



Abraham Witana

Waipuna Marae

Tēnā koutou e ngā mema o Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa

I am honoured to submit my nomination for the role of Chairman of Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa. This role is about more than governance – it is about upholding the mana of our iwi, strengthening the voice of our marae, and ensuring that our decisions reflect the aspirations of Te Rarawa whānau across all rohe.

My leadership approach is grounded in tikanga Māori and the values that define us: whanaungatanga, Kotahitanga, manaakitanga, and kaitiakitanga. These principles align with the vision of Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa; ‘Ko ngā whānau o Te Rarawa, kei te tūkaha ki tō rātou tuākiri tangata, kei te piri pūmau ki to rātou marae, kei te mau tonute manawa ki ngā mahi āwhina – Te Rarawa whānau strong in their identity, active with their marae, and making a contribution’.

My vision for the role – as Chairman, my vision is to lead Te Rūnanga with integrity, unity, and foresight, ensuring that our governance reflects both Kaupapa Māori and best practice principles. I will champion;

- Kotahitanga across marae and hapū – creating a governance environment where every marae feels heard and valued.
- Revitalisation of Te Reo and Tikanga – embedding our cultural identity in all decision making and supporting initiatives that strengthen Te Rarawatanga.
- Intergenerational sustainability – balancing economic development with environmental stewardship through Ngā Pou e Whā: Te Ōhanga, Te Taiao, Te Oranga, and Te Rarawatanga.
- Transparent and accountable governance – ensuring decisions are made collectively, with clear communication and measurable outcomes.
- Strong external representation – advocating for Te Rarawa interests at regional and national levels, building partnerships that deliver benefits for our whānau.

I am committed to advancing the strategic priorities outlined in our plan, including strengthening identity and participation, building marae capacity, and protecting our taonga tuku iho. My experience in governance roles, iwi development projects and Treaty related work has equipped me to provide strategic leadership, foster collaboration, and represent Te Rarawa with mana.

I would be privileged to serve as Chairman and work alongside our trustees, marae delegates, and whānau to achieve the aspirations of Te Rarawa. Thank you for considering my nomination.

Ngā mihi nui

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