

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Whānau Hui – Summary of Key Points (6 April 2025)

Karakia & Opening Acknowledgements

The hui opened with karakia by Aunty Rangimarie Rawiri and mihi from Tama Davis and Marama Royal, welcoming everyone and acknowledging the mana and presence of our Whānau, kaumātua, tamariki, and mokopuna.

1. Housing Updates

Current Housing Portfolio

- Our housing strategy continues to focus on warm, safe, and affordable homes for whānau.
- Developments include legacy homes on Kitemoana Street, Ngā Oho, Wātene Crescent, and the return of 68 homes from Kāinga Ora across Kupe, Te Arawa, and Takitimu Streets.
- 22 new whānau have recently moved into the Hawaiki Street development. Joe Pihema and Katarina Davis shared their experiences.

Challenges

- Some Kainga Ora returned homes were in poor condition and required major upgrades.
- Building costs are high due to the need to build upwards to accommodate more of our whānau in the papakāinga and infrastructure constraints.

Next Steps

- The Trust has a goal to build 100 new homes, including:
 - More, housing, including kaumātua housing
 - Smaller one- and two-bedroom homes to reflect changing whānau needs.
 - A mix of rentals and homeownership opportunities.
- We are considering selling 10 whenua (purchased for \$11.5M) to reinvest into housing on bare lands, including more kaumātua homes on Atareta Street.

Whānau Voices

- Joe and Kataraina Davis shared powerful kōrero about returning home and the deep sense of connection, responsibility, and whanaungatanga that comes with living on the papakāinga.

2. 246 Ōrākei Road Update

- A technical heritage report confirmed the cultural and historical significance of this whenua.
- While significant, the land is not classified with an elevated level of *tapu*.

- A long-term lease partner will be sought to generate income, aligned with the updated commercial strategy.
- This whenua is located near the train station and Ōrākei Bay Village, with great potential for sustainable returns.

3. Sports & Hauora Centre

Vision & Concept

- Named *Whatarangi* – symbolising an elevated platform for physical, mental, and whānau wellbeing.
- Designed by Māori architects from *Orua*, inspired by the legacy of tūpuna Uruamo and Whatarangi.

Progress & Milestones

- Site: The old Ōrākei Bowling Club.
- \$5.75M committed by Auckland Council.
- Resource consent lodged.
- Aim: Break ground in 2026 with a staged build.
- Final construction expected by 2027/28, depending on funding and infrastructure readiness.

Future Use

- More than a gym: spaces for kapa haka, rongoā Māori, physio/health services, and community use.
- Acknowledgements to Caroline Pihema, Dan (Missy's son), and Aunty Mary for their tireless mahi holding the ahi kā.

Additional Highlights

- Traffic at Wātene Crescent: Discussions ongoing with Auckland Transport.
- Future kaumātua village: In planning as part of the 5-year strategy.
- Celebrating our people:
 - 50 uri performed at Te Matatini.
 - Whānau performed at Polyfest, Ahurei, and Te Ika a Ranginui.
 - Opening of Ngāti Whātua exhibition at Auckland Museum – open until October 2025.

Pātai from the Hui – Answers to follow next week:

- Has a Traffic Management Plan been considered for the Sports Centre?

Other kaupapa raised:

- It was noted that the church on Coates Ave is currently up for sale.
- A suggestion was made to explore a potential relationship with AUT's Sports Science department to support the Sports Centre kaupapa.

Final Notes

- Whānau can still express interest in kaumātua housing and upcoming property opportunities.
- If you'd like to see the Sports Centre plans or kōrero further, contact the Trust Office.
- Huge thanks to all board members, kaimahi, and whānau who made the hui and projects possible.

Karakia Whakamutunga – Aunty Rangimarie Rawiri closed the hui beautifully