



Wairoa Country Collie Club's trials make a welcome return

BARRY McIntyre (above) demonstrates calmness and composure as he waits for his working dog to lead the sheep into the pen at the final stage of the short head event.

The dog trials were for the Wairoa Country Collie Club, their first event of the 2023-24 trial season.

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Hundreds of marae exposed to natural hazards: research

NEW research aiming to bolster marae resilience against flooding, landslides and other natural hazards will be welcome recognition for Wairoa marae.

Hundreds of marae around the country are exposed to natural hazards like flooding and landslides, according to the new research at the University of Auckland.

Engineering PhD student Haukapuanui Vercoe (who has ties to Mihiroa Marae through Nepia whānau and Mōhaka Marae through Hawkins whānau) conducted a geospatial hazard analysis of 869 marae nationwide to assess how they could be impacted by natural hazards.

His findings show that one in three marae are positioned in flood-prone areas for a 100-year flood event, 20 to 30 percent could be prone to landslides induced by earthquakes, 10 to 20 percent are in tsunami evacuation zones and 30 to 40 percent might expect liquefaction to occur in a design earthquake.

"The findings are alarming. Climate change and natural hazards pose a significant threat to our marae in Aotearoa."

"Climate change is no longer a looming threat. It is upon us, and we are seeing the effects of it now," he says.

His research was planned pre-Cyclone Gabrielle and with science showing that extreme weather events are going to become more intense and frequent, Haukapuanui wanted to explore new grounds on a national scale. "There should be some input from the government to resource marae better. Marae never turn away people, we will always welcome people and support the community."

Marae have played a pivotal role in

providing support to the community during natural disaster emergencies, such as the Christchurch and Kaikōura earthquakes, Edgumbe floods and Cyclone Gabrielle.

However, resourcing is a critical challenge for marae, given the pressing need for repairing or upgrading infrastructure and buildings.

Many depend on koha, grants or event bookings to sustain operational expenses says Haukapuanui.

"Marae often receive little to no acknowledgement for their significant contribution to civil defence and emergency response, as well as recovery and relief efforts. Although marae and hapū will continue to support the wider community from the goodness of their hearts, marae should

not bear the cost and must be resourced accordingly.

"Collaborative efforts and support from central and local government would be a step in the right direction to ensure adequate funding and resources are accessible for all marae."

Both he and his brother, Sonny Vercoe, are doctoral students in the Faculty of Engineering.

Haukapuanui Vercoe's research looks at which hazards marae are prone to and might want to consider in their emergency preparedness plans, while Sonny is developing provisions for structural engineers to carry out detailed seismic assessments of wharehenui.

They have joined forces with Te Arawa Lakes Trust, a local iwi organisation in their hometown of Rotorua.

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