

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust

TE POU KŌRERO

TAKURUA 2022

AMONG THE SERENITY OF THE RUANUI MOUNTAIN HOUSE

The Covid-19 recovery, borders reopening and why Ruanui should be proud.

TTR SEEKS RECONSIDERATION

Fight against seabed mining continues despite supreme court ruling

‘E TANGATA | OUR PEOPLE

We meet Clive Tongaawhikau, Pou Tuara for Araukuku

HEALTHCARE TAKING A HIT

Influenza and Covid-19 on the rise, we visit Ruanui Healthcare to talk prevention

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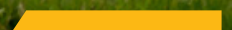
We meet the new doctor, talk Stratford pools and commemorate Rangiriri. We cover the mounnga project and visit the new community garden

ON THE FRONT COVER

Peter Mischefski shows us around Ruanui mountain house.

ON THE INNER COVER

Mt. Taranaki as seen from Meremere Marae.





Tēnā koe,

Over the last few months, we have been resetting our Pou Tuara strategy, goals and vision. It has been an exciting time and we look forward to revealing these new ideas in the near future. Part of the planning includes a review of the Deed which will be shared at the Annual General Meeting on the 20th November 2022.

Our Pou Tuara have elected Haimona Maruera as the Tumu W'akaae and retained Ngapari Nui as the Deputy Tumu W'akaae. We are pleased to announce that the Pou Tuara have appointed Jim Turahui to the Ngāti Ruanui Ta'ua Directorship. Jim has an abundance of governance experience, and we know that he will continue his ability to strengthen and provide solid direction.

Ngāti Ruanui is excited to be hosting Taranaki Tū Mai in November 2022. This event includes all iwi from around the Mouna. Ngāti Ruanui has closed its registration as we have over 600 participants. If you have registered but are unable to attend, please let the office know as soon as possible.

In this issue of Te Pou Kōrero, we begin to feature key uri that are doing great things for their iwi beginning with Pou Tuara, Clive Tongaawhikau. We head up the Mouna to check out how the iwi-owned Mountain House is progressing and also share more about the new school.

Rachel Rae
Rūnanga Kaiw'aka'aere

‘e tangata

the people

We begin our ‘e tangata section of Te Pou Kōrero by first and foremost getting to know the Pou Tuara who represent the 16 different ‘āpu of Ngāti Ruanui. In this print, we meet **Clive Tongaawhikau**, pou for Araukuku.

Born in Papakura, Clive would live and stay within the Tāmaki region for 35-years. He became a landscaper, picking up an apprenticeship for 5-years before perusing an agricultural degree. A businessman in agriculture, seconded into the Mt. Roskill and Mt. Eden City council, Clive had it all going for him, the urban dream.

“I grew up in the farmland, trained polo ponies, show ponies and horses – that was my passion. Dad had his own business doing bulldozing and digging and that

type of stuff. I grew up on all those things. Jack of all trades, master of none,” he said.

He would then meet his wife in the hustle and bustle that was Tāmaki. “She’s one of those ones from the East Coast, with a strong Māori side whereas mine wasn’t. And that was the beginning of my Reo Māori journey and my eventual return home.”

“I didn’t really know anything Māori related until I met my wife. She used to teach Kapa ‘aka and she wanted me to play the guitar. But I had the stink attitude of I’m not doing that Māori stuff. I was ignorant, I didn’t care about the ‘aka, just cared about the rugby game that was about to happen, and I see that attitude today.”

“When I adopted her w’akaaro, it was

Health, wealth & housing, Clives aspiration for uri



like being born again. I finally played the guitar for my wife's roopu and never looked back. Next minute I'm the one teaching 'aka."

Clive would find himself learning about every other iwi but his own, until he made that commitment and began his 'aerenga, returning home in 1998.

"When I came back here it was a personal journey for me and my family. All we saw were Māori people. Everyone said kia ora, it was just like living on the Pā, it still is, I love it."

He would quickly become chairman of his marae (Ngārongo) and 'āpu chair as well. "Like most marae, we've had a lot of trouble on the Pā. But I am very passionate about our marae, I have stuck around through everything and we are starting to see the fruits of that labour."

"It has been a long rewarding journey because I came back here to learn about who I was. In Auckland you learn about things out of a book, you don't even know if it's a

person, a place, or an event. "Clive now tutors in over 20-schools in Taranaki, as a kaiako of Te Reo, Kārangā and haka.

"My first group here was a group of 15 inmates. We called ourselves Te Roopu Pūkākā. We were the first group to enter regionals and had people from prison who went to nationals. In the prison every Tuesday and Thursday we had kaumātua and kuia lining the room to support their family. It was great."

He would then go on and be one of the creators of the level 6 Māori performing arts curriculum for Taranaki. The curriculum was taken into Taranaki polytechnic, where at the time Clive was approached by Tengaruru Wineera as head of the Māori department at WITT.

"We had the best tutors, but they didn't have the academic background when data was being collected. It didn't fit into the Pāke'a system, so we wanted it to run it ourselves. Still, it doesn't work for us but we continue to conform to Pākeha law all because we can't put

it on paper."

When prompted to discuss his aspirations for his people, he listed "health, wealth, warm affordable homes for our people."

"We're looking at places in our own rohe that might be suitable for housing. There's lots of space around our marae. Once the vision is put in place and we start moving, there will be a space and place for everyone."

"There's other land out there that through the deed of settlement, Ngāti Māru have got their dibs on. I keep asking when Araukuku going to be invited to the table?"

"We can also revisit the idea of papakāinga with sketches already done in 2015. 8 whare, sports court, rugby field. We are all about our people and helping us move forward."

"It's been a long time coming, it hasn't happened overnight. Prior to this it was more iwi driven, now it's more open and people are really thinking about what it is to be Araukuku."

"The next thing is for everybody to become a charitable trust. This is so important, why hasn't this happened 20 years ago? This has always been my kōrero on the table, and I want to acknowledge Rachel for her hard work in her role as kaiw'aka'aere."

"If we want to go forward, we need to make sure everyone is looked after."

Winter, harsh on Ruanui Healthcare

It was an early weekday morning, nurses and clinicians were arriving to Ruanui Healthcare in Te 'āwera whilst cars were already in the Covid-19 testing and vaccination queues.

We are hearing of doctors seeing over 60-patients per day in some of our most urban centres across Aotearoa. Winter and this seasons influenza is having huge strain on the health system. Combined with the pandemic this strain is now now heading for the regions. Te 'āwera and Pātea.

Parewaho Rudolph, Senior Nursing lead at Ngāti Ruanui healthcare has been part of the organisation for 22-years. She has a team of 12 other nurses who work alongside her to deliver healthcare for uri.

When asked what gets her up and out of bed every morning she said, "it's the people, it's our tamariki, mokopuna and kaumatua who simply need help."

"That's what gets me up," she said.

But the impact of the winter season, as well as dealing with the impacts of the pandemic is proving a significant challenge.

"We are seeing an influx of w'ānau with flu like presentations particularly over the winter. It is scary for our elders, kaumātua and kuia who we need to protect. Another challenge is ensuring the right information is

out there for w'ānau to access."

"This is the first winter in a few years where we haven't had significant restrictions in place. People were working from home, our tamariki weren't at kura. We were hygiene conscious, and people were keeping away from one-another – but this year it's different."

With the ease of restrictions, larger gatherings, people not wearing masks to the extent that they were over the last few years – we are seeing rates of Influenza A infection skyrocket.

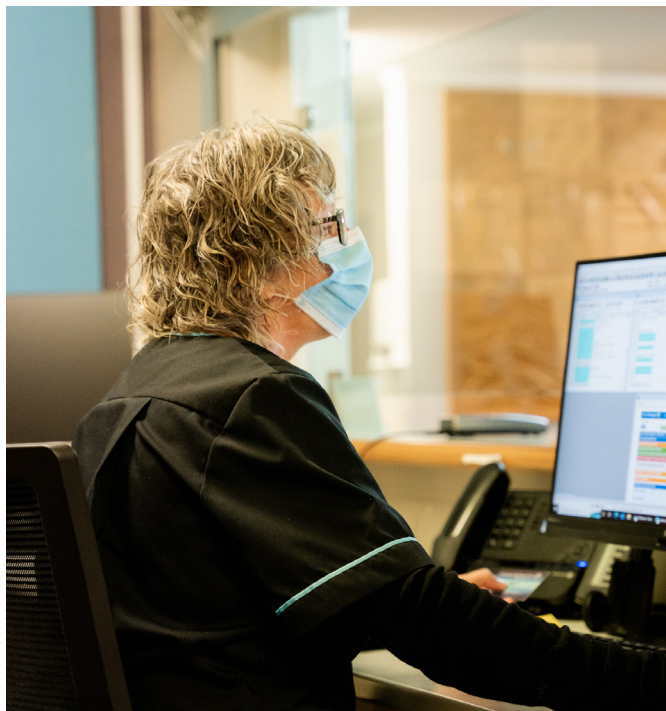
"What's more is that it is really hitting our most vulnerable, kaumātua and mokopuna the hardest."

That morning, Parewaho had been on the phone to w'ānau for 2-hours before the interview even started. There were 6-hour waits in Te 'āwera emergency department and the doctors were booked up for weeks.

"Influenza has been around for a very long time. But just like Covid-19, it makes copies that change its ability to infect and its severity – called variants. Not only is influenza making whānau sick, but it is also knocking them out for weeks and sometimes months," she said.

"We are also seeing a lot of long covid. Especially among those who are being reinfected for the second time – its hitting w'ānau hard."

Parewaho says a range of measures should be adopted



Nurses are seeing up to **40-patients** each, per day to meet patient demand

if people become unwell including staying home. Using paracetamol for headaches and fevers. Ensuring you get enough rest and stay hydrated. Ultimately, phoning the doctor if you become really unwell.

She also advocates for wānau to get their flu vaccination this winter. “Flu vaccines are important in preventing the possible effects of the flu. It can reduce passing the flu from person-to-person and the severity of the symptoms.”

“It’s the best way to keep wānau safe. Especially during winter season,” she said.

Ngāti Ruanui ta’ua chair, Jim Turahui said that “Ruanui will now roll out vaccination free-of-charge to all patients registered with the healthcare clinic, and also all Ngāti Ruanui uri.”

“Uri can go to either the clinic in Pātea or ‘āwera and present their iwi card and receive either the Covid-19 vaccine, influenza (flu) and also the Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccinations,” he said.

“We must continue to lead as an iwi, to protect and sustain our wākapa. We see vaccination as a means of doing this. The cost is on us,” said kaiw’aka’aere Rachel Rae.

Join the **flu fighters**. Ruanui to offer free Covid-19, MMR & Flu vaccinations

WHY

We have decided to waive the fees for vaccination for anyone registered with Ruanui Healthcare as well as uri who are registered with Ngāti Ruanui. This is to help protect our w’ānau should they choose to vaccinate, and also to alleviate some pressures of our health system.

WHERE

At either the ‘āwera or Pātea clinics.

HOW

Uri who aren’t registered with Ruanui Healthcare need to show their iwi card in order to get the charges waived.

TO BOOK

contact the healthcare clinic by phoning 06 278 1310.

Plans for new school, Te Paepae O Aotea, on track

In January of 2023, the new school for Te 'āwera, Te Paepae o Aotea will be opening after the closure of both the Intermediate and High School. It is a huge project and will impact the future of Te 'āwera as well as the surrounding takiwa and iwi.

The establishment board of trustees (EBoT) role is to oversee and assist in the process of setting up a new school. It stays in place for as long as it is required to ensure the new school has the best possible start it can. This is usually about three to six months after the opening of the school, at which time elections are held for the Board of Trustees.

The EBoT are responsible for much of the work that will produce and outline the future of the new school including ensuring a successful and effective teaching and learning delivery for our tamariki.

This includes working with the community to develop a vision for the school, involving the community as the school develops and keeping them up to date with progress.

It also involves the development of a staffing plan and appointment of staff, to the establishment of procedures, policy, and enrolment of tamariki.

The 'āwera new school establishment board was selected by a panel which included a Ngāti Ruanui representative.

The Establishment Board members include Will Edwards, Cheryl Luke Maraki and Neryda Sullivan. Ngāti Ruanui appointed Hauraki Erb as our iwi representative

on the board whilst Ngāruahine chose Dinah King to represent them.

The Establishment Board co-opted Te Kiri King, Ross Dunlop and Diana Reid to join the Establishment Board to ensure a full and diverse group of uri.

Collectively they have already appointed the tumuaki, Rachel Williams. Whilst alongside Rachel they have also recruited their senior management team and leaders of learning built on various strengths and expertise namely - Kylie Surgenor, Susan Hopkins, Pauline Hurley and Mahaki Akaulola.

“We have built strong relationships with the establishment board as well as maintained constant communication with both them and the Ministry through this time. It's hugely important that the aspirations of Ruanui are communicated and achieved for the success of our tamariki ki mokopuna,” said kaiw'aka'aere Rachel Rae.

Behind the name

The name Te Paepae o Aotea was gifted by Ruanui and Te Korowai o Ngāruahine and is built on the w'akaaro of our tamariki reaching their full potential.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui and Te Korowai o Ngāruahine have gifted the name of our school informed by the aspirations of our community. It is intended that the name will be clearly South Taranaki, be inclusive and relevant to the whole community, and reflect our history and ambitions for the future.



TE PAEPAE O AOTEA

Kia eke atu ki Taupaenui o te tangata

Paepae refers to people who fill formal roles during pōwhiri including kaikaranga and kaikōrero. 'Paepae' represents the contest of ideas, mana enhancement, search for commonalities, the lifelong pursuit of improvement and excellence. 'Paepae' in this context is used as a metaphor for school, a place of learning. This connects with the 'Aotea' and journey narratives, but also to the terms 'pae tata' (near horizons or short-term goals) and 'pae tau'iti' (distant horizons or long-term goals).

Aotea, while the name 'Aotea' refers to the origins of local iwi, it is an invitation to all students, staff, whānau and community to explore their own origins and history, and thus their identity. It is anticipated that a secure local identity will provide a sound foundation for life's journey whether that will unfold locally, in other parts of Aotearoa or beyond. It conveys courage, adventure, strength, persistence, and the pursuit of knowledge.

Kia eke atu ki taupaenui o te Tangata (Our people reaching their full potential)

Taupaenui is drawn from the pure (purification karakia) 'Te Hā Oranganui' composed by Huirangi Waikerepuru in 1998. Te Hā Oranganui was first recited at the rising of the sun each day during a series of wānanga led by Huirangi in 1998 at Taiporohenui Marae.

Simply expressed, Taupaenui refers to the attainment of human potential.

Our school will succeed if it instills in students the tools to help them achieve their potential, in the pursuits they and their wānau deem as important. The addition of 'o te tangata' is an explicit statement that this wākatauāki is for all members of the school community, not only students. Whānau, community and staff will not only support students to reach their potential but challenge ourselves to do the same.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the establishment of the school and to keep up with the progress ahead of January 2023, visit: www.tepaepaeootea.school.nz

Brand new playground for tamariki

Ngati Ruanui Ta'ua Ko'anga is pleased to showcase its newly completed playground to wānau and tamariki. The playground incorporates new interactive play equipment and a separation of under and over twos.

Another key feature is the use of artificial turf which makes for a safe and all year-round outdoor area for the pepe and tamariki. Other features include a newly built playhouse and ongoing development of the planting areas.



Tara Bachop, Manager, said "while we have incorporated many new features into the playground, we have retained the extensive outdoor open feeling of the playground. We have also taken the opportunity to open the frontage of the centre with new fencing and gates."

The ko'anga has an open book so if you are interested in your pēpē/tamariki attending the ko'anga please contact us.





Trans-Tasman Resources seek supreme court reconsideration

Following our Supreme Court success of having the Trans-Tasman Resources (TTR) application to mine iron sands off the south Taranaki coast squashed, TTR are seeking to have their application re-considered by the Environmental Protection Authority. The Supreme Court has since allowed TTR to go back and seek reconsideration.

“It is disappointing that having lost three court cases TTR is still trying to gain consent for this iron sand mining operation. Iron sand mining has now been proven three times to be one the worst polluting operations that can be established in our oceans,” said Rachel Rae, Kaiw’aka’aere.

“Special directions have been sought from the High Court as to how the reconsideration of the application

must be dealt with. The High Court has now given some direction on this matter and Ngati Ruanui will continue the fight against TTR.”

We have both our legal and environmental team work on this and if necessary, will again pursue a legal challenge through the courts,” said Rachel.

Ngati Ruanui continues to support the members bill put forward by Debbie Ngarewa-Packer in Parliament which seeks to ban iron sand mining. We want the Government to take notice and put an end to the devastating actions of TTR.

Ngāti Ruanui needs the support of the government to stop this type of application now.





2NUICODE: New sign, ko'a from Pātea Area School

2NUICODE have received an awesome new sign as a koha from Pātea Area School. It now hangs proudly at the entrance of our new computer hub.

“We are privileged to work alongside and serve many tamariki and rangata'i throughout our ro'e,” said facilitator Marea Rudolph.

One of our long-time participating kura is Pātea Area School who have been a part of our digital

programme since the very beginning in 2015.

Pātea Area School have attended coding classes, Innovation courses, the Creative digital content program as well as Personal Development workshops for their Kaiako.

“2NUICODE has always held the w'akaaro that digital literacy should be freely accessible to all of our tamariki and rangata'i,” said Marea.

“Our new computer hub opened more learning opportunities for Pātea Area School where students attend digital classes twice a week.”

“We were stoked with the generous gifting of the new 2NUICODE sign from Pātea Area Schools' Principal James Davidson at the end of last year.”

The Pātea Area School students and their Kaiako use the original

2NUICODE design and transferred the design on to their new cutting machine, creating a new wooden sign.

“The sign takes pride of place at the entry of our new computer hub and reminds us of the call we must serve all tamariki and rangata'i in the creative digital space,” she said.



We are privileged to work alongside and serve many tamariki and rangata'i throughout the ro'e.”

Ruanui gearing up for Taranaki Tu Mai 2022

Taranaki Tu Mai 2021 was unfortunately post-poned due to the Covid-19 pandemic however, we are confident that the new date of November 4th - November 6th will go ahead.

Ngāti Ruanui has seen over 600 uri register to take part in the event. It's an indication that our uri are hotly anticipating this year's event.

Chairman of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui, Haimona Maruera, said that "the fundamental aspects of the festival are based around Taranakitanga, W'ānaungatanga and W'akapapa."

"It's a wonderful opportunity for all our tribes to come together in unity, and to reconnect in what is a celebration of our past, our present and our future."

The Pōw'iri will be held at Taiporo'enui Marae, O'angai

Road, 'Avera. The sports will be held in 'Avera on Friday 4th November and Saturday 5th November 2022. Sunday 6th November will be Kapa 'aka.

"Of course, this year, like every biennial year, the competition is fierce, and I know you will need no encouragement from me to play hard and play fair. However, deeper than the competition is that the festival is about a celebration of our collective identity as descendants of Koro Taranaki.

Ngāti Ruanui would like to wish you all the very best with your preparations for Taranaki Tū Mai 2022.

This year's event takes place from 4th-6th of Nov, 2022

NOTICE FOR ALL URI:

We are asking uri to please inform us if you have already registered but can no longer make these new dates.

\$70k in Education & Sports grants to tautoko tauira

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui iwi trust proudly invested just under \$70k in scholarships to support our uri in education and sports through 2021/22.

"We received over 80 applications for our sporting grants and 179 for education between April 2021 and March of 2022," said kaiw'aka'aere Rachel Rae.

"It's great to have been able to support our tauira Māori through their education journeys whether at secondary or tertiary level. The hope is always that whatever they pursue, they return home to our w'enua, iwi and uri to support the collective aspirations of Ngāti Ruanui," she said.

"In addition, the iwi has worked hard to build and foster relationships with Te 'erenga Waka (Victoria University of Wellington), who meet us halfway and support our tauira with an additional \$400-education grant.

11 tauira qualified for this level of support and we acknowledge Te 'erenga Waka for their support over the last 2-years," said Rae.

"We were also hugely supportive of our athletes competing in their various sporting codes, awarding over \$15k in sports scholarships. From Waka-Ama to Marching, Netball to Rugby-League we have a bright future in all disciplines that we are looking forward to seeing on display at Taranaki-Tū-Mai."

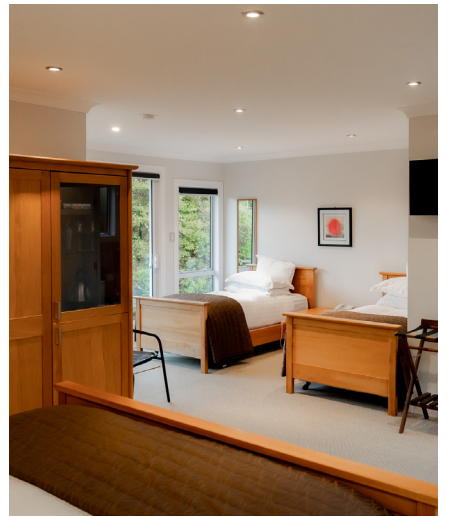
TRONIT encourages all uri, tauira and those participating in sports to send in an application by scanning the QR codes attached.



**Scan here to apply for an
Education Grant**

Merchandise has arrived ahead of
Taranaki Tu Mai for November 2022.





RUANUI STRATFORD MOUNTAIN HOUSE

A getaway, just 15km off the beaten track

WHAKAPAPA CONNECTIONS

In Te Ao Māori, Mouna Taranaki is more than just a mountain that sits stagnant. He's a living tūpuna, that we as Māori connect with naturally through intrinsic and w'akapapa.

This is seen by way Māori introduce themselves to each other. The western world asks, "what do you do?," Māori ask "where are you from?" It's the very essence of how tangata whenua connect to just that, the whenua.

His significance is in waiata (songs), kōrero (stories), whakataukī (sayings), te reo Māori (Māori language) and whakairo (carvings) and aren't we lucky to wake each morning next to him.

On a brisk, Wednesday winters afternoon, we made the 15km road-trip up towards Mouna Taranaki and the *Mountain House*. The clouds were clearing before the Mouna eventually broke through.

Greeting us to explore the lodge was Peter Mischefski, *Mountain House* manager who was in the midst of preparations for the night.

"I attended school in the area, my family farm where I grew up is just down the road. I spent a lot of time with friends who lived up here in the mid 60s and feel I have a deep connection with the place."

COVID-19

Alongside Peters wife, Alie, the couple have been managing the *Mountain House* since March 2020. This, just prior to the first of the lockdowns due to Covid-19.

"Two weeks after we took over the place, Covid hit and forced closure for about 2 months. Since then Covid has caused many disruptions but the place has been resilient, we haven't suffered as severely as others. Never once did we ever think about giving up."

REOPENING

"The first 3 months after reopening were the busiest ever and this hasn't really stopped. People were coming in for celebrations that they missed out on due to lockdown. We do get quite a few cancellations, but these spots are filled almost immediately."

With the reopening of international borders and lessening of restrictions around the country, the *Mountain House* has been flat out ever since. But what's interesting is that 85% of our visitors are from Taranaki.

"Prior to Covid our international tourism market was only about 5% and this has been zero for the last 2 years. With borders reopening we have really noticed the Australian visitors coming through again."

"The biggest and ongoing challenge for us is staffing. This is a common theme throughout the hospitality

sector."

However, when visiting, the *Mountain House* was fully staffed ahead of the July season which Peter informs us is the busiest considering the winter climate and the school holidays.

BECAUSE IT DESERVES IT

"Our objective is to do the very best that we can because the place deserves nothing less. To make it the greatest experience we possibly can for the people that come through. We like to stay small, it has never been about attracting big numbers or big crowds because then it would be hard to maintain the beauty and serenity of the place."

So we asked, what activities would Peter recommend? "For one, you cannot ignore that beautiful beast behind us, but of course there is the climbing and tramping. The views, and scenery, but also the friendly and warm service when you visit us at the *Mountain House*."

Ngāti Ruanui are the proud owners of the *Mountain House* and are hugely proud of its success and the product that is on offer.

Rooms start from \$185.00 per-night, across 10-units with a mix of studio, twin and family rooms.

TO BOOK, VISIT

stratfordmountainhouse.co.nz

Ruanui Healthcare welcomes new doctor

Ngāti Ruanui welcomes doctor Greg Taylor who has been working at the 'āwera health clinic since February of 2022. He lives in Ngāmotu, New Plymouth and travels down each day and is a father of two kids.

Greg graduated from the University of Otago almost 10-years ago with his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree (MBChB).

"It's my first real experience within the rural setting," he said. "The people are a lot sicker; they have higher needs but are hugely grateful when they leave with less worry."

Like the story at the start of this edition of Te Pou Kōrero, Greg stresses the shortage of GPs in Taranaki, and the surging needs due to Covid-19 and influenza are making it hard for people to see a

doctor. "Doctor visits are cheap, or free for some so there is no challenge getting patients back but is harder to get an appointment due to the shortage of GPs in Taranaki."

"We are doing all we can to communicate preventative measures including staying home if sick to stop the spread, and to continue mask wearing. We seen that when everyone was in lockdown, the demand on the system for winter illnesses were less," he said.

With the announcement of Te Aka Whai Ora (Māori Health Authority) and Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ), Greg hopes to see better outcomes for Māori and rural people. "The Māori health authority is all about equity and co-governance which is what the treaty advocated."



Whilst optimistic, his biggest concern is the "lack of primary care or general practitioner voice on the whole reform with the focus being on hospitals instead."

"Ngāti Ruanui are always on the lookout for doctors like Greg and health care staff who have a commitment to make a real difference in our community," said practice manager, Sarah-Lee Rangī.

"We do things differently with a real patient and wānau focused approach to overall oranga," she said.

Mauri kō'atu laid, ingoa gifted to new Stratford Pools

Over the past two years ngā iwi o Stratford have been working with the Stratford District Council on a narrative and cultural overlay for the Stratford Pools. On Wednesday 8th June, a significant milestone was reached when the Mauri Stones on behalf of local iwi were laid at the new Stratford Swimming Pools.

The pool will also have a bilingual name, combining a te reo Māori name gifted to the community by iwi with an english name.

The facility, due to be completed within the next eight weeks, is set to be called Wai O Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre.

Gifted by Ngāti Ruanui, Ngāruahine, and Ngāti Maru iwi, the name Wai o Rua directly translates to 'water of Rua'.

'Rua' acknowledged two local tupuna - Rua Taranaki and Ruapūtahanga.

Whakaahurangi, the te reo Māori name of the district, means to look upon the stars and comes from the story of Ruaputahanga laying down to rest near where the Kopuatama Cemetery now is, and gazing up to the stars above.

'Rua' also means two, and along with the two tupuna, it was symbolic of the two water ways the community and new pools draws water from - the Konini Stream and the Pātea River.

The world class swimming facilities are well ahead of schedule and will be completed and opened prior to this Summer. The Aquatic Centre has four distinctive components: education, leisure and recreation, physical wellness and competitiveness.

We look forward to more announcements from this exciting project over the next few months.

Rangiriri Trench reopening

In April of 2022 Clive Tongaawhikau, Tuteri Rangihaeata and Hemi Haddon attended the newly anticipated memorial at Rangiriri. The trio represented Ngāti Ruanui at this important occasion in the Waikato.

Rangiriri was a key battle in the Waikato invasion during the New Zealand Land Wars. It threw open the river basin to imperial troops, but at a huge cost. The British suffered more casualties than in any other conflict in the New Zealand Wars. Rangiriri Pā boasted steep ramparts, clever escape routes and fern-covered rifle pits. But its warriors were outnumbered nearly three to one.

The restoration of the area was a long-term vision of the Kingitanga people. With a close connection to Taranaki, a contingency from Taranaki including the representatives from Ngāti Ruanui witnessed this special and humbling event.

Community Garden Blessed

On the morning of April 27, Uncle Turangapito Parata was invited to bless and open the new 'āwera Community garden. The garden is located at the St Mary's Anglican Church on Princes Street Te 'āwera.

In his karakia Uncle Turangapito spoke of the importance of drawing on the mauri of Papatūānuku and the atua Haumia-tiketike (god of all uncultivated vegetative food) and Rongo-mā-Tane (god of agriculture) when moving forward with the garden project.

Sustainable Taranaki project manager Andrea Rowe said the hope of the community garden is to nurture the community as well as grow learning opportunities.

2NUICODE tutors Marea Rudolph and Vincent Nuku attended the blessing with a roopu of 2NUICODE rangata'i and are excited to be a part of the development of the gardens.

This term, 2NUICODE's innovation students will work on soil testing and will be tasked with their own special mahi as part of the 'āwera community garden project.

Sustainable Taranaki Garden coordinator Alice Arnold shared the proposed design of the garden with our rangata'i and spoke of the different areas of the garden including composting bins, a worm farm, garden beds, art murals, bee hives and a children's' playground.

Vincent Nuku said "we look forward to working alongside the sustainable Taranaki team and seeing our rangata'i put their design thinking skills into action while growing their kaitiakitanga knowledge".



Mounga Project: Two Kiwi Released

Throughout the year, members of Te Mounga Project have been meeting with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui to share more about the incredible work being done to eradicate pests and reintroduce native wildlife such as kiwi and the whio (blue duck).

Taranaki Mounga project is a collaboration between the Department of Conservation (DOC), Taranaki Iwi Chairs forum and the ET Foundation. The project pushes the boundaries in landscape-scale ecological restoration over much of the Mt Taranaki National Park, Pouakai and Kaitake ranges as well as the Ngā Motu Islands.

On Wednesday the 4th May, two kiwi were introduced to their new kāinga on the Mounga. This is the third consecutive year that birds bred in the Taranaki Ko'anga Kiwi At Rotokare have been released back into the wild.

Most of this important mahi is being carried out by volunteers with a passion for the taiao, whenua and native species.

The translocations are made possible by hundreds of volunteers working alongside staff from the two trusts Taranaki Mounga Project and Te Papa Atawhai.

"We are hugely supportive of what the project is about and thank everyone involved for their tireless work," said kaiw'aka'aere Rachel Rae.

"Ngāti Ruanui looks forward to continuing the work with the Te Mounga project, creating more kaitiaki opportunities and ensuring a more direct connection to the taonga on the mounga," said Rae.

Congratulations to all recipients of Education & Sport grants

EDUCATION GRANTS

Isabella Hikuroa (Ara Institute of Canterbury)
Kayla Paratene-Pokai (Ara Institute of Canterbury)
Justyce Whareaitu-Taewa (AUT)
Jacqueline Davis (AUT)
Ella Cook (AUT)
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