

TE KAKARA

Te Kakara o te Hinu Raukawa - Your Raukawa Iwi Newsletter

HŌTOKE EDITION
Pānui 35 | 2017



Poukai Health Checks

Hatupatu Planting

Ministerial Forum

Welcome to the Winter edition of Te Karaka, your Raukawa pānui.

I hope you have all been keeping warm and enjoying plenty of whānau time during the cooler months of the year.

This time of year is Matariki the dawn of the Māori New Year. This year it began in mid-July, and traditionally this was a time for remembering those who have passed, and to celebrate new life. For us today it is a time to come together and enjoy whānau.

It has been a busy few months for our iwi since our last pānui. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our team and our trustees who work so hard to support the needs and aspirations of our people.

A key highlight from May was the attendance of a delegation from the Raukawa Settlement Trust and management of the Raukawa Charitable Trust who travelled to Wellington for the Annual Raukawa/Crown Ministerial Forum, and the Crown-Iwi meeting on Co-Governance/Co-Management Framework for the Waikato and Waipā Rivers.

The hui held across two days provided a chance for Raukawa to meet with the Minister of Māori Development, Te Ururoa Flavell, Prime Minister Bill English, as well as other ministers and officials, and to come together to identify how we can collectively work together to advance the needs and aspirations of Raukawa whānau.

There is more detail on these two hui in the pages ahead.

The hui are an example of the greater ability Raukawa have today to improve and advance the collective interests of our people, and just as important, these discussions being led by our own people. Not so many years ago others spoke on our behalf, and it was incredibly hard for our people to meet with those who made decisions which had a big impact on our people. Today we have a strong voice and we are able to meet and engage with those who make decisions which are important to our people. It is crucial that we do so, and continue to speak for our people. I give thanks to all of those who came before, and those who support us and are with us today, they have fought hard to ensure our Raukawa voice is strong and is heard.

There are a range of many other positive stories in the pages ahead, covering health, education, and the coming together of our people to strengthen our Raukawa reo Māori. I encourage you to take the time to read the stories and take pride in the success of our whānau, and the progress Raukawa and our people continue to make.

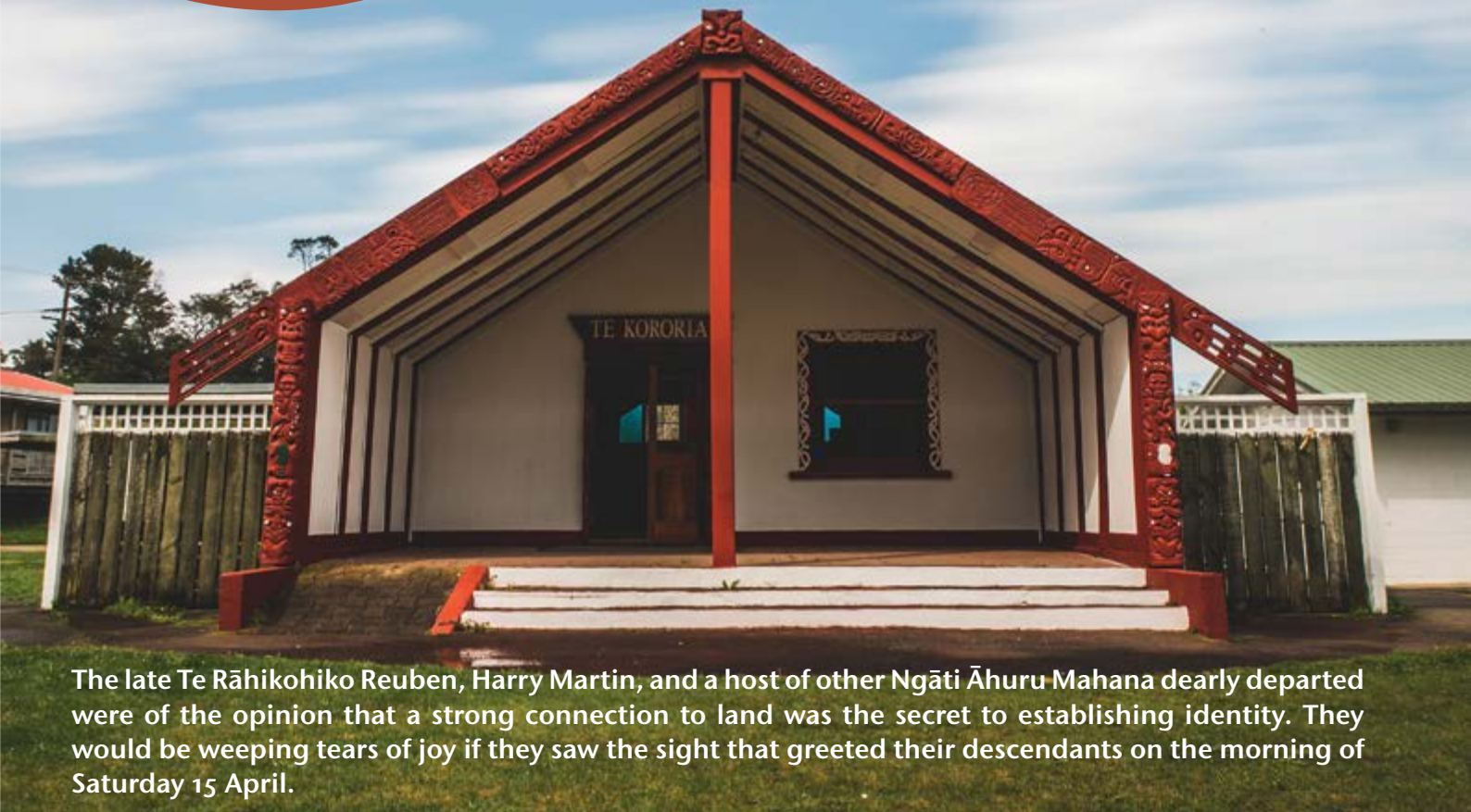
We welcome any news you may have, and any developments you think may be of interest to our wider Raukawa whānau. Please send any story ideas and news tips to info@rauakawa.org.nz.

Have a wonderful Matariki whānau, and enjoy this time with family and those that you love.

Nā Vanessa Eparaima
Raukawa Settlement Trust Chairperson



Te Oranga o te Tangata, he Whenua



The late Te Rāhikohiko Reuben, Harry Martin, and a host of other Ngāti Āhuru Mahana dearly departed were of the opinion that a strong connection to land was the secret to establishing identity. They would be weeping tears of joy if they saw the sight that greeted their descendants on the morning of Saturday 15 April.

In the gloom, on the porch of Te Korōria at Whakaaratamaiti Marae, young and old assembled, wiping sleep from their eyes and trying to shake off the sleep that had been denied them. All waited anxiously for prayers to be completed so that they could make their way down to the land on Domain Rd that had been returned to the hapū. Dawn was still half an hour away and everyone was excited to finally walk onto the land that many of their ancestors thought would never be back in the hands of its traditional owners.

A queue of cars wormed its way down Domain Rd coming to rest in the eerie darkness.

The crackling and flickering flames pierced the veil of night shattering the predawn silence. A fire had been lit on the most prominent hill on the block of land. However, this fire was not lit to provide heat, cooking or forging weapons, it was lit as a beacon for all to see that this land was indeed occupied.

Hapū members, friends and families assembled before a series of waerea and karakia were recited to clear the land for everyone who braved the weather to make the sombre journey to bless and unveil the plaque that had been prepared for this momentous occasion.

Tears flowed and memories abound for the treasured loved ones no longer among the living, for the numerous family members unavailable and for all those gathered to

witness such a surreal moment in time. Local ministers recited prayer and tributes, while acknowledgements were extended as the sun slowly crept over the hill heralding a new day for Ngāti Āhuru Mahana.

Despite the legal, financial and political hurdles that plagued the marae committee, they held strong to the beliefs of the original claimants and eventually saw the return of the land to the hapū.

The official signing over of the land occurred at the Raukawa Charitable Trust Office in Tokoroa on Tuesday 11 April 2017. The occasion was celebrated through a number of events. The first was planting a tōtara on the land. A plaque was unveiled at the recent dawn service and a wero performed by local men from Mangakeretu and Whakaaratamaiti began the pōwhiri on the newly acquired land. Guests representing the Kīngitanga, South Waikato District Council, and Ngāti Tangata, along with community members from the South Waikato joined the feast and celebrations that marked the delight and relief that Ngāti Āhuru Mahana felt.

Kaumātua of Whakaaratamaiti are optimistic about the opportunities the land will offer for future generations. Correcting the land confiscation was of utmost importance to the hapū and Whakaaratamaiti Marae. The convictions of Te Rā and Koro Harry left an indelible impression on the people prompting action. That action over several decades has resulted in the return of the land.



Marae Development Workshops

Our series of Marae Development Workshops are now in their third year. Each workshop is developed in collaboration with relevant industry professionals. The workshops are intended to support marae officers, trustees and iwi members to equip themselves with the knowledge and skills required to help them meet the expectations of their marae members and their legal obligations as marae office holders.

Workshops in previous years have focussed on helping marae office holders make the most of their financial resources. With workshops on understanding how the Raukawa Marae Grants are administered, along with introductory level bookkeeping and the banking options available to them.

However this financial year the workshops have covered a wider range of topics. Instead of focusing on administration and pūtea management, the workshops have focused on some of the more significant challenges facing our marae. These include how best to protect marae for future generations via the differing marae insurance options available, how new health and safety legislation affects marae trustees, and the Raukawa Tribal Register and the grants available to registered uri.

For Maria Te Kanawa, Aka Tauwhiro Group Manager, it is always a pleasure to see members of marae communities attending the workshops.

“Seeing the number of people who wish to learn and upskill so they can help serve their marae is inspiring, especially when they are rangatahi. It shows our marae are in good hands going into the future.”

If you think that our marae could benefit from a workshop focused on a particular topic within the areas of marae charter review, marae strategic planning, financial literacy and funding, or marae health & safety, then please feel free to contact Maria on info@raukawa.org.nz or **o800 RAUKAWA**.



Vedi Angelinovic from Willis Towers Watson presents insurance options to marae representatives.





Poukai Health Checks for Whānau

Poukai are an important event in the annual calendar for many of our Raukawa marae. They bring the wider marae community together and also present an opportunity for the Raukawa Charitable Trust (RCT) to directly support the health of our people by undertaking proactive primary health screening.

It was to this end that staff from the RCT attended the Poukai held at Owairaka (Rawhitiroa) Marae. Throughout the day the team offered free blood pressure checks, blood sugar screening and encouraged wāhine to register for breast cancer screening with BreastScreen Aotearoa. Alongside the health checks, the team also helped cover the first aid needs on the day.

Donna Leger, Whānau Ora Clinical Services Manager, says that the teams presence at this event wasn't just about the health checks.

"Poukai allow us an opportunity to encourage uri to be proactive about looking after their health."

For Donna, the more informal atmosphere at Poukai meant people were more willing to make use of the health checks on offer as well.

"For many it was the presence and encouragement of whānau at Poukai that made them get checked. It was great to see whānau proactively looking after each other" says Donna.



Registered Nurse Donna Leger checks the blood pressure of a Poukai attendee.

In total our nurses carried out 32 health checks during the day. Some of those who utilised the free health checks returned results outside the normal range, however, in each of those cases we provided a copy of their results along with an explanation of what they meant, we also encouraged them to talk with their local GP about what the results meant for their ongoing health.



Rock Hunters for Light it Orange

Early March saw tamariki and rangatahi eagerly exploring crooks, crevices and other hiding places around Tokoroa, hunting for the elusive Tok Rocks. Part of a social media driven craze that swept the country, Tokoroa followed cities like Hamilton and Palmerston North in having its own rock hunting Facebook group. With a range of hand painted rocks hidden around town, people were encouraged to find the rocks, take a photo and post it to the Tok Rocks Facebook Group and re-hide the rock for someone else to find it.

Intended to encourage families to spend more time together, Tok Rocks was the perfect means by which the Raukawa Charitable Trust (RCT) could promote Light it Orange Week. Held each year, Light It Orange Week aims to raise awareness of the services offered by Shine to help victims of family violence to get safe and stay safe.

Each of the orange rocks hidden around Tokoroa by Raukawa kaimahi highlighted an element of the kaupapa of E Tū Whānau: aroha, whanaungatanga, whakapapa, mana/ manaaki, kōrero awhi and tikanga. As an added incentive for families to get hunting for the rocks, everyone who found one of the orange rocks could bring it to the RCT offices in Tokoroa and receive an awesome Light It Orange shirt. Throughout the week 10 t-shirts were claimed by successful rock hunters.

Jared Kennedy, Whānau Ora Kaiārahi, said that Tok Rocks represented a fun way to spread a very serious message, *“With the police attending a family violence call out every 5 minutes, the work that Shine does is sadly in high demand. But by raising awareness of the services they offer we can help keep families safe and work towards improving the family violence statistics in New Zealand.”*

For Megan Lepaio, Whānau Ora Kaiārahi, seeing the excitement on the faces of those tamariki that had found a rock was heart-warming. Megan said *“seeing the tamariki so excited to get their t-shirt, and help spread the message of the great work that Shine does, was amazing.”*





Ō-Rākau Commemorations

Raukawa once again returned to Ō-Rākau on 2 April to commemorate those tūpuna who fought at the battle 153 years ago.

As with previous years, the day was an emotive one and offered a chance for individual and collective reflection. The day started at the memorial service held at the site of the battle which lays around 3.5km south-east of Kihikihi.

The kōrero on the day focused on the importance of remembering those who fought at the battle. This year Raukawa were joined by those who had tūpuna that fought alongside Raukawa. These guests were warmly welcomed by all those present.

Raukawa Settlement Trust Chairperson Vanessa Eparaima said *“Ō-Rākau is a significant part of the Raukawa story, it is important that we reflect on and remember those tūpuna who fought and died here. But we must also remember the other people who are linked to this site through their tūpuna, and support them to commemorate this event of shared significance.”*

This year’s commemorations continued at Pārāwera (Te Taumata) Marae with a special screening of Rudall Hayward’s 1940 film *“Rewi’s Last Stand”*. Nigel Te Hiko, Research Project Lead, says *“while Rewi’s Last Stand is a romantic dramatisation of the Battle of Ō-Rākau, being able*

to have the screening at the marae so close to the battle site made the day all the more special. “

“Many of the uri present recognised tūpuna who appeared in the movie and for some it was the first time they had seen images or footage of their tūpuna.”

It was unfortunate that Koro John Kopa was unable to be present at the screening as he played a role in the movie as a child when it was filmed around Aotearoa Marae.

Nigel also acknowledges those who helped make the screening possible. *“We are grateful to the Hayward family, and Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision for all their help and co-operation in the lead up to the screening.”*

For many at Pārāwera (Te Taumata) Marae it was a stroll down memory lane to have the *“pictures at the marae”*.

Commemorations at Ō-Rākau will continue to be an important part of the year for Raukawa, with planning for next year’s event to get under way later this year.





Vanessa continued, “We are pleased that not only has the redevelopment helped to protect Hatupatu from damage, but that NZTA took the opportunity to make access to the site safer for Raukawa uri and travellers alike.”

Vanessa encourages all Raukawa uri to take the chance to stop at the site next time they are travelling past and take in the new changes to the site.

It is hoped that this collaborative project can serve as a model for future projects to protect wāhi tapu sites both within the rohe, and for other iwi around the country.



Raukawa Kaitiaki Rōpū Established

The vision for a strong, skilled, active, and well-informed group of kaitiaki to help protect and nourish the environment within the Raukawa rohe took another step forward in March. The group, to be known as the Raukawa Kaitiaki Rōpū (the RKR), was formally established at a wānanga held in Tokoroa on Saturday 25 March.

The RKR is intended to build on the success of the Raukawa Environmental Forum. The forum was instrumental in the development of Te Rautaki Taiao a Raukawa – Raukawa Environment Management Plan. The RKR seeks to support a flaxroots approach to protecting our environment for current and future generations.

The RKR is made up of two mandated members from each of the 16 Raukawa Settlement Trust marae.

One of the goals for the establishment wānanga was to establish an ethos for the work of the Rōpū going forward. After much kōrero, that highlighted the passion everyone had for the mahi, the RKR settled on a statement that encapsulated their ethos.

**Raukawa te iwi
Raukawa te whenua
Raukawa uri, Raukawa rangatahi
Raukawa te kaitiaki
Mōu, mōku, mō tātou
Raukawa kia mau, kia ora!**

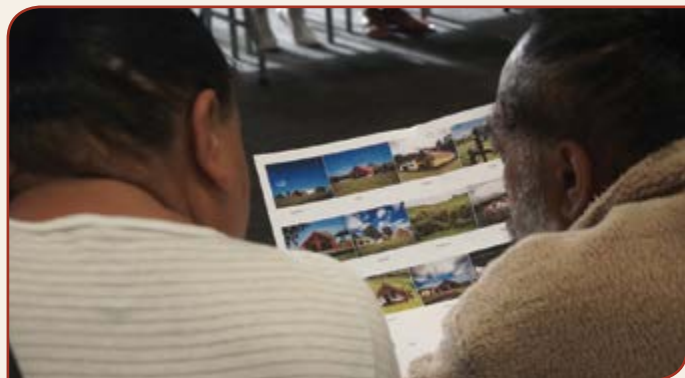
This ethos will underpin a work plan that the RKR will develop over the coming months. A focus for the work plan will be workshops that allow members to upskill and enable them to support projects on the ground at their respective marae, as well as collaborative projects.

This collaborative approach was exemplified at the establishment wānanga with the creation of “Te Ruinga Kākano” seed sharing project. The vision for this project is to create a whakapapa for our plants and kai, while also strengthening the connections between Raukawa marae. RKR members are encouraged to bring seeds from their kāinga or marae to share with other Rōpū members to grow at their respective marae, allowing Raukawa marae to nourish and support each other. The seeds provided at the wānanga were supplied by Ngāti Huri uri Shirley Simmonds and came from Ōtaki. Tuaropaki also provided various native seeds for the group.

During the wānanga a range of potential projects were discussed, including supporting the development of a marae based water quality monitoring project, riparian planting, and ngā wāhi tūturu site visits. All of these projects aim to have a direct, positive impact on the environment, while also helping to equip marae with the tools and skills needed to lead similar mahi in the future.



Rōpū members discuss the ethos.



Celia Witehira, (Pūtake Taiao Programme Lead, Projects and Implementation), was pleased with the turnout.

“It was great to see not only nominated marae representatives attending but many other uri, including rangatahi, who are passionate about our environment,” she said.

Those rangatahi present give Celia hope for the future. *“We know that there are uri coming through who can pick up the mahi to help protect the environment.”*

While the RKR will play an advisory role, its main focus will be actively engaging with the Raukawa Charitable Trust on project planning and execution. This will include scoping, planning and leading environmental projects on behalf of marae throughout the Raukawa rohe.

The Raukawa Charitable Trust will work collaboratively with the RKR for the best outcome for Raukawa marae, iwi, uri, and hapū. The RKR will support networking and capacity building to help protect and enhance the environment, and address environmental issues and challenges facing Raukawa.



Grant Recipient Joins the Team

Earlier in the year the Raukawa Charitable Trust welcomed April Haika to our environment team. April, from Ongaroto Marae, is a Raukawa education grant recipient and took up a position in the Projects and Implementation team. April received grant support while she was completing her Poutuarongo Kaitiakitanga Pūtaiao at Te Wānanga o Raukawa, where she graduated last year.

Her degree explored sustainable practice, iwi and marae research, hapū development, and environmental management and planning and helped equip her with a wide range of practical and theoretical skills in the environment sector.

Education grants form a central part of the support that Raukawa are able to offer iwi members with \$80,000 available for distribution in the 2016/17 financial year. The education grants are made available every year to iwi members who are undertaking short courses, undergraduate, and post graduate university study. The education grants aim to support Raukawa iwi members in their post secondary school educational journey and help strengthen and broaden the skills base of the iwi as a whole.

Before taking up study April had been actively involved in a number of environmental projects throughout the rohe. The education grant helped her complete her study that has allowed her to take that involvement to the next level.

Starting her study later in life, the path to a degree was not an easy one says April.

“The education grant from Raukawa really helped to support me in my studies. The grant made it possible for me to travel to Ōtaki to attend classes and to purchase the books and stationary that allowed me to complete my degree.”

For April, the grant provided her with the extra confidence needed to take on the challenge in her kaupapa to both protect and nurture the natural environment. This confidence drives April’s desire to achieve better outcomes for the environment and to give back to her community.



“It is a great feeling being able to give back to the iwi that has supported me through my studies, and hopefully fulfil the aspirations my tūpuna had for me. It also means the wider iwi can benefit from the grant funding that Raukawa has invested in me and my studies.”

The journey from student to graduate has now led April to helping drive Raukawa environmental projects from concept to completion. Her first few months here have been busy and has seen her involved in planning for the Hatupatu planting day that you can read more about on pages 8 and 9. She has also been instrumental in establishing the new Raukawa Kaitiaki Rōpū and has supported a series of hui to identify Raukawa priorities in relation to restoring the Waikato and Waipā Rivers.

To learn more about Raukawa Education Grants,
contact us on 0800 RAUKAWA
or visit
www.raukawa.org.nz





Te Kura Reo o Raukawa – Ngahuru ki te Rau!

Kia whakaupoko ake i te putanga kōrero ka whai mai ki ngā kupu a te kāhu kōrako o te reo Māori, a Tīmoti Kāretu, i tāna ngeri i titoa mai ai e ia hei whakanui, hei whakamihi i te ekeka o te Kura Reo o Raukawa ki tōna anō tau tuangahuru.

Raukawa ki uta, Raukawa ki tai
Nei rā a ngahuru kua eke
I muia ai ō papa
E Ngāi Pūkoko, e Ngāi Iri Te Manawa ki te tawhi e
E motuhake ai tātou, te Māori
I ngā iwi taketake o te ao whānui āhāhā
Tū nei tātou i te tumu o te nguha
Ki te āpitiū, ki te riri aupaki
Ki te haputa me te peke-pakihiwi
Noho nei ko koutou te pīpī
Kia kī noa ake au i konei
Mai i te ngahuru, ki te rau, ki te mano
Ki te ake, ake tonu atu, Raukawa e!

Ahakoa rā te korenga o Tīmoti i wātea ki te haere mai i tēnei tau hei ngārehu i te ope tauā kaiwhakaako, nāna tonu te kaupapa i whakanakonako, i whakamarumarū, i hūhi i tawhiti i runga anō i te whakaaro nui. Me te whakaaro iho, nō Raukawa tonu te hōnora, nō te hunga tae mai te whiwhi. Heoi anō rā, ko te Kura Reo ahakoa tū ki whea, me tōna anō kaiwhakarewa, e kore e taea te wetewete, te wehewehe, ko rāua rāua!

Nō te Rātapu, te 23 o Paengawhāwhā i te 3 karaka o te ahiahi, tukuna ai te reo rāhiri kia whakaeke ana te ope manuwiri ki te kaupapa. Rearea pai nei te noho i te poho o Matapihi o te Rangi i a Ngāi Tauhou ki te kaupapa, i a Ngāti Waihape, i te tira kairākau kura reo. Ki konei ka kī, i tūāhuru tūturu mai nei te marae.

I a Tātere MacLeod o Ngāti Kahungunu, o Raukawa ki te Tonga hoki te puku o te wāhanga ōkawa i te pae manuwiri, nāna a nuipuku me ngā take huhua o te wā i tuitui, i hora, i kōrero hei whakarongotanga mā te iwi. Ko ia hoki te whakatinanatanga o ēnei kupu e whai ake nei, 'e rangatira ai te reo, me kōunga!' Ka nui te uruhau i te kitenga atu i te nui o te rūranga me te ahikā tonu ki tōna anō 135, pakeke mai, taiohi mai, mātua mai, tamariki mai, kaiako mai hoki. Ka mutu atu te rere haere o ngā mihimihi, ka anga kē atu ai te titiro ki ngā mahi o te kaupapa.

He rite tonu te karawhiu i ērā o Kura Reo kē atu, ka tō te rā, ka ara ake anō te rā, he mihi ki te wāhi ngaro, he kauwhau hoki te mahi kia pai ai te haere o te kaupapa. I tino pērā, nā te wairua pai katoa hoki o ngā taurira me te manamanahau hoki o te kāhui kaiako, mai i tōna tīmatatanga tae noa ki te whakakapinga.





Nā Pānia Papa te kaupapa o Ngā Horopaki o te Reo, i reira te mahi a Ngāi Taringa Rahirahi ka whakamātau ake i ngā momo kīanga rerekē o te wā. I a Paraone Gloyne te kaupapa Ōpaki Atu, Ōpaki Mai, ā, i kaha te rongo i āna kīanga i waenga i te iwi. He 'ei keo' ki konā, he 'weitataima' ki korā, nā reira, i mōhio pū kua tae atu ērā Māori ki tō Paraone. I hāpaia e Tātere te kaupapa o Te Reo Kia Ngahau. He whakaari tētehi karawhiu i ngā momo rerenga ngingio o te ao Māori. Waihoki, ka ruku ki tō Tātere puna kīanga nāna i tuhi nōna anō i tō Tīmoti taha i ngā tini kaupapa. Mō te ngahau me te pukukata e tā, kāore he painga. Ko te Reo Ōkawa te kaupapa kawē a Pakake Winiata, nāna ngā ākongā i whakahei ki tētehi kohinga karakia Māori, ki tōna rongomaiwhiti, ki tōna mana, ki ōna anō māramatanga. Nā Kīngi Kiriona te kaupapa Waihangā Kōrero. I whakaatuhia e ia he tukanga mō te tito i tā Te Iti Kahurangi pātere, i Te Mātāwai. Māhea nei te kite ahakoa kotahi te kupu, kotahi rānei te rārangi kōrero, arā noa atu ngā whakamāramatanga me ngā tikanga. I waimarie ngā tauria i ngā whakapākehātanga o ngā poroporoaki a Heketū i te kaupapa Whakawhiti Reo. Kāore, me eke ngā reo e rua ki te kōmata o te rangi. I te kaupapa Aroā, i tō Ngāringi whare ka aro nui ki te reo o tūnohunohu mā i tētehi uiui tohetohe. Ko tā te tauria, he āta whakarongo, he tīpako i te ngako o te kōrero me te tohe anō hoki i tētehi taha o te taiapa. I a Jarred Boon te kaupapa o Ngā Āhuetanga o te Reo. I korā hīkina ai te kōhu e pā ana ki ngā rerenga kōrero kua roa e whakararu ana i te tangata.

Koirā ngā mahi i te rā, engari, kāore i mutu kau noa ki reira, i whakakīia hoki ētehi hāora o te pō kia pūhakehaketia ai, kia pūrenatia ai te kete kōrero. I tū tētehi whakangahau mīharo rawa atu a Te Hōtaka Tamariki i te Pōapa. Ko tā rātou, he whakaari i te kiriata hōu o Whakaata Māori, arā

Te Ring Inz. I reo Māori katoa ka tahi, ka rua, ka pōhēhē te tangata he kaiwhakaari mahi moni tūturu rātou! He waiata, he haka, he māminga, he kata te otinga atu. Whai muri mai i tērā ka āhua tū tāhuhunu mai rā, tūtakarerewa mai a Tākuta Rangi Mātāmua i te pai o ngā tamariki. Ko tāna kaupapa kōrero, ko Te Kōkōrangī, arā, te whakakōrero i ngā whetū o te pō. Nā tana koroua ngā kōrero hohonu ki a ia. Ki konei, ka mātua kāpuia ngā mihi katoa o te Kura ki a Rangi me tōna whānau, mōna i whakapuare i te tatau whāiti o te tangata kia kite atu i te raurarahitanga o te ao tūroa.

I waimarie te iwi o te Kura Reo i te pai o te huarere, pai Tokoroa mai nei tāku e kōrero nei! I whiti te rā i te roanga ake o te kaupapa. Kīhai te kōpaka, te huka papa me te ua i kitea. I rere katoa te wiki i te au o mākohakoha, o tau te mauri, ā-wairua nei, ā-mahi nei, ā-kai mai hoki, tatū ake ki te poroporoaki me te hākari i horahia e te hunga taka kai, e Te Wakaiti.

Ā kāti, hei whakakōpani ake i ngā kōrero, ka mātuatua te rerenga o ngā mihi ki ngā kaiako nō roto i ngā tau tekau. Kia tīmata kau ake ki te rāngai tuatahi nā rātou anō te huarahi i para mai i te tīmatatanga tae noa ki tēnei tau tonu, arā, a Paraone Gloyne, a Ngāringi Kātīpa, a Pakake Winiata, rātou ko Jarred Boon. Whai muri mai, ko te hunga kua roa hoki e taunaki ana i te reo karanga, a Tīmoti Kāretu, a Pānia Papa, a Leon Heketū Blake. Tāpiri mai ana arā, a Wharehuia Milroy, a Kīngi Kiriona, a Hēmi Kelly, a Tātere MacLeod, a Raukura Roa, a Helena Ferris, a Sean Ogden, a Āwhina Twomey, a Tamara Hapi, tae noa ki a Materoa Haenga, ki te kuīni o te kiwaha. E kore ngā mihi e pau noa ki a koutou katoa, nāu anō te kaupapa i hāpai, i whakaute kia tū pai, kia tū rangatira. Mei kore ake nei koutou!



Te Tai Whakaea

As we continue forward on our post Treaty settlement journey, it is important that we take time to stop and reflect on where we have come from, and use that reflection to help shape where we go to from here. We have been offered a wonderful opportunity that presents us with the chance to do just that, while the journey is still fresh in the minds of people who played important roles and who are still with us to share their stories.

This opportunity has come about as part of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage's (MCH) Te Tai Whakaea project which aims to recount the history of New Zealand's Treaty settlements from a range of perspectives. Each iwi that has settled will be given an opportunity to document their story, as funding allows. These stories will be captured as both comprehensive written historical narratives and a series of video interviews with key participants. Together, these two elements will provide a resource for present and future generations to understand the significance of this process in the history of our iwi and the wider nation.

Raukawa were offered the opportunity and were eager to take on the challenge despite the short timeframe. Raukawa Settlement Trust Chairperson Vanessa Eparaima says that: *"having the opportunity to work with respected historians, documentary makers, and story tellers to document our journey means our iwi members will have a wonderful resource into the future. The funding that has been made available by MCH will ensure that the result of this project is of high-quality and presented in an engaging format."*



Nigel Te Hiko assists drone crew.

Vanessa is excited about sharing the story of the Raukawa settlement journey, not just with our iwi: *"but with the wider community within and beyond our rohe. It is important that we help spread an understanding of the role Treaty settlements play in forging a New Zealand society that has the courage and determination to address its own history."*

We conducted seven video interviews in mid-June, along with a day of drone filming to collect footage of sites of significance throughout our rohe. MCH will look to utilise this content, along with the written narrative, across a variety of digital platforms as well as provide scope to publish print histories, develop exhibitions and documentaries.

Raukawa Ministerial Forum

In early May, a delegation from the Raukawa Settlement Trust travelled to Wellington for the Annual Raukawa/Crown Ministerial Forum, as well as the Crown-Iwi meeting on the Co-Governance/Co-Management Framework for the Waikato and Waipā Rivers.

Across the two days of hui the delegation met with the Minister of Māori Development, Te Ururoa Flavell, Prime Minister Bill English, and a number of other ministers and officials.

The Ministerial Forums are a chance for the government and Raukawa to come together to identify how we can collectively work together to advance the needs and aspirations of our people.

Issues discussed at each forum, included the Co-Management Framework for the Waikato and Waipā Rivers, advancing matters involving Ō-Rākau, Māori reoffending rates, and access to government data which aligns with our Data Information Needs project.

RST Chairperson Vanessa Eparaima said the forums were beneficial and provided Raukawa with a powerful opportunity to engage directly with the Crown and senior ministers.

“I was pleased with the Minister for the Environment’s response to the recommendations proposed by the River Iwi during the Crown – River Iwi Effectiveness Review meeting. The commitments and actions consequently taken by the Crown to advance and implement the recommendations are a strong positive sign of progress.”

The Ō-Rākau battle site, and its importance to Raukawa, were a key topic during the forum. The support of Christopher Finlayson, Minister of Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, and the mahi of officials from his office have been valuable in firstly securing the opportunity (purchasing private land) and in working towards addressing this matter.

“We also discussed the possibility of exploring solutions on issues of Māori reoffending rates within the criminal system that may be ‘outside of the box’. As part of this we asked if the Crown was prepared to assist Raukawa to enhance our knowledge and expertise so we can better engage in this process to find solutions for a problem which disproportionately affects Māori” said Vanessa.

During the forum, Raukawa also highlighted the importance placed on data and information collection, and the importance of being able to access robust and relevant data to assist in improving Raukawa decision-making across all areas of development.



Following the forum, the new Minister of Statistics, Scott Simpson, and his officials have shown a willingness to discuss how they can help fulfil our information needs. We will be encouraging the Minister of Statistics to prioritise Raukawa involvement in any pilots in the data and analytics space with either Statistics NZ or the Social Investment Unit.

Vanessa said she looked forward to further discussions on the range of matters raised with ministers, which are not only important for Raukawa but are significant for Aotearoa.

Photos courtesy of Rt Hon Bill English.



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