

Minutes - Community Funding Committee 31 July 2025

 <p>WHAKATĀNE District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i></p>	Details of Meeting:	COMMUNITY FUNDING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN ROOM TŌTARA, WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL, 14 COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATĀNE, THURSDAY 31 JULY 2025, COMMENCING AT 9:00 AM.
	Present:	Councillors G Dennis (Chairperson), Councillor J Pullar, N Rangiaho and M Panapa (ReoRua Panel Member) <i>Via Teams:</i> R Hawkins (ReoRua Panel Member)
	In Attendance:	E Hatch (General Manager People and Partnerships), F Begley (Manager Community Partnerships), G Gray (Strategic Policy Analyst), T Hotene (Reorua Project Manager), M Read (Manager Ports and Airport Chief Executive), K Gibbard (Port and Airport Coordinator) and A Dass (Governance Support Advisor) <i>Via Teams:</i> E Rossiter (Community Funding Advisor)
	Visitors:	T Cook, K Tukere, A Chapman, H Ruru, L Waaka, M Kempton and B Sheedy <i>Via Teams:</i> M Hona, R Ngaropo
	Apologies:	

The meeting was opened with a karakia given Member Panapa at 9:00 am.

Attendees were advised of Health and Safety procedures and the Chairperson introduced the Panel Members, Staff and Councillors.

1 APOLOGIES

No apologies

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/TRIBUTES

The members acknowledged Rita Tupe from Waiōhau, who achieved second place in the Wellness Massage category at the 2025 Championship in Massage, held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The following conflicts of interests had been declared:

R Hawkins with He Toanga Consultancy and Whakapiki I Te Ao Māori.

M Panapa with Mokopapa Marae and Ahi Ka funding.

4 PUBLIC FORUM

4.1 Iramoko Marae Charitable Trust – Mereana Hona

M Hona presented a funding proposal on behalf of their Marae, outlining an eight-week Te Reo Māori revitalisation programme. This initiative, which incorporated both online modules and three marae-based gatherings, was designed to accommodate learners of all proficiency levels and had previously engaged up to 200 participants. The application sought financial support for facilities, facilitators, resources, and technology, aiming to strengthen cultural heritage and foster greater community involvement.

4.2 Mereana Hona

M Hona explained that Te Kotahi O Te Ao O Te Atua, a collective forum involving multiple iwi, had been established to build cultural capacity through wānanga and other initiatives, with approximately ten Wānanga conducted over two years. The application for funding was to run a one-day wānanga, aiming to build cultural capacity and strengthen Te Reo Māori across the region, with activities welcoming all proficiency levels and fostering community engagement.

Attendance: M Hona left the meeting at 9:12 am.

4.3 He Taonga Consultancy – Tāne Cook and Kirby Tukere

He Taonga Consultancy presented their application to deliver a ten-week programme focused on revitalising Te Reo Māori. The initiative has engaged over 200 learners since 2023. It supports progression into further education and vocational pathways. The organisation is seeking funding for facilitators, resources and community events. Their goal is to promote development and strengthen the local community.

4.4 Miss Rangipare Ngaropo

Miss Rangipare Ngaropo outlined her proposal to publish a bilingual children's book, "Ngā Tapuwae O Te Kura", based on local Ngāti Awa history and designed to promote Te Reo Māori and cultural education among tamariki and the wider community. She sought funding to support printing costs, highlighting the book's educational value and its role in addressing a shortage of bilingual resources.

Attendance: R Ngaropo left the meeting at 9:36 am.

4.5 Te Makaurangi o te Tini o Toi (Kaimahi Maori Forum for staff working at Whakatane hospital) – Aporina Chapman, Hatea Ruru and Leeann Waaka

The Kaimahi Māori Forum presented their application for a three-stage project to introduce bilingual signage at Whakatāne Hospital, aiming to promote Te Reo Māori and enhance cultural visibility for staff and visitors. The forum sought funding for signage design, installation, and community engagement activities, and emphasised collaboration with local iwi to ensure cultural significance and inclusivity.

Attendance: A Chapman, H Ruru and L Waaka left the meeting at 9:47 am.

4.6 Hospice Eastern Bay of Plenty – Margaret Kempton and Bryce Sheedy

Hospice Eastern Bay of Plenty sought funding to deliver staff training focused on Te Reo Māori, Tikanga, and cultural safety, with the intention of improving communication, trust, and culturally appropriate care for Māori patients and their Whānau. The programme aimed to enhance staff capability and foster a supportive environment for end-of-life care.

4.7 Mana Ako – Video submission from Lee Palamo

A video submission from Lee Palamo detailed recent research into the application of artificial intelligence for language revitalisation. The video addressed the ongoing impact of language decline and described the development of a self-funded project, with over 400 hours invested to create an app supporting AI-assisted Te Reo Māori learning. The project seeks funding to facilitate an iwi-led launch of the learning tool, which aims to support language normalisation and provide an accessible resource for everyday practice of Te Reo Māori.

Attendance: The remaining members of the public gallery left the meeting at 10:02 am.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:02 am and reconvened at 10:16 am.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Refer to page 7 of the agenda.

Moved Councillor Rangiaho / Seconded Councillor Pullar

RESOLVED:

THAT the Community Funding Committee **confirm** the minutes of its meeting, held on 20 May 2025 as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

6 REPORTS

6.1 Reorua Contestable Fund - July 2025

Refer to pages 8-11 of the agenda.

The following members declared a conflict of interest and did not participate in the discussion or vote on the relevant application:

R Hawkins - He Toanga Consultancy and Whakapiki I Te Ao Māori.

M Panapa - Mokopapa Marae and Ahi Ka funding.

The Community Funding Advisor presented the report, and the following points were highlighted in the discussion:

- The Whakatāne Tourism Team had withdrawn its application.
- Applications relating to sporting activities had not met the funding criteria.
- Committee members had considered innovative funding pathways and encouraged applicants to apply through other avenues where available.
- The application submitted by Te Ora o te Awa o Paekoa Ngahina Rūātoki was redirected to the Te Puaha Fund, as its objectives and criteria were found to be better aligned with that funding stream. Consideration of this application has been scheduled for the subsequent report.

Moved Councillor Pullar / Seconded Member Hawkins

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Community Funding Committee **receives** the report 'Reorua Contestable Fund – July 2025'; and
2. THAT the Community Funding Committee **receives** the applications to the Reorua Contestable Fund – July 2025; and
3. THAT the Community Funding Committee **considers** the applications to the Reorua Contestable Fund – July 2025 and allocates the funding to recipients accordingly.

Name (Individual/Organisation)	Activity	Amount Allocated
He Taonga Consultancy	Te Ākau Reo o Te Puna Ora	\$1,300.00
Whakapiki i Te Ao māori - Trident High School	Whakapiki i Te Ao Māori ki Rarotonga	\$800.00
Raroa Marae Trust	Kapa Haka Group Practice for 100th Anniversary	\$1,500.00
Rangitaiki Mokopapa - Te Māpou Marae	Rangitaiki Mokopapa	\$1,500.00
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa - Te Ahi Kaa	Ngāti Awa Te Toki - off-season wānanga	\$1,400.00
Mana Ako	Mana Ako	\$2,000.00
Miss Rangipare Ngaropo	Ngā Tapuwae o Te Kura - Children's Book	\$1,300.00
Iramoko Marae Charitable Trust	Te Reo o Te Tawera	\$700.00
Hospice Eastern Bay of Plenty	Kia Ngawari ai te Huarahi: Strengthening Cultural Safety in Palliative Care	\$2,500.00
Total:	\$ 13,000.00	

CARRIED

Attendance: R Hawkins and M Panapa left the meeting at 11:15 am.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:16 am and reconvened at 11:22 am.

6.2 Te Puaha Waterways and Marine Environment Fund – July 2025

Refer to pages 12-15 of the agenda.

The Community Funding Advisor presented the report, and members reviewed applications for the Te Pūaha Waterways and Marine Environment Fund, aligning funding decisions with the fund's objectives. Key projects supported included water safety initiatives, inclusive water sports events, equipment for community clubs, and stream restoration efforts.

Moved Councillor Rangiaho / Seconded Councillor Pullar

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Community Funding Committee **receives** the report 'Te Pūaha – Waterways and Marine Environment Fund – July 2025'; and
2. THAT the Community Funding Committee **receives** the applications to the Te Pūaha – Waterways and Marine Environment Fund – July 2025; and
3. THAT the Community Funding Committee **considers** the applications to the Te Pūaha – Waterways and Marine Environment Fund – July 2025 and allocates the funding to recipients accordingly.
4. THAT the Community Funding Committee **allocates** \$3,000.00 from the Te Pūaha Waterways and Marine Environment Fund to Molly TeMare Turnbull for Te Ora o te Awa o Paekoa, Ngahina, Ruatoki, noting that members considered the application a better fit for this fund.

Name (Individual/Organisation)	Activity	Amount Allocated
Whakatane Surf Lifesaving Club Inc	Sports Equipment	\$3,665.00
Parafed Bay of Plenty	Ōhope Ocean & Harbour Family Fun Days 2026	\$4,000.00
Tarawera Outrigger Canoe Club Inc.	Project funding to purchase a waka trailer	\$5,000.00
Te Tawera Hapū - Iramoko Marae	Te Au o Te Wai	\$2,500.00
Molly Te Mare Turnbull	Te Ora o te Awa o Paekoa, Ngahina, Ruatoki	\$3,000.00
Total:		\$18,165.00

CARRIED

The meeting was closed with karakia by Councillor Rangiaho 11:48 am.

Confirmed at the meeting dated:
CHAIRPERSON

