

Kaitiakitanga: Maintenance of Hinemihi in preparation for the 2012 Kohanga Reo Hangi



Please join us for this year's Hinemihi maintenance day



**Hinemihi
Clandon Park
West Clandon Surrey**

**Sunday June 10
(11.00am-4.00pm)**

This annual event brings together people from Hinemihi's community (Ngāti Ranana, Kohanga Reo, and Maramara Totara, National Trust and UCL volunteers) to ensure that Hinemihi is suitably prepared in advance of the Kohanga Reo Hangi celebrations on 24 June.

No previous conservation experience is needed to participate in the maintenance activities and help in keeping Hinemihi warm.

Please contact Dean Sully d.sully@ucl.ac.uk to be involved in the maintenance day and becoming one of Hinemihi's People



Hinemihi maintenance days; 2004-2011

In previous years, the maintenance days have provided an opportunity for the UK based Maori community to share their understanding of Hinemihi with the UCL students and National Trust volunteers and for UCL/NT to share their understanding of conservation techniques with Ngāti Ranana, Kohanga Reo, and Maramara Totara group members.

The following activities are planned in order to prepare Hinemihi for the hangi celebrations

Cleaning of the painted carvings

This will involve removing surface debris and algae stains using brushes, cotton wool swabs, and deionised water. We will be using careful cleaning techniques to avoid detaching the flaking paint surface from Hinemihi's carvings. Therefore, pairs, consisting of a club member and a conservation student, can work jointly on these areas of delicate cleaning.



Removing debris from the roof

This will involve removing detached thatch, animal remains, branches, insect debris, etc. from interior and exterior surfaces.



Cleaning the Floor

This will involve removing detached debris from the roof, and in filling holes caused by burrowing animals



Documenting the activities

As part of the conservation process for Hinemihi, all activities and observations about her are recorded (with written documentation, photograph, etc.). This is to ensure that future work can draw on the information that we produce during our activities.



Checking Hinemihi's condition

In June 2003, UCL Conservation students carried out a condition check of Hinemihi's carvings and painted surfaces. Each year we take detailed photographs of Hinemihi and use these to check for any change in her over the last year.

Safety considerations

A risk assessment will be carried out prior to the activities taking place in order to identify possible physical hazards. This is to help ensure that we are all kept safe during our work and that Hinemihi is not put at risk. Ngāti Ranana, Kohanga Reo, and Maramara Totara members can be signed up as National Trust "Volunteers", so that they are covered by the necessary insurance (if you have done this in previous years then you will not need to repeat this year). Work in and around Hinemihi will involve the use of ladders, and the production of dust and we will ensure that these hazards are minimised.

Tikanga

In caring for Hinemihi during these maintenance days, it is important that suitable marae protocol is observed.

In previous years, this has included:

- Approaching Hinemihi for the first time each day from the front rather than approaching her from the side
- Refraining from eating, drinking, smoking on the marae
- The removal of shoes whilst working inside Hinemihi has not been requested
- A karakia whakatapua (blessing service) has been held prior to work starting to keep us safe in our work.

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