

Te Kakara

Empowering Growth
with Family Start

Te Whare Kōrero o
Raukawa

Aamer Daji:
Group Manager



Raukawa Group AGM at
Mōkai Marae



RST Chair Message

Nau mai, haere atu te karere nei i runga i te kakara o te hinu Raukawa e whakareia ana ki a koutou katoa

I am delighted to present the Autumn Edition of Te Kakara, a publication that reflects the essence of our iwi and its remarkable journey. As we transition into the season of autumn, a time of reflection and preparation, we take a moment to celebrate our achievements and look forward to the future with optimism and determination.

One of the kaupapa featured in this edition is Te Whare Kōrero o Raukawa, a week-long wānanga held at Tāpapa Marae. This transformative event provided an opportunity for our people to immerse themselves in te reo Māori, tikanga, and the rich history of our iwi. It was a testament to our commitment to preserving and revitalising our cultural practices and knowledge.

Another significant development in our iwi is the appointment of Aamer Daji as the new group manager for Kōuru Whakahaere, our executive and transformation group. Aamer brings a wealth of knowledge in Māori development and iwi affairs, with previous experience working for other iwi, businesses, and agencies. His journey to this role is a testament to his commitment to his whānau and community, and his vision for the iwi register and governance space aligns with our values of building capability and accessibility.

Our recent Annual General Meeting was a momentous occasion, where we reflected on the achievements of the past year and looked ahead to the future. We bid farewell to some of our outgoing trustees and thanked them for their years of service and dedication to our iwi. I would like to extend a special acknowledgment to John Spencer, the retiring chair of RIDL, who has served with distinction for over 11 years. John's leadership and guidance have been invaluable, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Sir Henry Van Der-Heyden, the incoming chair of RIDL. Sir Henry brings a wealth of experience and I am confident that he will lead RIDL with integrity and passion.

As we reflect on the past year, we can take pride in the progress we have made as an iwi. Our commitment to the well-being and prosperity of our whānau remains unwavering, and I am excited to see what the future holds for our iwi.

I encourage you to engage with the stories and achievements featured in this edition and to share them with your whānau and friends. Together, we will continue to build a vibrant and prosperous future for our iwi and our tamariki.

Kia mau, kia ora tātou katoa.

Nā Kataraina Hodge
Raukawa Settlement Trust Chairperson

Many hats in Kōuru Whakahaere role

Aamer Daji is the new group manager of our executive and transformation group



Aamer Daji brings a wealth of knowledge to Kōuru Whakahaere – a newly created role that oversees a wide range of work such as iwi registrations, grants, human resources, governance, history, mahi Tiriti, and special projects. With his previous mahi for other iwi, businesses and agencies, Aamer is excited for the opportunity to make a difference, in all aspects, of helping our iwi thrive, Raukawa Kia Mau, Kia Ora.

Aamer was born and raised in Kākahi, a small town near Taumarunui where his father's whānau is from (Ngāti Manunui, Ngāti Tūwharetoa). As an environmental scientist his father's mahi moved around the motu which meant Aamer and his six siblings spent some time in the North, where his mother is from (Ngāti Hine, Ngāpuhi), and eventually in Auckland.

It should come as no surprise that Aamer is often asked about his name, and he explains that the Daji whānau name comes from his paternal grandfather, who migrated from India to Taumarunui in the 1940's. He and his brother came to work on the railways, and both were lucky enough to marry wāhine from Tūwharetoa. Unfortunately, not long after having his 10th child, he was hit by a train while working and sadly passed away.

Aamer and his whānau have tried to find out more information about their Indian whakapapa but were met with dead ends as they believe their grandfathers' first and last names were mixed up when he arrived in Aotearoa, creating confusion when tracing back ancestry.

When Aamer finished high school he spent some time overseas in Australia, before coming back to Aotearoa in 2009 to study law, business and reo Māori at Waikato University. While his grandparents were fluent in te reo Māori, his parents, himself and siblings were not, so Aamer was determined to learn the language and reconnect with his Māoritanga.

After graduating and working in law firms in Hamilton, he transitioned to Te Tumu Paeroa (The Māori Trustee)

where he acted as legal counsel and eventually became regional director for Taitokerau, Waikato–Maniapoto, and Waiariki.

After the birth of his third child, Aamer looked for a role which required less time away from his whānau, so he took up the role of general manager for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Kea Ngāti Tuara in Rotorua. During this time, he also acted as chief executive for the Kukutaaruhe Education Trust (operationally known as the Fairfield Project) a partnership between Fairfield College and Ngāti Wairere in Hamilton.

In late 2022, Aamer and his whānau made the move to Tokoroa to be closer to his wife's parents who had recently moved down from Auckland. The new job at Raukawa allows for his two young girls to be closer to their grandparents and for Aamer to be closer to his son who lives in Taupō.

"In the short time I've lived here, I've really enjoyed engaging with the Tokoroa community. I have been able to visit a few Raukawa Marae, attend Whare Kōrero, which was a highlight, be present at our AGM at Mōkai Marae and be a part of He Māhuri Raukawa."

Two exciting initiatives that his team is currently working on is the Raukawa Energy Innovation Project, which focuses on supporting whānau through energy hardship and its impact on health, wellbeing and the environment.

The second initiative rolling out this year is a financial literacy programme – which intends to build the financial knowledge and capability – empowering whānau to make positive financial choices and to ultimately achieve their future housing aspirations.

Overall, his vision for the iwi register and governance space is to build capability and accessibility – making it easier to register, to make Raukawa grants more accessible, and to build trustee capability across all Raukawa marae.

Te Whare Kōrero o Raukawa

Whakareia te kakara i puawai ai i Tāpapa



Te Whare Kōrero o Raukawa ki Te Wairere, Ōkauia

Mānawa ana hoki rā te putanga o Te Whare Kōrero o Raukawa. He pou whakairinga kōrero, he pou tangata, he pou whenua i pou poua ki runga ki Te Rae o Tāpapa. Tūkorehe, Kapu Manawawhiti, Te Rangitāwhia, Te Rangitapu, nō koutou te mana kei runga.

Kua 10 tau te kaupapa nei o Te Whare Kōrero o Raukawa e whakahaerengia ana, e whakarei ana i te kakara o ō tātou tūpuna, o tō tātou whenua. He rite tonu te hokihoki mai a te hunga e manako nui nei ki te kai a te rangatira. Kua parawera nuitia te kaupapa nei ki tēnā marae, ki tēnā marae, puta noa i te rohe. I te tau nei, tū ai ki runga o Tāpapa, ki te rohe o Te Kaokaoroa o Pātetere.

I te āhuetanga o ngā tūnekeneke o tēnei ao hurihuri, me pakaru mai te werawera e angitū ai tō tātou ahurea Māori, e whakareia ai te kakara o ō tātou kiri raukawa. I kāpuia ai te kākaho o manawanui, o manawa piharau ki te kōrero, ki te wānanga i ngā kaupapa i hua mai ai i ō tātou kōrero tuku iho. I wetewetehia ngā kura i whāngaia hei whakaarotanga mā te iwi.

Ko te tino hua o ēnei tūmomo mahi, ko te noho tahi ā-tinana nei a te hunga hiakai kiri whanaunga o Raukawa whānui, e rapu ana i te mea ngaro mō te reo, ngā kōrero tuku iho, arā, ngā puipuiaki o tuawhakarere iho. Koinā ētehi kura huna ka hua ake i te hui nei e ai ki a Tiare Tepana.

I ngā tau ka heke, e mārama ana te kitea o te whanaketanga o te hunga ka tae ki te whare kōrero nei. E kitea ana te puawaitanga o ngā uri whakatupu o roto mai o Raukawa ake. He rauemi tēnei, e kore pea e āta mōhio ki te rahi o tōna hua, kia eke rā anō ngā whakatupuranga i te takahanga o te wā. Ko ngā tauira o nāianeī ka tū hei pou rāhiri, hei pou whakawhirinaki mo ngā tauira o āpōpō, o te ngahuru tau e heke mai ana. Kia mau, kia ora rā tātou e te iwi mā roto mai i ngā whakaakoranga o te whare kōrero nei.





Empowering Growth

Family Start's Impactful Approach

Amohia ake te ora o te tamaiti. Whakaturia ki te hua o te rengarenga, ka poipoia hei taonga puipuiaki — Family Start is one of our services dedicated to fostering the wellbeing of our tamariki and their whānau. Guided by our dedicated kaimahi Newton Thompson and his team, this initiative blends clinical precision with te ao Māori perspectives, offering support to a diverse community facing challenges related to violence, abuse, and substance issues.

Through a lens that comprehends the struggles of the community, the team adopts a holistic approach that delves beneath the surface, addressing the root causes of challenges faced by whānau.

Newton reflects on the significance of an ao Māori approach, stating, *"Our Māori worldview enables us to provide support that goes beyond the conventional. We acknowledge the unique challenges our community faces and respond with understanding and whakaaronui."*

While grounded in Māori values, Family Start extends its reach beyond iwi boundaries, embodying our commitment to the collective well-being of our community. The service is inclusive, creating a space where individuals from all walks of life can find support and understanding.

Newton emphasises, *"Our doors are open to anyone in need. We're here for the entire community, providing a safe environment for growth and healing."*

The impact of Family Start resonates through the stories of transformation from those who have embarked on this journey. A whānau, grappling with the complexities of violence and substance abuse, shares their experience.

"We found ourselves trapped in a cycle. Family Start didn't just provide solutions; they walked beside us at every step."



Kaimahi Newton Thompson at Family Start Whānau Day



Kaimahi Azriel Fonoti and Casie Dorssers ready to meet our whānau at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre

"Family Start was a lifeline for our whānau. They didn't just address the symptoms; they delved into the roots, providing tools for our whānau," notes a Family Start participant.

Newton Thompson emphasises, *"Our approach is about empowering whānau to overcome challenges, building resilience and sustainable positive change."*

"Raukawa's commitment is evident in the inclusive nature of Family Start. It's a service that doesn't discriminate; it nurtures the wellbeing of our entire community," affirms another participant.

Family Start continues to weave systems of support, leaving a mark on the community's wellbeing. The service stands as a testament to our dedication to empowering, uplifting, and nurturing growth within the community.

Newton envisions a thriving Raukawa iwi and community where every whānau feels empowered and supported. Family Start, as part of this vision, contributes to a brighter, more resilient future for all.

He aha ngā mea rerekē?

E noho ana a Waitete i raro i te rākau Raukawa. Āta titiro mai ki ngā pikitia i raro iho nei, he aha ngā mea e rima e rerekē ana?



Te Hui-ā-Tau o Raukawa

Raukawa Annual General Meeting

Mōkai, Te Pae o Raukawa, i manaaki nei i te hui-ā-tau o Raukawa, tēnei e whakamānawa atu nei.

In December last year, iwi members were welcomed at Mōkai Marae, for the Raukawa Group AGM 2023. The annual meeting is a chance to come together and share the progress made by the iwi in the last financial year.

Raukawa Chair, Kataraina Hodge, said it had been another busy and productive year for our iwi. The Raukawa Group reported another year of surplus generating more than \$8.9 million in profit and increasing the value of our asset base to more than \$238 million.

"We continue to make progress as our iwi organisation expands, and we continue to achieve steady results this financial year," she said.

We farewelled our Raukawa Iwi Development Ltd (RIDL) Chair John Spencer, who retired at the end of 2023.

Kataraina said, *"For your years of service and expertise in our commercial company, tēnei te rau aroha ka titia ake mōu."*

We also welcomed Tā Henry van der Heyden who has been appointed the new RIDL Chair, which begun at the start of the year.

Raukawa continues to support our people through our various grants – kuia, koroua wellbeing, education, amateur sporting and our 16 Raukawa marae grants across the takiwā. The iwi distributed around \$600,000 dollars in grants this financial year. This is a 68% increase from last year.

Additionally, \$74,650 was distributed in education grants and over \$320,000 in kuia and koroua wellbeing grants, almost double what was paid last year. Stories from the grant recipients can be found inside our annual report or on our Facebook page, including education grant recipient, Jennifer "Honey" Kingi and BMX sport grant recipient, Dion Newth.

Raukawa Tāhuhu Rangapū Maria Te Kanawa acknowledged our kaumātua for their guidance and support, ensuring we uphold the tikanga of our iwi. She



Mōkai Marae, venue for the Raukawa Group AGM 2023

thanked the trustees for their leadership, the executive leadership team and our kaimahi, whose dedication and passion to serving our iwi is appreciated and valued.

"We had many highlights this year, including, two Ministerial Forums, one at Te Whare o Raukawa and the other in Pōneke, Ngā Tohu Kaimahi o Raukawa, the always entertaining Te Tātāwhāinga Kaumātua Games and many more events, projects, wānanga and celebrations," Maria said.

We also heard from our team leaders across the organisation who gave an insight into the past year's mahi.

Kataraina added how special it was to have Mōkai Marae, one of our 16 marae, host our annual meeting.

"Ngā mihi kia koutou o Mōkai, for opening up your space for Raukawa to come together."

E rere nei ngā kupu whakamiha, ngā kupu whakamānawa ki ngā pakiaka kaha o tō tātou rōpū o Raukawa i tupu matomato ai tō tātou iwi i te tau kua huri.



Read our Annual Report here

Scan the code or visit
rauakawa.info/AR2023



RCT and RST Chair Kataraina Hodge presents a tokotoko to resigning RIDL Chair John Spencer



Kaimahi Jo Kaponga, MC for our AGM



Kaimahi Vikki Hayes delivering taiao services to our uri



Raukawa Grants and Key Dates



Raukawa Kuia and Koroua Wellbeing Grant recipient Marie Whare

Education Grants

Depending on your studies, registered iwi members are able to apply for up to \$2000 in education related support.

Study Type	Period that this grant covers	Applications Open	Applications Close	Applications considered
Short course* Certificate, Diploma	01 Jan 2024 – 30 Jun 2024	01 Jan 2024	30 Jun 2024	31 Jul 2024
Bachelors and Masters	2024 Academic year	30 Nov 2023	31 Jan 2024	28 Feb 2024
Doctoral	2024 Academic year	30 Nov 2023	31 Jan 2024	28 Feb 2024

* Short courses include Te Kura Reo o Raukawa and Te Uru Raukawa programmes offered by the Raukawa Charitable Trust

Sports Grants

Registered iwi members can apply for a contribution towards costs incurred while competing as an amateur sportsperson at a local, regional or national representative level. It is open to amateur competitors such as athletes, coaches, managers and officials (umpire, referee, judge).

Type	Period that this grant covers	Applications Open	Applications Close	Applications considered
Sports grants round 2	01 Dec 2023 – 31 May 2024	01 Dec 2023	31 May 2024	Jun 2024
Sports grants round 1	01 Jun 2024 – 30 Nov 2024	01 Jun 2024	30 Nov 2024	Dec 2024

Kuia and Koroua Wellbeing Grants

Registered kaumātua can apply for a contribution towards costs incurred or needing assistance with their wellbeing.

We have streamlined the process to make this service more accessible for our kaumātua. There is no longer a need to hold your receipts for this grant.

Type	Period that this grant covers	Applications Open	Applications Close	Applications considered
Kuia and Koroua Wellbeing grants	01 Jun 2023 – 31 May 2024	01 Jun 2023	31 May 2024	30 Jun 2024

Want to Register with Raukawa or Need Help?

To register as a member of Raukawa follow the link below. If you have any questions about our grants process call 0800 RAUKAWA and ask for our grants team.



Scan the code or visit rauakawa.info/grants

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