



Kai Ngātahi: Bringing Our Whānau Together

Kai Ngātahi is more than kai with whānau. It is a way to share whakapapa, whanaungatanga, and ideas.

November was a busy month for kaimahi and whānau alike with two kai ngātahi taking place around the motu.

We began on the West Coast, finally making our way to Greymouth after weather delays required us to postpone the original date. Twenty whānau joined us to share kai, kōrero and updates.

The conversations ranged widely, from whakapapa connections to iwi kaupapa, and several important questions were raised and discussed. The engagement was so strong that the evening passed without a single photo being taken, a good sign that people were genuinely present. Our General Manager Dave Johnstone also enjoyed experiencing West Coast hospitality firsthand.

A few weeks later, we continued our journey in Whanganui-a-Tara. This kai ngātahi brought together 85 whānau, a mix of long-time participants and those attending a Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō event for the first time. It was particularly exciting to meet whānau members we had not connected with before and to strengthen existing relationships through shared stories and whakapapa links. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, underpinned by good food and steady kōrero.

Both Kai Ngātahi events left whānau with a stronger connection to one another and a stronger sense of Ngāti Apatanga. Kai Ngātahi continue to play an important role in bringing our people together and supporting our shared journey ahead.

Kia hiwa rā

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From the Chair

Kia tō te ra, e Apa maranga mai

We'd like to finish the year by thanking our whānau for your patience and steady support while we attempted to refocus our waka.

15 years post settlement, it's only right that we review our progress and look to evolve some of our decisions and culture as a board.

This year, we welcomed our General Manager Dave Johnston and his whānau, spent time together shaping the draft strategy, and made good progress across areas that reflected the desires of our people. Along the way we progressed whakapapa and policy reviews, aquaculture and fisheries matters, taiao work, and support for whānau-led initiatives, while strengthening our presence across Te Tauihu.

At our last hui, Fayne and myself were confirmed as Chair and Deputy - but more importantly Trustees have each taken on portfolio areas such as education, ahurea, taiao, fisheries, whānau engagement, audit and risk, and NAIL, so there are clear points of support for our kaimahi and kaupapa.



We are grateful for the understanding shown through this time of change and look ahead with a shared focus. We're really looking forward to some of the kaupapa planned for the summer period, including the hapū Christmas parties.

Kia tau te rangimārie ki ō koutou kāinga, kia haumaru te haere i ngā rā whakatā, ngā manaakitanga o te wā ki a koutou katoa.

Ruiha's tuna wānanga

Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō's recent Tuna Wānanga offered a solid hands-on learning moment for our tamariki, and Rūiha was a great example of that.

Rūiha Huntley is one of our smallest whānau members to turned up to our recent Tuna Wānanga with her whānau and wasted no time getting stuck into the day. While her brother, koro, aunties and cousins were out catching tuna, she was right there exploring the surroundings, watching carefully, and soaking it all in.

Her favourite part? Measuring and weighing the tuna before releasing them back into the water. She took that mahi straight to her kindergarten for wā kōrero, proudly showing her classmates how we measure, weigh and release the tuna.

We love seeing our tamariki take these experiences home, into their classrooms, and into their everyday lives. Kau mau te wehi, Ruihal



St Arnaud Mokomoko relocation



After thirteen years without a confirmed sighting, St Arnaud lowland speckled skinks (mokomoko) have been found again.

Of the mokomoko found, one was caught in a trap, another was positively identified nearby, and more movement in the undergrowth suggests a small pocket of these taonga may still be holding on, however they are in danger.

Due to their rarity and precarious situation in their environment, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō supported the translocation of three mokomoko from Rotoiti to Te Nukuao Wellington Zoo. Two males and one female were safely relocated to give them the best possible chance to recover while their home population remains fragile. Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō representatives Kelly Hayes and Kereopa Baker were given the privilege of passing the mokomoko into Te Nukuao's care.

After a settling in period we were updated that the mokomoko are comfortable and basking in their new space. Te Nukuao said their behaviour already offers valuable insight, and they look forward to sharing more as they learn.

We wish to acknowledge our kaitiaki whānaunga Kereopa Baker and Kelly Hayes, and our partners at Te Nukuao Wellington Zoo, DOC and across iwi for their ongoing mahi. The Speckled Skink story is a continuing one and as an iwi we are proud to have supported the next step.

Pahi Update

Our pahi at Lake Rotoiti has taken a big step forward.

Building consent is now confirmed, and the Rātā Foundation have kindly offered \$300,000 towards the build, which gives the project real momentum. We've also signed our construction contract with Rob Blick Building, so work on the ground will begin very soon.

Next year will be an exciting phase as the structure starts to take shape and we begin thinking about the tikanga and kawa that will guide how the building lives and breathes. This project has been a long time coming and we look forward to sharing more progress with whānau as it unfolds.



Our Year, Our People





Our whānau cookbook is on the way!

Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō is bringing a new kaupapa to life. We're creating He Pukapuka Tunu Kai o Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, a whānau cookbook filled with the recipes and memories that shape who we are.

This pukapuka will bring together the meals our iwi actually cooks and enjoys. The dishes passed down, the staples that appear at every hui, the easy weekday meals and the treats that vanish fast. Every recipe has a story, and we want to capture those.

So, we're inviting whānau to send in their recipes, stories and photos. Tell us where the recipe came from, who taught you and why your whānau love it. Candid photos are encouraged.

Details on how to submit will be shared soon. Once everything is gathered, we'll bring it together into a pukapuka we can hand out. A taonga that preserves our flavours, our memories and our whanaungatanga for years to come.

Hari huritau ki a koe Logan!

Happy 5th Birthday to Logan Day who started his school journey at Kaikōura Primary School..

Logan is pictured with his flash Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō school backpack. Hope your school days are full of friends, fun and all the good things that come with turning five.



Upcoming events

Whānau Day at Rotoiti

When: Sunday 25th January 2026



Nga mihi nui to Heni Tracey and Hiria for sharing this photo of them at the Armistice Day memorial in Green Head WA. The photographs with them are Heni's Grandfather Rihari Tahuaroa Watson who was a WW1 veteran and is buried in France. Included are her brothers Wae Wae Rihari who served in Malaya and Kara Francis who served 5 years in the New Zealand army before moving to Australia



Education and Trades Training Grants Reminder

Education and Trades Training grants will be closing **Monday 12 January 2026 at 11.59am**. To apply visit ngatiapakiterato.iwi.nz/education-grants-202506 and follow the prompts.

Do you have any whānau achievements or panui that you would like to share?

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

Kōrero Mai!