

TE KAKARA

Te Kakara o te Hinu Raukawa - Your Raukawa Iwi Newsletter

KŌANGA EDITION
Pānui 40 | 2018

Raukawa Expo Day



He Wheriko Noa ki Tua

Cook Islands Language Week

Staff Day Out

RST Chair Message

Welcome to the spring edition of Te Kakara, I hope the extremes of winter have not been too testing for all our whānau. It has been a busy period for our iwi since our last pānui. As you will see in the pages ahead we have welcomed some wonderful additions to our team, and we have had to also say some farewells.

In July we farewelled Tumu Whakarae (General Manager) Bobby Bryan, who needed to return to Wellington to care for his father. While I understood and accepted Bobby's need to support his dad, it was a shame to have to accept his resignation.

However, it was wonderful to be able to call on someone with the experience and skill of Raukawa Charitable Trust (RCT) Business Group Manager Maria Te Kanawa to step up to the acting Tumu Whakarae position. Maria has almost a decade of experience in a range of roles across the RCT. Her understanding of our operations and prominence as a senior leader has ensured a seamless transition as the recruitment process for General Manager is carried out.

As reported on page four of this edition, last month we welcomed Peter O'Brien from Ngātira Marae to his new role as Tiwai Hauora Group Manager. Peter brings a wealth of knowledge with more than 30 years' experience working across a range of health and social services.

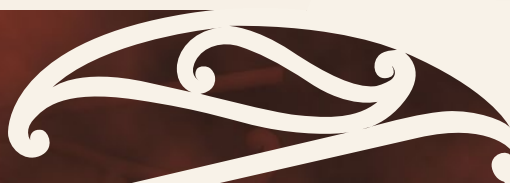
It is wonderful to attract and retain such experienced whānau to our team, it is a testament to the growing prominence and appreciation of the value and support Raukawa provides for our people and to the wider community.

Also, in this edition is an article on the staff day out held last month. It was a chance to bring our team together and have a day of fun and team-building and to acknowledge the wonderful mahi our kaimahi provide.

This time around staff took part in a day of team building in Rotorua. Our kaimahi are at the forefront of all that we do at Raukawa in supporting our whānau and the community, be that in health and social services, cultural and te reo Māori revitalisation, environmental support and many other services. It is wonderful to see the team coming together to further nurture whanaungatanga and to manaaki each other.

These, and a range of other great stories, are ahead in the pānui which I encourage you all to have a read of and take in the latest news for our iwi.

Nā Vanessa Eparaima
Raukawa Settlement Trust Chairperson



Ūkaipō Marae



Ūkaipō Marae, located around 10 kilometres south-east of Matamata, sits within Te Kaokaoroa o Pātetere in the foothills of the Kaimai Range. The primary hapū of the marae is Ngāti Wehiwehi. The wharenui is named Wehiwehi, and the wharekai is Kirihika.

The area around Ūkaipō plays a crucial role in the birth story of Raukawa. As Māhinaarangi undertook her journey to her new home, she gave birth to Raukawa at Whenua-ā-kura, on the western side of the Kaimai Range. The marae name Ūkaipō commemorates this location where Māhinaarangi fed her new baby Raukawa shortly after his birth.

Ūkaipō, like many Raukawa marae, is in the process of undertaking a programme of facility improvements. A significant milestone was recently reached with the completion of a new ablution block.

RST trustee Cheryl Pakuru says that;

“the new facilities mean that we are better able to cater to the needs of our community now, while also being able to grow the size and frequency of events we hold.”

These new facilities mark the completion of the first stage in a long-term project to revitalise and improve not just the facilities at Ūkaipō, but also the wider marae community.



Raukawa Welcomes New Group Manager

On 13 August the RCT welcomed Peter O'Brien to his new role as Tīwai Hauora Group Manager. Peter brings a wealth of knowledge with more than 30 years' experience working across a range of health and social services.

Born in Matamata, where he lived until his early teens, Peter has whakapapa links to Ngātira Marae. His father Wirihana (Bill) O'Brien worked as a builder, while his mother Margaret (Peggy) Gallagher, emigrated from Liverpool to New Zealand to join the Royal New Zealand Air Force. Moving to Tauranga as a teenager, Peter enjoyed both academic and sporting life at Tauranga Boys' College.

After leaving school, Peter spent seven years working in the finance industry before making a move into health and social services, spending time as a paramedic and youth worker before embarking on a career in social work.

Following 13 years on the front-line as a social work practitioner, delivering services to clients, Peter made the shift into management. Firstly, as a director in the Bay of Plenty and Rotorua regions, before moving into various operational roles; including General Manager Operations for a national organisation working within the care and protection sector.

Peter's most recent position was as Chief Executive for a sizeable non-governmental organisation, delivering services within the aged care, early childhood education and child & community sectors; a role with a significant focus on change management.

Peter saw the Group Manager role as an excellent opportunity to be involved with his iwi. He says he was inspired to be *"part of an organisation that has a compelling kaupapa and vision, where I could utilise the various skills and experience I had gleaned over the years to make a difference."*

Throughout the recruitment process Peter says he had *"a real growing sense within my wairua of being drawn to this mahi and our people."*

"I have always tried to keep the client at the centre of my mahi, we must make sure our services are effective and make a real difference in the lives of those we are working with."

Outside of work, Peter's focus is on whānau, including his *"amazing, supportive wife who keeps me balanced"*, his four kids and four mokopuna.

Peter continues to be actively involved in sport. He says *"These days my obsession is tennis. If the weather is good and the lawns are mown, you will find me hitting a ball somewhere."*

Along with his whānau, Peter is actively involved in his church community.



RCT Deputy Chair Kataraina Hodge and Tīwai Hauora Group Manager Peter O'Brien.



Peter stands to speak during his pōwhiri.

Staff Enjoy Day Out



Whare team Kahikatea.



Whare team Miro.

Raukawa staff enjoyed an action-packed day of team building in Rotorua as part of their latest Staff Day Out on 16 August. Held twice a year, the Staff Day Out is a chance for staff from across the organisation to come together and build internal relationships. The biannual event plays a central role in fostering staff wellbeing throughout the organisation.

The day started in Tokoroa with a series of team challenges at Te Whare o Raukawa, including poi golf and poi basketball. These challenges focused on using friendly rivalry to foster teamwork.

Raukawa kaimahi Mii Teokotai enjoyed the challenges.

“The challenges were great fun. The poi golf was particularly challenging, but they encouraged us to work together as a team.”

After completing the challenges in Tokoroa staff travelled to the Government Gardens in Rotorua where teams competed in an Amazing Race style event. For kaimahi, Phyllis Tahere, the highlight of the race was how the

“challenge didn’t just rely on people’s physical abilities, but allowed everyone to contribute to the teams result.”

Staff finished the day at Motion Entertainment in Rotorua where the competition continued as they took part in mini golf and ten pin bowling.

Staff Day Out organiser Jenny Cook was pleased with how the day went.

“The feedback from staff about the day has been really positive, and it was great to see staff enjoying time together and building those internal relationships that help us deliver the best service we can.”



Whare team Rātā.



Whare team Nikau.

SHMAK Kits Build Marae Capability

The Raukawa Kaitiaki Freshwater Project looks to grow the confidence, knowledge and skill of Raukawa marae, hapū and uri to be freshwater kaitiaki. As part of the project, Raukawa have made Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kits (kits) available to each of the 16 Raukawa marae. The kits were developed by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research in conjunction with Federated Farmers.



Raukawa kaimahi April Haika is enthusiastic about the possibilities the kit offers. *“The kits represent a significant step in the ability of Raukawa marae to exercise their role as kaitiaki of their awa.”*

Each kit includes the required items to test for water pH, nitrate and phosphate levels, water clarity, temperature and conductivity. Additional equipment for the monitoring of fish, invertebrate and plant populations are included as well. A regular programme of monitoring will allow each marae to build a more complete picture of the health and quality of their awa, and help inform the development of any restoration mahi.

For Te Ao Apaapa, Tangata Marae Raukawa Kaitiaki Rōpū (RKR) representative, the kits align with commitments made by the marae as part of their environmental portfolio.



“One of the key tasks for the portfolio holder is monitoring the health and mauri of the Mangapiko Stream and working to restore the numbers of koura and tuna that have faced significant decline in recent years. The kits will be a key part of this process.”

The kits will enable the collection of data to support submissions as part of the resource management consent process as well as allowing marae communities to continue to monitor their stream after the granting of a resource consent.

Te Ao says that the kits will allow Tangata Marae to compare the invertebrate population of the Mangapiko Stream with the adjacent Pūtangi Stream as part of a submission on an application by J Swaps to expand a quarry overlooking Tangata Marae. *“Our marae thanks the Raukawa Charitable Trust and the RKR for the continued tautoko as we engage in the RMA process.”*



With each of the kits costing \$600, providing 16 marae each with a kit represents a significant investment in the capability of Raukawa marae, an investment which was made possible by funding from the Waikato River Authority.

The Raukawa Fresh Water project also works towards restoring and developing mātauranga Raukawa in freshwater and taonga species management, with a particular focus on tuna. The RCT have held a number of Tuna Manaaki wānanga at marae within the takiwā, with the next one being held at Mōkai Marae in October. You can register for this wānanga by contacting April Haika on **0800 RAUKAWA** or **info@raukawa.org.nz**



EDUCATION Grants

To support the development and future of our iwi, registered iwi members are able to apply for education grant funding to support their mātauranga journey. Depending on your studies, eligible iwi members may be able to apply for education related support for short courses, undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD studies.



Tamati Peni is busy finishing his PhD at Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato. His PhD explores improving the way that cancer care is provided for our people. The education grant has supported Tamati to visit over 100 study participants from within the Waikato District Health Board area kanohi ki te kanohi to identify and understand the strengths and needs of the breast cancer care pathway.

▶ **To learn more about our education grants visit:**

bit.ly/RaukawaEducationGrants

KUIA & KOROUA WELLBEING Grants

Registered iwi members aged 60 years and over are able to apply for wellbeing and healthcare related support worth up to \$1000. The annual grant looks to alleviate the costs associated with wellbeing and health care such as eye, dental, hearing, and podiatry treatments, GP visits, pharmacy prescriptions, mobility equipment, heating needs and ambulance fees.

For Lorna Pope the grant helped cover the costs of prescriptions and doctors visits. This meant that she was able to enjoy a greater quality of life and take a more active part in marae activities.

She was part of the RCT team that attended the Kaumātua Olympics in Hamilton in 2017.



▶ **To learn more about our wellbeing grants visit:**

bit.ly/RaukawaWellbeingGrants

APPLY ONLINE NOW!
www.raukawa.org.nz/rct



Tūhono i te Ao

Late August saw intermediate, and high school students from across the South Waikato gather at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre for He Wheriko Noa Ki Tua: A Glimpse Into The Future Expo held in conjunction with Victoria University of Wellington (VUW).



The expo is part of VUW's science outreach programme Tūhono i te Ao, run in conjunction with the Society of Māori Astronomy Research and Traditions, to help connect Western sciences and Māori and Pacific cultures.

Over 400 students and teachers from the South Waikato attended the expo. The expo gave students the opportunity to take part in interactive activities delivered by Te Rōpū Awhina Māori and Pacific students.

Each activity combined mātauranga Māori and Pacific culture with different western sciences, including engineering, environmental science, architecture, design and physics. Highlights for students included the star dome, drone flying, 3D printing and cryptography.

Te Kura o Te Kaokaoroa o Pātetere student Kauri Tepana said the expo was thoroughly enjoyable.

"The VR headsets and the augmented reality sand pit were amazing. It was fascinating to see how these new technologies have been combined with traditional knowledge and the opportunities that this presents."

For Louis Armstrong, Raukawa kaimahi, the day highlighted the endless possibilities for our rangatahi. *"The meeting point of mātauranga Māori and Western science is a place where our rangatahi can help push the boundaries and make a meaningful contribution to the future of both Raukawa and New Zealand."*

The expo is another step forward in a growing partnership between Raukawa and VUW that Louis hopes will provide a wealth of opportunities for rangatahi.



Te Epetoma o Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani

Te Whare o Raukawa celebrated Te Epetoma o Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani: Cook Islands Language Week 2018, which was held from 29 July to 4 August. The national theme for 2018 was Kia ngākau parau, kia rangarangatu to tatou reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani - Be proud of our reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani and Protect it's Future with a local Tokoroa theme: "Aro'a atu, aro'a mai" kindness shown, kindness gained, show love and be loved.

The building echoed to the sounds of imene (waiata) and pure (karakia) each morning. Raukawa kaimahi Sandra Greig brought in three Tivaivai (patchwork quilt) that hung from the banisters and a Tifa Tara (traditional Rakahanga cloak) and Pare Rito (hand woven hat), where she was able to explain her experience of the traditional Cook Islands wedding exchange of dowry from both families.

Throughout the week Raukawa kaimahi were faced with themed questions and challenges to complete, with points awarded as part of the staff well-being Whare Challenge. Our 'Are Tārereānga (Whare Challenge) had some general knowledge questions posed in Cook Islands Māori and teams had to try and figure out the question before answering them. The challenge was a "Kimi mātātio iaku" - "Look for me", where we had a logo placed in different locations around our building, with questions posed from Te Whare o Raukawa Booklet that was written by Raukawa kaimahi Nigel Te Hiko.

During the week we had a visit from the South Waikato Pacific Islands Community Services (SWPICS) kaimahi for a group photo, this was a highlight for many staff.

The week culminated with a shared lunch on Friday 3 August, with the aroma of chop suey, mainese (potato salad), Cook Islands donuts, yellow bread and pineapple pie wafting through the building. This is where all kaimahi was able to come together, sit and enjoy the wonderful spread prepared by all.

Raukawa kaimahi Liz Pirato, who coordinated the week's events, enjoys being able to have the opportunity to share her Cook Islands Language with kaimahi every year.

"We are humbled to be given this opportunity to celebrate and share our knowledge about where we come from as Cook Islanders. On behalf of the Raukawa Pacific Islands kaimahi we would like to thank our Trust, Tumu Whakarāe, management and kaimahi for the support and allowing us to celebrate our language with you all this year."

Kia Orana e Kia Manuia



Expo Day Highlights Raukawa Services



The RCT welcomed the community into Te Whare o Raukawa for an expo day on 5 July. Representatives from across the community were able to come and learn about the wide range of services that Raukawa offers, ranging from cultural and te reo Māori, to the environment and health and social services.



Throughout the day, tours of our new building, Te Whare o Raukawa, were run by Raukawa kaimahi, Nigel Te Hiko. The tours highlighted the Raukawa story that runs throughout the building, from the naming of rooms and spaces to the way the building mirrors the Raukawa rohe.

Nigel said the response was very positive.

“This was the first chance for many community members to take a look around our new offices, and the reaction was extremely positive.”





Raukawa kaimahi Sandra Greig was pleased to have the opportunity to show first-hand the varied and positive difference that Raukawa makes to the South Waikato community.

“Many in the community were surprised at the range of mahi that we do here. The feedback reinforced that what we do here is making a tangible difference for our communities.”



STUR CONTROL VENTILATION HEATING HEAT LOSS BUBBLE WRAP DEMONSTRATION

Nominations for Board of Trustees

Nominations for Marae representative positions to the Raukawa Settlement Trust OPEN on Monday 8 October 2018.

One (1) Marae representative is required for each of the following RST Marae:

- Pikitū
- Ruapeka;
- Mangakaretu;
- Ongaroto;
- Ōwairaka (Rāwhitiroa)

To be eligible for nomination as a Marae representative, a candidate must:

- Be an Adult (18 years old and over)
- Be a Registered Member of the Raukawa Settlement Trust
- Stand in the election held on behalf of the Raukawa marae to which the candidate primarily affiliates to
- The term for these positions is 3 years.

The Tribal Register held by the Raukawa Settlement Trust will be the official data base for the nomination and election process.

For more information contact Kim Blomfield on 0800 RAUKAWA (0800 728 5292) or info@rauakawa.org.nz



Visit www.raukawa.org.nz

- ✓ Tribal Registration
- ✓ Education Grant Applications
- ✓ Kuia Koroua Wellbeing Grant Applications
- ✓ Learn more about our organisation

Reserved Car Parks

Kaumātua, trustees and distinguished guests who have been invited to participate in onsite Pōwhiri, hui, or for a booked tour of the facilities can request to use our reserved car parks. To book please contact us on **0800 RAUKAWA**.

