



HE KUPU HERENGA TANGATA

ISSUE 66 - TAKURUA 2025

NGAA KOORERO A TE TUMU WHAKARAE



E mihi nei, e tangi nei, kia tau ai te aaiotanga ki raatau, a raatau maa kua ngaro atu ki te poo – moe mai, moe mai ra. Huri atu te poo, nau mai ki te ao.

Teenaa koutou, teenaa koutou, kia ora mai taatou katoa. As a newly formed grouping of Paepae members, our focus remains firmly on ourselves – how we can influence and determine our own future. I'm pleased with the progress we've made to be more purposeful in our approach, especially in pursuing long-term success for our future generations.

This hasn't been easy. Through workshops and design sessions, we've been developing Te Kahu Mataiho – our Indigenous Governance Model for Ngaa Rauru Kiihahi. It has challenged our thinking, yet it's an ambitious expression of our identity that brings who we are to the forefront of how we govern. This will be one of the most significant changes we've made since settlement in 2005. Improvement is ongoing, and the Paepae is focused on where we can make the greatest impact. Our ability to reflect on the past is a key guide as we plan for the future.

Over the last quarter, external politics have been playing out around us, but we've remained focused on what we can do for our whaanau. Ngaa Rauru Kiihahi signed on to Takai Here alongside other iwi and hapuu from the wider Whanganui region, through Te Ranga Tupua, supporting an initiative with NZ Police that applies the Te Pae Oranga framework. This restorative justice approach brings together Police, iwi/Maaori partners, and community leaders to address offending in ways that promote healing, accountability, and wellbeing. We look forward to working closely with Te Oranganui, who will lead this mahi on our behalf.

Meridian Energy has been engaging with Te Kaahui o Rauru for some time to understand who we are as an iwi and share their aspirations for an onshore energy park in our rohe. We have recently deepened that engagement with our whaanau and marae hosting an information session at Tauranga Ika marae and completing a visit to some of our significant sites. Whaanau are now being asked, what will Ngaa Rauru look like in 60 years, to understand what impacts this project could have on our future.

We've taken important lessons from the first wind farm at Waipipi, and I am committed to applying those learnings to deliver better outcomes, value, and benefits for Ngaa Rauru Kiihahi.

I want to acknowledge all those who have supported and stood with us in our opposition to seabed mining, and in particular, our Aotea waka whanaunga from Ngaati Ruanui and Ngaa Ruahine. I urge us all to continue to stand for our mokopuna and the legacy we leave behind. We must protect what matters by upholding our responsibilities as Ngaa Rauru Kiihahi. The "fast-track" process has gained political momentum, but we remain firmly in opposition. The consenting process is now underway, and we will ensure we remain actively involved wherever we can and support whaanau, hapuu, and marae to play an active role in opposing seabed mining in our rohe.

At the recent National Iwi Chairs Forum in Tuuranga, Ngaa Rauru Kiihahi was confirmed as the secretariat for the next three years. This places us well to contribute to the collective of Iwi Maaori who provide guidance, advocacy, and leadership in the political sphere. As a smaller iwi, it also helps us to build strong relationships and partnerships across the country – a vital support mechanism for Ngaa Rauru Kiihahi that strengthens both our governance and operational capabilities. We are fortunate to sit across two iwi regional groupings – Ngaa Iwi o Taranaki and Te Ranga Tupua – thanks to our geographical location and whakapapa links to both Taranaki and Whanganui.



NGAA KOORERO A TE TUMU WHAKAHAERE



*Takina Puanga
Ko Puanga kei runga
Ko Puanga e Rangi
Taakina mai te ara o Puanganui-o-te rangi
Taakina ngaa pou o te tau
Ki te whai ao, ki te ao maarama*

With the bright rustling leaves of autumn no longer falling and the cooler days of winter upon us, we look to the skies to mark the end of one year and the beginning of the next. The star that marks the passage of time and provides insights into the months to come – ko Puanga te whetu. April was marked by the Paepae strategic Advance, a fantastic opportunity for the new Paepae to come together and get to know each other. This gathering provided a valuable space to discuss challenges and opportunities for Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi.



In May, the Senior Leadership team took some time out of the office to review our performance over the past year and finalize our annual business plans. Additionally, TechWeek was celebrated nationally, and we hosted a vibrant Tech Expo in the UCOL atrium and three off-site locations. The Expo connected rangatahi, kaiako, and whaanau with leading tech professionals, businesses, and creative storytellers. We also ran a Rangatahi Tech Challenge, giving rangatahi a chance to meet inspiring tech experts and explore their own creative tech ideas. Kura were invited to design a project on creating a better future for Te Awa Tupua, showcasing their research, ideas, and tech skills.

During this period, we have been working with our Aotea waka whanaunga and supported by our legal teams to understand and respond to the Taranaki VTM fast track application. You can read more about this on page 10 (Rangatahi Leadership on the Global Stage).

Some of you may have seen in the local paper that UCOL has chosen not to renew the lease on the Backhouse building, which has been our home for the last three years. This is unfortunate for all the Backhouse tenants and unsettling for our team as we have to quickly find new premises to operate. We haven't found a new home yet but watch this space for updates on our new location.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that we have received endorsement by the National Iwi Chairs Forum membership to remain as Secretariat for a further three-year term. This role, which we have held for over 12 years, is a testament to the team's tireless, discreet, and effective work in the background.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. We look forward to sharing more updates with you soon.

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





STANDING FIRM AGAINST SEABED MINING

REAFFIRMING OPPOSITION TO THE TARANAKI VTM APPLICATION

Te Kaahui o Rauru expresses its deep and ongoing disappointment following the Government's confirmation that the Taranaki VTM seabed mining application has been validated as "complete" under the fast-track consenting regime.

The project, led by Trans-Tasman Resources (TTR), proposes destructive seabed mining activities in the South Taranaki Bight, an area of immense cultural, spiritual, and ecological significance to Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi. The validation of this application continues to disregard more than a decade of strong, united opposition from iwi Maaori, environmental groups, and coastal communities.

"We are dismayed that this application has progressed without genuine engagement with tangata whenua," said Renée Bradley, Tumu Whakahaere of Te Kaahui o Rauru. "This is not consultation, and it is certainly not partnership. Our concerns are not bureaucratic, they are about protecting our moana, our rangatiratanga, and our responsibilities as kaitiaki."

The fast-track process, already under intense public scrutiny, has been widely criticised for bypassing robust environmental and Treaty protections. The acceptance of this application further exposes how Crown systems continue to marginalise mana whenua voices in decisions about their own whenua and moana.

Tahinganui Hina, Tumu Whakarae, added: "Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi has opposed seabed mining from the outset. The Crown cannot pretend to honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi while using fast-track laws to silence mana whenua. The validation of this application sends a clear message: economic interests are being prioritised over environmental and cultural survival."



Te Kaahui o Rauru affirms its unwavering opposition to any seabed mining within its rohe and is actively preparing to challenge the decision through political, legal, and community channels.

"We have never been silent," said Bradley. "We will not be silent now. We will fight politically, legally, and morally. For our uri, for our moana, and for future generations."

Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi stands in solidarity with our whanaunga iwi of Te Ranga Tupua and Ngaa Iwi o Taranaki, along with the Whanganui and South Taranaki District Council's in opposing this project. Now more than ever, it is vital that our uri deepen their understanding of the fast-track process and the long-term impacts of seabed mining, so we are ready when the call to action comes.

The expert panel responsible for assessing the application is currently being formed, and the process is expected to accelerate rapidly once in place.



CELEBRATING A YEAR OF WAI CONNECTION

REFLECTING COLLABORATIONS, EDUCATION AND NEW PARTNERSHIPS

The first year of Wai Connection brought incredible moments, growth, and deep reconnection with our taiao. Through the Wai Connector mahi, kaimahi Timara Wallace has supported schools, marae, and rangatahi across the rohe bringing together maatauranga Maaori and science through hands-on learning, relationship building, and environmental action. At its heart, Wai Connection is about more than freshwater education. It's about whakapapa, place-based learning, and collective responsibility and through this kaupapa, we have empowered uri, especially our tamariki and rangatahi, to build a deeper understanding of their role as kaitiaki and stewards of our awa.

Two key partnerships helped elevate this kaupapa. The first was with Tarapuruhi Bushy Park where we collaborated with their education team and delivered immersive sessions focused on wetlands, forest protection, and ngahere experiences. Over 300 students had the opportunity to walk among the trees like our tuupuna once did, while learning about native species and the importance of protecting fragile ecosystems. The second partnership was with The Learning Environment, a unique nature-based learning site nestled among apple orchards, maara kai, and a thriving native nursery. This partnership provided a powerful setting for our rangatahi waananga, linking wellbeing to environmental stewardship. The on-site stream also became a key space for hands-on freshwater education, involving both kura and catchment group visits.

Over the past year, Timara has been supporting tamariki and rangatahi across the rohe to strengthen their connection with te taiao. By working directly with kura and kaupapa designed to grow future leaders, we've been able to plant the seeds of kaitiakitanga through hands-on, place-based learning. We partnered with six schools, delivering 27 interactive sessions to over 250 aakonga and explored freshwater ecosystems, mahinga kai, and taonga species like iinanga and tuna.



These sessions weren't just educational, they were energising, empowering, and deeply memorable. Students described the experiences as exciting. One said, "Timara first showed us an eel that she caught using an eel net, which was fascinating... Overall, the trip was amazing." Another shared, "My favourite part was seeing the creatures like bugs and eels. I loved the stream trip. It was very interesting." Kaiako and principals echoed this enthusiasm, describing the Wai Connection kaupapa as a rare and valuable learning opportunity—especially for schools that don't often receive these kinds of visits. "These experiences are crucial for our tamariki. We're grateful to have had the chance to learn about and connect with our awa."

Programme delivery extended into Te Tipuranga Rangatahi waananga, where taiao-based education sessions supported the development of confident, connected, and capable future leaders. These waananga helped build not only knowledge, but also a strong sense of identity, responsibility, and belonging.

A shining example of Wai Connection in action is Whenuakura School. With support from our Wai Connector, Enviroschools, and the Air NZ Every Corner Project, the school has secured funding to bring their dream of a 'Forest School' to life. This outdoor learning space will immerse tamariki in the taiao, helping them grow as kaitiaki of their whenua and awa. The project also includes a student-led native plant nursery where tamariki will grow hardy, coastal species to koha to local restoration projects like the Paatea Planting Trust and the Salt Marsh Restoration Project. Funding will also support the creation of a garden shed, a protective shelterbelt, and biodiversity plantings across the school to attract birds and restore balance to the local environment.

Importantly, this kaupapa has sparked deeper collaboration with Whenuakura Marae, with future joint projects already planned. Together, they will work on fencing and planting initiatives to protect and restore areas near the marae, strengthening intergenerational ties and shared responsibility for the whenua. This is the essence of Wai Connection: nurturing uri with the knowledge, tools, and inspiration to care for te taiao, now and into the future.

Beyond the classroom, Wai Connection has helped tell important environmental stories and strengthen long-term kaitiakitanga. We continue monitoring efforts across the rohe (eDNA sampling, bittern surveys, lake health assessments, and water quality testing) laying the foundation for long-term environmental care.



Important conversations have also emerged through this mahi, especially around the health of the Waitootara Catchment. In collaboration with Taranaki Regional Council, we contributed to a hydrodynamic model to help communities better understand flooding and explore nature-based resilience solutions. Wild for Taranaki with the support of Te Kaahui o Rauru are launching a webinar series on sediment, a major issue in the southern hill country. The series will explore the impact of sediment on awa, what's causing it, and how local communities are responding.

The future of Wai Connection looks bright. We're expanding our school programme to reach more kura and cover a wider range of freshwater topics. We'll continue working with partners across the rohe who share our values, and we're growing our monitoring programme to include piharau pheromone tracking to help identify spawning sites and protect this taonga species. We're also planning workshops, waterway planting days, and more support for whaanau-led restoration projects. If you'd like to koorero about your awa, access support, or get involved in training or local initiatives, reach out to our Wai Connector, Timara. Together, we're restoring our waterways, empowering our communities, and growing the next generation of kaitiaki.



HAUMARU NGAA TAONGA

PHASE TWO: WEAVING TOGETHER A TIKANGA FRAMEWORK

Continuing the momentum of our partnership with Manaaki Whenua and Te Herenga Waka, Te Kaahui o Rauru is pleased to announce that Phase One of our kaupapa to reframe pest management through a Maaori lens is wrapping up.

Where traditional approaches to pest control often centre on eradication, our research has grounded itself in the values of manaakitanga, mauri, and kaitiakitanga – recognising the interconnectedness of all species and the importance of balance in te taiao.

In Phase One, the team worked closely with uri, researchers, and kaumatua to understand how we as Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi should approach the use of toxins, such as 1080 and brodifacoum. This work is integral to ensuring we engage in the 'pest control' koorero in a way that fits within Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi worldviews to then establish a tikanga-based framework for making decisions around pest control that reflects the mana motuhake of Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi.



Our partnerships are also growing uri involvement in taiao kaupapa across the rohe – including translocations of manu, increased engagement with ecosanctuaries like Tarapuruhi, and the participation in collectives such as Te Aahuru Tautaiiao. These efforts are building the capacity of our hapuu and whaanau to lead and influence conservation work, not just within our rohe but across Aotearoa.

Looking Ahead – Phase Two

Phase Two will build on this foundation by:

- Consolidating our tikanga-based framework for pest control and environmental management
- Bringing together kaumatua, uri, and technical experts in waananga to test and refine this framework in practice
- Supporting the next generation of kaitiaki through training, knowledge-sharing, and involvement in applied taiao projects
- Engaging with international indigenous communities, such as First Nations whaanau in Australia, to explore shared experiences in taonga species management

We are also preparing to host the second day of the Sanctuaries of New Zealand Conference at Kai Iwi Marae this August – a major opportunity to showcase iwi-led environmental leadership and strengthen partnerships with other mana whenua, researchers, and practitioners from across the motu.

As this kaupapa moves forward, Te Kaahui o Rauru remains committed to approaches that uphold the mana of the whenua, the mauri of all species, and the leadership of hapuu and marae in shaping our environmental future.

If you're interested in contributing to this mahi or want to stay informed get in touch with our Kaihaapai Rangahau; Patrick Woon on patrick@rauru.iwi.nz

PUANGA MAA MATARIKI KI NANNI CAMP

CELEBRATING THE GROWTH OF OUR MOKOPUNA

Despite torrential weather, last-minute changes, and soggy gumboots, the recent Nanni Camp at Te Wairoa-iti Marae proved to be one of the most heartfelt and inspiring camps yet with an unforgettable four days of whakawhanaungatanga, waananga, creativity, and celebration of Puanga maa Matariki.

A total of 23 mokopuna registered for the camp, with 14 attending after 9 withdrew the day before due to illness. Among them were 4 new mokopuna attending for the first time. One travelled all the way from Wellington with his mama, while two others flew in from Ootautahi, a true testament to the impact and importance of this kaupapa.

Camp began as it always does with whakatau to welcome mokopuna and their whaanau to the marae. The mokopuna settled in quickly, bonding with one another and embracing the camp environment. Many were happy to wave goodbye to their parents, eager for the days ahead.

A rainy first day meant all activities were held indoors, but this didn't dampen the mood. Whakawhanaungatanga was led by Koro Mare (Mare Ponga), Nanny Luv (Mama Pirikahu), and our Camp Nanny (Lady Jamieson), setting a warm tone of connection and trust. Each mokopuna received an itinerary, personalised booklet, and a camp programme. Throughout the day, games and spontaneous fun filled the marae. After dinner, evening karakia was confidently led by two tama taane, followed by waiata from the kootiro kuia bringing a calm, grounding end to a vibrant day.

After a good night's sleep, the mokopuna were recharged for day two. Heavy rain had continued overnight across South Taranaki which resulted in changes to plans. Originally, the Camp Nannies had planned to travel to Ngaamotu however this was revised for safety, and instead, the mokopuna headed to Whanganui for a local adventure.





Mokopuna visited the Whare Taonga, Whare Toi, and Whare Pukapuka, finishing the afternoon at the heated Splash Centre pools. Dinner was enjoyed on the way home, and while the weather outside was awful, nothing could dampen their vibes. Back at the marae, they changed into kaakahu moe, commenced karakia and then settled in for an early night.

Day three began early with waananga. The focus was Puanga maa Matariki —composing waiata, rehearsing roles, and preparing for the next day's celebration. Each mokopuna had a role: kootiro practised karanga, tama taane prepared for the paepae, and others supported waiata, storytelling, and role plays. The kaauta buzzing as karanga and waiata echoed throughout the marae.

After lunch, tamariki worked in teams to prep and pack five haangii each, ready for the next morning. The kootiro also dressed the tables for Sunday's haakari. The day ended with a dress rehearsal that brought tears to the eyes of the Nannies — everything was in place. The pride, the beauty, the anticipation. Everyone couldn't wait for the day ahead.

On the final day, the mokopuna woke early and quietly prepared for the Puanga maa Matariki Celebration. Dressed and filled with nerves and excitement, they stepped into their roles with confidence and mana. The karanga was led beautifully by our kootiro. Two tama taane held space on the paepae with strength, their voices carrying the mana of their whaanau and tuupuna. Waiata filled the marae, including a touching solo that left many in tears.

The Nannies and Koro were visibly moved, their hearts full as they watched the next generation shine. The preparation, the rehearsals, the laughter—it all came together in one unforgettable celebration of Puanga. Following the formalities, a delicious haangii lunch was served and enjoyed by all. Whaanau sat and basked in stories and laughter with their tamariki mokopuna who all recounted their emotions leading up to the celebration.

The camp closed with final karakia, acknowledgements, and a few emotional goodbyes. Our mokopuna left enriched with maatauranga, deeper connections, precious memories, and are already looking forward to the next camp.



COP30

RANGATAHI LEADERSHIP ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

MACY DUXFIELD TO REPRESENT NGAĀ RAURU KIITAHĪ AT COP30 IN BRAZIL

We are proud to announce that Macy Duxfield, a passionate advocate for climate justice and proud uri of Ngāa Rauru, has been selected as a delegate for the National Iwi Chairs Forum Rangatahi Delegation to the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil this November.

This historic kaupapa marks the first time a Māori-led rangatahi delegation will host an independent presence at COP, showcasing the innovation, maatanga, and leadership of iwi Māori on the global climate stage. The delegation will be part of the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion, amplifying Indigenous voices in climate action.

Reflecting on her selection, Macy shared "It's an honour to carry the voices of my whānau, hapuu, and iwi to the world stage. Climate change is a global issue, but it's also deeply local and personal. There are so many examples of climate change leadership within our iwi, of how we care for our people and taiao in our changing world. I'm excited to share our stories, our solutions, and to learn from other Indigenous leaders around the world. This is about intergenerational responsibility and action."

The Rangatahi Delegation is grounded in the values of mana motuhake, maatanga Māori, and tino rangatiratanga. Delegates will engage in a four-month preparation programme, including waananga, leadership development, and kaupapa planning, before departing for Brazil in early November.

Tumu Whakahaere Renée Bradley expressed her pride in Macy's selection. "Macy embodies the strength, insight, and commitment we need in our future leaders. Her voice will not only represent Ngāa Rauru Kiitahi but will contribute to shaping global conversations on climate justice.

We are incredibly proud of her and stand behind her every step of the way."

COP30 will be held in Belém, the gateway to the Amazon, from 10–21 November 2025. With nearly 200 countries participating, the conference will focus on emissions reduction, adaptation, climate finance, and Indigenous leadership.

As Macy prepares to represent Aotearoa and Ngāa Rauru, we look forward to the insights, relationships, and inspiration she will bring home.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS A GLOBAL ISSUE,
BUT IT'S ALSO DEEPLY LOCAL AND
PERSONAL. THERE ARE SO MANY
EXAMPLES OF CLIMATE CHANGE
LEADERSHIP WITHIN OUR IWI



Macy with her kuia, whāne, tuakana and teina - L to R: Neve Duxfield, Theresa Wakefield, Kui Mere Wakefield, Ella Duxfield and Macy Duxfield.

PREPARING FOR OUR FUTURE

CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MARAE RESILIENCE

In mid-June, our senior leadership team joined uri, hapuu, iwi representatives, and government agencies at Kanihi Maawhitiwhiti Paa in Okaiawa for the Climate Adaptation Waananga. The two-day event was hosted by Ngaa Iwi o Taranaki and facilitated by Pou Take Aahuarangi technician, Kiri Allan.

Held beneath the watchful gaze of our maunga, this waananga created space for whaanau to come together and explore what climate change means for us in a distinctly Taranaki context. It was an opportunity to ground ourselves in both science and maatauranga Maaori, while sharing koorero with those already doing the mahi to build climate resilience.

Over the course of two days, participants:

- Learned about the key climate risks facing our rohe, including flooding, coastal erosion, river changes, and volcanic activity;
- Heard from local experts and kaitiaki about impacts being felt across Taranaki and lessons learned so far;
- Explored practical tools and strategies to support marae and whaanau to plan, prepare and adapt;
- Began to map and assess risks across our marae and communities as a foundation for future planning.

For Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi, the waananga reinforced the urgent need to prepare our marae and whaanau for a changing climate. Some of our marae sit along vulnerable riverbanks, others near the coast or high in exposed hill country – each with their own unique risks and strengths.

This waananga couldn't have come at a better time, as we prepare to roll out our own Marae Resilience Project. This project is being developed specifically for our Ngaa Rauru marae and is part of a wider iwi response to building marae preparedness and climate resilience grounded in our values and tikanga.

The Marae Resilience Project will focus on achieving the following outcomes:

- Marae and whaanau have strengthened governance and decision-making capability;
- Marae are equipped to be self-sufficient in times of emergency, supporting both their residents and the wider community;
- Marae are enabled to transfer maatauranga Maaori across generations, ensuring cultural continuity;
- Marae are supported to explore pathways toward long-term economic self-sufficiency.

The kaupapa is clear: we must be proactive in safeguarding our places of belonging. Our marae are what anchor us to our whakapapa, whenua and each other. As we continue to confront the impacts of climate change, building resilience at the marae level is not just practical – it's essential.

We look forward to working closely with each of our marae as this project progresses. Together, we can plan for a future where our communities are prepared, connected, and thriving – no matter what lies ahead. Te Kaahui o Rauru are looking to hold this Climate Adaptation Hui in Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi in December 2025 – so keep an eye out for more information on our website and socials.



TE KAAHUI O RAURU JOINS KA URU ORA

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NGAA RAURU KIITAHĪ

Te Kaahui o Rauru is proud to announce its partnership with Ka Uru Ora, a kaupapa Māori initiative focused on empowering whānau through financial education, savings, and housing opportunities. This partnership marks a significant milestone for Ngāa Rauru Kīitahi, who now join six other Taranaki iwi already participating in the programme.

Ka Uru Ora is an iwi-led response to the housing and financial challenges faced by Māori communities. The programme is centred around tailored education and navigation support, delivered by local iwi facilitators, with the aim of empowering whānau on their journey to home ownership and improved housing quality.

It offers a holistic suite of services, including:

- Te Uru Tahua – grow your savings with WhānauSaver, a savings scheme supported by iwi contributions to help uri build long-term financial security.
- Te Uru Ahupuutea – the first step in accessing Ka Uru Ora housing opportunities is financial education. These wānanga are designed to strengthen financial literacy and confidence for whānau.
- Te Urunga Kaainga – at its core, Ka Uru Ora is about supporting whānau by creating pathways to affordable, healthy housing and home ownership.



THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF KA URU ORA IS TO CREATE EMPOWERED, THRIVING WHĀNAU AND CONTRIBUTES TO OUR OVERARCHING VISION TO WHAKATIPUNGIA NGĀA RAURU KIITAHĪ.

“Joining Ka Uru Ora is about more than just housing—it’s about restoring rangatiratanga and creating sustainable futures for our uri,” says Tumu Whakahaere Renée Bradley. “We are excited to walk alongside our whānau as they take steps toward financial independence and intergenerational wellbeing.”

The ultimate goal of Ka Uru Ora is to create empowered, thriving whānau and contributes to our overarching vision to Whakatipungia Ngāa Rauru Kīitahi. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to uplifting whānau and building resilient pathways for Ngāa Rauru Kīitahi whānau throughout the motu.

HE PIKINGA POUPOU EDUCATION GRANTS

2025 SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Congratulations to all the successful recipients of the He Pikinga Poupou Education Grants for 2025. This kaupapa recognises the dedication and determination of our uri in pursuing their educational aspirations, and we are proud to stand behind each of you as you continue to strive for excellence.

Below are the recipients for this year—each a reflection of the strength and potential within our iwi.

Applications for the 2026 He Pikinga Poupou Education Grants will open in mid-January 2026. Keep an eye on our social media pages and website for updates.

SECONDARY GRANTS

Kamaea Teki

UNDERGRADUATE GRANTS

Abraham Fletcher

Aharina Prime-Rei

Aisha Campbell

Aiyana Towers

Bella Pokere

Billie-Jean James

Brooke Goldsmith

Carla-Moana Thompson

Cree Savage

Daniel Hawes

Elizabeth Albert

Hone Taurua

Isaac Fonotoe

Jackson Reader

Jaimee-Lee Coleman

Jarna Flintoff

Jorja O'Neill

Jorzahn McCallum

Kelly Prince

Metiria-Hinekorangi Doyle

Ngareta Patea

Rawinia Wharehoka

Ruiha Kopa

Samuel Te Awhe

Taimana Baillie

Tama James

UNDERGRADUATE GRANTS CONT.

Taylah Sharrock

Taylah Stevens

Te Rauhui Gawler

Te Waipiata Doyle

Tiana Henare

Vaiaio Holmes-Haweturi

Vincent Rogan

Xavia Connolly

POST GRADUATE GRANTS

Airana Ngarewa

Ashleigh Kauika

Emily Austin

Jolene Rangihaeata

Kyla Joseph

Leteisha Te Awhe-Downey

Marama Taiwhati

Michelle Balsley

Nicholas Fonotoe

Quentin Wallace

Raukura Doyle

Shea Rogan

Siobhan Wilson

2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

GRANT TYPES



1
SECONDARY
SCHOOL



34
UNDER
GRADUATE



13
POST
GRADUATE



15 URI NOO
TE PAAHUKI KI TE TONGA



11 URI NOO
TE PAAHUKI O TE AWA



22 URI NOO
TE KEI O PAHITONOA

APPLICANTS BY PAAHUKI

APPLICANT LOCATIONS



14
First time
applicants

YOUR VOICE, YOUR VOTE! REFERENDUM & LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS

E te iwi, 2025 is a big year for making our voices heard. Alongside a nationwide referendum, we also have local body elections happening across the motu—and some of our very own uri are standing for Maaori and general ward seats on local councils.

Why it matters:

The referendum lets you vote 'Yes' or 'No' on an issue that could impact the future of Aotearoa. Local elections decide who represents us on important decisions about whenua, water, housing, roads, and community wellbeing.

Whether it's national or local—your voice matters. This is how we stand for our whaanau, our hapuu, and the generations to come.

Not enrolled yet? It's not too late:

If you're not enrolled, or your details have changed—you can still vote by making a special vote. It's quick and easy, and you'll still have your say.

THIS IS HOW WE STAND FOR OUR
WHAANAU, OUR HAPUU, AND THE
GENERATIONS TO COME.

Here's what you can do:

- Check or update your enrolment now at vote.nz
- Vote in both: The referendum and local elections are separate—make sure you're counted in both.
- Support our uri: Back whaanau standing in your rohe.
- Encourage your whaanau: Every vote counts—especially yours.

Let's show up, speak out, and stand strong.
Moo taatou, moo ngaa uri whakatupu.

www.vote.nz

PŌTI 2025
NGA PŌTITANGA Ā-ROHE

Did you enrol after 1 August 2025??

You can still vote, but you will need to cast a
“Special Vote” during the voting period
(Tuesday 9 - Saturday 11 October 2025)

Taranaki Iwi Te Kaohui o Rauru TE AT/AWA Ngāti Ruamui NGĀTI TAMA O TARANAKI NGĀRUAHINE NGĀTI MARU

Me takatū ki te rēhita me to pōti!
Get ready to vote
www.vote.nz

PŌTI 2025
NGA PŌTITANGA Ā-ROHE

Register. Vote. Be heard.

Taranaki Iwi Te Kaohui o Rauru TE AT/AWA Ngāti Ruamui NGĀTI TAMA O TARANAKI NGĀRUAHINE NGĀTI MARU

MEET YOUR PAEPAE TE PAEPAE O TE KAAHUI O RAURU

Each quarter, we will introduce members of Te Paepae o Te Kaahui o Rauru.



HAYDEN POTAKA

TAIPAKEE MARAE

He uri teenei noo Taipakee Marae; Tamareheroto, Pukeko me Iti.

Hayden brings a wealth of governance experience, particularly within Maaori organisations, where he has led kaupapa focused on infrastructure development, economic empowerment, and the protection and revitalisation of our cultural and environmental taonga.

As a former Tumu Whakarae of Te Kaahui o Rauru, Hayden played a key role in executing strategic plans that reflect the values and aspirations of our marae and iwi. His governance style is collaborative and inclusive, grounded in transparency, accountability, and a deep commitment to the revitalisation of Ngaa Raurutanga.

Representing Taipakee Marae on Te Paepae o Te Kaahui o Rauru, Hayden continues to advocate for the needs and aspirations of our whaanau, hapuu, and iwi. His leadership philosophy is centred on enablement—ensuring our tikanga and values guide every decision, every step of the way.

Looking ahead, Hayden's vision is to continue advancing the environmental, social, cultural, and economic well-being of Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi through strong governance, meaningful engagement, and sustainable growth.

LEANNE HAMILTON-WIARI

WHENUAKURA MARAE

He uri teenei noo ngaa marae o Whenuakura me Te Ihupuku

Leanne has been actively involved with our marae since the 1990s, taking on a governance role with the Iwi Authority from the late 1990s through the early 2000s. After returning to Whanganui in 2019, Leanne renewed her commitment to our marae and iwi, and in 2021, was honoured to be elected as a Paepae representative. During this time, she has also contributed to the Paepae Kookiri.



With over 20 years of experience in trustee roles, she has developed a strong understanding of governance responsibilities. Her background in management, including overseeing staff and managing financial operations, has further equipped her with the skills to serve effectively. As a strategic thinker and leader, she is dedicated to building a brighter future for our mokopuna. Her strengths in communication and people skills enable her to foster collaboration and achieve shared goals.

MARILYN DAVIS

TAKIRAU MARAE

He uri teenei noo Takirau Marae me Ngaati Pourua

Marilyn Davis brings a wealth of experience and an unwavering commitment to upholding whaanau, hapuu, iwi, and marae values. With a strong background in governance, management, and facilitation, she is a passionate advocate for te reo me oona tikanga, cultural integrity, and inclusive leadership.



Marilyn currently serves in a number of leadership and governance roles, including as a board member of Community Law Whanganui, Chair of Ngaati Pourua Ahuwhenua Trust, President of Whakatupuranga Te Kaakano – the Whanganui branch of the Maaori Women's Welfare League, and Secretary for Tamakana Council of Hapuu. She also brings operational leadership as the Manager of Te Whaariki Manaaki o Taatou Charitable Trust.

Marilyn's commitment to serving on Te Paepae o Te Kaahui o Rauru is driven by her deep love for her people and her desire to represent Takirau Marae and Ngaati Pourua Hapuu with integrity and mana. Her leadership style is grounded in service, cultural responsibility, and inspiring others to stand tall in who they are.

NGAA PAANUI AA IWI

UP AND COMING KAUPAPA

12-14 AUG

SANCTURIES OF NZ
@ WHANGANUI/KAI IWI

31 AUG

WHAKATIPUNGIA NGAA
RAURU KIITAHU
@TAURANGA IKA MARAE

2-5 SEP

KORONEIHANA
@ TURANGAWAEWAE

28 SEP

WHAKATIPUNGIA NGAA
RAURU KIITAHU
@ KAI IWI MARAE

10-11 OCT

TAIAO WAANANGA
@ TBC



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UPDATE YOUR DETAILS TO RECEIVE IWI COMMS AT
WWW.YOURIWI.COM OR GET IN TOUCH AT
REGISTRATIONS@RAURU.IWI.NZ TO CHECK YOUR
REGISTRATION STATUS



TUU MAI REGISTRATIONS

REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN FOR TARANAKI TUU MAI
2025. HEAD TO WWW.RAURU.IWI.NZ TO REGISTER
OR LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WEEKEND.
21-23 NOVEMBER 2025

TARANAKI TUU MAI 2025

21-23 NOVEMBER 2025

JOIN OUR CREW, WE'RE LOOKING FOR

SPORT & ACTIVITY COORDINATORS