

Waipa

The Local Spiritual Assembly was ecstatic to have such amazing support from the institutions of the Faith — a National Assembly member and two Auxiliary Board members as well as a member of the Regional Council.

It had long been a goal to develop a relationship with one of our local marae and Covid blocked every attempt in the last two years. The Local Assembly was very excited and a little nervous to be able to hold our conference on Rāwhitiroa Marae on the outskirts of Te Awamutu which is a marae that many in our neighbourhood are connected to.

One of our last minute obstacles was that two local households had to isolate due to Covid which meant we lost our MC and billeted accommodation for 3 visitors. Covid or the flu also hit a number in the Hamilton community who had been coming to help serve the conference.

Up till the last minute we also had no Kaikōrero to sit on our paepae and speak on our behalf. The many kaumatua we had approached over several weeks all had other commitments. Then we heard a dear kaumatua from Northland had heard of our plight and supported by the Local Assembly of the Far North he and a companion travelled down to support our conference.

Our dependence and trust in the Concourse on High was richly rewarded with a conference of exquisite spirit which moved many. And now we have a motivated group of parents and friends who want to be involved in what we are doing in the neighbourhood. This is a first.

Note: Reports received from the various conferences have been edited for clarity and conciseness.