

# QUARTERLY PĀNUI HE AU TŌNA

NGAHURU EDITION 2025



## WHAKANUIA TŌ TĀTOU IWI

### WAIHĀRARA, KURA-Ā-IWI

It was a truly special day at Waihārara kura, filled with pride and new beginnings. Our TAIAO team delivered slabs of kauri to the kura to be utilised for their waharoa which is set to be unveiled later this year as part of the refurbishment that is currently underway.

Minita Rapiata Hokianga and Archdeacon Fran Hokianga blessed the kauri as they were presented to the kura. Darren Rippingale was present to share a blueprint of the design, he is one of two talented kaiwhakairo who will be involved in the work for the waharoa, Darrin Pivac being the second.

The morning also saw the blessing of the school's newly revamped building area which was a highlight. The full renovation and extension include a stunning new entrance to the office, a modern staff room complete with a kitchen, and an inviting outdoor decking area. This transformation provides an even more welcoming space for staff, students, and whānau. This marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the kura, which is now affiliated with Ngā kura-ā-Iwi o Aotearoa.

Soon, a waharoa will proudly adorn the grounds as a reflection of their journey, values, and the strength of the school's whānau and Ngāi Takoto Iwi. The day's events showcased not just the growth of the kura, but the deep sense of community and cultural pride that will continue to guide it forward.



Waihārara school students and whānau picture in front of Maunga Tohoraha



Darrin Rippingale with plans for school waharoa



Kauri slabs from Ngāi Takoto

**“Whāia te iti kahurangi,  
ki te tūohu koe, me he  
maunga teitei”**



*Seek the treasure that you value most dearly, if  
you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain*



# KO MĀTOU TĒNEI KO NGĀITAKOTO

>>> *Our People. Our Potential*



Craig Wells, Te Rūnanga o NgāiTakoto CE

Born and raised in Kaitiāia, Craig Wells (NgāiTakoto, Muriwhenua hoki) has skilfully channeled his business expertise to uplift his community.

Receiving the King's Service Medal, Craig acknowledges that this recognition is a reflection of the tireless efforts of many who work behind the scenes in the Far North and across Northland.

His work with Te Rūnanga o NgāiTakoto has particularly focused on improving outcomes for whanau, marking a significant impact through business ventures such as Rakau Ora orchard, which has not only provided employment for our local whānau but also ensured that fresh produce reaches schools and food banks - at its peak, contributing 45,000kg of free food to support those in need.

Craig's approach has always centered on people, creating job security and sustainable solutions. "Our focus is people first, and everything flows from there," underscoring his commitment to the wellbeing of his community.

*"It's difficult to have social change without economic change, you can't have one without the other, they go hand in hand."*

Through his ongoing efforts, Craig Wells continues to prove that the true value of success lies in the positive impact it can have on others.

## SNAPPER BONANZA 2025



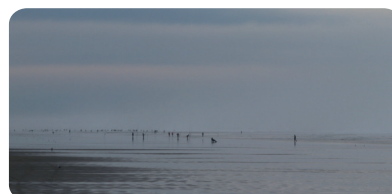
March, hosting again this year's Ninety Mile Beach Snapper Bonanza which saw an impressive turnout, with 1,200 anglers.

The annual event, which has become a highlight of the local fishing calendar, attracted both seasoned fishermen and newcomers.

A great turnout of events saw all cabins booked at Ngāpae Holiday Park, the picturesque park hosts whanau and friends, old and new clients from all over the motu each year for the week-long event.

This year guests were treated to beautiful kai being cooked up at Ngāpae Holiday Park from loaded fries, brisket burgers with all the works, smashed mac and more cooked by a whanau fundraising team, Ngāpae were more than willing to support the whanau who are fundraising to rebuild and restore their whanau homestead in Awanui one of many kaupapa the park has supported over their years of operation.

The park is set to undertake some restoration work itself on their pool, which closed this month and will reopen ready for guests usage later this year. For booking enquiries head to [www.ngapaeholidaypark.co.nz](http://www.ngapaeholidaypark.co.nz)



Ana Pukeroa and whānau serving kai at Ngapae Holiday Park. Tareī Patuairua pictured at Snapper Bonanza. Source: Facebook.



## PUMAUTAHI, TE HONU Ō RANGAUNU

A busy month for our TAI AO team which saw the release of Nine (9) green turtles over two separate events. The support of our tamariki and kura was nothing short of inspiring as they stood proudly beside kaumatua & kuia, conservationists and researchers, witnessing the return of these turtles to the harbour that holds special significance for our Iwi.

The three-year long project aims to tag up to 20 green turtles, with researchers hoping to gather valuable insights into the turtles behaviour, habitat usage and migration routes. This information will play an essential role in the ongoing efforts to protect and conserve green turtles, who are classified as a threatened species.

The event was the culmination of months of planning and collaboration between Ngāti Kahu, Ngāi Takoto, the Department of Conservation (DOC), Auckland Zoo, and SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's. Together, working to ensure that these turtles, who had spent some time in rehabilitation, were not only released back to their home but also fitted with cutting-edge satellite tags to aid in research. Tamariki watched on as the turtles paddled away, making their way back into the open waters of Rangaunu Harbour, their journey now being monitored in real-time by scientists.

An educational moment, with many local schools participating, learning about the importance of marine conservation and the role they can play in protecting our environment. We were very fortunate to support a young boy named Pūmautahi-ā-tiki, the eldest child within Rangaunu Kohanga Reo who was honoured by having one of the newly released green turtles named after him, Pūmautahi, it draws on the powerful link between Pūmautahi and his older brother Piripono-a-Maui, reflecting the unbroken bond between the children and their island home, spanning both Aotearoa and Samoa.

Ngā mihi nui to our whānaunga nō Ngāti Kahu for your manaakitanga and hosting two incredible days, Auckland Zoo, and SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's - for their expertise and dedication to marine conservation. Here's to many more moments like this, where our taiao, community, and science come together to make a difference.



Pūmautahi, green turtle released at Rangiputa

“ *Whatungarongaro  
te tangata, toitū te  
whenua* ”



Kaimahi, tamariki and community support for the realease of green turtles at Rangiputa

## TE HIKU EXCELLENCE

The Te Hiku ITE (Initial Teacher Education) programme is making waves in Northland, tackling teacher shortages by supporting more Māori and local students into rewarding teaching careers.

Led by NgāiTakoto with backing from Te Rarawa and delivered in partnership with the University of Waikato.

The programme launched in 2021 as part of Te Hurihanganui - designed with input from iwi and school leaders, the programme combines online learning with marae-based wānanga. This allowed taura to study from home, stay close to their whānau, and remain grounded in our community throughout their journey to becoming teachers. The programme is facilitated by Professor Mere Berryman (Ngāi Tūhoe, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Whare), Jay Haydon-Howard and Margaret Egan, all part of Poutama Pounamu - a University of Waikato initiative dedicated to educational equity and cultural responsiveness.

Together, they provide professional development, research support and wrap-around care to help grow the next generation

of educators who will uplift Māori success in schools. By nurturing homegrown talent, Te Hiku ITE is not only filling classrooms - it's building a more inclusive, culturally connected education system for the future. We acknowledge and thank everyone who has been part of this journey - from the taura and their kaiako, to those working tirelessly behind the scenes to provide the support needed for each learner to succeed.

*"Ko te manu e kai ana i te miro nōnā  
te ngahere, ko te manu e kai ana i te  
mātauranga nōnā te ao"*



*"the forest belongs to the bird who feasts on the miro berry.  
the world belongs to the bird who feasts on education"*



Here we explore and share history, updates & mātauranga regarding NgāiTakoto.

## HE AU TŌNA...

**!\*** CHECK YOUR DETAILS & REGISTER TO VOTE **!\*** **VOTE!**

A big mihi to all those who participated in our Trust Deed hui over the month of March - your input has been greatly received as we navigate a way forward for NgāiTakoto Iwi.

Our team have concluded and collated all feedback received following the Trust Deed review. **So where to now?...** All feedback has been sent to our legal team - Whāia legal, who will then implement the necessary changes ready for the Special General Meeting (SGM). Proposed for late May. **What can you do in the meantime?...** Ensure you are registered, and your details are up to date this is important as it allows you to receive important updates and vote in up and coming trustee election.

## KŌRERO MAI, PĀTAI MAI, RĒHITA MAI



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**L to R (Back):** Tiwari Murray, Takawai McMath, Hannah Tahitahi, Grainne Price, Lydia Day, Anahera Taramoeroa, Vicki Rehu

**L to R (Front):** Nadia Chandler-Cosner, Margaret Egan, Mere Berryman, Jonella Henare, Jay Haydon-Howard

**Absent:** Dan Needham, Ngarongo Mare-Rerekura, Awhinatia Lenden-Hewitt



Te Hiku BTeach Graduation, Tauranga

