NZ MĀORI HOCKEY INCORPORATED
CHAIRPERSON'S ANNUAL REPORT 2025
Annual General Meeting – 31 October 2026

He Titiro Whakamuri, Kia Anga Whakamua

Looking Back to Move Forward

Tēnā koutou katoa

It is my pleasure to present the Chairperson's Annual Report for NZ Māori Hockey Incorporated, reflecting on our activities during 2025 and providing an update on significant developments during 2026.

It has been a period of achievements, challenges and change. Throughout this time, our commitment remains to the kaupapa of Māori hockey, our people, our whakapapa and the opportunities we create for future generations.

Despite the considerable challenges experienced, NZ Māori Hockey has remained active in its governance responsibilities, constitutional development, strategic planning, relationship-building and preservation of our history.

Much of this work has taken place behind the scenes, but it has continued with the future of Māori hockey firmly in mind.

1. National Māori Hockey Tournament 2025 – Tāmaki Makaurau

- The 2025 National Māori Hockey Tournament was hosted in Tāmaki Makaurau.
- The tournament brought together our rohe, players, officials, supporters and whānau to celebrate Māori hockey.
- Our national tournament remains an important opportunity to reconnect, celebrate our identity and strengthen relationships.
- We acknowledge the hosting rohe, tournament organisers, volunteers, coaches, managers, umpires and whānau who contributed to its delivery.

Our national tournament is more than a competition — it is a celebration of who we are as Māori.

2. NZ Heritage and Representative Hockey

- NZ Māori Hockey continues to value its ongoing relationship with NZ Heritage and the representative opportunities this provides for our players.
- During 2026, opportunities were presented for NZ Māori Hockey to participate in NZ Heritage fixtures. Unfortunately, due to circumstances affecting team availability, we were unable to fulfil these commitments.
- While disappointing, this experience has reinforced the importance of clear communication, forward planning and maintaining strong relationships.

- NZ Heritage remains an important kaupapa through which our future NZ Māori national teams can compete, develop and represent our people.
- As a national organisation, we recognise our responsibility to honour our commitments and uphold the integrity and reputation of Māori hockey.

Our priority is to protect and strengthen these representative opportunities for future generations.

3. Constitutional Review and Planning Hui

- The constitutional review was a major focus during 2025, ensuring NZ Māori Hockey could meet its obligations under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.
- A structured consultation process provided opportunities for rohe to contribute to the proposed amendments.
- A two-day Planning Hui was held in Waikato on **29–30 November 2025**.
- The hui provided valuable discussions on constitutional amendments, governance responsibilities and the future strategic direction of NZ Māori Hockey.
- The work undertaken during 2025 formed the foundation for the 2026 Draft Constitution being presented for consideration and adoption at this AGM.
- The proposed Constitution includes strengthened safeguarding provisions, including Police vetting requirements for Kaunihera members and team management.

I sincerely acknowledge everyone who contributed their time, knowledge and expertise throughout this important process.

4. Relationships and Engagement – Hockey New Zealand

An important area of work for NZ Māori Hockey has been rebuilding and strengthening our relationship with Hockey New Zealand (HNZ).

- **Historical Mandate:** Earlier NZ Māori Hockey meeting minutes identified the need to re-engage with Hockey New Zealand. Our participation in this work has been about following through on that direction and honouring the intentions of those who came before us.
- **Four Years of Engagement:** NZ Māori Hockey has participated in the HNZ Bi-Cultural Group, which has now been meeting for approximately four years, providing an important forum for ongoing dialogue, collaboration and relationship-building.
- **Working Agreement:** Considerable work has gone into developing an agreement intended to strengthen the relationship between NZ Māori Hockey and Hockey New Zealand, clarify expectations and support future opportunities.
- **Direct Communication:** Our involvement provides valuable first-hand engagement with HNZ, including awareness of potential representative fixtures, development opportunities and other initiatives relevant to Māori hockey.

- **Partnership and Integrity:** We recognise that NZ Māori Hockey must come to the table as a reliable, constructive and accountable partner. The integrity of our organisation, our communication and our ability to honour commitments are essential to maintaining these relationships.
- **Acknowledgement of Support:** We sincerely acknowledge Hockey New Zealand for its support and guidance throughout this engagement, with particular thanks to **Michelle Hollands** and **Kaumātua John Daniels** for their continued involvement, guidance and commitment to strengthening the relationship.

While there is still work to be completed, the progress made over these four years represents an important investment in the future of Māori hockey.

Strong partnerships are built on trust, mutual respect, integrity and a willingness to work together for the benefit of our people.

5. Governance and Organisational Responsibilities

- The Kaunihera continued to undertake its governance and administrative responsibilities throughout 2025.
- Significant work was undertaken behind the scenes to progress constitutional matters, maintain organisational records and support national activities.
- All work undertaken by our Executive is voluntary, requiring considerable time, dedication and personal commitment.
- The Executive has continued to address matters requiring attention, despite the significant operational challenges experienced during 2026.
- Sound governance, transparency, accountability and clear communication remain essential to our future.

6. Funding, Strategic Planning and Partnerships

Te Huinga Tākaro – Strategic Planning Support

- NZ Māori Hockey gratefully acknowledges the funding received through **Te Huinga Tākaro**, which supported our strategic planning work and the Planning Hui held in Waikato during November 2025.
- Remaining funds were set aside to support a proposed dispute resolution hui on a neutral marae in Waikato-Maniapoto, facilitated by local kaumātua.
- Unfortunately, this hui did not proceed.
- We remain hopeful that, subject to the funder's agreement, the remaining funding may be repurposed to support a future hui focused on constructive dialogue, relationship-building and a pathway forward.
- We sincerely appreciate the support provided towards strengthening the governance and future direction of Māori hockey.

ACC – Tiaki Tinana Support

- Through the efforts of our Secretary, **Tracy Edmonds**, NZ Māori Hockey secured **$10,000 in funding through an ACC-related initiative** to support our tournament first aid and player wellbeing arrangements.
- This funding was intended to contribute towards appropriate first aid support at our national tournaments.
- We gratefully acknowledge the support and ongoing relationship with those involved in this initiative.

Acknowledgement of Support

I wish to extend our sincere appreciation to **Moana-Lee Raihania** for her ongoing support, guidance and engagement with NZ Māori Hockey. Her willingness to work alongside us, particularly as we navigate the challenges currently facing our organisation, has been greatly appreciated.

I would also like to acknowledge **Carol Ngawati** for her support and contribution to our ongoing relationship.

We value these relationships and the opportunity to continue working together in support of our kaupapa and the future of Māori hockey.

7. Financial Management, Stewardship and Accountability

Financial accountability remains a fundamental governance responsibility of NZ Māori Hockey Incorporated.

We recognise that our membership and funding agencies are entitled to transparency regarding the financial affairs of our organisation, including any outstanding obligations and the steps being taken to address them.

Banking Restrictions and Operational Challenges

- In **July 2026**, NZ Māori Hockey Incorporated's bank accounts were frozen, significantly affecting our ability to undertake normal financial and administrative operations.
- Since that time, the Executive has had to navigate a complex and challenging process to understand the circumstances surrounding the restrictions, establish what was required and work towards restoring access to our accounts.
- This has involved considerable communication, follow-up and voluntary hours, much of which has taken place behind the scenes.
- The restrictions have created significant operational and financial hardship, including difficulties meeting existing commitments, protecting organisational assets and fulfilling national tournament responsibilities.
- Throughout this period, the Executive has remained focused on safeguarding NZ Māori Hockey's interests, maintaining appropriate records and working towards a resolution.

- We have been advised that access to our accounts is expected to be reinstated on **3 November 2026**.

While this has been an extremely difficult period for our organisation, the Executive has continued to seek clarification, work through the required processes and pursue the restoration of normal financial operations.

Protection of NZ Māori Hockey Assets and Records

- The banking restrictions also placed significant pressure on our ability to meet essential operating costs, including the storage of NZ Māori Hockey's equipment, uniforms and historical records.
- At a particularly difficult time, **Vicki Gribble generously donated funds to assist with the storage unit costs**, helping prevent the potential loss of these important organisational assets.
- I wish to personally acknowledge and sincerely thank Vicki for her generosity, kindness and willingness to support NZ Māori Hockey when assistance was urgently needed.

Our uniforms, equipment and historical records represent years of commitment and contribution from our Māori hockey whānau. Their protection and preservation are responsibilities we take seriously.

Outstanding Payments – 2025 National Māori Hockey Tournament Officials

- We acknowledge that payments remain outstanding to officials who provided their services at the 2025 National Māori Hockey Tournament in Tāmaki Makaurau.
- The restrictions on our bank accounts have prevented NZ Māori Hockey from processing these payments.
- Once banking access is restored, the Executive will prioritise verifying and arranging payment of all outstanding amounts owed to these officials.
- We sincerely acknowledge their patience and understanding during this difficult period and apologise for the delay.

We recognise our responsibility to honour these financial commitments and assure our officials that resolving these outstanding payments is a priority for the Executive.

Financial Statements and Audit

- Due to the banking restrictions and difficulties accessing the necessary financial information, we have been unable to complete the financial audit and present audited financial accounts at this AGM.
- We acknowledge this outstanding responsibility and wish to be transparent with our membership.

- Once banking access is restored and the necessary records are available, our priority will be to complete the outstanding financial statements, arrange the required audit and provide the completed reports to our membership.
- The Executive also intends to pursue the appropriate formal complaints process regarding the banking difficulties experienced by our organisation.
- We recognise the importance of maintaining a clear record of these matters and ensuring that outstanding financial responsibilities are carried forward until completed.

Funding Accountability – Iwi Toa 5s

- NZ Māori Hockey Incorporated recognises its responsibility to maintain sound financial management, transparent reporting and accountability to our membership and funding agencies.
- This includes following through on outstanding financial reporting and reconciliation relating to funding associated with the Iwi Toa 5s tournament.
- While aspects of the funding were administered separately, the Executive is continuing to establish the relevant financial information, supporting records and any outstanding reporting requirements.
- We intend to work constructively with the relevant subcommittee and funding agencies to ensure these matters are appropriately addressed and documented.
- The Executive will seek to clarify the obligations that properly rest with NZ Māori Hockey Incorporated and ensure these are followed through.
- Much of this work is undertaken voluntarily and behind the scenes, but it remains an important responsibility of the Executive.

Our Commitment to Financial Stewardship

We recognise that good financial stewardship is not only about managing the funds available to us today. It is also about ensuring that past commitments are properly accounted for, records are preserved and future leaders inherit an organisation with clear and reliable financial information.

Despite the significant challenges experienced, we recognise that financial accountability is our responsibility as elected officers.

We remain committed to completing this work, meeting our obligations to members and funding agencies, and restoring normal financial operations as soon as possible.

8. Significant Developments During 2026

Governance and Constitutional Matters

- The constitutional review progressed through further consultation and consideration during 2026.

- Significant differences arose concerning governance, representation and the future direction of NZ Māori Hockey.
- These matters have affected relationships across our Māori hockey community and placed additional pressure on those involved.
- NZ Māori Hockey has engaged with **Sport Integrity New Zealand** regarding an independent process to support fair and constructive resolution.
- We remain committed to respectful engagement, accountability and ensuring that all parties have an opportunity to be heard.

National Māori Hockey Tournament 2026 – Waikato-Maniapoto

- The 2026 National Māori Hockey Tournament was hosted by **Waikato-Maniapoto** during a particularly challenging period for Māori hockey.
- Following the freezing of NZ Māori Hockey Incorporated's bank accounts in **July 2026**, our organisation was unable to undertake the financial and operational responsibilities necessary to administer and deliver the national tournament.
- As a result, tournament administration and delivery were undertaken through the other Māori hockey organisation, while Waikato-Maniapoto remained the hosting rohe.
- I wish to sincerely acknowledge **Vanessa Goodchild and her organising committee** for the enormous amount of work undertaken to prepare for and deliver the tournament.
- Their dedication, perseverance and commitment, particularly during a period of considerable organisational challenges, deserve special recognition.
- We also acknowledge the players, coaches, managers, umpires, volunteers and whānau who contributed to the tournament.

Tournament Governance, Financial Accountability and Support for Waikato-Maniapoto

- Although NZ Māori Hockey Incorporated was unable to administer the 2026 National Māori Hockey Tournament due to the banking restrictions, we recognise that sound governance and financial accountability remain important considerations for our organisation.
- We acknowledge that tournament administration and financial management were undertaken through the other Māori hockey organisation, while Waikato-Maniapoto carried the responsibility of hosting the tournament.
- We recognise the importance of ensuring that tournament funding, expenditure and financial outcomes are appropriately documented and reported by those responsible for their administration.
- NZ Māori Hockey will continue to clarify any governance and financial accountability obligations that properly rest with our organisation.

- **Importantly, we want Waikato-Maniapoto to know that NZ Māori Hockey Incorporated remains available to provide assistance, guidance and support wherever appropriate**, including with post-tournament reporting, reviewing outcomes and planning for future events.
- We support a constructive post-tournament review that acknowledges achievements, identifies opportunities for improvement and strengthens future tournament delivery.

Our intention is not to place additional burdens on our hosting rohe, but to work alongside them, recognise their contribution and ensure that the responsibilities associated with our national tournament are addressed in a supportive, transparent and respectful manner.

Our priority remains to restore normal operations, strengthen our relationships and ensure that future national tournaments can be delivered with sound governance, financial accountability and the interests of our Māori hockey whānau at heart.

9. Te Haerenga o Te Haupoi Māori 2000–2026 – Our Historical Journey and Strategic Direction

One of the most significant projects undertaken during this period has been the development of *Te Haerenga o Te Haupoi Māori 2000–2026*.

This work is much more than a historical record. It brings together evidence, information and experiences gathered over 26 years to help inform the future direction of Māori hockey.

- **Preserving Our History:** The review documents significant milestones, national tournaments, representative achievements, governance developments and the contributions of our rohe and people.
- **Evidence-Based Planning:** Information gathered through this review is being used to identify recurring challenges, opportunities, organisational strengths and areas requiring further development.
- **Strategic Direction:** The review also maps a proposed strategic direction for NZ Māori Hockey, drawing on historical evidence, organisational experience and the lessons learned throughout our journey.
- **Continuity of Work:** Despite the significant governance and operational challenges experienced during 2026, important work has continued on our constitutional review, strategic planning, organisational relationships and historical documentation.
- **A Shared Resource:** The review is intended to benefit our wider Māori hockey whānau, providing a resource for current and future leaders to better understand our journey and make informed decisions.
- **Completion:** The document is undergoing final checking, with the intention of sharing it with our membership in the coming weeks.

I want our membership to understand that, although some of our usual activities have been affected, **NZ Māori Hockey has continued to work, plan and fulfil its responsibilities wherever possible.**

Much of this work has taken place quietly, behind the scenes, but it represents a considerable investment of voluntary time, commitment and effort.

We have not stood still. We have continued to protect our history, strengthen our foundations and plan for the future of Māori hockey.

Our history is not simply about where we have been. It provides the evidence and understanding to help guide where we go next.

10. Rohe Representation, Kaumātua and Kuia Guidance

Rohe Representation

- Our rohe remain an integral part of the structure of NZ Māori Hockey Incorporated, and their representation is important to the future of our organisation.
- We strongly encourage all rohe to maintain or nominate representatives within NZ Māori Hockey, ensuring their members continue to have a voice and an opportunity to contribute to our national direction.
- Regardless of the challenges we currently face, our commitment remains to an inclusive organisation that represents and supports Māori hockey across all rohe.
- Continued engagement and participation are essential to strengthening our organisation for the betterment of all our members.

Kaumātua and Kuia Advisory Group

- I believe we need to place greater emphasis on the role and value of our kaumātua and kuia within NZ Māori Hockey.
- Their wisdom, cultural guidance, experience and understanding of tikanga are invaluable, particularly when navigating difficult situations.
- I would like to see the establishment of a formal **Kaumātua and Kuia Advisory Group** to provide independent cultural guidance, support our leadership and help strengthen relationships across our Māori hockey whānau.
- Such a group would provide an important source of advice while respecting the governance responsibilities of the elected Kaunihera.

Leadership, Mentoring and Guidance

In my role as Chairperson, I have come to appreciate the importance of having trusted people to turn to for advice and guidance.

- I sincerely acknowledge **Pam Elgar**, who has provided valuable mentoring and support as I navigate the responsibilities and challenges of this role.

- I am also fortunate to have access to a local Kaumātua and Kuia Advisory Group, whose wisdom, encouragement and guidance have been invaluable.
- Having people I can sit with, seek advice from and reflect alongside has reinforced my belief that our national organisation would benefit greatly from a similar advisory structure.

Leadership is not about having all the answers. It is about listening, seeking guidance and making decisions with integrity, humility and the wellbeing of our people at heart.

11. Looking Ahead – Our Priorities

Our focus moving forward will include:

- Strengthening constitutional and governance arrangements.
- Encouraging continued rohe representation and participation within NZ Māori Hockey.
- Working towards establishing a national Kaumātua and Kuia Advisory Group to provide cultural guidance and support.
- Rebuilding relationships and confidence across our Māori hockey community.
- Supporting the wellbeing and development of our players, coaches, officials and volunteers.
- Protecting national tournaments and representative pathways.
- Strengthening safeguarding, accountability and organisational processes.
- Restoring normal banking operations and completing outstanding financial statements and audit requirements.
- Honouring outstanding payments to tournament officials.
- Following through on outstanding funding accountability matters and reporting obligations.
- Supporting Waikato-Maniapoto with appropriate post-tournament assistance.
- Completing and sharing our historical review.
- Using the evidence gathered through our historical review to inform future strategic planning and consultation with our rohe.

12. Acknowledgements – He Mihi Whakawhetai

Our Executive

I wish to sincerely acknowledge our Executive:

- **Tracy Edmonds – Secretary**
- **Jarrod Thorne – Treasurer**

All the work undertaken by our Executive is voluntary, often involving significant hours, personal sacrifice and responsibilities well beyond what is visible to our membership.

Their willingness to continue serving our organisation, particularly during challenging times, reflects their genuine commitment to the kaupapa of Māori hockey. I am deeply grateful for their support, resilience and the contribution they continue to make.

Social Media and Communications – Tania Ambrosius

I would also like to extend a special acknowledgement to **Tania Ambrosius** for her ongoing expertise and dedication to NZ Māori Hockey's social media and communications.

- Tania has done a wonderful job maintaining and developing our social media presence.
- Her knowledge, creativity and commitment have helped promote Māori hockey and keep our wider whānau informed and connected.
- Her continued contribution of time and expertise is sincerely appreciated.

Our Māori Hockey Whānau

My sincere thanks also go to:

- Our rohe delegates and Kaunihera members.
- Our tournament hosts, organisers and volunteers.
- Our coaches, managers, umpires and players.
- Our kaumātua, kuia and whānau who continue to support our kaupapa.
- Our funding partners, supporters and those who have provided guidance and assistance throughout this period.

Whatever our differences, **respect, fairness and manaakitanga must remain at the heart of how we treat one another.**

13. Closing Remarks

While the past year has presented significant challenges, I remain committed to the kaupapa of NZ Māori Hockey and the responsibilities entrusted to us.

Our history is important. Our whakapapa is important. Equally important are the relationships we maintain, the opportunities we create and the legacy we leave for future generations.

I believe there is a pathway forward, but it must be built on mutual respect, accountability, open communication and a genuine willingness to work together.

Our responsibility is not simply to navigate the challenges of today, but to ensure that the decisions we make, the records we preserve and the responsibilities we fulfil provide a sound foundation for those who will lead NZ Māori Hockey over the next 25 years.

Our responsibility is to ensure that Māori hockey continues to thrive, not only for those who play today, but for the generations who will follow.

Mā te mahi tahi, ka ora ai te haupoi Māori.

Ngā mihi nui,

Gail Ambler
Chairperson
NZ Māori Hockey Incorporated