

Role Scaffold — Marae Liaison (Uey Kai Garden, DCCG)

Drafted: 2026-06-05

Status: Draft — to be confirmed with whoever holds the role.

Template: DCCG Role Scaffold Template.

Purpose of the Scaffold

The Marae Liaison holds the Waikarā Marae relationship for the project, and acts as the named DCCG contact for any wider marae or hapū relationships the work draws in. Direct iwi-level contact stays with the Chair (Nigel) and Matua Snow Tane. This role holds the marae-level relationship that the Chair doesn't carry.

The role also holds the relationship with the local school alongside the Kids' Plot Lead.

When the role is held well, the Waikarā partnership is steady — not neglected, not pushed.

Why This Matters

A community group doing relational work with mana whenua without a named contact either overloads the Chair or makes the relationship hard for Waikarā to navigate. A named contact gives Waikarā a direct line to DCCG, and gives DCCG someone whose attention is on the relationship.

Outcomes of the Scaffold

Poor Outcome. The Marae Liaison treats the relationship as a project task. Schedules visits. Asks for hui. Performs relationship work for the funder or the committee.

Expected Outcome. The Liaison is the named contact. Visits happen when there's something to share.

Excellent Outcome. The Liaison is alongside the relationship, not in charge of it. Waikarā's whānau and the Liaison know each other as people. The relationship outlasts the project.

Planks of the Scaffold

1. Be the named contact

Purpose of the Plank. Waikarā has one DCCG contact for the project. That's this role.

Poor Outcome. Multiple DCCG members reach out at the same time, or no one does.

Expected Outcome. One inbox, one phone. The Liaison's contact sits with Waikarā's named contact at the marae.

Excellent Outcome. The contact is steady enough that the relationship develops without needing process.

2. Move at the relationship's pace, not the project's pace

Purpose of the Plank. Stone 2 (Speed of Trust) is the relationship's pace.

Why This Matters. The application's pace of build (autumn beds, spring food stand, February picnic) is faster than the relationship's pace. The Liaison holds the slower pace separately from the build.

Poor Outcome. The build schedule pulls the relationship along with it. The Liaison feels obliged to involve Waikarā at each project milestone whether Waikarā wants that or not.

Expected Outcome. Build milestones happen. Relational milestones happen on their own time. The Liaison can tell the difference.

Excellent Outcome. The build's rhythm and the relationship's rhythm are two different things, both held.

3. Pass information back at the right level

Purpose of the Plank. What Waikarā shares with the Liaison gets brought back to the committee at the right level of detail — not gossip, not silence.

Why This Matters. A Liaison who tells the committee everything breaches the implicit trust of the relationship. A Liaison who tells the committee nothing leaves the committee out of step.

Poor Outcome. Detailed personal updates at committee meetings, or nothing at all.

Expected Outcome. The committee hears, at the appropriate level of detail, how the relationship is going. "Things are continuing to grow with Waikarā" is sometimes the whole report.

Excellent Outcome. The committee trusts the Liaison to pass information without distortion. The relationship trusts the Liaison too.

4. Hold the school within this scope

Purpose of the Plank. This role is the named contact for the local school, working alongside the Kids' Plot Lead.

Why This Matters. The school relationship and the marae relationship have similar shapes — invitation rather than coercion, the other side's pace rather than the project's. The same posture and the same role hold both.

Poor Outcome. The Liaison treats school and marae the same, or treats them so differently the relational shapes don't line up.

Expected Outcome. The Liaison holds both. The Kids' Plot Lead handles school-specific work.

Excellent Outcome. Both relationships find their own shape.

Values

Three values: **Speed of Trust** (the relationship's pace, not the project's); **alongside, not in charge**; and **respecting the asymmetry** (Waikarā is three years ahead; the school sits in Te Roroa rohe — those differences are acknowledged).

See also: relationship stewardship, kids plot lead, Foundation_Stones_of_the_System.