



Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o  
**WHANGANUI**

Annual Report 2019-2020



## Ruruku

Ka uru ora!

Ka uru ora a Rangī-i-runga nei, ka uru ora a Papa e takoto nei

Ka uru ora ki te kauhanganunui he putanga ki te whai ao, ki te ao mārama. Ka uru ora!

Manawa mai a iho ki te putanga o te ariki, manawa mai a iho ki te putanga o te tauira, he tauira!

Te mouri tū te whiwhi-ā-nuku, kei te whiwhia ai roto, kei te rawea ai waho, puritia mai roto, tawhia mai waho

Tēnā te mouri ka whakapiki, ko te mouri kei runga, ko te mouri e Rangī

Ko te mouri kei a Ranginui e tū nei!

Tēnā koutou e ngā mōrehu o roto o Te Wai Nui ā Rua, mai i te kopounga ki te rerenga, mai i te Puru ki Tuhua ki te Matapihi, huri noa te motu ki tēnā nohoanga a te tangata, ki tēnā nohoanga anō. Kāti, ko te iwi nui ki a rātou ki te pō, tēnei tātou te mōrehu tāngata o Whanganui ki te ao mārama, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, huri noa, tēnā rā tātou katoa.

# Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui Trust

*Annual Report 2019/2020*

## Contents

Trust Annual Report	06-07
Financial Performance Summary	16-17
Highlights	18-24
Directory	26



## Elected & Advisory Trustees

(September 2018 - September 2021)

Gerrard Albert	Chairperson
Dr Rāwiri Tinirau	Deputy Chairperson
Joey Allen Jnr	Trustee
Alaina Teki-Clark	Trustee
Hannah Rainforth	Trustee
Nancy Tuaine	Trustee
Che Wilson	Trustee
Siani Walker	Advisory Trustee
Sandy Nepia	Advisory Trustee



## Executive



**Raymond Hall**

Kaihautū - Chief Executive Officer

## Trust Annual Report

As we reflect on the past year, it is important to acknowledge the unprecedented challenges that Covid-19 has brought upon us. We have all had to adapt to the world Covid-19 brings, and it has been reaffirming to see us move so quickly in response to the pandemic, with each of our whānau, hapū and marae making necessary plans, changes and sacrifices to reduce the potential spread of the virus. Together, we worked differently, we adapted our practices, we cancelled major hui and events, and we all played our part to protect our whakapapa. Despite these challenges we remain both vigilant and positive about our future.

In terms of Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui Trust (the Trust) activities for the year, a major highlight has been the facilitation of He Waka Pakoko in March, an iwi development summit, where more than 160 of our uri gathered at Pūtiki Marae for a two-day wānanga about our future - and where we see ourselves in 2040. What a beautiful hui it was and so refreshing to have so many spend time together and share our aspirations as an iwi. The kōrero was heartfelt, rich and will guide the iwi development Trust, Te Whawhaki, as it sets a strategic pathway forward working with our iwi and hapū for the coming years.

Another highlight of the year has been the appointment of the Trust's first Kaihautū (Chief Executive), Raymond Hall, in November 2019. He uri nō Te Roroa, Ray brings to the Trust his extensive experience across business management, Crown relationships, commercial and financial growth in various industries. Ray has hit the ground running, with a focus on growing awareness of and responsibility to Te Awa Tupua among non-iwi entities and government agencies. Ray immersed himself in the Te Ranga Tupua Covid-19 response and is now commencing his journey connecting with hapū and iwi across Te Awa Tupua. Together with the Trustees, Ray will work with our whānau and hapū to set and progress the iwi strategic goals to uphold the mana of Te Awa Tupua.

The Trust will bring even greater focus to empowering our hapū to understand and utilise Te Pā Auroa nā Te Awa Tupua, the legal framework of the River Settlement, over the coming year. Consequently, this Annual Report presents some of the progress made but more importantly points to what direction our immediate future will take to uphold Te Mana o te Awa me Te Mana o te Iwi.

# Mai i Te Kāhui Maunga ki Tangaroa

## An Indivisible Bond

We are inextricably bound to our Awa and to one another. Upon signing of Ruruku Whakatupua, the Whanganui River Deed of Settlement, the iwi required a collective vehicle to receive the settlement and to hold iwi assets in trust for the benefit of all uri, whānau and hapū of Whanganui Iwi. The review of the Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui Trust Deed is an important process which will commence in 2021 and will provide ample opportunity for uri and our hapū to design the parameters of the review, to understand better the settlement framework and to enhance the Trust's purpose and function to provide for our collective future.

Nominations to fill three of seven Trustee positions for the next three-year term of the Trust (2021-2024) have commenced via the Te Rūnanga o te Awa Tupua process. In mid-2021 nominations will commence to find the remaining four Trustees via a vote of Adult Registered Members on the Whanganui Iwi Register. The election of Trustees is an important process which allows our hapū as well as uri generally, to appoint uri with the appropriate skills to fulfil the Trust's legal functions.

Ruruku Whakatupua and Te Pā Auroa nā Te Awa Tupua empower hapū to be at the centre of all engagements regarding work proposed within Te Awa Tupua. Promoting this message during 2020 with Local Councils and Crown agencies, in particular, has allowed the rights and interests of hapū to start to be properly recognised. The initiatives the Trust implements for our people have this outcome in mind. A formal, module-based training programme will be rolled out by the Trust over 2021 to provide uri and hapū upskilling opportunities on application of Te Pā Auroa nā Te Awa Tupua.

The Trust understands the need to be accessible to all Whanganui hapū and intends to increase Trust presence through the tribal rohe. A Kaiwhakarite role is proposed to be based in Taumarunui or Raetihi to facilitate greater day to day support to our people by the Trust. A strategy that will identify opportunities to support hapū in their environmental, growth and development initiatives is essential. The Trust will continue to be available to run hapū wānanga to promote understanding of the potential of Te Pā Auroa nā Te Awa Tupua.

In 2021 Tupuna rohe and hapū will be encouraged to lead a plan in the management of surface water activities on the Awa. The Trust will further advocate that hapū lead the required kōrero to promote their rights and interests in the management of fisheries and customary gathering of kai and other activities within Te Awa Tupua.



## Te Pā Auroa nā Te Awa Tupua

### A Framework Fit for Purpose

The Trust recognises that there remains an absence of understanding across all communities of Te Awa Tupua and Tupua te Kawa. This is a barrier for all communities partnering collaboratively with Iwi entities and each other in a manner that embraces the values of Tupua te Kawa.

As the framework of Te Awa Tupua, Te Pā Auroa, is a new way of working, particularly, for local government and Crown Agencies there will a requirement to continually socialise Te Awa Tupua long term. The Trust embraces our responsibility in this kaupapa.

An example of this work has been seen in the Whanganui Port revitalisation project, Te Pūwaha. The Trust and the Whanganui Land Settlement Trust partnered with local authorities and established a governance structure for the project based on Tupua te Kawa and Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi, the value set of the Whanganui Land Settlement Trust. Governing in this manner has placed Te Mata Puau, the hapū collective, at the centre of project.

Te Pūwaha has become an example to the local authorities on how to work collaboratively with Te Awa Tupua.

***Ngā manga iti, ngā manga nui e honohono kau ana, ka tupu hei Awa Tupua- the small and large streams that flow into one another form one River:***

*Te Awa Tupua is a singular entity comprised of many elements and communities, working collaboratively for the common purpose of the health and well-being of Te Awa Tupua.*

It has been pleasing to continue to support Te Kōpuka (a collaborative strategy group of iwi and community interests of the Awa) to life in 2020. The collaborative group guided by Te Ripo (a collective iwi adjunct), has gained momentum towards developing Te Heke Ngahuru nā Te Awa Tupua, a strategy that the Crown and local government must legally adhere to. The Trust will remain active in its role of facilitating and promoting participation by Whanganui tupuna rohe and hapū at Te Kōpuka.

## Whanganuitanga

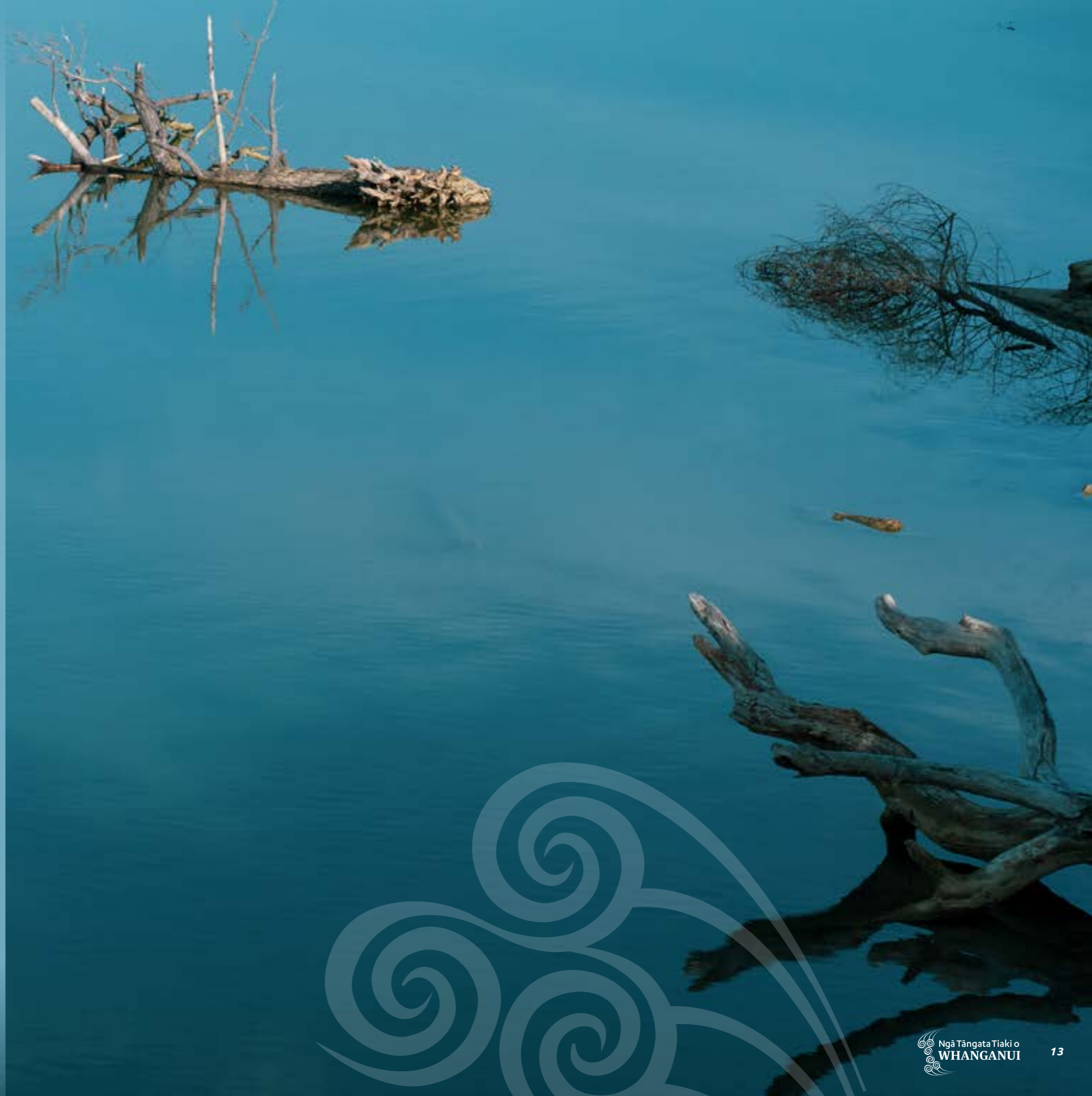
### A Connected Future

A key focus during 2020 and 2021 will be a proactive, positive communication strategy to help develop the necessary understanding, in all communities, of Te Awa Tupua. The kōrero at He Waka Pakoko also reinforced opportunities that exist to connect and re-connect uri back to the Awa, whānau and marae, through positive storytelling of Te Awa Tupua.

This is a tremendous task and there will be various projects along the way to achieve the vision. Effective communication is a must. The Whanganui Iwi database project is being progressed to update the registration details so we can transition to a new database that will be easier to use to communicate with our people. Uri will soon be able to register or update their details on the database on-line. Our database was critical for us being able to reach out to our people during the initial Covid-19 emergency and a new platform will be even more effective to such ends.

The Trust will seek to advocate that Te Awa Tupua forms part of the curriculum of all our Kura Māori, Kura Kaupapa and at primary schools in the wider Whanganui region. This kaupapa will support awareness for future generations. Such an outcome would influence intergenerational change in the approach of communities to Te Awa Tupua.

Under Ruruku Whakatupua the Crown has made a commitment to Te Awa Tupua and Tupua Te Kawa. The Trust will seek opportunities to partner with the Crown to promote Te Awa Tupua across the motu.





## Kia Matara Rawa

### Unravelling a Tangled Mess

Considerable work is being committed by the Trust to unravel one hundred and fifty years of marginalisation of the iwi via Crown actions and omissions. The negotiation of Te Pākukururu, the Whanganui Iwi – Crown relationship document, has started in earnest, with the desire to create a partnership that reflects the intent of Ruruku Whakatupua, the deed of settlement for the Awa.

Tupua te Kawa, the innate values of Te Awa Tupua and of the iwi relationship with the Awa, will form the basis of our relationships with the Crown. Under the umbrella of Te Pākukururu, such relationships will provide space and opportunity for the iwi to uphold our mana in Te Awa Tupua.

The Trust continues to support Te Pou Tupua with administrative as well as strategic advice. The Trust advocated to the Crown for the need to defer the next appointment process for Te Pou Tupua due to the inability to complete a proper appointment process because of the impact of Covid-19 on a collective iwi process. The Crown have agreed to a nine-month extension for the term of Dame Tariana Turia and Turama Hawira as Te Pou Tupua. During this extension, the Trust will advocate and work with Whanganui hapū and other iwi of Te Awa Tupua to facilitate nominations and a joint appointment process with the Crown.



# He Uru Ora

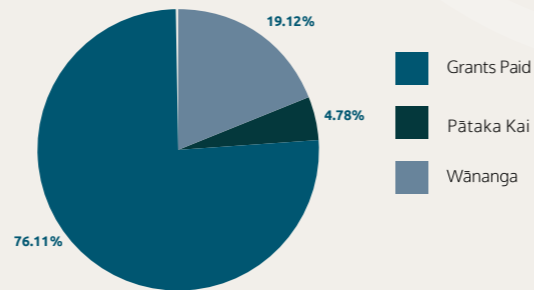
## A Prosperous Tribal Nation

The Trust has a role in supporting iwi growth and development. Te Whawhaki o Whanganui Trust's ambition is to provide opportunities for uri across a number of areas via an iwi development strategy referenced in the Te Whawhaki Trust Chair's report. During 2020 the Trust invested \$647,300 in Iwi Development and Growth, an increase of \$200,000 spent in 2019. The breakdown of funding can be seen in the graph adjacent:

### Iwi Development funding

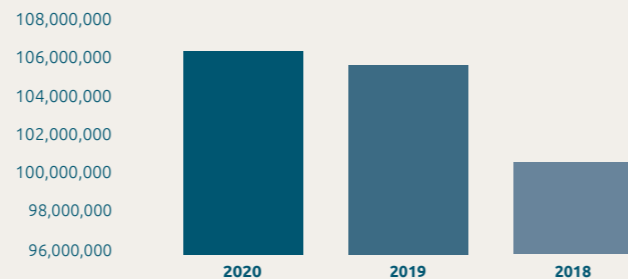
Grants Paid include scholarships, marae capacity grants, tupuna rohe grants and Ngā Manga Iti funding. Wānanga include He Waka Pakoko, the annual Rangatahi and Rangatakapū summits, Te Tira Hoe Waka and Pākaitore celebrations.

Less visible but also supporting this kaupapa is our ambition to provide uri employment or vocation opportunities within the Trust. A professional career pathway will be promoted through cadetships and graduate programmes for Rangitahi during 2021 within the Trust. Internships with professional and Crown agencies have also been secured and will be promoted to our uri in tertiary studies.



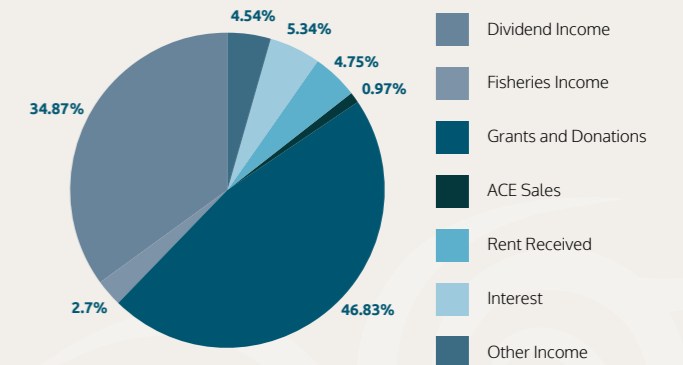
### Changes in Net Assets

Instability in the world economy due to both Covid-19 and ongoing trade tensions between countries has presented some significant challenges in asset growth. The Trustees of Te Ngākinga o Whanganui worked closely with the Trust to manage iwi assets appropriately in these uncertain times. Despite a small reduction in the value of investment assets as detailed in the Te Ngākinga o Whanganui Chairs report, during the 2019/2020 financial year the assets of the Trust grew by \$714,099 or 0.6%. While the percentage increase, in comparison with previous years, is low, the performance remains positive in an unstable market with favourable indicators for the upcoming year. The comparative growth in assets can be seen in the graph adjacent.



### Revenue 2020

Diversity in how we achieve revenue to fund our costs is also important to the Trust. The Trust focused on accessing differing sources of revenue not only to operate the organisation but to support the funding of Te Ranga Tupua during our Covid-19 response. The Trust will continue to work to source funding solutions to support initiatives to enhance the wellbeing of Te Awa Tupua and the iwi immediately and in the long term. The Trust received \$5,535,648 in revenue for the 2020 financial year primarily earned through the commercial entities and sourcing alternative funding. This graph adjacent illustrates a breakdown of each type of revenue source.



### Expenses 2020

While the Trust has commenced sourcing revenue from new or alternative avenues we have worked to focus our expenses on core mahi. The Trust's expenditure totalled \$3,181,863 for the year to perform its role and responsibilities for implementation of Te Awa Tupua and Te Pa Auroa framework. The Trust also provided for hapū and iwi development, furthering understanding of Te Awa Tupua with the Crown, local government, providing governance, administration

and operations support across asset management. Week to week support was provided to hapū and iwi in management of natural resource matters. Twenty percent of expenditure was directly to iwi and hapū development. As the Trust focuses on sourcing funding for iwi Growth and Development and Environmental initiatives the percentage share of expenditure on these kaupapa will increase.

# “Covid-19 response reconfirmed faith in our people”

*No one could have foreseen the impact Covid-19 would have on all of us this year, but Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui chair Gerrard Albert said he is proud of our people and the collective response of Te Ranga Tupua Iwi Collective.*



When the country went into an unprecedented nationwide lockdown on March 25th, the Te Ranga Tupua iwi leaders already had a plan in place for how we would respond.

“Our natural inclination was to work with our neighbouring iwi to mobilise for our people, in the same way we did during the floods,” Gerrard Albert said.

“We started meeting as Te Ranga Tupua Iwi Collective well before the decision was made to move to lockdown. We had been assessing the situation and deciding how we will collectively proceed.”

Mr Albert said the immediate focus was on whanaungatanga, ensuring that we were all connected as iwi, hapū and whānau and ensuring that we had the best information and access to support.

Kaimahi from across our iwi organisations switched their focus to Covid-19 and mobilised to help whānau to access the support and services they needed.

“Very quickly, we mobilised the Te Ranga Tupua hub and helpline so our collective uri had a central point where they could contact us and get advice as well as direct support through kai and hygiene packs.”

In total, Ngā Tāngata Tiaki called 1100 kaumatua to check in on them and the Te Ranga Tupua Iwi Collective distributed more than 4230 kai and hygiene packs to whānau.

Our leaders and uri created a series of videos and pānui which were circulated online to keep our whānau, hapū and iwi informed with the latest updates and guidance.

As well as providing direct support, Te Ranga Tupua iwi leaders proactively engaged with government authorities to advocate for our peoples’ needs and perspectives during lockdown.

“We were a mouthpiece for our people and advocated for things like changes to the tangihanga restrictions, making sure that restrictions were not too heavy handed and did not adversely impact our peoples and our values,” Mr Albert said.

“It was an uplifting experience that only reaffirmed our faith in ourselves as a people – it wasn’t just Ngā Tāngata Tiaki that moved fast, it was our marae that moved the fastest in response to Covid-19.

“They cancelled events, major events like the Hui Aranga, kapa haka competitions... We formed bubbles away from our loved ones and we prioritised the care of our kaumātua.”

“It was a stand-out effort,” Mr Albert said.

In the wake of the re-emergence of Covid-19, Te Ranga Tupua iwi collective continues to meet and ensure that our people are prepared.

Ngā Tāngata Tiaki has formed a team of Kaitātari who have been tasked with going through the 11-thousand strong Whanganui iwi register to make sure peoples’ details are up to date.

Mr Albert said the economic impact of the virus will be the long-term challenge for our people.

But he said Te Ranga Tupua iwi collective will continue to work together to provide and advocate for our people at the highest levels, to champion our peoples’ access to the support they need.

“We could not have foreseen Covid-19 and how hugely it would disrupt our lives and our mahi, but I am pleased with the way we responded as a people – as whānau, hapū and iwi.

“It’s that approach that will continue to help us moving forward and that is fundamental to Te Awa Tupua. We know what we need to do and Ngā Tāngata Tiaki is just here to help.”



# He Waka Pakoko 2020 - 2040

In March, the Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui iwi development trust Te Whawhaki spearheaded a two-day wānanga at Pūtiki Marae to understand our iwi aspirations for the next 20 years.

He Waka Pakoko drew more than 160 uri back to the marae earlier this year to share their dreams for our people and collectively paint a picture of where we aspire to be in 2040.

Te Whawhaki Trust spokesperson, Nancy Tuaine, said the diversity amongst the participants provided for two days of rich engagement, challenge, passion, disappointment, and celebration.

"Our people want us to be thriving and healthy physically, mentally, culturally, and spiritually – hinengaro, tinana, whānau, wairua," she said.

"People weren't so focused in on their immediate circumstances but more on their culture and their Whanganuitanga, their desire to make sure that we are building and sustaining ourselves, our language and our practices."

Over the course of the hui, Whanganui uri participated in workshops, ultimately highlighting a number of areas of focus for our people from Te Awa Tupua and our whenua, to Whanganuitanga, te reo me ōna tikanga.

The commitment and passion to care for, protect, and enhance the health and wellbeing of Te Awa Tupua was reiterated strongly by many. The people want a stronger role in monitoring to ensure a healthy Awa, that is clean, vibrant, resilient, sustainable and waipuketia – full of water.

The interconnectedness of the relationship between the Awa and whenua was strongly reinforced. Maintenance, protection, conservation, and sustainability were called for.

A number of people had travelled from out of town to attend the hui, including Lou Tyson and members of her whānau who travelled down from Tāmaki Makaurau to participate.

"It was incredible for me because I have been on my own journey discovering my taha Māori. I went away to Tāmaki Makaurau to get my tohu and had to ako i te reo Māori there," she said.

"To come back home and to come to He Waka Pakoko, our wānanga on our own marae, was really special for me. It was the first time I had been at a big iwi hui like that and it meant a lot for me and my whānau.

"I realised that I need to come home more, I need to learn more. I just felt the fire burning inside my puku to learn more."

A priority for our people was connection and giving life to Whanganuitanga. People want their whānau, children and mokopuna to have a strong connection to whānau, hapū, marae, Iwi, and to Te Awa Tupua. Marae were acknowledged as the key social structure that supports peoples wellbeing and many requested more support for our marae.

There was also a resounding call for a greater commitment to the maintenance, protection, revitalisation, and reclamation of te reo o Whanganui.

Nancy Tuaine said the feedback has been positive and that the learnings from He Waka Pakoko are informing the strategic approach and action plan for Te Whawhaki moving forward.

"There is a need for unity in our work moving forward (kotahi te hoe), and for our people to be woven together: Te Taurawhiri a Hinengākau."

"This includes being collectively committed to keeping mana intact, and standing as one, as Whanganui Iwi, under the voice and values of hapū."



# “All that has guided me is my love for Te Awa Tupua”

Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui continues to support uri to gain higher education and achieve their tertiary study goals through Te Mana o te Awa scholarships.



For Nga Remu Huia Tahuparae, her love and connection with Te Awa Tupua dates back as far as she can remember.

“Right from the moment I was born, my dad took me to the Awa and dunked me in the water, like a baptism but to our Awa – we call it tohi,” she said.

“All through growing up, my dad always took me back to the Awa and made me listen to the Awa.”

From Ngāti Rangi ki Tūpoho me Maungārongo ki Pūtiki, Nga Remu has been studying at The University of Auckland to deepen her knowledge about the characteristics and behaviours of rivers, with Te Awa Tupua being her key focus.

Last year, she completed a Bachelor of Science majoring in Chemistry and Geography with top marks. Her grades saw her this year be awarded a post graduate scholarship from the university to complete her Honours degree.

“All that has guided me is my love for the awa. I’ve never known how the journey is going to play out but I know that if I just take it step by step I can reach my ultimate goal which is to love, heal and protect Te Awa Tupua.”

Nga Remu said she is learning from world renown experts in rivers and said her own Māori view of Te Awa Tupua is helping her succeed.

“Everyone is trying to learn this framework where everything to do with rivers is interconnected and related as one, but I already understand this view from how I was brought up.

“This is a very valuable outlook that a lot of scientist do not have and to be completely honest, it’s gotten me through. I am getting all these mean grades from just talking from the point of view of being Māori.”

To build specific capacity within our iwi, Te Mana o Te Awa scholarships are offered to students studying in the following priority areas: environmental sciences, environmental law, natural resources, planning, accounting, business management and administration.

Nga Remu said her goal is to use her learnings to give back to and support Te Awa Tupua.

“I would like to be able to inform us as an Iwi and strengthen our scientific knowledge around the Awa.

“My research at the moment is around wetlands of Te Awa Tupua – there are so many questions we have at home about what our Awa is doing and what it needs and I want to be able to help us find those answers.”

Nga Remu was one of fourteen Whanganui iwi uri that received a scholarship through Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui last year and she said the support has been unwavering.

“The support from my iwi is incredible – I can call them to talk, anything, I just know that they have got my back no matter what.

“It has also encouraged me to push through the challenging times at university and get high marks, because I don’t want to let the iwi down.”

Nga Remu is yet to officially graduate because of Covid-19 restrictions but hopes to be capped at a ceremony set for September.



# Directory

## Te Ngakinga o Whanganui Investment Trust

Simon Karipa	Chairperson	
Dr Rāwiri Tinirau	Trustee	
Russell Bell	Trustee	Temporary Appointment from 30 July 2019 – 31 March 2020
Declan Millin	Trustee	Resigned 22 July 2019
Peter Halligan	Trustee	Appointed 2 March 2020

## Whanganui Iwi Fisheries Limited

Simon Karipa	Chairperson	
Dr Rāwiri Tinirau	Director	
Declan Millin	Director	Resigned 22 July 2019
Russell Bell	Director	Temporary Appointment from 30 July 2019 – 31 March 2020
Peter Halligan	Director	Appointed 2 March 2020

## Te Whawhaki Trust

Nancy Tuaine	Chairperson
Chris Kumeroa	Trustee
Hayden Turoa	Trustee

## Audit and Risk Committee

Russell Bell	Chairperson
Laurissa Cooney	
Sandy Nepia	

## Operations Team

Utiku Potaka	Strategic Advisor	
Piki-te-ora Manuel	Executive Assistant	Started 28th July 2020
Pania Winterburn	Financial Services Manager	
Te Aroha McDonnell	Environment Manager	Started 2nd June 2020
Leigh-Marama McLachlan	Communications Manager	Started 3rd August 2020
Louise Tyson	Operations Manager	Started 17th August 2020
Javell Pereka	Kaiwhakarite mo te Te Whawhaki	
Sheena Maru	Project Manager	
Julie Herewini	Project Manager	
Cassy Titter	Finance & Administration Officer	
Renee Tamehana	Projects Administration Officer	
Racquel McKenzie	Kairaranga Te Whawhaki	
Merengahoe Ranginui	Office Administrator	Started 22nd June 2020

## Professional Support

Accountant	Deloitte
Auditor	Silks Audit Chartered Accountants
Legal Counsel	Kāhui Legal