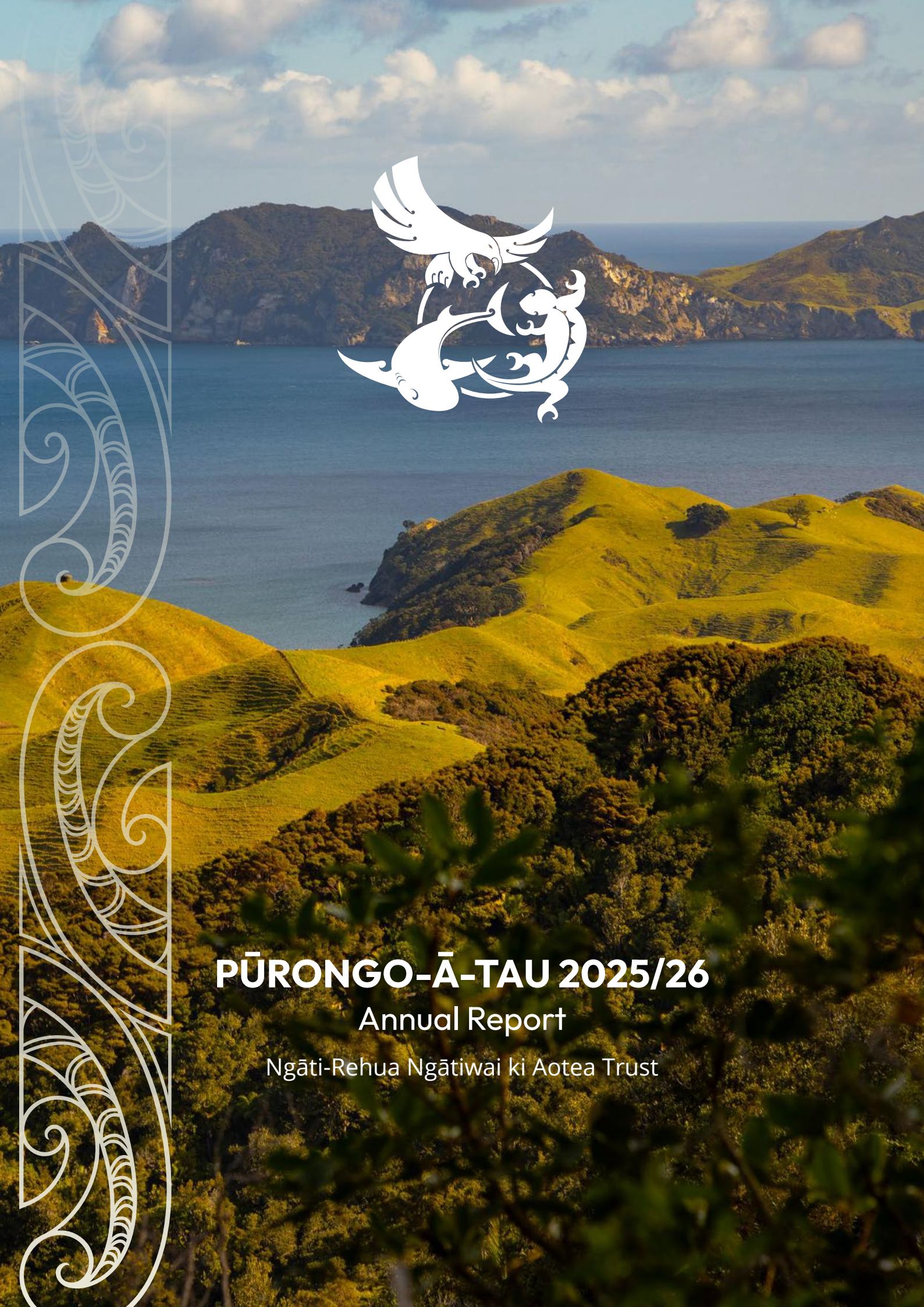


PŪRONGO-Ā-TAU 2025/26

Annual Report

Ngāti-Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust



Front cover: From Te Paparahi, Photography by Shaun Lee

Rārangi Ūpoko
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He Kupu nā te Heamana | Chairperson's Foreword

Mihi mai, mihi mai, whakatau mai!
Mihi mai ki a mātou te iwi o Ngāti Rehua!

At this time, I want to express gratitude to all of the people of Ngāti Rehua (Ngāti Rehua-Ngātiwai ki Aotea) that have contributed to the achievements of the past year. We have lost whānau, new whānau have been born, we have supported one another through the good and the bad.

The majority of our people (around 95%) no longer live on the island. However, our 800 year connection to Aotea means that our people have a strong desire to come home and reconnect to their whenua, moana, whakapapa, mātauranga and extended whānau.

Over the past two years the Board has supported these aspirations through quarterly wānanga. This has included the successful Taiao, Mātauranga, Oranga, Rangatahi, Matariki and Haka Wānanga. These have been well attended and has meant bringing those who have never been to the island back home for the first time, strengthening the kotahitanga of our people.

We have continued to have a focus on the rangatiratanga of Ngāti Rehua, ensuring that our people's mana is strengthened and asserted in our rohe. We have had robust discussion with our own people and with other Iwi that have cross claims on Aotea. Although we respect our whakapapa ties to other iwi and aspire to have continued whanaungatanga with them, this cannot be at the expense of our own rangatiratanga. Our intention is to progress and complete the Historic Treaty claims of Ngāti Rehua over the next three years, so that our people can move forward and build a brighter future.

Our commitment to restoring the mauri of te taiao continues. Ngāti Rehua are partnering with the Crown to return taonga species to Aotea every year, this has meant the return of Tieke and Niho Taniwha to Aotea and will mean the return of Kiwi, Tuatara and Kōkako in the future. Our Tū Mai Taonga Project continues to address the predators and pests on Aotea so that Aotea becomes safe for our returning and existing taonga species. Our Ngāti Rehua Kauri Rangers successfully surveyed 467 Kauri this year and will move to treating these taonga using rongoā in the future. Our Ngāti Rehua Nursery Project has successfully planted over 2,000 trees this year.

The successful Ngā Huhua Exhibition at the NZ Maritime Museum showcased Ngāti Rehua to the public including our history, culture and the ongoing work we do in the Moana to protect Aotea and Te Moana nui-ā-Toi. Through our Moana Kaimahi and Pou Rahui Project we have completed important advocacy and research including addressing Caulerpa, fisheries management and koura. We have built marine capacity through our rangatahi completing diving and marine mammal rescue training.

We continue to protect and recognise our wāhi tapu sites through the creation of pou and heritage signage. In particular three pou symbolising the three Kaitiaki of Ngāti Rehua (Tūkaiāia, Te Mauri and Te Wehi) were installed at Whangapoua - the first in over 150 years.

Climate change has resulted in more frequent severe weather events on Aotea. The Floods and Storms at the beginning of this year hit our on-island whānau hard. We are grateful to all of our whānau that supported the Emergency response effort in the form of time, talents, labour and kai. We are continuing to engage with our whānau on climate change and preparing for future events. At the request of our kaumātua we have commenced important work to restore our urupa at Harataonga which has been eroded due to climate change.

The board has focused on supporting the older generation through regular kaumātua hui and lunches, to connect with and hear the voice of our kaumātua. We have also supported the rising generation through our successful Ngāti Rehua Education and Rangatahi projects. This has included a wide range of activities for our young people in the form of educational support, te reo, whaikōrero and whakairo training. Taonga species surveys such as the Taiko (Black Petrel), Niho Taniwha and Te Paparahi Frogs have been carried out.

We invite all of our whānau that have a talent to come and share it for the benefit of our people. Our young people are our future and as we move towards Treaty Settlement, this year's successful projects continue to provide jobs and opportunities that build upon the 800 year legacy left behind for us from our ancestors!

Rehua ki te Rangi!
Rehua ki te Motū
Rehua ki Wai!
Toitū te Iwi of Ngāti Rehua!



Fletcher Beazley
Chair, Ngāti Rehua-Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust Board

Ō Tātou Poari | Our Board



Fletcher Beazley

Chair | Pou Rangatiratanga

Chair, Treaty Claim Steering Group

Fletcher is Ngāti Rehua through his ancestor Nupere Ngawaka, with his whānau having lived on Aotea for 32 generations since the time of Toi-te-Huatahi. He brings more than 25 years of leadership experience across health and education and holds qualifications in science, management and mātauranga Māori.
As Chair, Fletcher leads the Trust Board and helps guide the overall governance and strategic direction of the iwi. He also holds responsibility for Pou Rangatiratanga and chairs the Treaty Claim Steering Group, keeping governance oversight across our historic Treaty settlement and Marine and Coastal Area claims, alongside wider Crown and iwi engagement.



Te Kauri Wihongi

Deputy Chair | Pou Whenua

Chair, Pou Whenua Steering Group

Te Kauri descends from Nupere Ngawaka through Kāwhena Palmer and Ellen Wihongi, with strong whakapapa connections to Aotea, Kawa Marae and Ngāti Rehua.
As Deputy Chair, Te Kauri supports the Chair and wider governance of the Trust. He chairs the Pou Whenua Steering Group, providing governance oversight across our environmental mahi on the whenua. This includes kaupapa such as Tū Mai Taonga, Kauri Ora, our native nursery, restoration mahi and the return and protection of taonga species on Aotea.



Judyth Hilton

Trustee | Pou Moana

Chair, Pou Moana Steering Group

Judyth is the mokopuna of Iraia Palmer and Kawhena Ngawaka and daughter of Fanny Palmer and Robert McGee. She has been involved in iwi, hapū and marae affairs since childhood and has previously served as Chair of the Trust Board. She also brings more than 30 years of experience working alongside whānau through her background in midwifery.
Judyth chairs the Pou Moana Steering Group, providing governance oversight across mahi to protect and restore Te Moananui-ā-Toi. This includes Tai Tū Moana, Pou Rāhui and Ahu Moana, alongside fisheries management, customary harvesting, marine research and growing our own capability to care for our moana.



Hinearihi Astrid Ormond

Trustee | Pou Tangata

Chair, Pou Tangata Steering Group

Hinearihi descends from Raihi Miraka, Te Ngoi Kawhena, Rihipaea and Te Rauhuhui. Her professional background is in health as a Psychiatrist, bringing experience that closely aligns with her responsibilities through Pou Tangata.
Hinearihi chairs the Pou Tangata Steering Group, keeping governance oversight across mahi focused on the health, education, rangatahi and wellbeing of our people. This includes our education kaupapa, health strategy, rangatahi development and other initiatives focused on creating better opportunities and outcomes for whānau.



Miraka (Shelly) Davies

Trustee | Pou Whakapapa

Chair, Pou Whakapapa Steering Group

Miraka is the pōtiki of Robert and Gail Davies and mokopuna of Aunty Renie and Uncle Gordon. Her whakapapa and lived experience underpin her commitment to protecting the unity, integrity and future of Ngāti Rehua and carrying forward the aspirations of our tūpuna.

Miraka leads chairs the Pou Whakapapa Steering Group, keeping governance oversight across mahi that strengthens our whakapapa, reo, tikanga and mātauranga. This includes our reo and waiata kaupapa, wānanga, protection of wāhi tapu, and the development of pou, cultural markers and other ways of making our histories and connection to Aotea visible for future generations.



Briar Palmer

Trustee | Pou Whairawa

Chair, Pou Whairawa Steering Group | Chair, Community-Led Development Steering Group

Briar is the daughter of David and Heather Palmer and great-granddaughter of Kawhena Ngawaka and Iraia Palmer. She grew up in Okiwi on Aotea, and brings a background in health science, business management and event planning, alongside experience establishing a community market with her whānau.

Briar chairs two Steering Groups, providing governance oversight across a broad programme of mahi focused on creating opportunities for our people and strengthening the long-term wellbeing of the iwi. Through the Pou Whairawa Steering Group, this includes tourism, employment, housing and infrastructure, climate resilience, partnerships and our longer-term economic direction. She also chairs the Community-Led Development Steering Group, supporting locally led projects and aspirations identified by whānau and the wider community.



Francie Jenson

Secretary

Francie is the daughter of Robert and Gail Davies and mokopuna of Aunty Renie and Uncle Gordon. She recently returned to Aotearoa with her husband, Ken, after 22 years living in the United States. Accepting the Board's invitation to serve as Secretary has been an important step in her journey to reconnect with her Ngāti Rehuatanga.

Francie brings a background in executive administrative support which complements her responsibilities as Board Secretary - maintaining clear records, ensuring strong communication, and helping the Board carry out its duties smoothly and consistently.



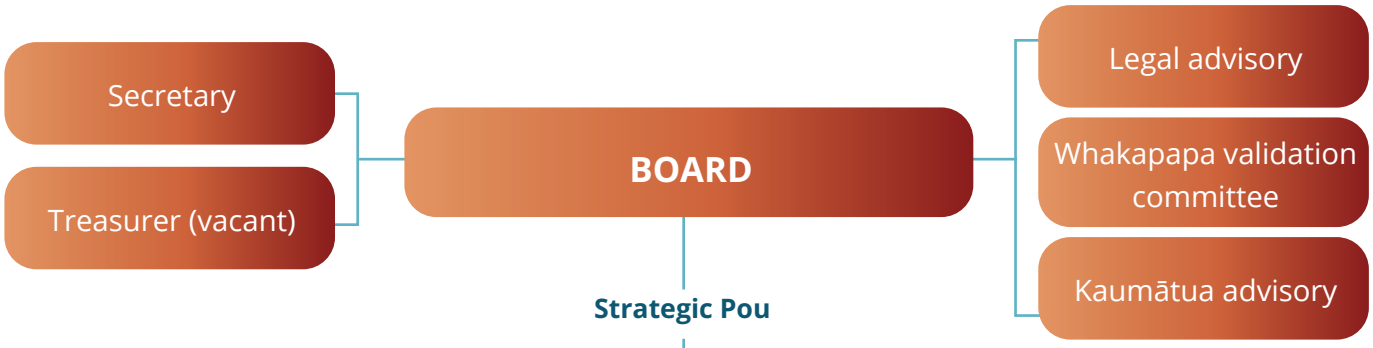


POU RANGATIRATANGA

Anga Mana Whakahaere | Governance Structure

He mihi
E ngā pou tautoko, ngā ringa raupā o ngā rōpū ārahi, me ō tātou pou o te Poari, e rere ana ngā mihi ki a koutou mō tō koutou kaha ki te hāpai i ā tātou kaupapa ā-iwi. Nā koutou te kaupapa i kawe, i whakakaha, i whakamana. Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to our Trustees, Steering Group members, and advisors for their passion and contribution to our iwi kaupapa. Each plays a vital role — providing kaupapa leadership, strategic guidance, clear priorities, and strong oversight across our pou work programmes.



Taiao

MOANA STEERING GROUP

TRUSTEE CHAIR
Judyth Hilton

MEMBERS
Toiroa Whaanga Davies
Matthew Ngawaka
Rodney Ngawaka
Opo Ngawaka
Rachel Davies
Tiffany Webb
Billy Wii

Advisors
Izzy Fordham
Glenn Edney
Chris Ollivier
Barry Scott

WHENUA STEERING GROUP

TRUSTEE CHAIR
Te Kauri Wihongi

MEMBERS
Phoebe Ngawaka
Rodney Ngawaka
Paula Williams
Jimmy Wii
Jason Wii

ADVISORS
Kate Waterhouse
Izzy Fordham

Rangatiratanga

TREATY STEERING GROUP

TRUSTEE CHAIR
Fletcher Beazley

MEMBERS
Rosina Ngawaka
Opo Ngawaka
Elizabeth Wii
Bruce Davies
Jan Piahana
Tipi Howe

Whakapapa

WHAKAPAPA STEERING GROUP

TRUSTEE CHAIR
Miraka Davies

MEMBERS
Ngawaka Sala Setiu
Jarrod Waetford
Makere Jenner
Sonya Williams

Tangata

TANGATA STEERING GROUP

TRUSTEE CHAIR
Astrid Ormond

MEMBERS
Grace Alexander
Kelsey Hakaraia
Renee Palaone
Journey Wii
Tipi Howe

ADVISORS
Mikayla Johnson
Helena McGee

Whairawa

WHAIRAWA STEERING GROUP

TRUSTEE CHAIR
Briar Palmer

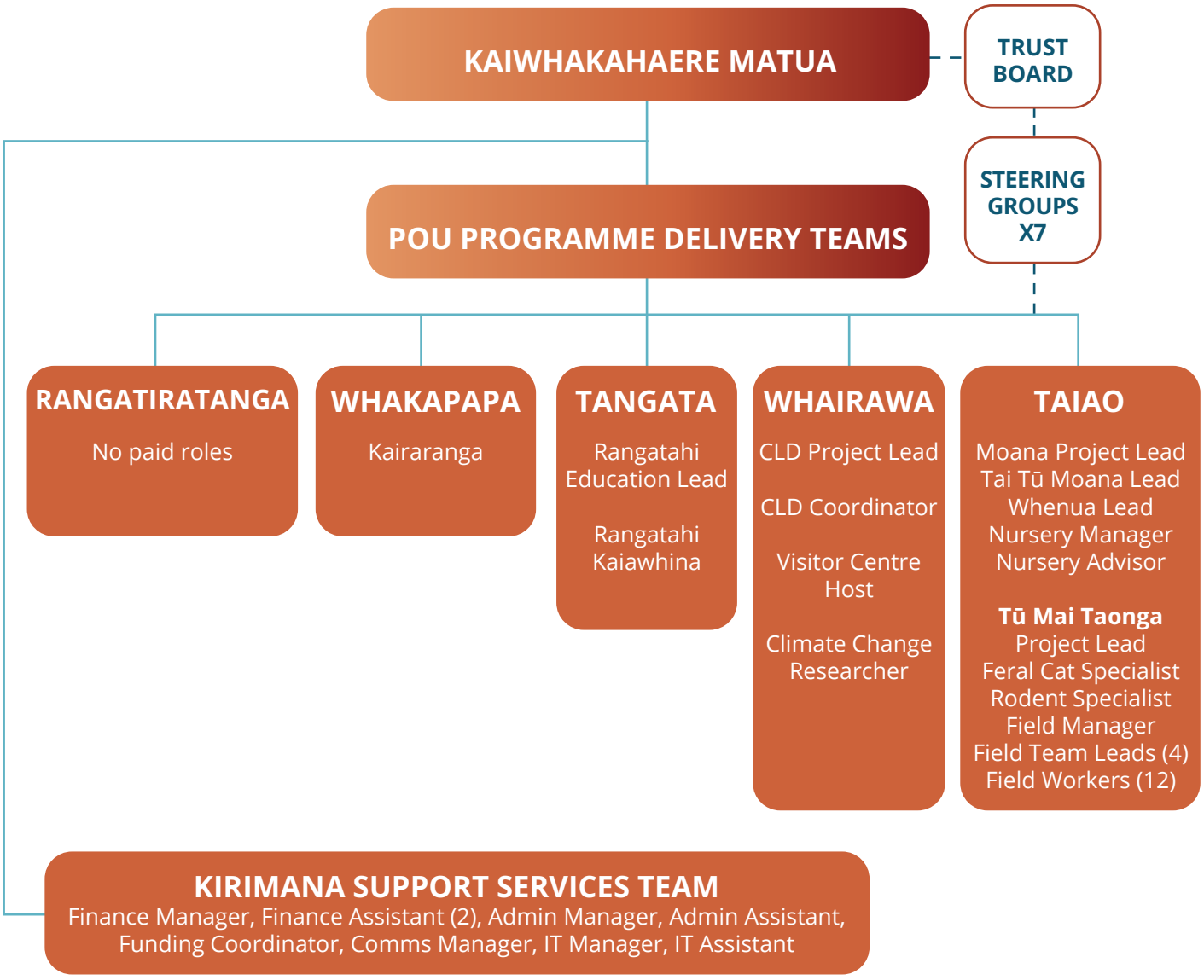
MEMBERS
Zara Ngawaka-Walker
Bonnie Henare
David Palmer
Loma Cleave
Journey Wii

COMMUNITY LED DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP

TRUSTEE CHAIR
Briar Palmer

MEMBERS
Sacha Eddington
Opo Ngawaka
Josh Scarlett
Chris Ollivier
Syd Davies

Anga Whakaraupapa Rōpū | Organisation Structure



Tirohanga o te Tau | Year in Review

NGĀ TĀNGATA

25
ACTIVE KAUPAPA
delivered across the year

43
WHĀNAU IN PAID MAHI
throughout the year

38
WHĀNAU IN GOVERNANCE
Trust Board or Pou Steering Groups

30
TRAINED IN TAIAO MAHI
monitoring or protection

300+
WHĀNAU UNITED
through our wānanga & AGM

60+
KAUMĀTUA ENGAGED
across six hui

21
RANGATAHI SUPPORTED
in our education programme

$128k
DISTRIBUTED
to Community-Led Development initiatives

3
POU UNVEILED
at Whangapoua

TE TAIAO

10
NIHO TANIWHA RETURNED
home to Aotea

467
KAURI SURVEYED
across Aotea

18
TAONGA SPECIES SURVEYS
conducted with our partners

2,000+
NATIVES PLANTED
at key restoration sites

600
SEEDS COLLECTED
for propagation at our nursery

576
FERAL CATS REMOVED
since October 2023

2,953
RODENTS REMOVED
since October 2023

816
UNDERWATER TRANSECTS COMPLETED
over the year

405
BOATIES REACHED
through our summer kaimanaaki programme

Our Mahi This Year

This year we have remained focused on delivering the second year of our iwi management plan, which sets out the three-year priorities on the pathway toward our iwi aspirations. Most of these priorities are progressing well, with only a few areas delayed due to funding constraints. The changing funding landscape continues to present sustainability challenges for us as an unsettled iwi, but the strength of our relationships with partners and funders — built through consistent, high-quality mahi — means we are well-placed to navigate this environment and keep moving forward.

We are incredibly proud of what has been achieved across the year. Our kaimahi have delivered 25 kaupapa with heart, skill, and dedication, supported by our restructured Kirimana support team who now provide integrated, efficient support across all pou. This shift has strengthened our operations and is creating a solid foundation for the growth we are working toward. Ka nui te mihi ki ngā kaimahi Kirimana!

We also welcomed our new Kaiwhakahaere Matua, Laurie Wharemate-Keung, in April, and farewelled Celestina Sumby after her 18 months of committed service. Laurie, a descendant of Hemi Ngawaka and daughter of Rawiri Wharemate, brings strong leadership to our operations. She is building on the foundations laid by Celestina with clarity, warmth, and purpose, and we are grateful to have our whanaunga leading this important mahi.

Mahi for Our Whānau
Providing paid mahi, training, and development opportunities for ngā uri o Ngāti Rehua remains a core priority for the board - it strengthens wellbeing, builds resilience, and grows intergenerational prosperity. This year, that commitment is reflected in the mahi delivered: we supported 43 whānau in paid roles, trained 30 whānau in taiao monitoring and protection skills, and many gained experience across our 25 active kaupapa.

Staying Connected as a Whānau
Keeping our whānau connected to the kaupapa, and to each other, remains incredibly important to us. Over the year we've continued to strengthen these connections through our regular bimonthly pānui, active engagement on Facebook, and wānanga and gatherings that brought more than 300 whānau together.

Our kaumātua hui are especially treasured. Our six hui this year enabled the Board to sit kanohi-ki-te-kanohi with over 60 kaumātua, share important kaupapa, and hear their whakaaro on issues that matter. Their guidance is invaluable, and we love being able to create space for our kaumātua to connect with one another over kai.



Kaumātua at Ngā Huhua Exhibition pōwhiri

Wānanga - Bringing our Whānau Together

Our wānanga continue to bring whānau together to reconnect, share mātauranga and strengthen our connections to Ngāti Rehua. We support whānau to travel between Aotea and the mainland, helping more of our people take part, particularly those who haven't attended before or haven't been home for some time.

In 2026, we held three wānanga, bringing together more than 250 whānau attendances across the year.
We started with our Rangatahi Wānanga at Kawa Marae, where our young people spent time learning waiata, exploring their pepeha, preparing hāngī and visiting places of significance to our people. Matariki brought more than 100 whānau home to Aotea to celebrate together, welcome Niho Taniwha home, unveil new pou and hītori signage at Whangapoua, and learn about the mahi of Tū Mai Taonga and our Ngāhere Native Nursery. We finished the year at Reweti Marae, where around 70 whānau came together to learn our Ngāti Rehua haka, waiata and mōteatea. A special mihi to Makere Jenner for composing a beautiful waiata that calls us home to Aotea for healing and rest. Please find the lyrics on the inside back cover of this report.

With more whānau registering than we can currently accommodate, we look forward to creating more opportunities for our people to come together in the years ahead.



Top row: Highlights from our Rangatahi Wānanga
Middle row: Highlights from our Matariki Wānanga
Bottom row: Highlights from our Haka Wānanga







Top image - Rangatahi Wānanga, April 2026, Port Fitzroy
Middle image: Matariki Wānanga, July 2026, Orama Lodge
Bottom image: Haka Wānanga, October 2026, Reweti Marae, Waimauku



Ngā Huhua: Abundance Exhibition Powhiri.



POU WHAKAPAPA

Pou Whakapapa



Jan Piahana, Binny Repia, Elaine Ngawaka, Sam McGee, Lexy Ngawaka, Char Ngawaka





Haka Wānanga 2026

Te reo Māori and waiata
Weekly on-island classes continue, with learning grounded in Ngāti Rehua-specific waiata, dialectal reo and conversational practice that builds whānau capability across whaikōrero, karanga, karakia, mihi and everyday kōrero. These sessions are strengthening confidence to use te reo and participate in our tikanga practices, deepening our collective kete of Ngāti Rehua mātauranga and actively rebuilding an iwi-specific knowledge base.

Over the coming year we will continue weekly classes and look to broaden participation on Aotea . We also plan to restart online sessions to extend access to whānau off-island.

Protecting our wāhi tapu
Throughout the year, we continued our work to protect wāhi tapu across Aotea through site visits, Cultural Values Assessments and resource consent mahi.
At South Medlands, we supported the reinterment of wāhi tapu at a known site, while at Harataonga planning is underway with DOC and Auckland Council to strengthen protection of wāhi tapu within the dunes. This includes restoration planting and ways to guide people away from sensitive areas.

We will continue this mahi alongside the development of pou, signage and other ways of protecting these places and sharing the histories they hold.

Pou Unveiling
Three pou beautifully carved by our rangatahi were unveiled at Whangapoua during Matariki, representing our kaitaiki - Tūkaiāia, Te Mauri and Te Wehi. New heritage signs were also installed in partnership with the Department of Conservation, highlighting the amazing 800 year history of Whangapoua.

Our next pou is being carved for Ōruawharo (Medlands) by kaiwhakairo Shannon Wafer. Designed in the form of a waka, the pou will acknowledge the whakapapa and voyaging histories connected to Ōruawharo, with accompanying signage also planned to share the kōrero of this significant whenua. Installation and an unveiling are planned for early 2027.

We are looking at further opportunities to make our whakapapa, histories and connection to significant places across Aotea more visible. This includes exploring further signage and cultural markers that can help share the kōrero of these places and strengthen the presence of Ngāti Rehua across our whenua.



Whangapoua Pou Unveiling, Photo by Alyssia Hargest

Ngā Huhua: Abundance Exhibition



From November 2025 to July 2026, Ngā Hūhua: Abundance was on display at the New Zealand Maritime Museum, sharing the stories, mātauranga and experiences of our whānau and their connection to Te Moana-nui-a-Toi. Through whānau kōrero, underwater photography, toi and interactive displays, the exhibition explored the abundance our tūpuna once knew, the changes witnessed over generations and the importance of restoring the health of our moana for future generations.

This kaupapa has now been recognised nationally - Ngāti Rehua and the New Zealand Maritime Museum have been named finalists in the Collaboration category of the Sustainable Business Awards, to be held at the end of November. It's an exciting acknowledgement of the impactful partnership behind Ngā Hūhua, and a celebration of the way iwi-led storytelling and museum expertise came together to honour our moana and our people.

A special mihi to the New Zealand Maritime Museum, curator Kate Waterhouse and Te Kauri Wihongi, and all our whānau who shared their stories and taonga, alongside everyone who helped bring this exhibition to life. Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

Credit: Ngā Huhua: Abundance Exhibition Photography courtesy of David St George, New Zealand Maritime Museum.

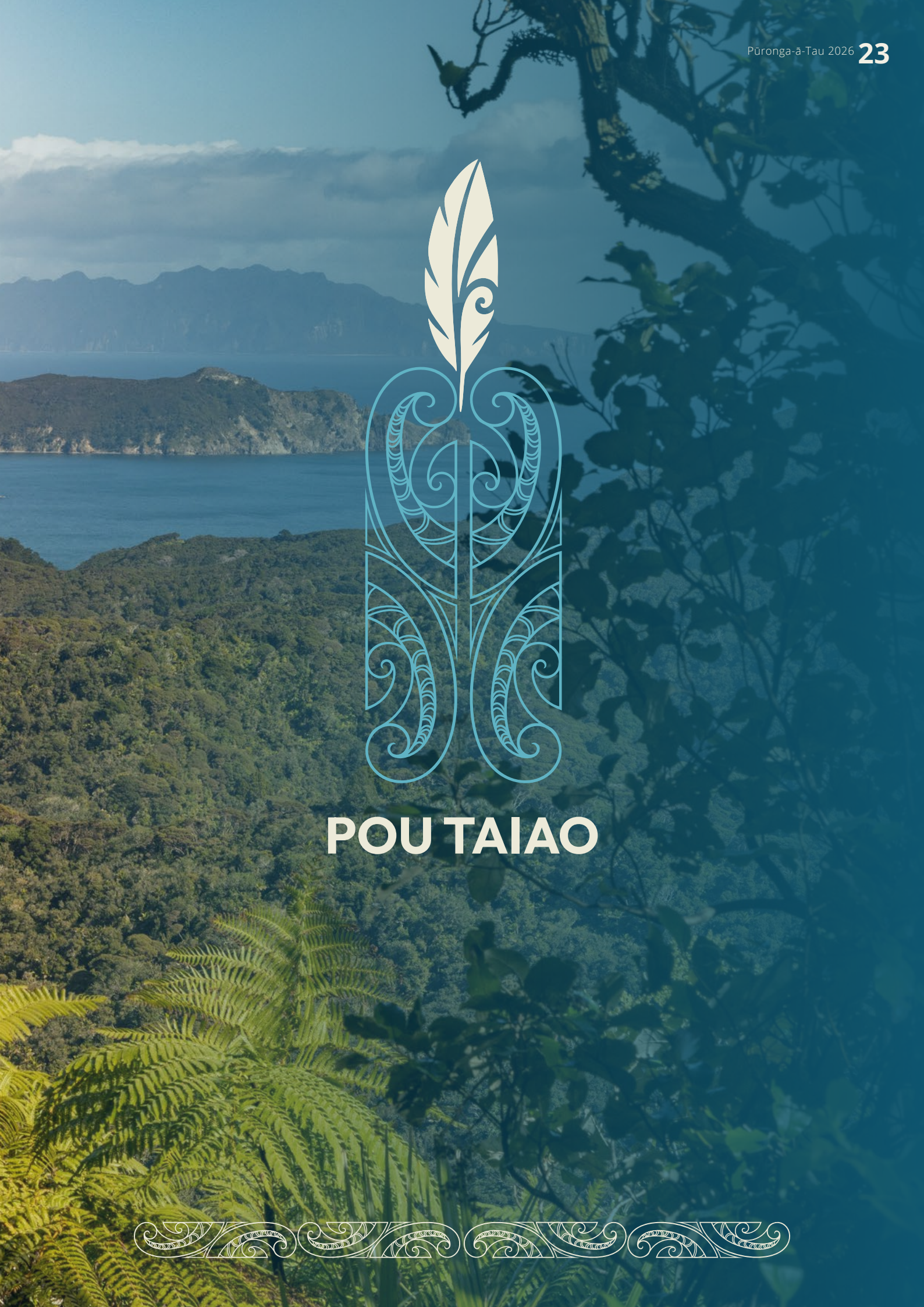





NGĀ HUHUA
ABUNDANCE



Whenua and Moana Views from Te Paparahi, Photography by Shaun Lee



POU TAIAO

Tai Tū Moana

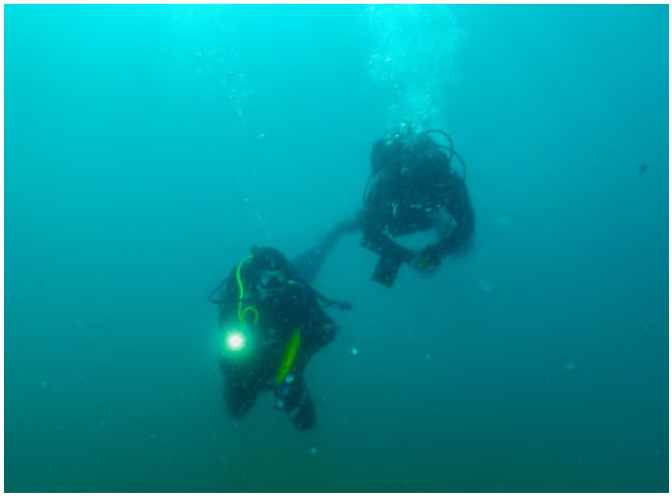
Through Tai Tū Moana, we have continued our response to exotic caulerpa while building the skills and capability needed to care for our moana over the longer term.

Surveillance using divers and Remotely Operated Vehicles has helped us better understand where caulerpa is present, with most areas surveyed along the eastern coastline remaining clear. Over summer, our Kaimanaaki also engaged with more than 400 vessels, helping boaties understand how they can prevent its spread.

Further surveillance and training will continue as we build our ability to lead more of this monitoring and response mahi here on Aotea.



ROV training at Orama Lodge Wharf



Commercial Divers Training. Photo by: Marine and Environmental Field Services (MEFS).

Building our marine capability
Alongside our caulerpa response, we have continued investing in the skills and equipment needed to undertake more marine mahi ourselves.

Training in ROV operation and commercial diving is creating opportunities for our people to take part in marine surveillance, monitoring and restoration work, while building capability here on Aotea.

Further diver and ROV training is planned, alongside work towards securing a vessel to support this mahi and growing a locally led team that can continue caring for Te Moananui-ā-Toi.



Nikki Wii, Ratanui Beazley and Matthew Jenner during (ROV) training

Pou Rāhui
Through Pou Rāhui, we are continuing work towards the long-term restoration of Te Moananui-ā-Toi, bringing together mātauranga, research and practical action to support the health of our moana.

This year we connected with other Hauraki iwi to share knowledge around exotic caulerpa and approaches to marine restoration. We also continued advocating for changes to local fisheries rules for kōura around Aotea, with a proposal submitted to Fisheries New Zealand and taken through public consultation.

The next stage includes establishing a Ngāti Rehua research team to support further marine monitoring, research and restoration mahi.

Whenua

Native Nursery
This year marked a major step toward restoring the mauri of our ecosystems. With support from DOC and the Lottery Grants Board, we've nearly completed the foundational infrastructure for our Native Nursery at Akapoua, creating a reliable base for growing plants to recloak Papatūānuku. Seed collection and propagation are underway, and priority restoration sites have been activated. At Okiwi and Akapoua Wetlands, weed control and planting have begun to rehabilitate areas long impacted by invasive grasses and cattle. Initial planting at Harataonga is helping stabilise fragile dune systems and guide public movement away from sensitive sites.

Across these three sites, more than 2,000 native plants were planted this year - a significant milestone in restoring our whenua. With propagation now underway, we're well-positioned to expand restorative planting in 2027. To sustain this momentum, we are seeking further funding to continue and grow Nursery operations, including ongoing support for the Nursery Manager role.





Top pic: Rodney Ngawaka restoration planting.
Photo by Alyssia Hargest
Bottom pic: Hope Munro and Pou Whenua Project Lead, Hillarey Ngawaka at the Nursery



Giant Wētāpunga - to be translocated in 2028, photo by Jade Beazley

Bringing Niho Taniwha home

A major highlight this year was welcoming our taonga, Niho Taniwha, back to Aotea after nearly three decades in a special breeding programme at the Auckland Zoo.

During Matariki, we partnered with DOC, Auckland Zoo and Glenfern Trust to release ten Niho Taniwha at Glenfern Sanctuary (Kotuku Peninsula), with a further 13 to follow later. A moving pōwhiri at Okiwi, led by Ngāti Rehua and attended by more than 120 people, marked their arrival. Each lizard was gifted a Ngāti Rehua tūpuna name connected to the peninsula, reflecting our deep kaitiaki and whakapapa ties to these taonga.

All ten skinks have settled into safe refuges within the predator-controlled sanctuary. Ongoing monitoring continues as Ngāti Rehua works with partners to ensure these taonga thrive on Aotea. This translocation forms part of our shared vision with DOC Aotea to return five taonga species home over five years, with kiwi underway for 2027, followed by giant wētāpunga, tuatara and kōkako.



Niho Taniwha



Kauri Ranger, Phoebe Ngawaka with Kokowai Ngawaka-Tamihana



Kauri Rangers in the field

Understanding the health of our kauri
In early 2026, Ngāti Rehua partnered with Auckland Council and DOC to carry out an ambitious island-wide kauri survey, building a clearer picture of the health of our taonga and checking whether kauri dieback was still present on Aotea. Seven Ngāti Rehua Rangers were trained and formed the core field team, working alongside two experienced Kauri Rangers from Ngātiwai. Their grit and commitment carried them through five months of surveying across challenging terrain and turbulent weather.

In total, 467 kauri were surveyed and 468 soil samples collected. Early findings show very few detections of kauri dieback, all within areas already known to be affected, and seedlings were recorded at most sites — a promising sign for regeneration.

This kaupapa built iwi capability in kauri health assessment and environmental monitoring, while also reconnecting three off-island rangers to their tūrangawaewae through mahi in the ngāhere of their tūpuna. The final results report, due in December, will guide the development of a Kauri Risk Management Plan for Aotea.

Environmental Monitoring and Surveying
This year offered many opportunities to strengthen our role as kaitiaki through partnerships with Auckland Council and DOC. More than twelve Ngāti Rehua uri took part in monitoring across Aotea and our surrounding motu - surveying threatened plants, tītī, Niho Taniwha, Kotoreke (Marsh Crake), gannets, kākahi, mātuku moana (reef heron) īnanga, lizards and frogs.

A strong focus was placed on rangatahi participation. One of our rangatahi joined coastal surveys, drone mapping and biodiversity monitoring, helping record changes to dunes, plant communities and the manu these habitats support - building skills and confidence in environmental monitoring.



Moko Skink on Motutaikō, photo by Tess Van Der Wel

Tū Mai Taonga

Restoring People and Place
For Ngāti Rehua–Ngātiwai ki Aotea, restoring Aotea is about more than removing predators. It's about creating opportunities for our people to return home and work on their whenua by taking an active role in caring for the places that have sustained generations of our whānau.
Through Tū Mai Taonga, we are bringing together the mātauranga passed down through our Tupuna, with modern science and conservation practices, while creating employment and training opportunities for whānau and our wider island community.

Logan Wirihana's return home to take on a Team Lead role with Tū Mai Taonga is one example of how this mahi is creating opportunities for our people to reconnect with their whenua while contributing to its restoration.

Read Logan's full story by scanning the QR CODE

Restoring Aotea
Across Te Paparahi and the Broken Islands our kaimahi continue the mahi of removing rats and feral cats, giving our native species the opportunity to recover and thrive.
This work contributes to the wider Predator Free 2050 vision, with Motutaikō marking an important milestone – no rat activity detected since December 2025.

Predator Control
- **576** feral cats removed (since the project started trapping in Oct 2023 from 42,819 feral cat trap checks)
- **2,953** rodents removed (from 42,267 rat trap checks completed project wide)



Logan Wirihana, photo by Sarah K Matthew.



Tū Mai Taonga Field Crew member Karllina Wii - Photography by Shaun Lee

Working Together to Support our Whānau and Community
Throughout the year, we've continued working alongside landowners, conservation groups and our wider island community, sharing knowledge and working towards a common goal.

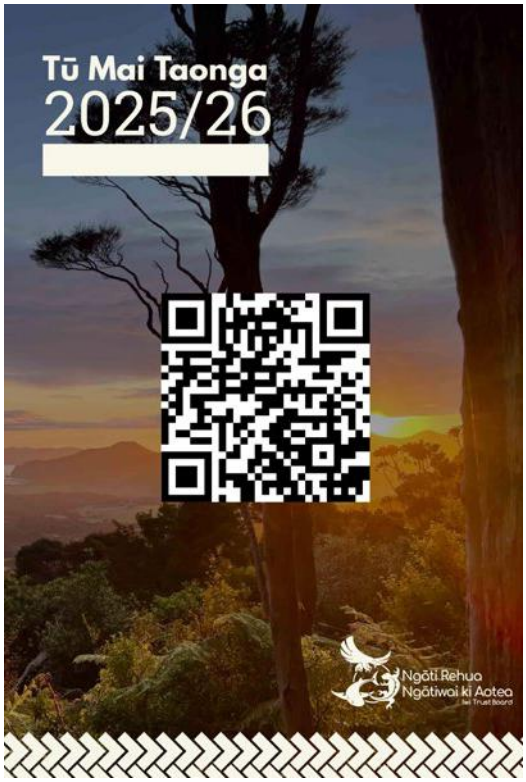
At Motairehe and Kawa Marae, our kaimahi have been working alongside whānau to establish and maintain trapping efforts. At Motairehe alone, 167 rodents have been caught since December 2025.

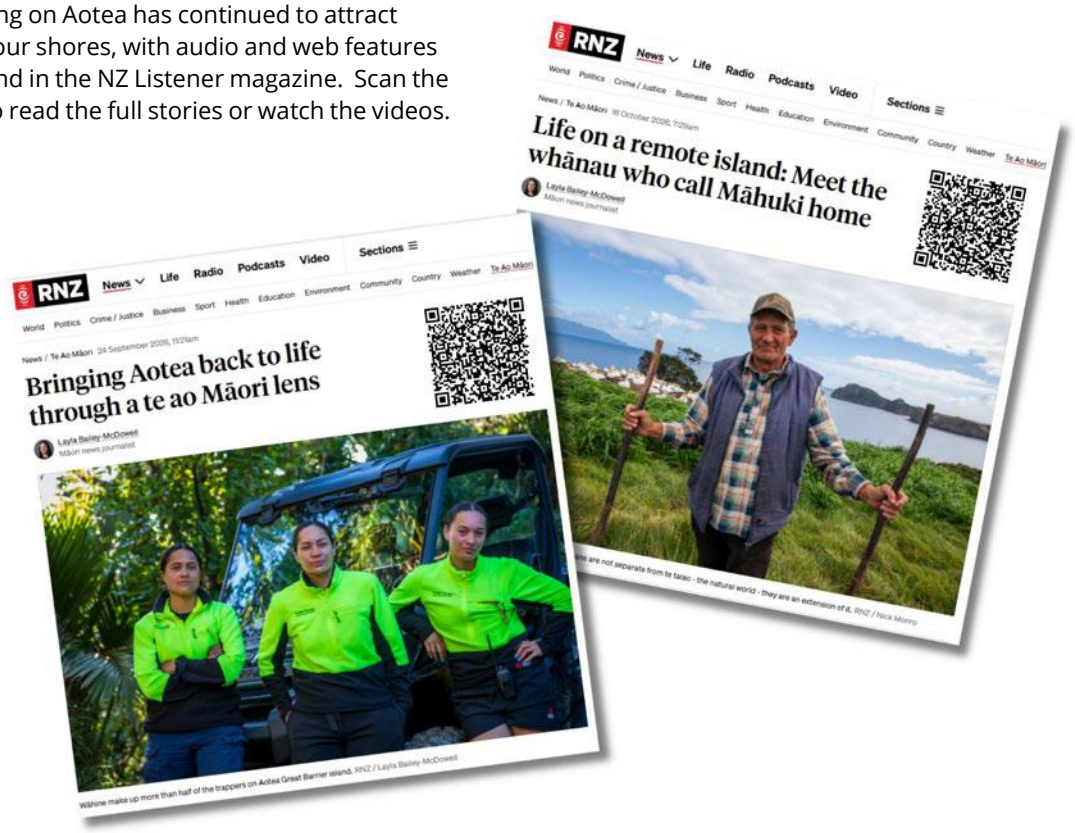
Tū Mai Taonga have held community trapping workshops and information sessions alongside community trapping groups where practical advice, trapping techniques and resources help whānau manage rodents around their homes and marae.

Our Kairaranga-led Te Ao Māori Hui brought conservation groups together to explore how tikanga and mātauranga Māori can be woven into conservation practices.
We also worked with local organisations on the Safe Cat kaupapa to encourage responsible cat ownership and supported whānau to access transport to have their cats desexed - helping to reduce the impact of cats on our native wildlife.

Sharing Our Story
The mahi happening on Aotea has continued to attract attention beyond our shores, with audio and web features on RNZ National and in the NZ Listener magazine. Scan the QR Codes below to read the full stories or watch the videos.

To view the Tū Mai Taonga Impact Report from January 2025 to June 2026 please use this QR code to access:







Haka Wānanga 2026



POU TANGATA

Pou Tangata

Ngāti Rehua Education Programme
From January to June 2026, Ministry of Education funding supported additional learning opportunities for tamariki and rangatahi aged 5–18 in North Aotea. The mahi brought whānau and education providers together to better understand learning needs and support those studying by correspondence, where access to secondary education is limited.

Rangatahi learned raranga and mahi whakairo and helped to carve the pou now standing at Whangapoua. All of these activities built practical skills and strengthened connections to our whenua and kōrero tuku iho.

After several years of unpredictable short-term funding, we are excited to have secured multi-year support to continue this kaupapa through to mid-2029, ensuring consistent support and opportunities can be offered to our tamariki and rangatahi.

A Space for our Rangatahi to Call Their Own
With generous support from the Lotteries Board and the Department of Internal Affairs (through the Community-Led Development Programme), we are close to completing extensive repairs and renovations of the old DOC Rec Room at Akapoua — transforming it into a dedicated space for the educational, social and cultural development of our rangatahi. Renovations have included full insulation, a new kitchen unit, replacement flooring, and a complete internal and external repaint.

While our rangatahi programme has been housed at the church in Okiwi this year, from next year onward our rangatahi will have a whare of their own - a warm, safe and purpose-built space designed for learning, connection and identity building.

This new whare will provide a stable home for our rangatahi kaupapa, strengthen belonging, and create a foundation for long-term programmes that support connection, learning and wellbeing.



Maia Jenner, carving new pou for Whangapoua



Rangatahi Auckland Zoo visit - Photo by Jade Beazley



Phoenix Beazley tagging Tākoketai



Manta Watch session with Lydia Green



Project Jonah Training

Hītori Rauemi – Sharing Our Histories
Our Hītori Rauemi kaupapa continues to support the sharing of Ngāti Rehua histories with tamariki, rangatahi, whānau and kura. Since beginning in 2023, Ministry of Education Toi Kuranui funding has supported videos, a pūrākau booklet and curriculum documents for local kura. The resources share kōrero about Toi te Huatahi, Rehua and our kaitiaki, Tūkaiāia, Te Wehi and Te Mauri. Videos are available on our website, and booklets have been shared with whānau at wānanga, helping keep these kōrero alive across generations. Te reo Māori and digital versions of the booklet remain in development, with online publication planned for 2027.

Te Hauora o te Whānau – Health Strategy
We have progressed an iwi health strategy to guide our health and wellbeing priorities over the next three years. When securing external funding proved challenging, the Pou Tangata Steering Group drew on its own knowledge and experience to move the mahi forward.

The strategy focuses on strengthening relationships with health providers, connecting whānau with mātauranga Māori-focused services, supporting rongoā practitioners in romiromi, rākau and karakia, and kaupapa to reduce mate whakamomori. It also identifies the need for sustainable funding to support this mahi. The strategy will be shared with whānau for review at the AGM, with implementation beginning in 2027.

Mate Whakamomori - Suicide Postvention Collaboration
Following the tragic loss of one of our rangatahi in August, community groups across Northern Aotea came together to coordinate a collective postvention response. Ngāti Rehua convened key local agencies and committed whānau, and we now meet fortnightly to align our efforts, share information, and shape a community-owned plan grounded in Te Whare Tapa Whā.

The group has focused on three immediate priorities: ensuring clear and consistent support information reaches all whānau; providing holistic healing options through traditional Māori therapies; and strengthening support for tamariki and rangatahi, who are particularly vulnerable at this time.

A major milestone in this mahi is Ngāti Rehua securing $50,000 through the Māori Suicide Prevention Community Fund to deliver a series of three traditional healing wānanga beginning early next year. These wānanga will support rangatahi and whānau through romiromi and rongoā, tukutuku and raranga, and mau rākau and kapa haka, helping restore wairua balance, strengthen identity, and rebuild protective whānau relationships.

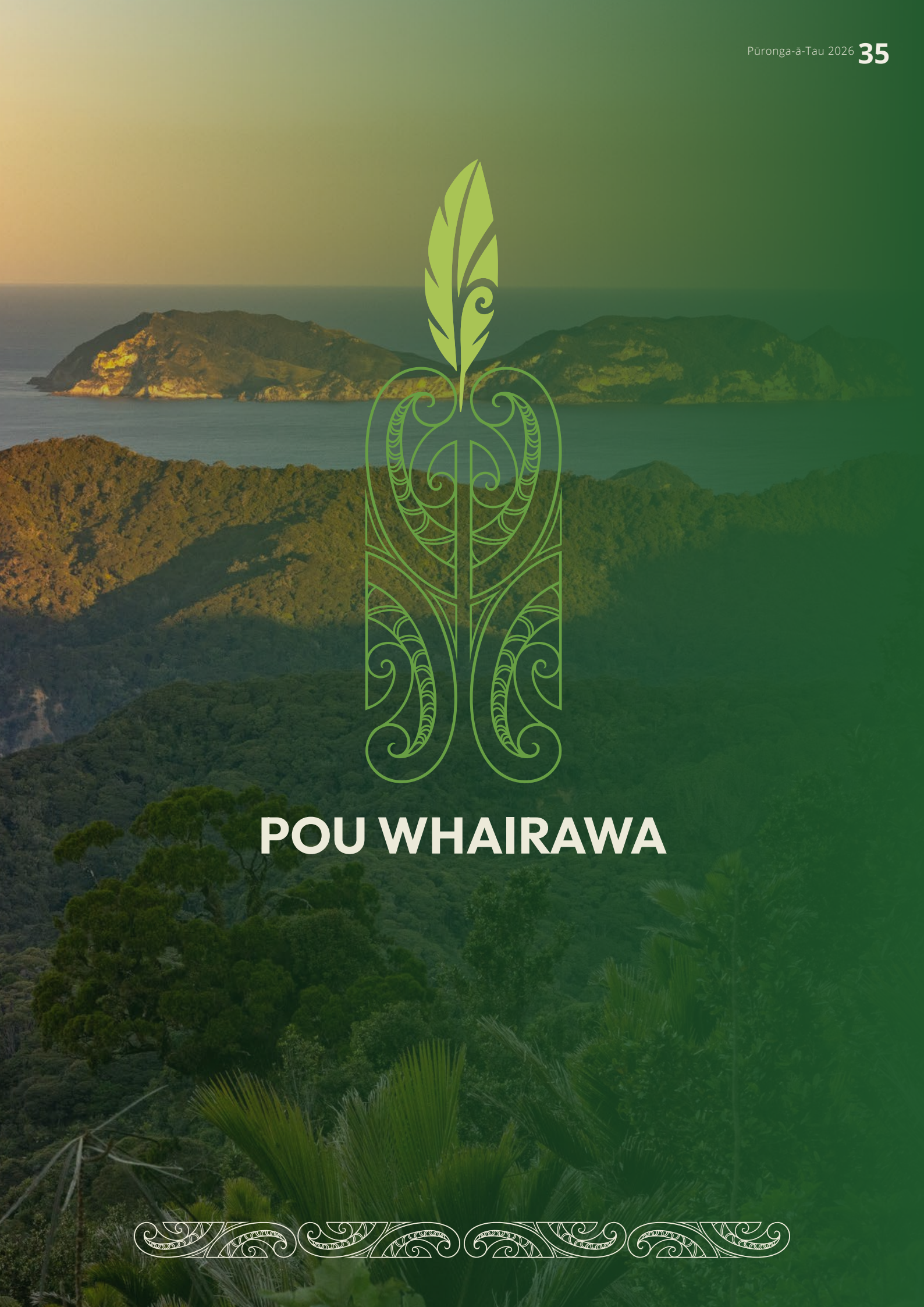
The hope is that our collective efforts will form a safety net around our rangatahi and whānau, supporting healing, connection and long-term wellbeing across Aotea North.



Rangatahi alongside our Kauri Rangers after walking Palmers Track - Photography by Jade Beazley, Ngāti Rehua Education Project Lead



Rakitū from Te Paparahi - Photography by Shaun Lee



POU WHAIRAWA

Pou Whairawa

Tourism Strategy
Our tourism planning builds on kōrero shared at our Oranga Wānanga on Aotea in September 2025, where whānau shared their aspirations for tourism and the opportunities we want to create for our people.

Those kōrero helped shape an iwi Tourism Framework, providing the foundation for a full Tourism Strategy, due in early 2027. The strategy will guide opportunities for whānau-led tourism and employment, including through our Visitor Information Centre, while helping us consider future investment and how tourism on Aotea can reflect who we are as Ngāti Rehua.

Visitor Information Centre
This year, Grace Alexander of the Davies whānau joined our Visitor Information Centre team, continuing our focus on creating opportunities for whānau to live and work at home. We have also been looking at how the centre can better share our stories and connection to Aotea, including the development of a new iwi visitor pamphlet. Increased funding has now been secured for the next 12 months, supporting continued employment while the Tourism Strategy helps shape the future direction of the centre.



Grace Alexander hosting at Claris airport visitor's centre.



River and Jaxton wave goodbye to a helicopter delivering supplies to Kawa as part of emergency response during the January 2026 floods.

Advocating for our roads
We have continued working with Auckland Council and the Aotea Local Board to advocate for improvements to roads serving our whānau, particularly at Motairehe and Kawa. Keeping these roads on the agenda is important for the everyday safety and access of whānau living in the north. We will continue advocating for improvements, including resurfacing, as infrastructure priorities for Aotea are considered.

Preparing for emergencies
Following the severe weather that affected Aotea in January, funding from Foundation North, Auckland Emergency Management and the Tindall Foundation helped us provide immediate support to whānau, including clearing drains around Motairehe.

The response also highlighted where we can strengthen our preparedness for future events. Since then, we have continued building relationships with Auckland Emergency Management, the Aotea Local Board and our marae.
The next step is developing clearer emergency plans and responsibilities, alongside on-island hui and opportunities for whānau to build practical response skills.

Toitū Aotea Community-Led Development Programme
Through the Toitū Aotea Community-Led Development Programme (CLDP), we continue to work alongside whānau and the wider northern Aotea community to support locally led priorities and projects.

This year, $72,447 in CLDP funding supported the first stage of the Port FitzRoy Boat Club exterior refit, helping create a safer and more usable community space for gatherings, recreation and events. A further $55,820 was provided towards a Rangatahi Education and Cultural Centre at Akapoua, supporting the interior works needed to develop the former Recreation Room into a hub for our rangatahi. CLDP also supported Waitangi Day at Rarohara, organised by Te Motu o Aotea Māori Women's Welfare League, which brought together more than 200 people. Funding also helped provide equipment and assets that can be used at future community gatherings.

Regular community hui have continued across northern Aotea, providing opportunities for people to share their needs, aspirations and priorities and help shape what happens next. Further projects are also progressing, including the Port FitzRoy Wharf piles, the next stage of the Boat Club refit and the Orama dining and kitchen refurbishment.



CLDP Hui at Port Fitzroy Boat Club



Waitangi Day celebrations supported by CLDP funding



Waitangi Day Live Band - Sean Stephens, Matthew Ngawaka, Lynette, Margaret Rose Ngawaka, Elaine Ngawaka and Opo Ngawaka



Sonya Williams presenting at a CLDP Hui

Tirohanga Pūtea | Financial Overview

Year Ended 31 March 2026

Audited Financial Reports

Financial information in this summary is drawn from the Trust Board's financial statements for **FY25** and **FY26** which are available online or **scan the QR code**.

FY25 FY26

Financial Highlights

+9%
REVENUE GROWTH
$3.97m › $4.32m

+28%
NET ASSET GROWTH
$609k › $783k

+$60k
SURPLUS MOVEMENT
$113k › $173k

Financial Position

$3.40m
TOTAL ASSETS
FY25 $3.07m

$2.48m
CASH & BANK
FY25 $2.14m

$2.61m
TOTAL LIABILITIES
FY25 $2.47m

$783k
NET ASSETS
FY25 $609k

Unused grants with conditions

$2.19m

FY25 $1.81m

Of the **$2.48m** in cash and bank balances, **$2.19m** was unused grants with conditons, tagged to support future service delivery beyond **31 March 2026.**

Accumulated Funds (Net Assets)

$783k

FY25 $609k

The Trust closed the financial year with net assets of $783k including $546k in property, plant and equipment.

Note: Financial figures and percentages have been rounded for presentation purposes. Refer to the audited FY2026 Financial Statements for exact amounts.

Financial Performance

$4.32m
REVENUE
FY25 $3.97m

$4.15m
EXPENDITURE
FY25 $3.86m

$173k
SURPLUS
FY25 $113k

Revenue Mix | FY2026



Cash Flow

$2.137m
OPENING CASH

+$499k
NET CASH GENERATED FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

-$161k
INVESTMENT IN PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

+$338k
NET INCREASE IN CASH

$2.475m
CLOSING CASH

Ō tātou Taituarā | Our Funders

Internal Affairs
Te Tari Taiwhenua

Community-Led Development Programme • Wānanga delivery • General operational costs • Change-focused projects • Restoration works for Akapoua Rangatahi Centre • Nursery materials & equipment • Marae infrastructure support • Harataonga wāhi tapu protection • Emergency preparedness equipment

Auckland Council
Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau

Tū Mai Taonga Project • Māori outcomes capacity support • Caulerpa Operations • Summer Kaitiaki Programme • Emergency Preparedness • Pou Whenua Project Lead & Pou Moana Project Lead • Oruawharo Pou Installation • Kauri Ora Surveillance • Kaitiaki Taiao participation

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Tū Mai Taonga Project • Nursery Manager role • Nursery infrastructure • Rongoā workshops

FOUNDATION NORTH
Pūtea Hāpai Oranga
Funding to Enhance Lives

Tū Mai Taonga Project • Emergency Flood Relief

Sustainable Business Network

Tū Mai Taonga Project

Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education

Rangatahi Education Programme

Te Mātāwai

Te Reo Māori Classes

Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board
Auckland Council

Tourism Strategy Development • Pou Moana Project Lead Role • Iwi Te Reo Māori Strategy

The Tindall Foundation

Emergency Flood Relief

Ministry for Primary Industries & Biosecurity New Zealand
Moana Surveillance & Operations

Te Rau Ora
Suicide prevention community wānanga

The University of Waikato
Pou Rāhui marine research initiative



Hā Ora at the Haka Wānanga, Reweti Marae, Waimauku. Photo by Ken Jenson

Me Ū Ki Aotea

He waiata hou nā Makareta Jenner

Tōia tēnei waka ki uta
Tōia ē, Tōia ē

He motu taonga tini mīharo
Aotea ē, Aotea ē

Pīata mai te pō i te tai marino
Pūhia mai te hā hauora

- KORIHI -
Kei hea te iti kahurangi
I ngā rā taumaha nei?
Piki mai, kake mai
Ki te motu whakangā

Me āta arohina o tamariki
E hāo ana te rā
Whakapōturihia to waka
Kia piki te ora

Tautau ō matiwaewae ki rō wai
Pūia ē, Pūia ē

Hīkoia te ngāhere wāo manu
Kūia ē, Kūia ē

Pīata mai te pō i te tai marino
Pūhia mai te hā hauora

- KORIHI -

Ēhara
Tēnei oranga mō te mahi anake
Nō reira
Piki mai, kake mai
Kia piki te ora
Me ū ki Aotea

- KORIHI -
Whakapōturihia to waka kia piki te ora
Me ū ki Aotea!

Draw your waka to shore
Draw it in, Draw it in

A treasured, wondrous island
Aotea, Aotea

The night sky twinkles on the calm tide
The breath of healing is carried on the breeze

– CHORUS –
Where have our hearts treasures drifted
In these burdensome times?
Rise above, ascend
To the island of rest

Behold your little ones
Seizing each day
Slow down your waka
To find healing and rest

Soak your toes in the warm springs
[steam rising]

Explore the vast forest of treasured birds
[birdsong ringing]

The night sky twinkles on the calm tide
The breath of healing is carried on the breeze

- CHORUS -

This life
Is not only for work
Therefore
Rise above, ascend
Find healing and rest
Set your course for Aotea

– CHORUS –
Slow down your waka to find healing and rest
Set your course for Aotea!

Sunrise from Te Paparahi - Photography by Shaun Lee





Ngāti Rehua
Ngātiwai ki Aotea
Iwi Trust Board