

Hinemihi o te Ao Tawhito (Hinemihi of the Old World)

A Vision for the Future

This Vision is based on, and should be read in conjunction with, the Statement of Significance for Hinemihi.

Although Hinemihi is now a long way from her original home, to descendants of Ngati Hinemihi she remains a cultural expression that celebrates creation, history, whakapapa (genealogy), kinship, and tribal identity. Since Hinemihi is a living being, she possesses wairua, the spirit or essence of being of her descendents and creators; mauri, a life force and the power of creation from the Gods; and mana, ancestral power, prestige, and status. These characteristics require interaction with humans to maintain them or bring them to life. The reciting of whakapapa and the performance of korero (oratory), speech, and narratives associated with the ancestors, occur on the marae, in front or inside Hinemihi.

Since interaction with people is crucial to Hinemihi's life, she must develop to meet the needs of her community here, as she would have done had she remained in New Zealand. Hinemihi will therefore be sympathetically updated for the twenty-first century. She will be extended to her original New Zealand length, and wherever possible Hinemihi will be adjusted to more closely resemble her original form back in New Zealand. Her roof pitch will be adjusted to reflect the original pitch, and the thatch roof will be changed for a more appropriate shingle roof. Electricity will be installed to allow for sympathetic lighting and conservation heating, and appropriate insulation will be installed. Hinemihi's earthen floor will be replaced by a permanent one. A small, discrete service area will be added as a separate construction behind Hinemihi, and an awning will be used in front to increase her capacity. Her painted carvings will be conserved as agreed within the project steering group of National Trust staff, Ngati Hinemihi and Ngati Ranana representatives. Further carving and woven panels will be added as agreed. All developments will take into consideration legal and good practice requirements such as disabled access, security, and fire prevention issues.

These changes to Hinemihi will act as a catalyst for Hinemihi's further development as a focus for Maori culture in the United Kingdom, and also as a centre of learning for anyone interested in Maori culture. Ngati Ranana, with input from Ngati Hinemihi, will put together a marae advisory group for Hinemihi. This group will support the National Trust in its management of Hinemihi and the increased number of requests to come to Hinemihi on a regular basis by both Maori and non-Maori alike. This group will also advise on day to day use of Hinemihi by visitors to Clandon. In the future, Hinemihi will not only be brought to life and warmed by members of the Maori community, but also by the improved interpretation of Hinemihi to visitors to Clandon, who will then have a much better understanding of Hinemihi's significance.

Editor: Julie Lawlor, Property Manager, incorporating comments made by the Hinemihi project steering group, including representatives of Ngati Hinemihi, Ngati Ranana, and the National Trust
Date: September 2008