



MEDIA RELEASE

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Ngāpuhi welcomes Tony Dowling as new Rūnanga CEO

Supporters gathered today at Kohewhata Marae in Kaikohe, to welcome Tony Dowling, the new Chief Executive for Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi O Ngāpuhi. Appointed in August this year, Tony is already looking forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead.

“I’ll be listening and talking with our people, ensuring that the Rūnanga continues to serve our people in ways that enhance the growth, development and prosperity of Ngāpuhi, to ensure our sacred house stands strong”.

Tony’s unique combination of skills, acumen, experience and charisma impressed a panel of independent directors, trustees, kaumātua and kuia through a rigorous recruitment process that attracted a high calibre of applications.

“The Board is looking forward to working with Tony, confident he will lead and represent the Rūnanga and Ngāpuhi with confidence, integrity and resilience” says Acting Rūnanga Board Chair, Carol Dodd.

Born in Kawakawa, Tony said the timing is right for him and his family to return to the North. “It’s a homecoming of sorts and allows my whānau to reconnect with our marae and hapū, Ngāti Tautahi. I also look forward to enhancing my knowledge of Ngāpuhi tikanga and reo, and being a positive role model for future Ngāpuhi leaders”.

Tony said he was impressed by the performance of the Rūnanga, achieved in a pre-settlement environment, and was attracted by the opportunity to play a significant role in helping to shape the future of his iwi.

"I'm reminded by the whakatauki *kōtahi te kākaho ka whati, ina kapuia, e kore e whati* - *a lone reed will waiver and break, if combined with others will never break*, and that within diversity comes strength, unity and resolution".

Tony joins the Rūnanga from Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, where he was Director of Innovation and Development.

Ends.

For all enquiries and interview requests:

Tio Taiaki
Strategic Communications Manager
027 4165 027
media@ngapuhi.org