



Kayaking the wetlands at Lake Rotoroa as part of Mana Rangatahi: Lewis Smith, Te Piripoho Alesana, Jack Moore, David Akuhata, Arwen Robinson, Aaron Hemi, Shanell Kelly, Raelene Mason, Ava Crisa, Grace Tocker, Juahna Herewini Houpapā-Hura, Ohomairangi Tawaka.
Photo: Naomi Aporo-Manihera.

Mana Rangatahi Raumati 2022

24th – 29th January 2022 at Rotoiti Lodge

Mai i te tihi o Pourangahau,
ki ngā wai o Rotoiti, o Rotoroa
e whāngai nei i te awa Kawatiri,
Ka rere atu ki te tōnga o te rā
ki te au o Tangaroa ki te uru.
e kokoia e Apa e.

Mana Rangatahi Raumati 2022 started with a change in traffic light settings from orange to red. This set the scene for a few last-minute alterations to the original plan. However, the resilience of the trust, staff and rangatahi meant that the programme remained a success.

Our main objectives for the week were to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of who we are as Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō;
- Revitalise cultural practises and knowledge of sites significant to Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō;
- Experience marae practices (from the back to the front); and
- To learn about the importance of Taiao Sustainability.

Continue reading on page 4.

Kia hiwa rā NEWS AND EVENTS

INSIDE:

From the Chair

Meet the team

Mana Rangatahi

Tuna harvest

Kylie Batt at Rotomairewhenua

Education opportunities

Upcoming events

Red light guidelines

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

FROM THE CHAIR

I hope this first pānui for the year finds you all safe and well. The new Covid-19 variant, Omicron, is on the brink of widespread disruption, so please be mindful of all the recommendations that the Ministry of Health and other agencies have suggested in order to keep you and your whānau safe.

The iwi welcomes a number of new faces to the team and you will be introduced to some of them in this issue. Grace Tocker managed to get a December pānui out last year and, from here on in, you'll be receiving your monthly issues, jam packed with iwi news and events.

You may recall that last year a number of iwi events were postponed because of lockdown. Namely, the kaumatua morning and afternoon teas and the rangatahi wānanga. Furthermore, plans were underway for another waiata wānanga.

A wānanga for rangatahi was held last month. To those whānau members who decided to withdraw because of the Omicron threat, we hope to see you at the next scheduled wānanga later in the year. To those of you who did attend, I understand it was exceptionally successful, and there will be more on your wānanga later in this pānui. I would like to extend the thanks of the Board to our Cultural Advisor, Aaron Hemi, all the staff for your commitment, and the tutors and supporters in ensuring the success of this wānanga. Thank you also to our rangatahi for your participation in Mana Rangatahi Raumati 2022.

Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō iwi members Aaron Hemi and kaumatua Alice Gilsenan feature in a British documentary to be aired on BBC (UK) television on 1 April 2022. The documentary is about beautiful rivers of the world. In this particular issue, the focus is on the glorious Kawatiri River from its source in our Lake Rotoiti down to Kawatiri (Westport). Aaron speaks about the lake and its historical significance to Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, and Alice highlights the whānau and hapū history of whitebaiting in the river. Our Taiao Advisor, Jen Skilton, also contributed greatly to this documentary by providing valuable scientific information and support.



Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō featured in Stuff and Facebook articles showcasing iwi member Kylie Batt for her summer role as a guardian of Rotomairewhenua (Blue Lake) with the Department of Conservation (DoC). The article had wide coverage, also appearing in the Christchurch Press and the Nelson and Blenheim newspapers. Read more about Kylie's work on page 6.

The eight iwi of Te Taihū have been in discussions with the Minister of Conservation, Hon Kiri Tapu Allan. The Government are currently reclassifying stewardship land throughout Aotearoa and the iwi of Te Taihū want to be in a position of influence ensuring we strengthen the decision making of the Minister.

Māori Crown Relations Minister, Hon Kelvin Davis, hosted a meeting with National Iwi Chairs as part of his Ministerial Engagement Forum. He highlighted the traffic light system in light of a potential Omicron outbreak and the measures the government are putting in place to support communities, supposedly, in three phases: "stamping it out; flattening the curve; and then managing it by minimising impact".

Last year I mentioned we were progressing some commercial opportunities and I hope to be in a position to be the bearer of good news by the next issue.

You will all be familiar with 'Three Waters' by now. Te Taihū iwi chairs have been meeting and corresponding with the Minister of Local Government, Hon Nanaia Mahuta. It appears unlikely that she will move on our preference to stay within Te Waipounamu. The pertinent questions are where to from here and what are the best options for Te Taihū. I'll keep you posted.

Whānau, I ask that you stay safe, look after each other, and uphold the mana of the iwi by being gracious and considerate of others.

Ngā mihi nui
Hinemoa Conner
Chairperson

Meet the team!

Kelsie Skelton – Administrator

Ko Kelsie Skelton tōku ingoa. I grew up in Waiharakeke and moved to Tāmaki Makaurau for university. I graduated with a Bachelor of Dance Studies (Honours) from the University of Auckland in 2021. My research was focused on community engagement and collaboration through dance. I am excited to be bringing this mindset to Ngāti Apa ke ti Rā Tō Office Administrator Role.

Grace Tocker – Events and Communications Co-ordinator

Kia ora e te iwi! Ko Grace Tocker tōku ingoa. I grew up here in Marlborough and have returned after studying Ecology and Biodiversity at Victoria University of Wellington. I whakapapa to Te Atiawa (Taranaki) and I am very passionate about protecting our beautiful environment here in Aotearoa. I joined the team in November 2021 and am excited to meet you all at the exciting iwi events coming your way in 2022. If Covid-19 gets in the way of those events, I will keep you connected through our website, social media and the pānui!



Kelsie Skelton



Grace Tocker



Zoe Dryden – Board of Directors for NAKTRT Investments and Holdings

Tena koutou e te iwi,

Ko Zoe Dryden tōku ingoa. I am grateful and honoured to join the Board of Directors for Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō Investments and Holdings Companies and contribute my skills and passion towards the intentions of your iwi.

I was born and raised in Wellington but have lived in Motueka for the last 10 years where I raise my two young daughters, Maya (8) and India (5). My background and passion is for small business, specifically those with new directions that add value to wider societal goals. I co-founded the International Rugby Academy, have owned and developed a large NZ blue-collar consortium of businesses in the logistics and transport sector, and, in recent years, focused on tourism where I currently co-own Abel Tasman Kayaks. I also work independently as a leadership coach and strategic direction facilitator. In recent years, I have focused my aspirations on governance with the desire to support the integration of community and commercial interests with decision making aligned towards societal needs.

I love business, I love community initiatives and I love the environment. My biggest pride and passion (outside of my beautiful daughters) is the work I have done in Nepal over the past 12 years where I founded a charity with a team of community members. We provide leadership training opportunities for executives to return to the values of basic good practices by taking them to learn in indigenous communities. I worked with indigenous communities in Nepal's Chitwan area and local women's groups to provide child sponsorships, educational programmes, invest in community resources, and empower the local leadership to increase the standard of living for community members.

I am so inspired to join the Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō Board and I look forward to learning, contributing and connecting with you here.



MANA
RANGATAHI

RAUMATI 2022



Rāhina

Day one started with a whakatau, meet and greet, and some team building. This broke the ice for the rest of the week so the rangatahi felt comfortable interacting with each other and expressing themselves in a safe and nurturing environment.



Rātū

We travelled to Lake Rotoroa where we met staff from Tasman District Council who have partnered with Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō to educate and create awareness around the health and the importance of our wetlands.

The afternoon saw us putting out nets with the Department of Conservation to harvest tuna from Lake Rotoroa. Hear more about the tuna harvest from Taiao Advisor Jen Skilton on page 6.

Rāapa

On Wednesday morning we drove back to Lake Rotoroa to pull in the nets with DoC. We counted, measured, and weighed all tuna caught. This information will be used to evaluate health of the population of tuna. We harvested ten tuna to smoke at the end of the week for the hākari at the Whānau Day.



Mana Rangatahi was a successful wānanga where we saw our rangatahi grow in confidence and, in many cases, display their own potential leadership qualities. This would not have been possible without the support of so many different parties. We would like to thank the following for their input and support in helping us make this wānanga a success:

- Department of Conservation
- Tasman District Council
- Kereama Payn
- Whakatū Waka Ama Club
- Stu McCormick
- Lewis Smith
- Naomi and Hamuera Manihera
- Mitchell and Jordan Robb
- Blenheim Toyota and O'Donnell Park Barging for the use of their vans for the week
- Sport Tasman, Te Mātāwai, and Te Wai Māori Trust for providing funding towards this wānanga
- All the rangatahi and their whānau for participating in this wānanga.

Rāpare

Thursday began with a flood in the kitchen, cause still unknown, but was an interesting start to our day hiking Pourangahau (Mt Robert). This gave the rangatahi a better understanding of the local area and landmarks significant to Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō as they took in the scenery and listened to the kōrero. It was fair to say we had some tired teenagers by the end of day four.



Rāmere

On day five we were fortunate to have the knowledge and experience of Matua Kereama Payn from Waka Ama to guide us through our waka experience. The rangatahi lashed together a very sturdy double-hulled waka and went for a paddle on the waters of Rotoiti out to Whiskey Falls and back.

Rāhoroi

We welcomed all our whanau to share in a hākari at Rotoiti Lodge and see what the rangatahi have been working on throughout the week. Delicious smoked tuna was savoured by all as we enjoyed the sun and views on offer from the lodge.



Tuna harvest

As part of the Mana Rangatahi programme, a tuna harvest took place at Lake Rotoroa. This year, we were awarded funding to carry out an ecological monitoring programme alongside the harvest. The aim of this monitoring was to provide information on the tuna population in Lake Rotoroa to inform the sustainability of this harvest, and those planned for the future.

Working with the Department of Conservation, we put 14 nets out overnight at a range of locations throughout the lake. Our catch certainly didn't disappoint! We caught over 1,000 tuna, the biggest of which was a whopping 6.8 kg! The rangatahi were instrumental in weighing and measuring the tuna caught. We had a great time combining traditional practices and modern-day science, learning from and sharing knowledge with DoC staff. Ten tuna were harvested, and these were smoked to perfection and enjoyed at the hakari with whānau at the end of the wānanga. A big ka pai to everyone involved in this mahi!



Our rangatahi proud of their tuna harvest success! From left: Arwen Robinson, David Akuhata, Ohomairangi Tawaka, Juahna Herewini Houppapa-Hura, Te Piripoho Alesana, and Jack Moore. Photo: Naomi Aporo-Manihera.



Kylie protecting Rotomairewhenua

Iwi member Kylie Batt has been spending her summer as guardian of Rotomairewhenua (Blue Lake) in Nelson Lakes National Park.

As well as having the clearest water in the world, this lake has high cultural significance to Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō. Since December 2021, Kylie has spent 10 days at a time based at this remote location, focusing not only on looking after the hut and trampers, but also providing education around lake snow – an invasive

algae – that has been found in Lake Rotoiti and Lake Rotoroa. So far, it hasn't reached Rotomairewhenua or neighbouring Rotopōhueroa (Lake Constance), but it is a huge threat to those lakes. The opportunity has also allowed Kylie to share our cultural narratives of the area with those passing through.

DoC passed on this feedback from a group of trampers who stayed at Rotomariwhenua when Kylie was there:

“

Kylie the DoC ranger was the best ranger I've ever met, she engaged with everyone providing quality information about Blue Lake and also the wildlife in the area. My 10-year-old daughter really wanted to meet a DoC ranger and Kylie took the time to talk with her (and other children in the hut as well).

”



Kylie Batt at our Mana Rangatahi wānanga at Lake Rotoroa. Photo: Naomi Aporo-Manihera.



Education opportunities

Patreece Douglas

Congratulations to Patreece Douglas for completing her Bachelors in Education in 2021. Patreece was one of the recipients of Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō's Education Grant and we are so happy to have helped her achieve her study goals!

Are you studying in 2022? Head to our website to see the scholarships and grants available to iwi members this year. Our scholarship applications close on the 15th of February 2022, but we have helpful links to other organisations offering scholarships, so don't miss out on the support available to help you with your studies!



© Le Cren Photography

Upcoming iwi events

Due to the country-wide change in traffic light levels to red, we have decided to hold off on scheduling any further wānanga until this period of uncertainty subsides.

Our iwi lunches and kaumatua morning teas will be back on the books as soon as we are confident that they will be able to go ahead without being greatly limited and restricted by the national Covid-19 guidelines.

Keep an eye out for ways to stay connected with your iwi online through our website and social media. We are working on several online resources that will allow you to learn more about our iwi's history and the areas of significance to Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō around the motu.



Helpful information and support for you and your whānau during red light

Want to check what the guidelines are under red-light?

Visit the 'Life at Red' page on the government's Covid-19 website. There you can find the key details about the red light level and how the guidelines apply to different types of events and services.

www.covid19.govt.nz/traffic-lights/life-at-red

Want an update on the number of cases in the community and the current locations of interest?

Head to the Ministry of Health website for detailed information about the current cases of Covid-19 in New Zealand. They also have a list of the current locations of interest which you can filter by your city/town to see if you might be affected.

www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus

Wondering where you can go to get a test for Covid-19?

Check the Health Point website for all clinics offering Covid-19 testing in your area. Some clinics are only offering tests for enrolled patients while others are open for anyone to come and get tested. This website will let you know what clinics are available, where they are, their opening hours, and whether or not they are limited to enrolled patients only.

www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19



Want to get a Covid-19 vaccination?

The Health Point website also has information on all of the clinics providing Covid-19 vaccinations. Some of these clinics require appointments to get your vaccination while others are 'walk-in' clinics. Head to the website below to find out more information about the vaccine clinics near you!

www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19-vaccination

What support is available during these stressful times?

Te Kotahi o Te Tauīhu has put together a Whānau Plan with lots of helpful information on how to prepare your whare and whānau for Covid-19.

www.kotahitehoe.org.nz/whanauplan

Work and Income has financial assistance and advice available for whānau facing tough times due to Covid-19. Check their website to see if there is any assistance available for you or your whānau.

www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/help-for-you-and-your-whanau.html

We at Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō are here to help you however we can. Call us on 0800 578 900 or come and see us in our Blenheim or Nelson offices to kōrero about how we can help you find the assistance you need. We also have boxes of medical-grade masks available for whānau to keep safe when you are out in the community. Please don't let yourselves feel isolated during red light, we are here to help however we can.