



Convenor's Report of Māori Interest Group for AGM July 2025

This past year has seen a monumental change in Te Ao Māori with the sudden passing of Kingi Tuheitia Pōtatae Te Whero VII on 30 August 2024 at the age of 69. He was the eldest son of Te Ariki Dame Te Atairangikaahu and announced as her successor and crowned on the last day of her tangi on 21 August 2006.

His lasting legacy is seen as his role in unifying people, particularly in the past year, to rise up and call for unity against the Coalition Government's stance on Māori issues. He will be remembered for his dedication to his people and his role in preserving Māori traditions.

On a more positive note, for the future, his daughter, Ngā Wai Hono i te Pō, has been anointed the new leader of the Kīngitanga. As the only daughter and youngest child of Kingi Tuheitia, she carries her birthright in the Kīngitanga and becomes the eighth monarch, continuing the direct line to the first Māori King. The 27-year-old University of Waikato graduate has been long groomed to take over from her father and should have a long reign in the style of her grandmother.

On the weekend of 9-10th August we participated in the annual Family History Expo at the Fickling centre. As in previous years, we continue to have a supportive roopu who stop to talk with us and had a number of new visitors as well to keep us on our toes. The highlight for us was meeting Brian How, President of the 28th NZ (Māori) Battalion Auckland Association along with Karen Morris-Tuki who is the Secretary, and her partner Joe who is the Vice President. Joe was especially welcomed as Brenda Joyce's nephew and we had a great catch up talking with them about Brenda and her years behind the wheel in maintaining our roopu.

Following the Expo we held a Research Day at the FRC in September which was attended by a number of new faces and had a couple of surprises with previously unknown connections between the attendees. We held another research day in March this year with Alan Cobcroft giving two presentations on Pacific and Māori DNA. Alan also chairs the DNA workshops presented monthly at the FRC and is part of the team that drives the DNA Online programme for the NZSG.

In October, Trevor Mosley announced that due to some health issues, he wished to resign from his role as Convenor effective immediately. Trevor only took on the role in what he hoped was to be a caretaker role – but over the past few years has readily agreed each year to remain at the helm. We owe him huge thanks for his mahi and we wish him well in the future. Trevor has agreed to remain on the committee to assist where needed. I have agreed to take on the role of acting Convenor until this AGM, it is hoped that we can find another willing and able soul to take on the task for our future.

Our committee meetings this past year are still held at the Turkish Café in Onehunga. At the last meeting, the committee agreed to extend Life Membership to Bruce Mathers, #6666 for his continued excellence in producing our quarterly newsletter, *Te Reo* and maintaining the MIG Website. We all agree that the newsletter and website are the glue that holds our roopu together – throughout changes to committee members and other obstacles we come across.

As always, our committee of Lorraine Rice (Secretary), Sue Slight (Treasurer), Trish Kelly, Trevor Mosley and Bruce Mathers are the pou that supports us all.

Nga mihi nui kia koutou.

Owynne ORMSBY
Kaiwhakahaere (Acting Convenor)

