



Kiwi release

We were recently invited to help release eight spotted kiwi at Rotoiti alongside DoC, Friends of Rotoiti and Friends of Flora. Our Taiao and Communications Advisors were accompanied by whānau member Hamuera Robb.

After a safety briefing, we travelled by boat to where the kiwi burrows had been prepared. The kiwi were brought in from the West Coast via helicopter where the kiwi population has healthy numbers. The team then went their separate ways to show the kiwi their new home. The relocation was a massive success with every single bird relocated into a new burrow. Two of the birds were a pair so they were re-homed together.

Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō got to name each kiwi. Our Cultural sub-Committee provided a list of names and whānau member Hamuera Robb assigned each bird with a name based on its energy and wairua.

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Kia hiwa rā NEWS AND EVENTS

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

FROM THE CHAIR

With this latest chair update, I wanted to take the opportunity to share with whānau a presentation made to me by representatives from BNZ bank in Nelson. This meeting came about through our whanaunga Ben Gilsenan. Ben is a Home Loan Partner, Top of the South, Nelson/Tasman/Marlborough and West Coast. Ben would like to share his banking financial expertise with whānau and has approached the iwi to see whether we would like this help.

Ben states that he is passionate about sharing his wealth of experience by helping people identify and realise financial security through financial literacy and exploring and guiding whānau through solutions that may help them achieve their financial goals.

Therefore, Ben and his colleagues have offered to meet with whānau in the areas Ben covers, to see where they can help with financial literacy matters.

Ben and the team explained that there are fewer young people with finance knowledge. This offer helps you learn about good or bad debt, how to save for a deposit on a home, and how to be good with money so you can do great things with it.

Over the past year, two of our iwi members said to me that they never thought they'd be in a position to even think about owning their own home. Having a 'financial health check' has provided that opportunity and they are now home owners.

This is not an advertisement for BNZ. Our whanaunga Ben wants to be able to support our whānau where possible. I have advised the Trust Board of this offer and I'll look to see how we may be able to arrange group meetings within Te Taihū. Whilst this offer is specific to the Top of the South and down into the West Coast, we did discuss seeing how this could be extended into other areas by speaking to other bank representatives.

Whānau, once we get this to the stage where we have dates, times and venues to meet, I do hope you will take the opportunity to meet with Ben and his colleagues.

With wild weather still causing havoc throughout the country, and for those of you who are still recovering from recent disruptions because of storm damage, I hope life improves and you stay as upbeat as you can.

Until next month, stay safe and warm whānau.

Ngā mihi
Hinemoa Conner
Chairperson



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The kiwi names were:

- Matanohinohi – Mother of Kahu
- Tamane – Father of Kahu
- Moturoa – Moturoa Island
- Waimeha – Waimeha River
- Kahu – Associated with both capture and relocation areas; mountain bearing his name beyond the head of Rotoiti (PA)
- Okoroiti – Point near Kahurangi
- Rātā – A Rātā tree which is common in the rohe
- Wekakura – A creek in our rohe

See more images of the kiwi release on page 4.

While this kaupapa wasn't led by Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, we ensured that tikanga was upheld throughout the relocation process. A big mihi to all of the other organisations involved.

We hope to be able to involve more whānau with more releases across the rohe. We are working on increasing opportunities with our treaty partners so that we may include spots for mana whenua.

Roroa

The roroa or great spotted kiwi is the largest species of kiwi, typically they are found in mountainous regions in Te Waipounamu. There are 14,000 in total in Aotearoa, and they are currently classified as a threatened species.



Rotomairewhenua

Kaimahi report from a week at Rotomairewhenua

Kia ora e te whānau, from 14th – 20th April, I had the amazing opportunity to be the hut warden up at Rotomairewhenua – and what a beautiful part of the country it is!

My journey up to Blue Lake began from St Arnaud. I was inducted as a Volunteer Hut Warden by staff at DoC before they took me to Lake Rotoroa, where the water taxi dropped me and some other hikers at Sabine Hut. It was perfect weather, a very clear day. But I had a long hard walk ahead of me with a heavy bag on my back...

Day one was a six-hour hike along the Sabine River to West Sabine Hut, and on the second day I walked another four hours up to Rotomairewhenua. The track was beautiful, walking through dense forest, along rock slips, and across several streams.

The first thing I did when I arrived was to follow the signs to the lake. I have never seen anything like it. You can see every detail on the bottom of the lake, the water is crystal clear! It was such an amazing place that I went there at least three times a day to sit and look at the roto. It was so peaceful.



Rotomairewhenua walk

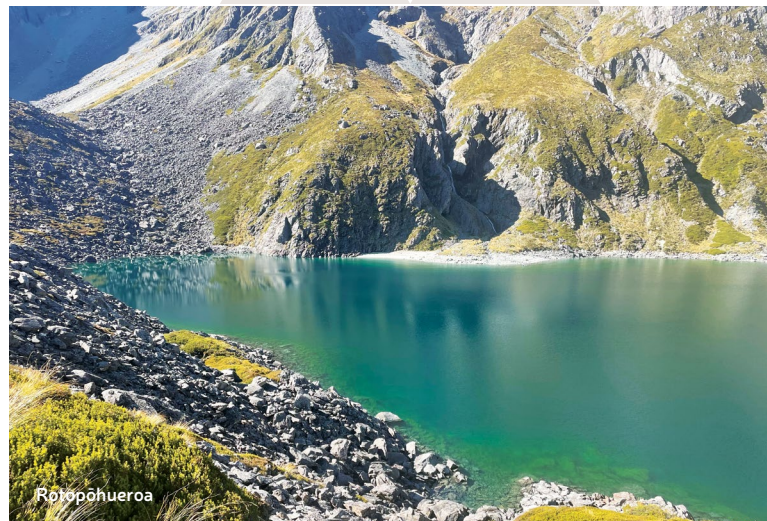
I had four nights as the Hut Warden at Blue Lake, during which I meet trampers on various journeys who came to see Rotomairewhenua. I spoke with them about the significance of the area to Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō and the importance of not touching the water in the lake, both for cultural and ecological reasons. People are asked to not touch the water in the lake or let any equipment come in contact with the water as it is a wāhi tapu for Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, but also for biosecurity reasons so the water stays clear and uncontaminated. Lindavia or 'lake snow' has been introduced to Lakes Rotoiti and Rotoroa, so to help prevent the spread to other roto in the area, everyone is asked to stay clear of the water in lakes such as Rotomairewhenua and Rotopōhueroa.

Please get in touch with us via email at taiao@ngatiapakiterato.iwi.nz if you have any questions about my time up at Blue Lake or if you would like to register your interest in being a hut warden next summer.

Ngā mihi,
Grace Tocker, Taiao Advisor



Rotopōhueroa



Rotopōhueroa



Kawepūrongo/News

Kaumātua Afternoon Tea

We held a fantastic afternoon tea for our kaumātua at Melrose Café in Nelson during May, where our kaumātua shared in both kai and laughter. Board of Trustee member Nicole Akuhata and Chair Hinemoa Conner were in attendance along with General Manager Dr Darren Ngaru King and kaimahi. It was fantastic to see our kaumātua connecting with and discovering connections to one another. We will be holding another event in Wairau later in the year.

Upcoming events for 2023

- **Mana Rangatahi**
Monday 3rd – Saturday 8th July, Te Taihū
- **Kaitahi – Westport**
Thursday 20th July, venue and time TBC
- **AGM** – Saturday 23rd September
- **Whānau fun day** – Sunday 24th September
- **Kaumātua Afternoon tea Blenheim** –
Friday 3rd November, venue TBC



Congratulations Ohomairangi Whaiapu

Congratulations to Ohomairangi Whaiapu who recently graduated with a Bachelor of Teaching and Learning Kura Kaupapa Māori.

She is currently in her first year of teaching at Queen Elizabeth College in Palmerston North.

Ohomairangi received a grant from Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō while she was studying. It's fantastic to see her progress and determination. Ohomairangi is the moko of Robert Kirihika Whaiapu and great-moko of Tiriti Remana Whaiapu. Ka rawe.

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