



TE PIRINGA HAPŪ  
NGĀTI HINEMANU | NGĀI TE UPOKOIRI  
NGĀTI HONOMŌKAI | NGĀTI MAHUIKA

# TE HAU O TE KĀENGA

*'We once lived separately, but now we have come together for a common cause.'* – Renata Kawepo

ISSUE 4 | JULY 2024





# TE PIRINGA O NGĀ HAPŪ TE HAU O TE KĀENGA

community update

ISSUE 4  
JULY 2024

## Message from our General Managers

**Meihana Watson**  
General Manager

**Tessa Robin**  
Deputy General Manager



### Tēnā tātau katoa,

It is a privilege to bring you our first pānui as GMs of Te Piringa Hapū.

We take this time to thank Renata Hakiwai who acted as Acting General Manager and Managing Director who diligently worked towards the implementation and delivery of the Ūtaina 10 Year Recovery Plan. Renata has now moved over to the hapū Asset Development Company to help secure and grow future assets. This strategic move aims to ensure our sustained success for the future as we move towards Hapū Mana Motuhake.

We are delighted to welcome Jaime Solomon and Jenny Mauger to our team, joining Patricia Nuku in the Pou Taiiao and Sustainability Pou. Their expertise and dedication in this field are invaluable assets that significantly enhance our efforts towards recovery and future planning.

Over the past few months, we have witnessed a flurry of activity both within our office and out in the community. These efforts are all geared towards serving the current generation while building on the work of our predecessors, with the ultimate goal of enabling future generations to achieve their aspirations.

We saw the motu come together on 31 May at Te Kāreti, Omahu Marae, for the Hui Taumata ki Kahungunu, which more than 3000 people attended. At this hui, the seeds of what could become a new model for Kotahitanga, or a Māori Parliament, were sown before the motu.

On 21 June, Te Piringa Hapū was acknowledged at the 2024 Matariki Living Taonga Awards, hosted by Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga. We received the Te Haaro o Te Kahu—Mākirikiri Supreme Award, nominated by the Te Haaro Board.

This event was well attended by our whānau, who also celebrated the success of Jordan Winiata, acknowledged for his Selfless Service, and Vicky Jones (nee Wong), acknowledged for Kaumātua Health and Wellbeing.

This month, Te Piringa Hapū will implement a community communications strategy with the aim of communicating more regularly with you all. This will be done through kanohi ki te kanohi hui, expo-style hui, and weekly live updates. We will also invite other community groups in our takiwā to update, present, or to just be present with us all.

Finally, we farewell Maora White and acknowledge her mahi and the commitment she demonstrated throughout her mahi with us.

Tessa and I want to remind whānau that we have an open-door policy here at the office. Your feedback and involvement are crucial to our success. If you have any concerns or want to catch up regarding the activities, we invite you to share your thoughts and ideas, and we encourage you to participate in our upcoming events. Together, we can continue to build a great and supportive hāpori.

Hinemanu – Ūtaina  
Te Upokoiri – Ūtaina  
Honomōkai – Ūtaina  
Mahuika – Ūtaina

Te Piringa Hapū – Huia Tangata – Kia Hiwa Rā!

**Meihana Watson & Tessa Robin**  
Message from the GMs

## SAVE THE DATE.

Aug 15 10 Week Pakeke Hauora Programme Starts  
Aug 31 Te Piringa Hapū Community Expo

# POU TANGATA. WELFARE & HOUSING

## Navigators Function

Kaiārahi/Community Navigators provide support and pastoral care to whānau within the Omaha and surrounding communities. Kaiārahi/Community Navigators support individuals and whānau by linking them to integrated internal and external wrap-around services.



## WELFARE TEAM CONTACT DETAILS



Tia Hokianga

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Community  
Navigator Lead**

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Sage Mihaka

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Chad Puna

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Community  
Navigator**

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## Living Taonga Awards

Kia Hiwa Rā! Omaha Marae were honored to receive the prestigious 'Te Haaro o Te Kaahu Mākirikiri Supreme Award' at the Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga Matariki Living Taonga Awards on June 21st. This recognition celebrates our collective mahi in responding and recovering from the cyclone and its effects on our hapū.

## Resilience Programmes

What a journey it has been whānau! We bid farewell to our Resilience programmes with a memorable kai hākari. A big shout out to all who attended.

Our journey in the Resilience programmes, traversed through the youthful energy of Te Ruinga, and the feminine strength of Hinētītama through various wānanga held from February to July.

These programmes introduced our whānau to a plethora of wānanga, taking us from the martial arts of Mau Rākau to the celestial realm of Te Whare Ainukunuku where we delved into Rongomamau and the healing aspects of the artform, exploring our roots with Whakapapa, and some Pā site haerenga! The practical skills were not forgotten with lessons on rongoā, financial wisdom and even driver's licensing.

But the journey isn't over yet, whānau! We are eager to continue these wānanga on a regular basis. So, keep an eye on this space, there's plenty more to come!



## Firewood Deliveries

Over the past two winters, Te Piringa Hapū have come together, working tirelessly to provide firewood to our loved ones in Omaha. Together, we've ensured our homes and families stayed warm through the chilliest months.

This has been a huge endeavor – from cutting logs to splitting them, and from loading to delivering the firewood. We want to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone involved.

We've distributed all the firewood we had. Therefore, we will no longer be providing this service.

## Pakeke Financial Literacy

We've recently wrapped up another round of Financial Wellbeing wānanga, partnered with ASB! It's been a journey of growth and empowerment. Tia Hokianga, Navigator Lead, can't sing its praises enough.

Watch this space, because we're bringing it back in the sunnier seasons. Another round of Pākeke financial literacy programme is on the horizon. Exciting times ahead, whānau!



# Matariki heri kai MATARIKI KI



2024

## Te Piringa Hapū Matariki Celebrations

Our Matariki Hapū celebrations came to life, thanks to the whāriki of support from Te Puni Kōkiri and Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

### Kaumātua Hauora Day

Kia hiwa rā! Over 60 of our kaumātua turned up to our Kaumātua Hauora day on Friday 4th July, bringing with them the spirit and resilience of their Cyclone-affected marae communities reaching from Porangahau, Moteo, Timi Kara, Petane, Tangoio, Waipatu, Waiohiki, Te Awhina, Rūnanga and Omahu.

What a day it was, whānau! From health checks to sit n fit, meditation sessions to warehouse games - it was a day filled with laughter, learning, and of course, scrumptious kai. A massive shout out to all the providers who were there on the day (Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga, Te Kupenga Hauora & Te Whatu Ora). Seeing our kaumātua engage in such meaningful conversations with you was truly heartwarming.

### Matariki Night Market

Our Matariki Night Market was a dazzling display of whānau talent! We were treated to beautiful waiata, stunning kākahu, precious taonga, scrumptious kai, and the thrill of observing the mahinga kai competitions! What an unforgettable evening it was!

Next time, let's amp up the stall count, especially those serving kai - we were sold out within an hour! A massive thank you to Riki Te Kira who filled our night with magical sounds! He truly was the cherry on top of a fantastic evening.

### Mahinga Kai Competition

We had a ripper of a Mahinga Kai Competition, full of exciting Eeling & Cooking showdowns! Congratulations to all our champions! (Reid Turi, Wayne Ropiha, and the Kupa boys) Seeing the whānau turn out in force was the real treat!





## River/Community Watch



Around the 26th of June, our community and surrounding areas were under heavy rain warnings, which heightened anxiety levels among our hapū members. In response, our dedicated kaimahi extended an invitation to the community, emphasizing that the marae doors were open to all. Additionally, they prepared a kai to offer whānau a comforting space to gather for kai and conversation.

Throughout the night, we diligently shared updates on river levels and reinforced the importance of preparedness by encouraging our whānau to have a "go bag" ready and to download the civil defense app for real-time updates.

We know that the echo of a natural disaster can linger, causing distress long after the event. So, we promise to continue offering this awahi to our hapū. We're in this together.

## Holiday Programme

We welcomed a whopping 50 tamariki during the second week of July school holidays! And what a feat it was! We poured our energy into empowering our older kids with entrepreneurial skills and business ideas for their very own Mini Market. Held on the final day of the programme.

Our tamariki were buzzing with ideas for what they could sell, crafting their own unique products and kai. They even got to play shopkeepers for the day which they loved!

All the funds raised from their Mini Market will be channeled into funding our next programme.



## Pakeke 10 Week Hauora Programme

A pakeke 10 week hauora programme will be starting on Thursday 15th August and will continue every Thursday for 10 weeks. They will run from 10am - 2pm. Transport provided. Open to any pakeke from all the flood affected marae.

There will be hauora checks and kōrero, Sit n Fit sessions, Taurite Tū sessions, games, prizes and of course delicious kai. You don't want to miss out whānau!!

Check out our Facebook page for the link to register, otherwise flick Tia a message at [tia@piringahapu.com](mailto:tia@piringahapu.com) or 021 084 54210

## Pakeke Mau Rākau

Every Tuesday from 5.30pm onwards we welcome whānau to join our mau rākau sessions guided by the knowledgeable Manaia Heperi. All we ask from you is your commitment to these sessions and the priceless learnings they bring.

## Kura Kids Mau Rākau

Whānau, it's been a joy to have our precious tamariki from Omahu School join us at the marae every Tuesday! They're here, bright and early, for our mau rākau sessions, led by Manaia Heperi. It's truly heartwarming to see the kids so fully immersed, thrilled, and eager to absorb new knowledge.



# WAIROA FLOOD RELIEF

On 26 June 2024 our whānaunga in Wairoa were yet again impacted by another devastating event, when their township was flooded after severe weather. They put a call out for help and Te Piringa Hapū responded by sending a van load of cleaning supplies through as a starter.

This was followed up by a donation of 100 blankets when a group representing Te Piringa Hapū made a trip through to Wairoa in July to support their Whanau Day. It was another rainy day, but the Wairoa whānaunga greeted us with open arms and hungry puku as we fired up the BBQ to cook sausage sizzle and burgers for 250 whānaunga. Thank you, Wairoa for your humbleness. Thank you to the Napier Police for the use of their BBQ and to our Maori Wardens for your tautoko.



## SHOWERS OPEN FOR WHĀNAU USE

We'd like to remind whānaunga that our shower facilities are still available for use. Please use within respectable hours, and clean up after yourselves.



## CONTACT OUR HOUSING LEADERS

**Conway: Housing Manager**  
[Conway@piringaHapū.com](mailto:Conway@piringaHapū.com)

**Koriana: Housing Coordinator**  
[Koriana@piringaHapū.com](mailto:Koriana@piringaHapū.com)

## HOUSING NEWS.

### Housing Repairs Programme

Te Puni Kōkiri and Te Whatu Ora funding for repairs to flood damaged houses has allowed Te Piringa Hapū to repair approximately 33 uninsured homes. Damage has varied from removing silt from beneath houses and insulating to full strip out of interiors, replacing kitchens, bathrooms, full paint and new flooring.

Healthy homes is in the forefront of our thinking when we plan repair work. All whānaunga deserve warm and dry homes, especially for our tamariki and kaumātua. Where possible, we insulate under homes, in ceiling spaces and exterior walls. We also install heat pumps, wood burners and ventilation systems where required.

Six building crews are carrying out the repair work alongside plumbers, electricians and other sub-trades.

The repair programme is well past the halfway mark, the home stretch is in sight. The programme of work will finish before the end of 2024.

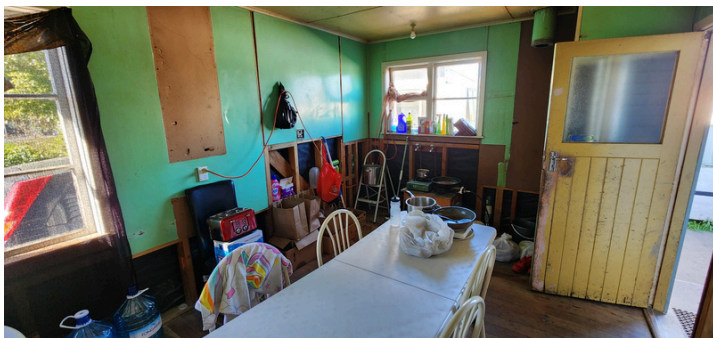


Photo – A whare before repair work.



Photo – The same whare nearing completion.

## FIRE ALARMS! GET IN TOUCH NOW!

Exciting news! Teaming up with our local Fire Services and Fire and Emergency New Zealand, we're stoked to offer the opportunity to keep our homes safer with free smoke alarms! Interested? Get in touch with Hinauri at [Hinauri@piringahapu.com](mailto:Hinauri@piringahapu.com) or pop into the tari during work hours. We look forward to hearing from you!





# TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROJECT.

## Hapū-led, Government enabled

Look at what we've achieved together! Eleven sparkling new whare have arrived on our marae grounds! This is the fruit of our collective labour, built with heart by Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi and generously funded by the Ministry of Business Innovation & Employment. We're working hand-in-hand with the TW Group who is carrying the on-site work, and we're on track to wrap up by the end of October!

Our Te Piringa Hapū welfare team is in constant kōrero with MBIE to ensure we've got whānau lined up, ready to move into their new whare in early November. This is our community, our whānau, our journey. We're in this together, and together, we're making a difference.



## Cabins

Ngati Kahungunu Iwi (NKII) has landed 50 cabins in Omaha. These cabins were fully funded by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. There is one yet to be landed.

Whānau have been offered the cabins to purchase at very good prices, much less than the cost to purchase along with the services and access landings/stairs. Most whānau have accepted the offer to purchase.

Even though we have 50 cabins, more are needed. Who knows, the government may look at funding more cabins in the future.

The cabins have been allowed onto flood affected whenua under an Order In Council. This Government mechanism

allows NKII to temporarily bypass the resource consent and building consent processes. This all changes in August 2026. All cabins that require consents must have these conditions met by this date.

NKII has promised to assist whānau in getting their cabins fully consented.





**Zhane Tahau Whelan**

MANAGER  
POU TIKANGA



**Cobham Burns**

RESEARCH  
ASSISTANT



**John Matthews**

RESEARCH  
LEAD

# POU TIKANGA CULTURE & IDENTITY

## CONTACT OUR POU TIKANGA TEAM

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John: [john@piringahapu.com](mailto:john@piringahapu.com)

Cobham: [cobham@piringahapu.com](mailto:cobham@piringahapu.com)

### *Pou Tikanga Workstreams*

#### **Te Ahikō: Research & Archives**

- Archiving and collecting of Mātauranga-ā-hapū.
- Hapū Research Unit.
- Production of Mātauranga-ā-hapū resources.
- Whare Taonga

#### **Te Wānanga o Kahukuranui**

- A tribal and fully immersive form of teaching and education in our mātauranga-a-hapū, reo, tikanga and kawa
- Te Reo and Tikanga Revitalization Strategy

#### **Te Maara o Rēnata**

- Opportunities for the gathering of the Hapū.
- Spiritual and Cultural Wellbeing
- Building the vision of Rēnata Kawepō for a community of aroha, manaakitanga and auahatanga.

## WHAREKARAKIA & URUPA

Since February 14th, we have been dedicated to recovering and restoring our sacred place of worship and cemetery. We are happy to share that after thorough negotiations with the insurance provider, the insurance claim has been approved. We will collaborate with the community to restore the place of worship, memorial wall, and cemetery. We hope to have this restoration project complete over this year.

## ARCHIVING MĀTAURANGA-Ā-HAPŪ

Our team has dedicated efforts to protecting our mātauranga, whakapapa and oral traditions by promptly archiving and compiling our knowledge for preservation for the upcoming generations.

At present, our primary focus is on transcribing and sharing the Māori Land Court records from the 1800s.

While we are in the initial phases of establishing our archive, we encourage anyone interested in researching genealogy, customs, or our knowledge to reach out for assistance.

### SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

As a part of preserving our tribal memory we welcome urī to get in touch with us if you would like to contribute a kōrero to our archiving project. We are currently working through and getting in touch with our kaumatua, but welcome all.

### UPCOMING WĀNANGA

Te Wānanga o Kahukuranui is set to kick off this year with 3 wānanga on Te Reo and Tikanga of our kāenga. We will be putting out information and registrations for these wānanga in the coming few weeks.



# POU TAI AO.

## NGARURORO AWA RESEARCH HUI SUMMARY

**Scott Wilson: Hydrogeologist, Lincoln Agritech**  
**Dr Jo Hoyle: River Geomorphologist, NIWA**  
**Richard Measures: Hydrodynamic Scientist, NIWA**  
**Ngaio Tuika, Shade Smith NKII Taiao & Marei Apatu TToH.**

The Ngaruroro awa research hui, held on the 1st of July at Omaha, provided an opportunity for Scott Wilson and his team to present their five-year scientific research on the Ngaruroro awa. They emphasized the necessity of protecting the aquifer recharge area at Roys Hill, creating space for rivers to widen,

establishing flood runoff areas river, and implementing wetland projects to safeguard the river's braided system. Additionally, they stressed the importance of overseeing any industrial activities on the river, such as gravel extraction holding them to HBRC policy & process, protecting our taonga species and ensuring our well-being. Whānau engaged in the hui by adjusting maps to show areas for river widening and providing feedback on their selections. The hui was successful in engaging our whānau and strengthening meaningful discussions.



### CONTACT OUR TEAM

#### POU TAI AO LEAD

**PATRICIA NUKU**

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#### POU TAI AO RESEARCHER

**JAIME SOLOMON**

[Jaime@piringahapu.com](mailto:Jaime@piringahapu.com)

#### POU TAI AO COORDINATOR

**Jenny Mauger**

## SAMOAN HIGH COMMISSIONER VISITS OMAHU MARAE

High Commissioner Afamasaga Faamatalaupū Toleafoa of Samoa was formally welcomed onto Omaha Marae on July 31st.

He requested a discussion with our whānau to assess how prepared our hapū was for disasters, how we responded post-Cyclone Gabrielle, and our current recovery efforts, including the Utaina 10-year recovery plan.

A presentation by our General Manager was shown to the High Commissioner, his wife, and his visitors. Whānau from our hapū also attended the hui.

For the Samoan Commissioner, this visit underscored the importance of maintaining our relationship and recognizing the significant work that has been done to reach our current state. They emphasized the need for clear communication, especially since communication resources can fail during major events. Therefore, it is crucial to focus on preparation beforehand.





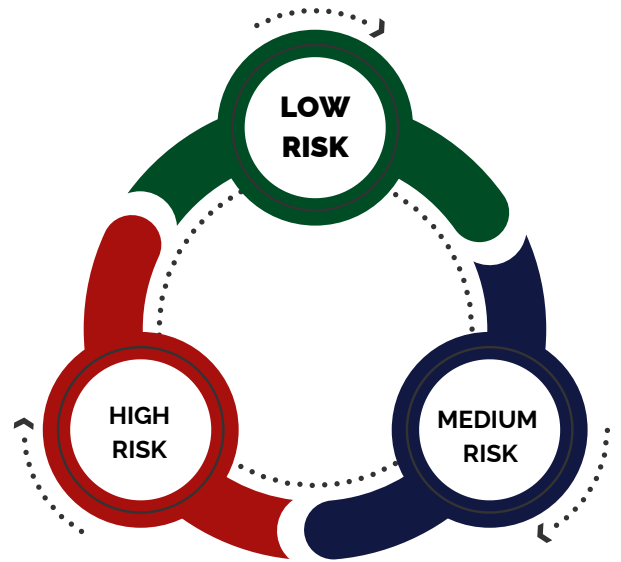
# UP COMING HUI UPDATING OUR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS!

Pou Taiao and Pou Tangata will be working with whānau to update our emergency response data. This includes ensuring we have accurate contact details, the number of whānau members per home, and identifying those needing urgent medical assistance.

In preparation for potential future disasters, we aim to develop whānau plans that align with our overall hapū plan. All the information collected will help us frame an emergency plan that will safeguard our community.

Following on from this work we are looking to bring the Hikurangi Trench roadshow to socialise it with Hapu.

# TE PIRINGA HAPŪ EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN



## OTAGO UNIVERSITY SCIENCE WĀNANGA

Otago University, in collaboration with TMT, will run a Pūtaiao Wānanga at Omaha Marae in September. Invitations have been sent to select kura, allowing their rangatahi to attend. This event has been running for the

past ten years, targeting future Māori scientists. The focus this year will be on our river (monitoring), whenua (soil), air quality, and eDNA testing. This will provide mana whenua with all the data collected during the week.

## JAIME SOLOMON

Tēnā koutou e te whānau a Ngāi Te Upokoiri, a Ngāti Hinemanu, a Ngāti Mahuika me Ngāti Honomōkai.

**“Ko au te whenua, ko te whenua ko au.”**

My name is Jaime Tuihana Solomon, no ngā whānau Hakiwai, Tutaki, Rongotoa, I grew up down 4 Ngahiriwa place.

During my childhood, I attended Omaha kura and enjoyed countless days swimming with my cousins in our beautiful awa, at our marae and around our community - such fond memories!

I have a background in manaakitanga, where I assist whānau in navigating their trauma using indigenous models like Tā Mason Durie’s Te Whare Tapa Whā. This holistic framework has four equal dimensions, providing a strong foundation for healing.

The impact of Cyclone Gabrielle left our whānau and whenua severely affected, causing immense devastation within our community.

I feel **privileged** to collaborate with Patricia Nuku in our shared commitment to **caring for and serving our people** through the **Pou Taiao workstream**.

Our commitment lies in safeguarding our Taiao (environment), integrating

- both traditional Mātauranga (indigenous knowledge) and scientific ecological methods. Through this holistic approach, we monitor and manage our natural resources.”
- Ensuring our cultural values and practices as a whānau are integrated into environmental policies and management plans at all levels.
- Assisting our whānau in preparedness and response to any emergency.

*‘Te toto o te tangata, he kai; te oranga o te tangata, he whenua’ (while food provides the blood in our veins, our health is drawn from the land).*

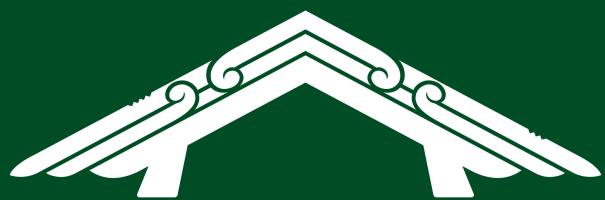
## NEW STAFF

# TAIAO RESEARCHER

JAIME SOLOMON







**TE PIRINGA HAPŪ**  
NGĀTI HINEMANU | NGĀI TE UPOKOIRI  
NGĀTI HONOMŌKAI | NGĀTI MAHUIKA