Executive Committee Candidate Profiles

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Denise MESSITER

I whakapapa to Ngāti Pukenga ki Manaia and I live and work in Thames.

Profile Statement summary

I have 35 years' executive leadership, governance support and organisational development experience across Māori health, social services and Indigenous community development. I am a founding leader of Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki and current Chief Executive Officer of Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki.

I have extensive experience in strategic planning, governance reporting, budget oversight, audit compliance, government contract management, risk management and organisational sustainability.

I am a published researcher with a Master of Applied Social Practice and strong networks across Hauraki, Māori health, government and community sectors.

I offer strategic insight, financial stewardship, Māori health and transformative social justice expertise and a deep commitment to the future success of Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki.

Governance Background, Skills and Experience

Skills and Experience:

- Governance and Leadership: Strategic Planning, Governance Support, Board Reporting, Risk Management, Organisational Development, Change Leadership, Stakeholder Engagement, Community Development
- Financial Stewardship: Budget Development and Oversight, Government Contract Accountability, Audit Compliance, Financial Performance Monitoring, Funding Negotiations, Resource Allocation
- Māori Health and Social Services: Māori Health Leadership, Family Violence Prevention and Intervention, Child Protection, Workforce Development, Community Wellbeing, Kaupapa Māori Service Design
- Research, Policy and Innovation: Kaupapa Māori Research, Programme Evaluation, Public Policy Analysis, Impact Measurement, Service Innovation, Evidence-Based Decision Making

Awards:

- Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) – [for services to Māori and the community] – 2022
- Paul Harris Fellow – Rotary International – 2021

Education and Qualifications:

- Master of Applied Social Practice, UNITEC
- Certificate IV in Training and Assessment
- Diploma in Child Protection (Excellence)
- Certificate in Child Protection
- National Certificate in Alcohol and Drug Counselling (Distinction)
- Certificate in Indigenous Administration and Management
- Certificate in Adult Education
- Certificate in Small Business Management

Publications:

- Messiter, D. (2023). Poipoia te Mauri kia Puawai te Mauri o te Whānau: The Poutama - Is it Working in Hauraki?
- Moyle, Kelly & Messiter (2025). Hauraki Māori Weathering Cyclone Gabrielle Research Report
- Moyle, Kelly, Kereama-Royal & Messiter (2024). Connecting Mahi Tūkino and Housing Poverty in Hauraki
- Te Whāriki Manawāhine Research (2024). He Whare, He Taonga

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Dr Korohere NGĀPŌ

Ko Moehau te maunga,

Ko Tīkapa te moana,

Ko Hauraki te whenua,

Ko Marutūāhu te tangata.

Profile Statement summary

Dr Korohere Ngāpō is of Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Pāoa, Ngāti Pūkenga and Ngāti Porou. He is a graduate of Te Panekiretanga o Te Reo and Te Mata Punenga, a group whose members were trained under the guidance of Sir Tīmoti Kāretu, the late Sir Pou Tēmara and the late Dr Te Wharehuia Milroy.

With a background in mātauranga Māori, Korohere is a former Kura Kaupapa Māori teacher and lecturer. He was the first person to graduate with a PhD in te reo Māori from the University of Waikato.

Korohere is dedicated to serving the people of Hauraki through te reo Māori me ōna tikanga, health and education. He continues to work as a Māori language and cultural adviser for his Hauraki people and supports a range of community organisations. He has previously served on the boards of Te Puna Hauora Matua o Hauraki HPHO and Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki and has represented and supported many Hauraki iwi and organisations in his role as a cultural adviser.

Korohere has an extensive record of research and publication relating to Hauraki histories, waiata, and traditional cultural practices. His compositions are widely recognised and performed throughout the Hauraki rohe and marae, reflecting his significant contribution to the preservation and revitalisation of Hauraki cultural knowledge and heritage.

Governance Background, Skills and Experience

Leadership Roles held:

- Te Whare Tāhuhu Kōrero o Hauraki: Pou Whakarae (1995 – current)
- Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki – Board Member (2022 – current)
- Te Mana Whakahaere o Te Wharekura o Manaia – Iwi Representative (2017 – current)
- Te Reo Irirangi o Ngā Iwi FM – Board Member (2023 – current)
- Thames Coast Kiwi Care – Cultural Advisor (2017 – current)
- Hauraki Primary Health Organisation – Board Member (2022 – 2024)
- Thames Coromandel District Council, Tapu Fire Station, Hauraki Police, DOC Hauraki – Cultural support and advice - (current)

Publications and Articles:

- Ngāpō, K. (2026). Ko te mana o ngā tīeke ki Hauraki. Te Mata, New Zealand: Gravita Publishers.
- Ngāpō, K. (2024). Ureia (2nd Edn). Te Mata, New Zealand: Gravita Publishers.
- Ngāpō, K. (2024). Papakauri (2nd Edn). Te Mata, New Zealand: Gravita Publishers.

Publications and Articles (continued . . .)

- Ngāpō, K. (2022). Ureia. Te Mata, New Zealand: Gravita Publishers.
- Ngāpō, K. (2022). Papakauri. Te Mata, New Zealand: Gravita Publishers.
- Ngāpō, K. (2020). He kohinga waiata nā Hauraki. Hamilton, New Zealand: Gravita Publishers.
- Ngāpō, K. (2019). Ko te ao o te whaikōrero. Te kura reo ā iwi o Ngāti Hauā, 75-79.
- Ngāpō, K. (2016). He tirohanga ki ngā iwi o Hauraki. Te Kōtihitihi, 1(3), 14-31. Hamilton, New Zealand: University of Waikato
- Ngāpō, K. (2014). Te nekunekutanga o ngā reo taketake. In Higgins, R., Rewi, P., Olsen-Reeder., R. (eds). The value of the Māori language: Te Hua o te reo Māori (pp. 181-203). Wellington, New Zealand: Huia Publishers.
- Ngāpō, K. (2013). Te reo Māori: Beyond indifference and tokenism in the classroom. Kaikaranga, 14(1), 3-10. Hamilton, New Zealand: University of Waikato
- Ngāpō, K. (2012). Te whakapuakitanga. Te Kōtihitihi, 1(2),8-10. Hamilton, New Zealand: University of Waikato.
- Ngāpō, K. (2012). Te Whare Tāhuhu Kōrero o Hauraki: Revitalising traditional Māori language of Hauraki.
- Ngāpō, K. (2011). Ko ētehi waiata tangi o Pare Hauraki. Te Kōtihitihi, 1(1), 19-26. Hamilton, New Zealand: University of Waikato

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TeAhoraurangi Melba PAKINGA

Ko Moehau TeAroha ōku Maunga
Ko Waihou Ohinemuri ōku Awa
Ko Ngati Tamatera, Ngati Hako Nga Puhi ōku Iwi
Ko Te Pai o Hauraki / Ko Tirohia (Te Kotahitanga) ōku Marae
Ko Hauraki Te Whenua
Ko Tikapa Te Moana
Ko TeAhoraurangi Melba Pakinga tōku ingoa

Profile Statement summary

Melba Pakinga was born and raised in Paeroa, at Karaka Pā on Mill Road, and is the seventh of fifteen children born to Wini and John Pakinga. While Melba also has whakapapa connections to Ngāpuhi, she was raised in Hauraki, where her strong connection to whānau and community has shaped both her personal and professional journey.

Education has been central to Melba's life. As a young mother receiving the Domestic Purposes Benefit, she was determined to create greater opportunities for herself and her whānau through education. She embarked on a university journey that spanned more than 30 years, recently achieving her Master's degree, a significant milestone reflecting her perseverance, resilience and lifelong commitment to learning.

Melba has extensive experience across the primary, secondary and tertiary education sectors, including management and team leadership roles. Throughout her career, she has worked within environments requiring strong accountability and an understanding of governance and regulatory responsibilities, including those relating to school Boards of Trustees, NZQA and ERO.

Her experience has given her the ability to engage with people across generations. She is passionate about supporting rangatahi and educators, while also encouraging older people to embrace opportunities for continued learning, growth and participation.

Although Melba retired from teaching this year, she remains committed to using the skills, knowledge and experience gained throughout her career to contribute positively to the health and wellbeing of others and her wider community.

Melba now brings a wealth of lived experience, leadership, educational knowledge and a lifelong commitment to learning and service. She is passionate about using these strengths to support others and contribute to improved health, wellbeing and positive outcomes within the community.

Governance Background, Skills and Experience

Leadership Roles held:

- Head of Department, Te Pou Ārahi & Te Ao Māori, Paeroa College
- Senior Lecturer & Programme Developer, Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT)
- Head of Department Māori, Tamaki College Glen Innes Tamaki Makaurau
- Teacher in charge of Te Reo Māori, Hauraki Plains College

Education and Qualifications:

- Masters of Professional Studies (2nd class Honours), University of Auckland (2025)
- Post Graduate Diploma in Educational Leadership, University of Auckland (2017)
- Bachelor of Education, University of Auckland (2001)
- Diploma of Teaching University of Waikato (1999)
- Ngarimu VC & 28th Māori Battalion Research Scholarship (2024)
- Diploma Bible Theology, International Bible College NZ (1987)
- Te Ataarangi Te Tuara, Te Tinana (1995)

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Dr Stephanie PALMER

Ngāti Porou ki Harataunga

Profile Statement summary

Every whānau in every community across Hauraki deserves easy, affordable access to GP clinics, allied health and social services, mental health supports, natural therapeutic interventions (like rongoa Māori, mirimiri and homeopathy), preventative and rehabilitative care and services that specialise in uplifting the wellbeing of our tāmariki, rangatahi, wāhine, wāhine hapū, tāne, kaumatua, whānau and hapori.

I would bring knowledge, skillsets and experience that supports Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki to achieve their kaupapa of 'continually striving for excellence in the way that services are provided'.

My core competencies include co-designing and piloting services, monitoring and reporting on outcomes, policy analysis, quantitative and qualitative research and governance across government and non-government organisations.

I have very strong background knowledge on the Whānau Ora 2.0 commissioning model as a public sector social investment approach, and I have worked alongside two previous CEOs (Hugh Kininmonth and Riana Manuel) on a range of projects and proposals. While working as principal analyst for the Ministry of Social Development, for example, I led a project that secured over $2M for Te Korowai to pilot a kaupapa Māori employment support service for tangata whaiora during 2022-2024 (Te Mana Whaī Pūkenga mo Hauraki).

I believe in the moemoea, kaupapa and ngā mātāpono o Te Korowai Hauora and I offer my services to the Board and whānau of Hauraki.

Governance Background, Skills and Experience

Leadership Roles held:

- Māori provider development consultant since 2005
- Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Harataunga, BOT Member/Chair, 1994-current
- Te Roopu Tautoko o Harataunga, Executive Committee, 1998-current
- Mana Whenua Harataunga Charitable Trust, Executive Committee, 2018-current
- Tumana Research, Director, 2005-current
- Tangaroa Transport, Director, 2008-2018
- Growing Up in New Zealand, Research Committee, 2019-2021
- Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, Ministry of Health, 2012-2019

Leadership Roles (continued. . .)

- Waikato Whānau Ora Regional Leadership Group, 2010-2013
- Perinatal & Maternal Mortality Review Committee, Ministry of Health, 2006-2012
- Northern X Health & Disability Ethics Committee, 2005-2008

Education and Qualifications:

- B.Sc (1st Class, Hons)
- PhD (Māori Health, Psychology, Statistics)

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Glen TUPUHI

Tainui te waka

Ngaati Paaoa ki Waiheke, Tamaki Makaurau, Hauraki, Waikato

Ngati Hine, Ngati Naho o Waikato

Ngati Rangimahora, Ngaati Apakura ooku tuupuna kuia

Profile Statement summary

Personal characteristics and traits, honest, forthright, strategic and tenacious.

- Graduate Diploma Business Studies - Massey University.
- Completed NZ Institute of Directors Certificate and refreshers courses.
- Completed RMA Commissioners training.
- Health related qualifications relevant to previous employment as a Probation Officer, held Management and senior positions in CYFS, Justice, Health Waikato and Hauora Waikato and Te Runanga o Kirikiriroa.

Governance Background, Skills and Experience

Numerous governance entities from whanau trusts to marae and Iwi representative trusts to regional and national trust bodies and commercial companies.

- Chairperson and Trustee of The Ngaati Paaoa Trust 2005 to 2012, subsequently Ngaati Paaoa Iwi Trust.
- Trustee Hauraki Maori Trust Board Pare Hauraki Fishing Trust 2009 to 2015
- Executive Committee member and Deputy Chair, Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki 2013 to current.
- Hauraki representative former Waikato District Health Board Iwi Maori Council, 9 years until the health reforms devolution of health boards.
- Mana whenua representative Auckland Council Independent Maori Statutory Board 2010 - 2013.
- Member of government appointed Maori Economic Development Panel – 2012 to 2014.
- Chair Ngaa Muka Development Trust – Cluster of northern Waikato under the Waikato Tainui marae 2016 to 2024.
- Board member and deputy chair Te Puna Matua Hauora o Hauraki, Primary Health Organisation, 2018 to current
- Chair Hauraki Localities Alliance.
- Trustee Ecoquest Education Foundation PTE, international environmental and ecological education provider.
- Independent Director Winton Lands Ltd November 2021 current
- Tiratu Iwi Maori Partnership Board NZ Health Reforms 2023 – Hauraki Representative
- Trustee Whakatupu Aotearoa Philanthropic Trust