community across a series of hui over several months. We acknowledged we had problems, asked the community what they thought went wrong, and what we could do right. We reunited groups that had drifted away and got their agreement to stop fighting each other for limited resources. We shifted our focus to ensuring our region was properly resourced for all whānau.

What is important from this period is that we recognise that we have ups and downs, and that we have failures. We need to learn from these things but also know that we can rise again.



2000

The first issue of the Waipareira newspaper Wai News is released.

WINZ partner with Waipareira to assist whānau with their income and employment needs. It is their first arrangement of this nature with a Māori organisation.

Wai Health partner with Unitec to deliver a certificate in Tamariki Hauora for Māori community health workers caring for newborns and tamariki.

Waipareira Chair June Mariu is appointed to the Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission.

Aotearoa Māori Rugby League are the first and only Māori team to compete in the Rugby League World Cup in the UK and France.

John Turei receives a Knighthood in the Queen's New Year's Honours.

2001

Wai Tech and Te Wānanga o Aotearoa partner to offer NZQA accredited programmes.



2002

New Wai Tech premises at 3053 Great North Road are officially opened, housing the Waipareira training and employment arms.

Waipareira opens Te Rito o Waipareira – an Early Childhood Centre.

2003

National Urban Māori Authority is formed as a political voice for city-dwelling Māori.

The Privy Council refers the Sealord case back to the High Court. Over a decade after the claim was first lodged, the Māori Fisheries Bill acknowledges the case by urban Māori for a share in the fisheries assets. A \$20 million fund is established for urban Māori.

June Mariu is honoured on the Waitākere Walkway of Fame, alongside Olympian Beatrice Faumuina.



2004

Mere Tunks receives a Queen's Service Medal for public services.

Māori Party is formed by Dame Tariana Turia and Sir Pita Sharples.

2005

Oswald "Ossie" Perry is appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

2006

June Mariu is made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

2008

Wai Tech purchase The Learning Post, a highly regarded national distance education provider.

2009

John Henry Centre is purchased and reflagged as the Whānau Ora Centre. Onsite services for over 25,000 patients include radiology, dentistry, audiology, optometry and psychology.

2010s

*Kōtuku reretahi ki te toi o ngā rangi
Rite ki a rarohenga kia rite ki a Mataora
Pū ko te Whānau Ora ara mai he tētēkura
Kura nui, kura roa, whakamau kia ora e*



In the 2010s, we recognised as urban authorities that growing scale as a national promoter of goods and services to Māori was the way forward. By this stage, people had started to see us as an answer, helped by the knowledge that we had won court cases over the fisheries settlement.

In 2014, we won the tender for Whānau Ora and expanded it across Te Ika-a-Māui. For the first time, we had a system to address health, welfare, education and housing – uniting strong-anchor organisations. We knew that we had to scale up because staying fragmented would leave us vulnerable.

This was our make or break opportunity. The annual per capita transfers from each budget make treaty settlements look sick. These are \$20 billion transfers per annum to Māori by Māori, for Māori. No treaty settlement will ever deliver that. We started with \$11 million in 2014 to support 87 per cent of Māori in Te Ika-a-Māui, rising to \$14 million the next year and \$17 million three years later.

We have built a backbone with local hubs. Each hub maintains its own mana and autonomy, while the backbone keeps investing. In return, the hubs feed in their data, reportage and outcomes.

During the 2010s, we launched the first tamariki days to celebrate solo mothers and children, giving them a carnival experience when no one else would. This evolved into Waitangi @ Waititi which now draws 50,000 people—the largest Waitangi event in the country.

By 2010, we had begun to set up our own data and IT Company. Today, we manage all iwi prescriptions nationwide and have secured a data sovereignty clause to protect our treaty rights, mana and rangatiratanga.



2010

Whānau Ora is launched.

Denis Hansen is awarded the Queen's Service Medal for services to Māori and the community.

2011

Whānau Centre (formerly the John Henry Centre) is opened by Prime Minister John Key and Māori Affairs Minister Dr Pita Sharples. This is a one-stop Whānau Ora frontline hub integrating health, social justice, and education services.

Whānau Tahī is established to commercialise the intellectual property in the Whānau Tahī Navigator tool.

2012

June Mariu is made a Dame Companion.

Whānau Ora Diploma is launched with its first intake of students.

Bella Te Pou is the first recipient of the Whānau Ora Award.



2013

80th birthday celebration for Denis Hansen at the Civic Theatre.

Whānau Centre's Wāhi Pātai opens.

Work begins on Te Pou Matakana proposal including Te Whānau o Waipareira (Waipareira) as the back office for the Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency in Te Ika-a-Māui.

2014

First Waitangi @ Waititi concert is held at Hoani Waititi Marae with over 8,000 attendees.

Historic signing of Te Pou Matakana, the largest contract in history by a government department to Māori, by Māori for Māori.

Te Pae Herenga o Tāmaki begins offering services to nearly 220,000 Māori in Tāmaki – a quarter of the total Māori population of Aotearoa.

Through the National Māori Urban Authority, Waipareira wins the right to establish Te Pou Matakana.

Waipareira Research Centre, Wai Rangahau, is established.

Raymond Hall becomes Waipareira chair.

Dame June Mariu is inducted into the Māori Sports Hall of Fame and becomes the first patron of Hāpai te Hauora.

2015

Social Value Aotearoa is established. The organisation works to redefine the way society accounts for social value.

Waipareira is a finalist in the New Zealand Information Technology Awards and becomes one of the few New Zealand organisations to make the global Microsoft World Awards stage.

Dr Pita Sharples is made a Knight Companion for services as a Member of Parliament and to Māori.

2016

Tā Mason Durie becomes the official Pou for Wai Rangahau.

Over 500 rangatahi compete in the Waipareira Sports Challenge.

2017

Naida Glavish is made a Dame Companion.



2018

The book Urban Māori: The Second Migration is launched in Parliament, the first comprehensive record of Māori urbanisation told through the narratives of whānau.

The publication Heke Tangata: Māori in Markets and Cities is also launched. Together these books provide a voice that speaks on the social and cultural struggles of whānau across communities.

2019

Founding kaumātua and first chairperson Dame June Mariu celebrates her 85th birthday at Trusts Arena, Henderson.

Whānau Ora Cancer Care Navigators, Anita Hakaraia and Wendy Hayward-Morey, win the Connected Award at the Waitematā DHB Matariki Values Awards.

2020s

*Poutamatia te ora ki te wai o Rehua
Tāuwhitia te iwi, āio pīpipi
Kia pou ko te aho, kia rewa te wawata.
Maiorotia te ora, kia mau kirikawa
Mā te huru ka rere te manu e*

We really hit our straps in the early 2020s. Whānau Ora was ready and ripe to service the COVID-19 pandemic. We tended to our people by going on the front foot as leaders of our society. We declared we were an emergency worker organisation. This was a self-declaration. We would never have got to where we did over the pandemic if we never just did it. We were the only vehicles on the roads during lockdowns. We put mobility into our services for whānau and stood up a distribution and supply network within seven days that would put Progressive and Foodstuffs to shame. We were far more cost effective than the state. For every dollar the state spent, we spent just 60 cents in the dollar because our capital was covered, and our workers were all volunteers. Every one of our collective partners up and down the country stood up because no one else was going to reach out to our whānau but us.



2020

COVID-19 hits Aotearoa causing lockdowns nationwide. Te Whānau o Waipareira (Waipareira) opens fixed and mobile testing stations leading the frontline response for whānau and sets up a distribution network supplying tens of thousands of hygiene and sanitisation packs throughout the Whānau Ora network.



2021

A second lockdown hits Aotearoa. All staff are redeployed to frontline services for COVID-19 testing and vaccination centres and mobile services. Waipareira boasts the youngest ever vaccinators.

Waipareira sends a large 'Far North Battalion' to support North and Far North Whānau Ora collectives.

Waipareira Kōkiri Award is launched. Jo Nicholson, Director of Social Value Aotearoa, is the inaugural recipient.

The hugely successful Proud To Be Māori campaign is launched nationwide.



2020s



2022

Strategic partnership is signed with Oranga Tamariki allowing Waipareira to care for whānau in its own residential facilities with wraparound services.

Waipareira wins the prestigious purple pin at the creative best awards for the Proud To Be Māori campaign, alongside agency Motion Sickness.

Waipareira celebrates the first Matariki public holiday with a street market and concert.

Kaumātua Mihi Te Huia receives a Queen's Service Medal for services to Māori.



2023

Waipareira support the tangi for Titewhai Harawira at Hoani Waititi Marae. Prior to this we celebrated her 90th birthday. 90 years of activism advocating for our people.

Waipareira leads the clean-up supporting whānau after intense flooding from Cyclone Gabrielle devastates West Auckland.

Waipareira supports the Maranga: Rise Up Aotearoa concert raising over \$700,000 for victims of Cyclone Gabrielle.

2024

Over 50,000 people attend Waitangi @ Waititi making it the biggest concert to date.

Te Whānau o Waipareira turns 40. We celebrated the founding of Te Pāti Māori at Hoani Waititi Marae twenty years ago. We celebrated 10 years managing the Whānau Ora kaupapa across the the motu.

2025

As we look to the future, we relentlessly and unapologetically continue to advance our peoples interests.

