



TE KAAHUI O RAURU

ISSUE 61 - NGAHURU 2024



HE KUPU HERENGA TANGATA

ISSUE 61 - NGAHURU 2024

WAITOOTARA
AWA HIIKOI 2024

TE RANGANUKU
ROAD OPENING

TRANS-TASMAN LTD
RECONSIDERATION

NGAA KOORERO A TE TUMU WHAKARAE

The Paepae have continued to reaffirm their commitment to our Te Kaahui o Rauru Strategy Map, setting down key strategic objectives across three tiers:

- Te Kaahui o Rauru;
- Te Haapai Mauri | Ngaa Pataka, Marae, Whaanau, Uri

The following narrative explains the rationale behind our strategic decisions." Outlined in the Strategy Map.

"Our long-term vision of 'Ngaa Rauru Kiitahitanga Thriving and Excelling Across Future Generations' reflects our commitment to sustainable growth and prosperity for our iwi. To achieve this vision, we have established strategic objectives at three levels. At the governance level, our focus is on achieving long-term viability and growth of our governance structures and processes. By prioritising effective governance practices, we aim to provide a strong foundation for decision-making, accountability, and strategic direction, which are essential for guiding our iwi towards long-term success.

At the management and operations level, our strategic objective is to develop and grow our iwi potential. This involves leveraging our resources, capabilities, and opportunities to maximise value, creation and sustainable development across all aspects of our operations. By investing in strategic initiatives, building organisational capacity, and fostering innovation, we aim to unlock our iwi's full potential and create opportunities for growth and prosperity that benefit current and future generations.



"OUR LONG-TERM VISION IS 'NGAA
RAURU THRIVING AND EXCELLING
ACROSS FUTURE GENERATIONS'

At whaanau, hapuu, and uri level, our strategic objective is to raise the level of prosperity for our people. This encompasses supporting the well-being, cultural identity, and economic empowerment of our whaanau, hapuu, and iwi members. Through targeted initiatives, partnerships, and community engagement, we seek to create an environment where all members have the opportunity to thrive, excel, and contribute positively to the collective prosperity of Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi across generations.

By aligning our strategic objectives with our long-term vision, we are working towards building a resilient, thriving, and sustainable future for Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi, where our iwi and its people can flourish and excel for generations to come.



NGAA KOORERO A TE TUMU WHAKAHAERE

E ngaa mana, e ngaa reo, e ngaa karangatanga maha o te motu, teenaa koutou katoa.

Gone is our time for enjoying long, leisurely, sunshining days with 2024 locked and loaded to take our team to new heights. I was fortunate to spend a good part of the summer off with my tamariki following them on the summer tournament scene. Back at work in February and the diary is jam packed with meetings and things to do!

We have been working hard in the tari to finish delivering on our 2024 Annual Plan. The Annual Plan is about 70% through completion which is about right for where we are in the year. In some areas we have bitten off more than we can chew, in others, the changes in Government have slowed our progress or affected funding. Despite the challenges along the way, this quarter has seen some awesome mahi come to fruition with the Waitootara Awa Hiikoi making its return to our annual calendar, an extended haerenga for our Nanni Campers, the He Pikinga Poupu grants advertised to uri and an improved presence from our Waitootara Catchment team out in our rohe undergoing restoration work.



The volume of engagement requested from Te Kaahui o Rauru across the Government's 100-day plan is extensive with regular meetings at short notice to be advised of changes and provide "feedback". This work has included Fast-track Consenting, Local Water Done Well, Renewable Energies, Marine Consents for Aquaculture, Pae Ora (Disestablishment of Maaori Health Authority) and so on. This distracting work takes us away from our core to Whakatipungia Ngaa Rauru Kiitahitanga, so we prioritise what we need to and keep moving forward.

Our teams have also been busy in several other forums and spaces – attending the Climate Change Whanganui forum, Trans-Tasman Ltd Reconsideration hearings, hui-aa-iwi in Ngaaruawaahia, Waitangi and Ratana to name a few.

The coming period will see us working to finish key pieces of mahi from our 2023-2024 Annual Plan and finalising our plan for 2024-2025. A project to keep a look out for is our Iwi Database project. Our Iwi Database (Register) suited our purpose for our Treaty Settlement but, 20 years later, the database needs a serious overhaul, and we will need your support to do this. The project will see the Register migrate to a new system which will allow uri to keep on top of their own details so the information we hold is right. While we work through implementation of the system, uri can contact registrations@ruru.iwi.nz to update your details and ensure you receive information about this project.

Nei raa taku puurongo o te paanui i teenei wahanga. Ngaa manaakitanga o te ngahuru ki a taatou katoa!



TE RANGANUKU ROAD OPENING

NEW ROAD ACCESS TO WAIINU BEACH IN WAITOOTARA

Flooding of the Waitootara River during a severe weather event in June 2015, saw the Limeworks bridge, the only public road access in and out of Waiinu, damaged cutting access to the Waiinu Beach community and Silver Fern Farms, a major employer in Waitootara. After reviewing all the potential solutions, the decision was made to build a new rural road providing a secure, safe, and reliable access route to the Waiinu beach settlement, guaranteeing the security of access for residents and workers in the event of future floods.

Over 50 people met at Tauranga Ika marae to be transported down to the new road to watch Tumu Whakarae, Mike Noho, supported by Kaumatua Te Pahunga Davis and Ngaati Ruaiti whaanau, along with South Taranaki Mayor, Phil Nixon, officially open the district's newest road, Te Ranganuku.

Mayor Nixon says the \$12.1 million project, two thirds of which was paid for by the Government through its Shovel Ready Projects Fund and Waka Kotahi - NZ Transport Agency, represented a major investment in the southernmost part of the district which guarantees security of access for residents and business. "Today we celebrate the completion of approximately 6.5km of new road, as well as the upgrade of an additional pre-existing 1.6km stretch of road, including two new intersections, the reinstatement of seventeen entrance ways, new boundary fencing and an upgraded railway crossing." Mayor Nixon told the crowd.

Returning to the marae, Mr Noho spoke about how Ngaati Ruaiti came to choose the name of the road. Te Atuaranganuku, was the hapuu of the area along the Waiinu. A homage to the hapuu, "it is important to keep our narratives alive for our tamariki mokopuna and the name Te Ranganuku signifies the weaving of the land to the people." said Mr Noho.

The project officially got under way in 2021 with the work being done under an archaeological authority from Pouhere Taonga Heritage New Zealand. During the road build, centuries old pits used to store food were uncovered. In an article last February in the Whanganui Chronicle, archaeologist Ivan Bruce talked about the pre-colonial find, dug well before Europeans first came to Aotearoa and estimated the pits to be between 300 and 600 years old.

Bob Brownlie (Ngaati Maika) was responsible for our iwi cultural monitoring working alongside Bruce saying at the time "To actually be on the ground here and to see this stuff, it's quite remarkable."

The new road will provide resilience and economic safety in the area and Mr Noho also commented on the positive working relationship between South Taranaki District Council, Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi and Ngaati Ruaiti, working to build a stronger community.





MINISTERIAL VISIT AT TE KAAHUI O RAURU

HON. MINISTER TAMA POTAKA

National MP, Hon. Minister Tama Potaka visited the Te Kaahui o Rauru offices on Thursday 25th January 2024. Minister Potaka, who is responsible for various portfolios including Conservation, Social Housing, and Maaori Development visited a number of organisations in the rohe to directly engage and better understand the needs and concerns of whaanau, hapuu and iwi.

Minister Potaka, accompanied by local MP Carl Bates and kaimahi from Te Arawhiti met with the Tumu Whakarae and the team at Te Kaahui o Rauru where they delved into discussions relating to ongoing projects within the He Kaakano Innovation Centre and the work happening in our taiao space. They also discussed how the current government would continue to support our ongoing initiatives and work including our Climate Change strategy adaptation, the various educational initiatives, and the aspiring Cultural Centre in Nukumaru.

Demonstrating the work that the Puutaiao team have been doing in the field, Te Riaki Hawira, the Kaitiaki Catchment Ranger, exhibited trapping techniques, emphasising the significance of timing in accordance with seasonal changes. This session provided insights into the practical aspects of conservation efforts within the region. Additionally, Tamara Wallace, the Kaihaapai - Catchment Kaitiaki Ranger, showcased the Mahinga kai surveys while illustrating the methods employed in freshwater monitoring. Minister Potaka actively engaging in discussions with our kaimahi, further underscoring the importance of hands-on interaction in addressing community needs.

The new government changes will impact not only whaanau, but also hapuu and iwi as they implement plans of change. In the meantime, Te Kaahui o Rauru continues to commit to the mahi ahead as we continue to foster meaningful relationships and collaboration with neighbouring iwi and government agencies ultimately working towards shared goals of sustainability and development to "Whakatipungia Ngaa Rauru Kiitahitanga".





NANNI CAMP – HIIKOI KI TE TAIRAAWHITI

MAI I TE WAIROA ITI KI MARAENUI

The most recent Nanni Camp took six dedicated nannies and one koro on an enlightening 8-day journey with 16 mokopuna to Te Tairaawhiti. Hosted at Maraenui Mana Kura Kaupapa near Opotiki, the Nanni Camp focus was to complete the journey which commenced in early 2023 to learn about their tino tuupuna; Turanga-I-Mua.

The journey commenced with a warm welcome at Maraenui Mana Kura Kaupapa, where the tikanga and kawa of the rohe set the tone for a transformative experience. Supported by the Te Kaahui o Rauru Ahi Kaaroa team, the mokopuna embarked on a series of adventures, each designed to instil a deeper understanding of their heritage and the changing environment. Cultural safety was prioritised, with kaumaatua and leaders ensuring respectful engagement with waahi tapu.

Highlights of the camp included visits to significant sites such as Taumata o Mihi Rauru Marae in Ruatoria and Waihou Bay, immortalised in the iconic film "BOY." Mokopuna were immersed in storytelling and hands-on activities which allowed them to absorb valuable lessons about their tuupuna, our reo, and the cultural practices of others and how we maintain our Ngaa Rauru Kiitahitanga when outside of our own rohe.

"MOKOPUNA EMBARKED ON A SERIES OF ADVENTURES, EACH DESIGNED TO INSTIL A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR HERITAGE AND THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT"

The campers found joy in activities such as exploring a macadamia farm and riding on traditional wagons pulled by drysdale horses. They also enjoyed their daily swims at the local beach and participated in activities like Master Chef competitions and evening games of spotlight.

As the camp drew to a close, mokopuna were able to enjoy their final day at Splash Planet with final reflections on the journey home. Mokopuna emerged with newfound confidence in their identity, language proficiency, and connection to their wider community.

The next Nanni Camp is scheduled for July 2024 so keep an eye on the Te Kaahui o Rauru social media pages if you have interested mokopuna.







WAITOOTARA AWA HIIKOI

MAI I NGAAMATAPOURI KI TAPUARAU

The Waitootara Awa Hiikoi has returned in 2024 after a five-year hiatus, marking a significant collaboration between Te Paahuki o Te Awa and Te Kaahui o Rauru. Spearheaded by the Ahi Kaaroa and Puutaiao teams and supported by Hayden Potaka and his Unique Whanganui River Experience team, this year's Waitootara Awa Hiikoi aimed to reignite the koorero as it relates to the Waitootara Awa and our numerous Tongi Tawhito.

Registrations for the Waitootara Awa Hiikoi opened in January, drawing participants from various corners of Aotearoa, spanning generations from rangatahi to kaumaatua. Wednesday 20th March saw uri gather at Takirau Marae to commence the Waitootara Awa Hiikoi. Beginning at the top end of the Waitootara Valley Road in Ngaamatapouri, uri spent two days traversing our dynamic awa towards Kaipoo Marae taking in the beauty and devastation of our taiao.

Despite initial challenges, including setbacks due to Covid-19 and logistical complexities, the 2024 Waitootara Awa Hiikoi saw 18 enthusiastic Ngaa Rauru uri navigating our awa alongside a dedicated team of kaimahi and facilitators. The kaupapa was well represented by every marae in Ngaa Rauru.

Reflecting on the journey, it's evident that the revitalisation of the Waitootara Awa Hiikoi carries enormous significance for us with whakawhanaungatanga and kaitiakitanga at the forefront and all uri embodying their connection to the whenua and the awa.

One of the key highlights was the emphasis on tikanga and maatauranga.

Through karakia, waananga, and visits to tongi tawhito, participants gained insights into the Waitootara rohe both on the whenua and within the awa itself.

Looking ahead, planning for the future of the Waitootara Awa Hiikoi has commenced with engagement planned with key partners and uri who have shown a keen interest. Lessons learned from 2024 will inform the development of future iterations as we work to build a sustainable kaupapa for our iwi that we envision to one day be led by the people for the people.

The success of the 2024 Waitootara Awa Hiikoi underscores the resilience and commitment of our iwi to preserve and celebrate our Ngaa Rauru Kiitahitanga. As preparations begin for the 2025 journey, there's a renewed sense of optimism and determination as we build the legacy of the Waitootara Awa Hiikoi for our mokopuna and their mokopuna to come.







MAHI TAIAO

NGAA KOORERO O TE POU PUUTAIAO

The Puutaiao team have continued with the Te Mana o Te Wai initiative funded by the Ministry for the Environment and the Kaimahi 4 Nature project in collaboration with Department of Conservation being the main focus.

Other initiatives include consultation with our uri to provide feedback for the review of our current Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi Environmental Management Plan and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, as well as the draft documents produced by the team last year including:

- Ngaa Rauru Freshwater Frameworks to ensure alignment with Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi vision and values.
- Hononga Wai Monitoring Strategy.
- Tikanga Whenua Monitoring Strategy (resource consent landscape and our approach).

In January 2024, we bid farewell to three valued team members. Te Riaki Hawira, Macy Duxfield, and Petar Druskovich, valued members of the Puutaiao team who have embarked on new journeys outside of Whanganui, exploring new opportunities and continue their professional growth in their respective fields.

Te Riaki, our Kaitiaki Catchment Ranger, has left a lasting impression with his expertise, dedication, and contributions to various environmental endeavors, including monthly monitoring of freshwater ways, trapping and pest control, wetlands restoration, and support for other iwi and local partners. We wish Te Riaki and his whaanau all the best in their new adventures.

Macy Duxfield, our Policy Officer of almost two years has transitioned to Te Arawa to contribute her expertise and precision in policy development across various aspects of Ao Maaori. Macy's support in nurturing waananga pertaining to draft documents for review by Ngaa Rauru uri exemplifies her commitment and contribution to the team and our iwi.

Petar Druskovich, our Ngaati Kahungunu ki Wairoa me Ngai Tahu 'whaangai' scientist, has moved on to pursue professional growth in the Freshwater Science domain with Beca Consultants. Petar's passion and expertise in freshwater science, monitoring, and implementation of Te Mana o Te Wai and Wai Maaori projects have been invaluable. His significant contributions, including the drafting of key documents and presentations at conferences, reflect his profound knowledge and expertise in freshwater management.

Our current team comprises three teams: Consent, Restoration, and Research, each with specific deliverables related to freshwater management, mahinga kai, and waterway restoration, contributing to the overall ecosystem of the Puutaiao team.

The Research team will be based at the Alexander Turnbull Library for "Whakapapa Wednesday" in the afternoon for the next three months, working on Ngaa Rauru koorero tawhito. They welcome your participation and contributions to enrich their research. Additionally, they invite you to join them on "Tipihaere Thursdays", where they gather footage and images of significant sites. You can contact them via email or let them know in advance if you plan to join them on "Whakapapa Wednesdays" for a shared journey.

We continue to collaborate with various partners on numerous initiatives, including wetlands restoration, fish passage, water monitoring, and regional council policies, among others. We look forward to the upcoming planting season, with riparian planting activities following the Te Kaahui o Rauru Waitootara Restoration plan and completion of planting on Paraninihi ki Waitootara blocks with their taiao team.

HAKURAA BEACHING AT WAVERLEY BEACH

TAKOTO MAI RAA E TE IKA HUIRUA O OKAHU

In January 2024, Te Kaahui o Rauru were alerted to a Hakuraa, Grays Beaked Whale on Okahu - known today as the Waipipi settlement beach in Waverley.

With the support from Ngaati Tai, Te Wairoa Iti Marae, Te Kaahui o Rauru worked hand in hand with Te Papa Atawhai to uphold the appropriate tikanga for our taonga. Te Papa Atawhai not only facilitated the handling of the whale, they also provided an opportunity to gather essential data and explore the whakapapa of the Hakuraa, potentially shedding light on any connections to previous strandings.

Later that same day, a second Hakuraa was discovered a mere 1.5km north of the initial sighting, near Snapper Point - Rosemount Dairies. These occurrences aren't new on Te Kiri o Rauru, where this species is known to frequently strand and wash up. Each event serves as a reminder of the profound relationship between our moana stretching from Te Taiuhu, Farewell Spit, and Te Kiri o Rauru, blending scientific insights with our koorero tawhito, underscoring the unique character of our shores.

As we reflect on this encounter, it prompts discussions on how we can collaboratively tread this path with Te Papa Atawhai, ensuring our engagement is guided by tikanga and respects the intrinsic connections between iwi and our marine environment.

Noo reira, e tangi ana ki teenei aahuatanga kuu pae nei ki taihua, e te Tuutarakauika whaaia te ara tohoraa ki ngaa tai o Hawaiki, ki Tai Nunumi eee hae.

EACH EVENT SERVES AS A
REMINDER OF THE PROFOUND
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR
MOANA STRETCHING FROM TE
TAUIHU, FAREWELL SPIT, AND TE
KIRI O RAURU





TRANS-TASMAN LTD RECONSIDERATION

TRANS-TASMAN WITHDRAWS MINING APPLICATION



In a significant turn of events, Trans-Tasman Resources Ltd (TTRL) recently withdrew its application for consent from the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to mine iron sands off the South Taranaki Bight. This decision, announced on Thursday 28th March 2024 has raised eyebrows among environmental advocates and Iwi, who suspect it may be a strategic move to evade public scrutiny and await the government's new fast-track legislation.

The hearing, which commenced in Hāwera on Wednesday 13th March 2024 and was expected to span eight days over three months, saw a strong presence of protesters from Ngāa Rauru, Ngaati Ruanui, Kiwis Against Seabed Mining (KASM), Climate Justice Taranaki, Greenpeace, and the South Taranaki community. Despite the withdrawal, concerns linger that TTRL may exploit the fast-track legislation as a "backdoor" method to secure mining consent.

The hearings koorero relating to the impacts of seabed mining on our precious taonga, including manu, ika, tohoraa, aihe, and the issue of sediment plumes. The following hearings would have heard the unwavering commitment we have as kaitiaki to safeguard our taiao, tikanga, and wairua for future generations. Ngāa Rauru stands with Ngaati Ruanui and Te Ohu Kaimoana and are committed to opposing seabed mining in the South Taranaki Bight, asserting that the fight is far from over.

As the debate surrounding seabed mining in the South Taranaki Bight continues to intensify, the withdrawal of TTRL's application serves as a stark reminder of the challenges posed by balancing economic interests with environmental preservation. Moving forward, stakeholders remain vigilant, urging the government to prioritize the protection of our precious marine ecosystems and cultural heritage.

In the face of uncertainty, Ngāa Rauru will continue to support Ngaati Ruanui and its allies in standing resolute, preparing to challenge any attempts to expedite the mining process through fast-track legislation. As stated by those leading the charge "We have only just begun." It is now incumbent upon the government to heed the voices of Iwi and environmental advocates, ensuring that seabed mining never comes to fruition in the South Taranaki Bight.





TE KAAHUI MAUNGA KAPA HAKA WHAKATAETAE-AA-ROHE

IMAGE CREDIT: TE KAAHUI MAUNGA

On March 9th, Te Kaahui Maunga Kapa Haka rohe hosted its regional kapa haka competition at Te Whare o Ruapuutahanga in Te Haawera. The 2020 pandemic prevented the last competition from going ahead so the 2018 competition at Ratana Paa, was the last competition. Anticipation was high following the 6-year wait resulting in a sold-out event with additional tickets and a large screen for whaanau to watch outside.

For Ngaa Rauru, it was heartening to see so many of our uri amongst the 13 kapa that graced the stage with everyone representing their kapa, hapuu, marae, and Iwi on the atamira. Celebrating the significant improvement in quality and standard of kapa haka in the region, the four successful kapa on the day were: Te Reanga Moorehu o Raatana, Ngaa Purapura o te Tai Hauaauru, Te Kuranui o Paerangi, and Ngaa Waihotanga. These kapa will proudly represent our rohe at Te Matatini o Te Kaahui Maunga 2025.

Te Matatini o Te Kaahui Maunga will take place from Tuesday 25th February to Sunday 2nd March 2025, at Pukekura Park in Ngamotu. In the coming weeks and months, waananga and kaupapa have been anticipated to bolster the various functions required for hosting this significant event. Given that such opportunities arise only once every two decades or so, we urge our whanaunga far and wide to rally behind the kaupapa and offer support in any way possible. Whether it's hosting at our marae, local venues, or lending a hand as ringa raupaa, there's a role for everyone to play.

The Te Kaahui Maunga rohe, formerly recognized as "Aotea," spans from Mookau and Parininihi in the North of Taranaki to Waitootara, Whangaehu, and Raatana in the south, encompassing Ruapehu Maunga and everything and everyone in between. This inclusive region encompasses Taranaki Maunga, Te Awa Tupua o Whanganui, and Raatana Paa.

During the poowhiri preceding the local competition, Te Mauri o Te Matatini was passed on to the next tongi of the Te Kaahui Maunga region - Taranaki Maa Tongatonga. As reported in earlier newsletters, the Mauri was initially brought to Te Kaahui Maunga, Raatana Paa by Te Matatini, previous hosts Taamaki Kapa Haka, and Ngaati Whatua on Saturday 15th April 2023. It then traversed the Te Awa Tupua o Whanganui before finding its current residence within the South Taranaki area until October, after which it will journey to Taranaki ki te Raki and Owae Marae.

Noo reira, hoki mai e ngaa uri, haaere mai e ngaa iwi me te motu ki Te Matatini o Te Kaahui Maunga 2025.



IMAGE CREDIT: TE MATATINI SOCIETY INCOP.

NGAA PAANUI AA IWI

UPCOMING KAUPAPA AND IWI REMINDERS

9 APRIL

TE PIRE WHAKATUPUA MOO TE KAAHUI TUPUA
FIRST READING
WATCH LIVE ON PARLIAMENT TV:
[HTTPS://ONDEMAND.PARLIAMENT.NZ/](https://ondemand.parliament.nz/)

15 – 19 APRIL

TE TIPURANGA RANGATAHI WAANANGA
KAIPOO MARAE

TE TOI AHUREA 2024

OUR IWI FESTIVAL TE TOI AHUREA IS RETURNING IN
NOVEMBER 2024. KEEP AN EYE ON OUR TE KAAHUI
O RAURU SOCIALS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

PLANTING AT TAPUARAU

OUR TAIAO TEAM WILL BE WORKING IN
COLLABORATION WITH TE PAPA ATAWHAI TO
PLANT TREES AT TAPUARAU. DAYS TO BE
ADVERTISED ON TE KAAHUI O RAURU SOCIALS



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