

Puniho Pā (Tarawainuku Marae)



About Puniho Pā

Puniho Pā is used about two or three times every month for hui, weddings, tangihanga, kapahaka, wānanga and school/work groups. There are also three whānau living on the papa kāinga. Puniho Pā is 7km away from the nearest transfer station in Okato.

What used to happen

With different groups making use of Puniho Pā at different times, there was no consistent approach to waste minimisation or recycling. Sorting rubbish, recycling and composting were at the discretion of the whānau or group involved in each hui or wānanga.

What changes were made

In April 2013, Puniho Pā became involved with the Para Kore project (www.parakore.maori.nz), which helps marae with waste minimisation, recycling and composting. An initial waste audit graphically demonstrated to whānau and marae trustees where gains could be made. This led to an improved system for separating out recyclables, food scraps and compostable paper, complete with signage supplied by Para Kore. A wānanga for marae residents and trustees made everyone aware of what was happening, and why, and the marae's booking agreement with events organisers puts a strong emphasis on sustainability and waste minimisation.

The outcome

No waste/recycling/composting records were kept prior to April 2013, but in the 14 months to June 2014, 91% of discarded material (by volume) was diverted to recycling, composting or animal feed, with just over 2200 litres going to landfill.

Some of the local porkers are happier! While some of the food scraps are composted for the papa kāinga gardens, the rest is fed to local pigs.

What is noticeable for marae residents and users is that fewer 'black bags' are in evidence after hui and other events.