



## In the Footsteps of Kahu – I ngā Tapuāe o Kahu

“Ko te manu e kai ana i te miro, nōna te ngahere.  
Ko te manu e kai ana i te mātauranga, nōna te ao.”

“The bird that partakes of the miro berry owns the forest. The bird that partakes of education owns the world.”

This month, schools, kura and kōhanga reo across Te Taihū received a new resource designed to support the Aotearoa Histories in Schools curriculum.

The pukapuka, titled *In the Footsteps of Kahu*, was part of a project led by Te Kāhui Mātauranga and supported by the Ministry of Education. The initiative aimed to ensure tamariki learn about the unique histories and pūrākau of the region, with a focus on iwi-specific narratives.

*In the Footsteps of Kahu* follows a young girl who uses the survival skills passed down from Kahu to navigate her way to Rotoiti. Written in both Te Reo Māori and English, the story highlights Kahu’s knowledge - from map making to hunting and foraging - showing tamariki that the skills of our tupuna are still relevant in today’s world.

The project not only provided schools with a new learning resource but also contributed to a broader goal of strengthening cultural identity and local knowledge through education.

Keep an eye out on Facebook for how to grab yourself a copy in the near future.

## Kia hiwa rā

NEWS AND EVENTS

### INSIDE:

From the Chair

Education packs

Tuna testing

Office Administrator job vacancy

Any news?

Kīngitanga visit

Upcoming events

Education and Trades Training Grants

Keeping you informed of news, announcements and opportunities, from around our rohe and the motu.

# FROM THE CHAIR

E aku rau rangatira mā, tēnā koutou.

We have engaged Johny O'Donnell and his team from O'D & Co to support us in creating a long-term strategy for Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō. The board has begun this process by workshoping the valuable whānau voice gathered through previous surveys. This has helped us prioritise which opportunities the Trust should pursue, what mahi may need to cease, and to identify the challenges we face going forward.

As part of this strategy development, we'll be providing several ways for whānau to share their voice. These include one-on-one interviews, capturing kōrero at kai ngātahi events, video feedback, and an anonymous online survey. Your input is vital and greatly appreciated.

As I mentioned last month, we've also been considering the future leadership of Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō. While I don't yet have a confirmed update to share, I hope to provide more information in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, I will be supporting the kaimahi to continue their mahi following the departure of our General Manager Dr Darren Ngaru King in June. Darren has been with Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō for the past two and a half years. We sincerely thank him for his thoughtful and methodical leadership. We wish him and his whānau all the very best for the future.

This month we also farewelled Sam Thorn, our Communications Advisor. Sam has left to travel the world. We thank him for his contribution and wish him well on his adventures.

Tūhura ki uta, tūhura ki tai,  
e Apa maranga mai.

Ngā mihi  
**Nicole Akuhata**  
Chairperson



## Education packs

Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō Education packs are available for all registered tamariki on their fifth birthday.

This month it was Anahera's turn. Hari huritau Anahera Sharma! We wish you all the best for school with your flash new Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō school bag and goodies!

Please contact us if your child has not received their pack or register your child online at [www.ngatiapakiterato.iwi.nz](http://www.ngatiapakiterato.iwi.nz).





# Tuna testing

“Ka hoki tū ana te weka ki te kapa,  
ka hoki tū ana te tuna ki te ngutu awa.”

“Just as the weka returns to the bush,  
so too the eel returns to the river mouth.”

With support from the Ministry for the Environment’s Access to Experts programme (A2E), Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō has continued working alongside Cawthron Institute to better understand the safety and sustainability of the tuna at Lake Rotorua.

This mahi has come together in a new report titled Ka tiakina ngā tuna, ka tiakina ngā tangata – “If we care for the tuna, we care for the people.” The research looked at the age and growth of the tuna, as well as mercury levels, to make sure our harvest practices are safe for us and for the long-term health of the lake.

The results were reassuring. Our current harvest represents less than 3% of the lake’s annual tuna growth and only 0.7% of the total tuna population. Mercury levels in the tuna were similar to other eel populations around the South Island and remain



within safe consumption limits. The study also found that selecting shorter, heavier tuna could reduce mercury exposure even further.

Overall, the report confirms that our cultural harvest is both sustainable and safe. These findings will also be shared more widely in a special issue of the New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research, led by Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, focusing on freshwater fish and the values we place on them.

This mahi helps ensure our connection to our tipuna roto remains strong, while protecting the health of our people and our environment.

## Office Administrator job vacancy

We are looking for a part-time administrator to support our busy team at the Wairau office (78 Seymour Street) until 30 September 2025.

If you (or a member of your whānau) are interested, please send your CV and cover letter to [emma.dewhirst@ngatiapakiterato.iwi.nz](mailto:emma.dewhirst@ngatiapakiterato.iwi.nz).

## Do you have any news to share with Ngāti Apa?

Do you have any whānau achievements that you would like to share through our monthly pānui?

If you do, please email [comms@ngatiapakiterato.iwi.nz](mailto:comms@ngatiapakiterato.iwi.nz) so we can highlight the amazing mahi of our Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō whānau.

# Kīngitanga visit

On Saturday 18 April, Te Taihū iwi welcomed Te Arikinui Kuini Nga Wai Hono i te Po and her hikuroa for the kaupapa He Ara Whanaunga.

The Kaupapa – He Ara Whanaunga was to honour the kawē mate of Kingi Tuheitia and to reaffirm the shared whakapapa and commitment between Te Taihū and the kīngitanga. Part of the ceremony consisted of a presentation of a kauae parāoa and niho (whale jawbone and teeth) to acknowledge the support Kuini Nga Wai Hono i te Po's grandmother, Dame Te Atairangikaahu had shown Te Taihū iwi.

Our Kurahaupō kaikorero paid tribute to the connection that our Pou Kuia, Kath Hemi had with the late Te Atairangikaahu. They also acknowledged how relevant the new monarch is to our rangatahi and that it will be our rangatahi of Ngāti Apa ki te Ra Tō and Te Taihū that will continue to nurture this relationship.

Ngāti Apa ki te Ra Tō had a number of rangatahi present at this kaupapa. Kereopa Baker had the opportunity to carry the taonga as it was lifted, alongside Mareikura Nepia who said she enjoyed representing her iwi and kura. "It was so amazing to see Te Arikinui Kuini Nga Wai Hono i te Po up close and personal."



## Upcoming events

### Kai Ngātahi Tāmaki Makaurau

When: Friday 13 June

### Mana Rangatahi wānanga

When: Monday 30 June – Friday 4 July



## Education and Trades Training Grants

**Reminder!** The second round of Education and Trades Training grants will be closing Monday 9 June at 5pm. To apply visit [ngatiapakiterato.iwi.nz/education-grants-202506](https://ngatiapakiterato.iwi.nz/education-grants-202506) and follow the prompts.