

TE HAU O TE KĀENGA

Ngā mihi nui o te wā hari koa me te wā o Hine Raumati

KAUMĀTUA & RANGATAHI HAVE THEIR SAY



Some members of Kāhui Kaumatua who met on Wednesday 3 December at Ōmāhu Marae

Pōkai Rangatahi: Rising Voices, Shared Futures

Laughter, pizza and purposeful kōrero marked the establishment of Pōkai Rangatahi, a new rangatahi council created to uplift youth voice, support rangatahi wellbeing, and shape the future direction of Te Piringa Hapū.

This rōpū carries an important responsibility: to appoint one trustee with a particular responsibility to represent rangatahi perspectives at the Te Piringa Hapū Board tepū.

Membership of Pōkai Rangatahi is open to all registered uri aged 16 to 35 years, with the appointed trustee required to be at least 18. While the role holds all the formal responsibilities of a Trustee, it also carries a deeper kaupapa. That is to uplift the voices, aspirations and lived experiences of our young people, and to support the wellbeing and development of uri.

The hui opened with a short update on Te Piringa's recent operations, but most of the kōrero centred on the responsibilities of the rangatahi representative and how Pōkai Rangatahi can meaningfully shape planning, priorities and activities across the hapū.

The group also explored rangatahi skills development and employment pathways, with many expressing a strong interest in opportunities within the taiao space.

Pōkai Rangatahi will come together again in February to meet with the newly appointed Board of Trustees. In the meantime, they are actively engaging online, strengthening their connections, and beginning to map out their aspirations and plans for the year ahead.

Trustee Appointments Made

A significant governance milestone has been reached for Te Piringa Hapū Authority Trust, with all seven trustee positions now confirmed through marae, rangatahi, kaumatua and hapū-wide processes, setting the foundation for a new Board and the next phase of leadership in the year ahead. In the new year we begin the search for a new General Manager!

Over the past weeks, each of the three marae, Pōkai Rangatahi and Te Kāhui Kaumatua have carefully considered their responsibilities under the Trust Deed and formally made their appointments to the Board. We acknowledge the whakaaro, time and collective wisdom that each of these rōpū have brought to this important kaupapa.

In addition to these appointed seats, two hapū-wide positions were to be filled through a postal ballot. We received two nominations for these two roles, meaning a voting process was not required. As a result, all seven Trustee positions are now confirmed, they will be announced at the Hui-ā-Tau.

With appointments complete, we are currently working through the remaining administrative and governance paperwork so the full Board can be formally constituted at the Hui-ā-Tau on 25 January.

We also note that, with audited accounts now expected in January rather than November, it has been necessary for us to apply for an extension to our Interim Trustee appointments. This extension has been sought to ensure continuity and stability through to the Hui-ā-Tau, when the new Board will formally take up its role.

Together, we look forward to beginning this next chapter with clarity, unity and purpose.

He Mana Kaumatua: Our Kāhui Confirms Their Ūpoko

A new chapter of kaumatua leadership was affirmed at Ōmāhu Marae this week with the establishment of Te Kāhui Kaumatua, strengthening cultural guidance, governance and intergenerational connection within Te Piringa Hapū.

The primary role of the Kāhui includes appointing a kaumatua representative to the Trust Board, our Ūpoko who, in addition to normal trustee responsibilities, provides cultural leadership, guidance and pastoral support to trustees, kaimahi and whānau.

The Ūpoko carries the collective voice of the Kāhui Kaumatua and helps ensure our mahi remains grounded in kaupapa tuku iho and the tikanga of our marae and hapori.

Membership of Te Kāhui Kaumatua is open to all registered members of Te Piringa Hapū Authority Trust aged 50 years and over who whakapapa to any of our four hapū. This foundation reflects the value we place on kaumatua leadership and the vital role they hold in shaping the direction of Te Piringa.

The hui provided an opportunity for rich kōrero, reconnection and shared purpose. Over morning tea, kaumatua received a full briefing on the past six months of Te Piringa's mahi, including staffing changes, programme delivery, financial updates, discussions with the Ōmāhu Marae Trustees and emerging plans for the future.

As part of the kōrero, kaumatua offered guidance on tikanga for kaimahi working on the marae, particularly during tangihanga and many expressed their support, encouragement and aroha for the team.

Beautiful kai prepared by Sage and Koriana including kina, koura, pāua vol-au-vents, rewenā and delicious desserts, nourished the wairua of the day.

Te Kāhui Kaumatua will reconvene in February for their next hui, where they will meet with the newly appointed Trust Board and continue strengthening the cultural and strategic foundations of Te Piringa Hapū.

TE PIRINGA HAPŪ HUI Ā TAU | 25 JANUARY 2026

HE WHENUA ORA, HE TANGATA ORA



Grounded in kaitiakitanga and decades of advocacy, Ōmāhu whānau are coming together to develop kaupapa Māori research into the impacts of aerial spraying, aiming to protect the hauora of their people and future generations.

This has not been a silent experience. Over many years, community champions led steadfastly by Trish Nuku have raised concerns, gathered kōrero, and brought this kaupapa to the attention of landowners, councils, government agencies and Ministers.

Their mahi has been grounded in aroha for our people, commitment to kaitiakitanga, and a deep concern for the hauora of present and future generations.

Whānau have shared lived experiences of respiratory illness, skin conditions, cancers and other serious health impacts. While these experiences are real and deeply felt, we're clear that to progress this kaupapa further we must strengthen our case with robust scientific evidence to sit alongside whānau narratives and tikanga-based concerns. This evidence is essential if we are to influence regulatory change and secure stronger protections for marae-based communities like ours.

To that end, we're shaping a significant kaupapa Māori research project focused on understanding the health and environmental impacts of aerial spraying at Ōmāhu.

As a first step, **a wānanga will be held at Ōmāhu Marae on 24 January 2026**, bringing together our pūkenga, community advocates, academics and technical experts to help design the research approach.

Nau mai, haere mai e te whānau. If you are interested in attending, please contact Trish@piringahapu.com.

TE HIHI O TE RĀ – AN AFTERNOON AT THE PĀ

Following our Hui ā Tau, whānau are warmly invited to stay for Te Hihi o Te Rā, an afternoon celebrating Hine Raumati - the season of warmth, harvest and connection.

From 1.00–4.30pm on Sunday 25 January, the pā will come alive with kai, kōrero and community. Whānau are invited to set up free stalls selling or sharing kai, crafts, second-hand goods, plants, clothing, tools, anything you like. This is a space to connect, trade, and enjoy the abundance of summer together.

As we prepare to return or relocate the shipping containers here at the Marae, we'll also be clearing them out—so expect some great giveaways on the day.

A full pānui will be shared over the coming weeks. In the meantime, to book a free stall, please contact Sage Mihaka at sage@piringahapu.com.

Nau mai, haere mai—let's celebrate Hine Raumati together.



He Mihi Kirihimete, Tau Hou hoki

E ngā whānau, e ngā uri o Te Piringa Hapū, tēnei mātou ka tuku atu i ā mātou mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa i tēnei wā whakatā o te tau. Meri Kirihimete ki a koutou me ō koutou whānau, ā, kia tau mai hoki he Tau Hou ōrite, he Tau Hou hua nui. I raro i te maru o Hine Raumati, te atua o te wā mahana, o te ngahuru kai, o te wā whakangā, me whai wā koutou ki te whakatā, ki te whakahou i te tinana, te hinengaro me te wairua.

Kia hoki koutou ki te kāinga, ki te whānau, ki te whenua, ki ngā taonga tuku iho e whāngai ana i a tātou. Kia rangona te harikoa, te aroha me te rangimārie i roto i ō koutou kāinga i tēnei wā tapu. Hei whakamōhio atu, ka kati a Te Piringa Hapū Authority Trust ā te Rāmere, 19 o Hakihea, ā, ka tūwhera anō ā te Mane, 12 o Kohitātea.

Kia haumaruru te haere, kia tau te mauri, kia pai te whakatā. Ngā manaakitanga o te wā, Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

HE PĀNUI POTO

Mana Whakairo a Toi: Bachelor of Māori Performing Arts (BMPA)

A huge amount of mahi and commitment goes into completing Year 1 of Ngā Mana Whakairo a Toi: Bachelor of Māori Performing Arts (BMPA). This first year focused on building strong foundations, whakawhanaungatanga and shared purpose. Learning was supported through weekly tutorials and noho wānanga. Eleven tauira, are progressing into Year 2. We mihi to all tauira for their efforts, alongside those who supported the programme including Keita, John, Ropata and Te Paepae o Kahukuranui.



Ngāruroro River Bridge Repairs

Funding has been approved by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency for strengthening work on the State Highway 50 Ngāruroro River Bridge, where speed and weight restrictions have been in place since October 2022. With design and consenting now complete, the project costs are estimated at \$10–\$20 million.

Stakeholder engagement begins shortly, a contractor will be appointed, and construction is expected to start in 2026. Te Piringa Hapū welcomes this long-awaited decision and acknowledges the patience and advocacy of whānau, local communities, hapū and elected representatives in advancing this important upgrade.

DIA Regional Team Visit Ōmāhu Marae

The DIA regional cluster visited earlier this month to meet our team, hear about the projects we've been working on since the Cyclone, and what we'd like to do going forward. Following presentations by our Taiao and Housing Leads we took a tour of the sites where we've supported recovery work.

We took the opportunity to brief them on our plans to establish a native nursery in 2026 and to begin the taonga conservation programme. DIA have also supported the delivery of governance training for the new Te Piringa Board and our three marae committees. We'll have the details sorted in the new year.

Housing Update

We're almost finished with the last of our housing repairs with the final one due for completion by February. The Critical Repairs programme was not just about fixing houses; it was about restoring wellbeing, strengthening whānau, building local capability, and embedding long-term social resilience grounded in kaupapa Māori.

Loking ahead, Te Piringa Hapū has developed the Healthy Homes and Whānau Strategy to improve whānau wellbeing by ensuring homes are warm, dry, safe, and culturally appropriate. Building on cyclone recovery work, the strategy integrates housing repairs, whānau navigation, health outcomes, and long-term housing pathways.

The strategy recognises that secure and healthy kāinga are foundational to whānau resilience, reducing preventable illness and supporting intergenerational wellbeing, while keeping whānau connected to their whenua and hapū. We'll be rolling this out early in the new year - watch this space.

TE PIRINGA HAPŪ CLOSED 19 DEC 25 TO 12 JAN 26