



MARAMA TUUTA

I te taha o tōku koroua paraikete, ko Hemi Te Oka.

Matiaha tōku hākoru.

Ko Merepani Maika tōku hākui.

I te taha o tōku kuia a Hine-i-pikitia-ki-te-rangi Reiri-Hemi,
ko Reiri Hamuera tōku hākoru, ko Makere Hone Himu Reiri tōku hākui.

Nō Māngākuta me Te Whiti rāua.

Ko Marama Tuuta taku ingoa.

I am married to Eddie Tuuta, and we have one son Tanerau, one daughter, Pikitia, our whāngai, Piri, and Mokopuna, Carlos, Paranihia, Tutere, Arapeta, Haimona, Mahana and Anthony.

I had believed I whakapapa to Aohanga through my Reiri Whānau. Rewi Tamihana, whom I loved dearly - along with his wife Ngarutai - always said we were related through my Hākui, Hine-i-pikitia-ki-te-rangi Reiri, but I have since found whakapapa links to Aohanga through my Hākoru, Paraikete Hemi. I'll have to keep researching my whakapapa.

When I was young, I was given to be a whāngai to my mother's cousin, Tangi O'Kane née Matiaha. She lived next door to Pāpāwai Marae. I have happy memories

of my time at Pāpāwai living with my aunt and the Whānau Ngairo. One day, my mother's sister Maraea told my Auntie Tangi that my mum wanted me back, which wasn't quite true. She just wanted me for herself, and so she kind of stole me, and I went to live with her and her Whānau in Carterton. At that time, the meeting house Nukutaimemeha, which was built by Tunuiarangi, was in Lincoln Road, Carterton, and we lived there. John Kokiri was Tunuiarangi's grandson's son, and he and his sister owned that whare, and he was my uncle. It's funny that Paraikete, Maraea's father, was brought up by Tunuiarangi, as he was five when his father died and his mother, Merepani, ran away and married Tunuiarangi. We grew up referring to Tunuiarangi as Poua.



Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM)

Having always been passionate about education and helping our people thrive and succeed, I was both honoured and humbled to receive a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Māori and education on the New Year's Honours list 2020.

Education

My pursuit of education led to my position as Principal of Masterton East School from 1990 to 1997, Co-director of Wellington College of Education – and later Victoria University – from 1998 to 2004, where I co-founded the Earn and Learn programme, giving Māori teacher aides the opportunity to gain degree certifications and become qualified teachers.

I believe Aohanga is the perfect location to educate our Whānau in whakapapa, pūrākau, farming, fishing, forestry and business management. The list is endless.

Our goal should be our own running of and working on the farm; that's what we should be aiming for. We have the ability to upskill and educate our rangatahi on our own whenua. We should be utilising our unique position and our varied skillsets to provide them with the best opportunities we can.

When I saw the *Country Calendar* episode, I felt it didn't represent us, the Shareholders. I would have liked to see a Shareholder's perspective.

Pāpāuma Marae

I am grateful that work is being done on Pāpāuma. I have heard wonderful stories from my nephews who sit on the Committee of Management about the plans for

Pāpāuma. This work has been a long time coming, and I look forward to watching the progress. It would be nice if improved access is considered for the elderly and slightly impaired.

Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki Nui a Rua Settlement Trust

As the Hapū Karanga representative for Pāpāwai Marae, I also hold positions on several other sub-committees: the Whakapapa Committee and Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Investment Trust, and I am also an Advisor to the Negotiators.

I would like to see our Deed of Settlement come to fruition. I believe it is necessary for our people to heal, maybe just a little bit at first, but it will get better. There will be so many opportunities for our Marae, Hapū and Iwi moving forward.

Throughout my lifetime, I have held Trustee and Director positions on other Boards for many years: Ngāti Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa from 2006 until early 2019; Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated; Whaiora in Masterton; health trusts; and Ahuwhenua Lands Trusts.

Committee of Management

We need good Trustees to make this the best possible Incorporation it can be. We need the best people – the best people for Aohanga – who are focused and want to make Aohanga work for everyone.

Diversification is important. The station could be more diversified. It is freehold land, but we don't seem to have made much progress. I support the purchase of the Commercial Property and Carbon Farming.

Farming is our core business, but I believe there are many other opportunities we should be investigating. The Committee of Management needs to look at all options, weigh up the pros and cons and use common sense when making decisions. Transparency and accountability are also highly important. With advanced technology, Zoom meetings are the new boardroom. Trustees can meet from all corners, nationally and internationally, at the click of a mouse or phone.

Having been in governance for many years, I understand the complex nature of managing business while staying true to yourself and the beneficiaries. It's not an easy job, but someone has to do it.

I have been attending AGMs since the 1990s and have seen many Whānau come and go over the years. No one had flash cars. There was a bus that would start in Wellington and pick up Shareholders in Masterton. Perhaps the Committee of Management could reinstate the bus to encourage more beneficiaries to return to Aohanga.

Masterton/Whakaoriori Māori Ward

After all we had fought for (not just me, but so many people), I decided to stand for the Māori Ward position - as no one else had put their hand up - and was surprised to be appointed uncontested.

I think you should stand up for what you believe in. Most of our people don't stand; it's disappointing. We protest and carry on, but we don't stand when the opportunity to

make a difference is handed to us. I guess you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink. And besides, I don't know what other people are going through or why they haven't put themselves forward.

My goal is to canvass the people and learn what they want. Those I have been speaking with want our infrastructure and water issues in Wairarapa resolved. What some in our community have had to put up with, for more than ten years in some cases, is despicable. It's like living in the dark ages. I will seek answers to these issues, and if I can't help solve them, then I'll get out of the way and let someone else have a go.

Aspirations for Aohanga

My hope is that Aohanga can be a beacon to be proud of. I want the best - that's what I believe everyone wants.

There should be a Shareholder or Beneficiary day during the year where we can visit the farm, visit the Marae, learn the Whakapapa, hear the stories about Aohanga and have family picnics on the beach. This might be something that would attract our beneficiaries back to Aohanga, rather than Shareholders only coming together once a year to talk about money - or the lack thereof. We could have do-it-yourself days or weekends where we come together and help each other fix up the houses and the Marae. We have so many capable Whānau who would be willing to help. We should be taking advantage of those offers.

These are my aspirations for Aohanga.

