



TE AWAHŌHONU FOREST TRUST

2025 WINTER NEWSLETTER

**KUA TAU NGĀ PURAPURA A MATARIKI KI TE WHENUA, KUA HUIHUI
NGĀ IWI I TE PŪMAHANA O TE KOTAHITANGA ME TE AROHA**

**THE FROST AND SNOW OF MATARIKI IS UPON THE LAND, AND
THE PEOPLE HAVE CONVERGED IN UNITY AND LOVE**



Tēnā koutou katoa,

As the frosts settle over the whenua, we take time to reflect on the mahi completed, share updates on our key kaupapa, and prepare for our hui-a-tau ahead. Thank you for walking this journey with us.



Strategic Planning Hui 2025

Our Trustees gathered recently for their annual strategic planning wānanga — a valuable opportunity to reflect on progress and reaffirm our direction both in the short term, and for the next 50-100 years. The wānanga included kōrero on optimising our business performance, our environmental responsibilities, future investments, and ways to strengthen outcomes for whānau. We look forward to sharing more from this hui at the upcoming AGM.



Hui-a-tau Announcement – Save the Date!

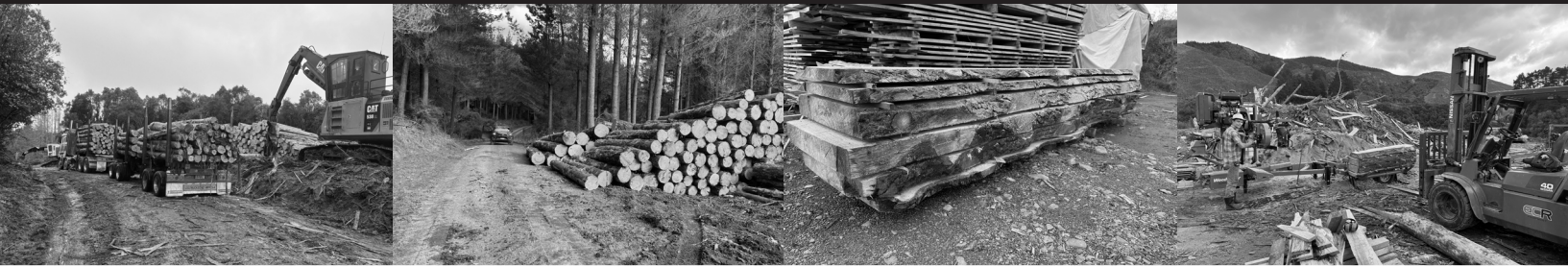
Our 2025 Hui-a-tau AGM will be held on:

Saturday 18th October 2025

Wharerangi Marae, Napier.

**9:00am pōhiri followed by registration, hui
starts at 10:00 am.**

**Further pānui with the agenda and reports will
be distributed closer to the time. Please mark
your calendars and plan to join us.**



Harvest Operations Update – Winter 2025

Harvesting operations have progressed steadily over the past two months and remain on track with the original work plan. The Prince Logging hauler crew is currently operating in their first block at the start of Kowaro Road and is producing approximately 320 tonnes of logs per day.

The Hellfire Logging crew, responsible for ground-based work, have now completed their programme. Their work included opening up roads in the main block and harvesting a Eucalyptus block at the top of the Waipunga. They exited the forest in early July as scheduled.

The road construction team has upgraded key access routes for winter harvesting and will return

in spring once conditions improve for further development.

In late June, the Trust completed a mixed planting programme covering 172 hectares, including 10 hectares at Gwavas Station. These efforts continue to support sustainability across our forest estate.

Although export log prices are currently low, this was anticipated, and we expect improvement later in the year.

We are designing employment pathways across all of our business, currently 70% of our Harvest crew and 50% of roading crew are Māori and a number are our whānau.



Omahu Papakāenga Project Update

Momentum continues to build for the Omahu Papakāenga. We've now lodged our resource consent and are finalising whare plans and budgets. This marks a major milestone in the kaupapa of supporting our whānau to reconnect and thrive. Expressions of interest are still available — please reach out to the Trust for a form if you wish to be involved. We continue to seek feedback on this initiative so please contact us with your views.



A Slab of Legacy – Harvest Symbolism

In April, we gathered at Toropapa Hut to open our second commercial pine harvest with karakia and the ceremonial felling of the first tree. That tree has since been cut into slabs. Its future use is yet to be decided, but currently stands as a taonga and a reminder of this significant milestone.

“He taonga tuku iho, he tūmanako mō āpōpō – a treasure of old, a legacy for tomorrow.”



Taiao Update – Caring for Land and Life

We've placed signs at wāhi tapu sites across the forest and farms to ensure they are visible and respected during harvest. A wāhi tapu management plan is also being developed to guide long-term protection.

Over 7,000 native trees have been planted this winter as riparian buffers, helping restore habitat and improve water quality. Some of these were grown by Sue and Tui at our Tarawera nursery, with plans to expand this work next year toward self-sufficiency.

At Gwavas, trap lines have been set up to protect pekapeka (native bats). Local rangatahi from Taradale Intermediate built artificial bat roosts to support their survival alongside natural roosting sites. Predator control remains vital to their protection.



Stock Count at Tarawera

On 2 July, our team spent a fine winter's day at Tarawera Farm conducting a full stock count. Regular on-the-ground mahi like this keeps our operations aligned and supports good decision-making.



Firewood Day – Last of 2025 Season

We have one more firewood collection day planned for owners who have not yet received a cord this year. Collection will be from Tarawera Station, with limited stock available and a one cord per owner limit. The wood is dry and ready to use, and the date will be confirmed soon. To express interest, please email the Trust or call Nicola on 06 835 5018. This initiative continues our commitment to supporting our Hawke's Bay whānau through practical, valued mahi.



Wai Manawa Whenua – Upholding Our Role as Kaitiaki

Te Awahōhonu stands alongside Wai Manawa Whenua in its efforts to ensure the Crown honours its Treaty of Waitangi obligations in freshwater governance. This kaupapa seeks to protect the rightful role of Māori as kaitiaki of our wai, ensuring that the voices, rights, and mātauranga of iwi and hapū are upheld in decision-making.

Freshwater is a taonga — vital to the health of our whenua, our communities, and future generations. Wai Manawa Whenua is working to secure a governance framework where Māori leadership and partnership are central, safeguarding both the mauri of our waterways and the integrity of Treaty promises.

More information on this kaupapa, and how you can support it, can be found on the FOMA website: foma.org.nz.



Building Future Leaders – Assistant Trustee

Our current Assistant Trustee, Kristin Yoldash (Tahau), has embraced the role with energy and commitment, gaining valuable governance experience through attendance at monthly Board meetings and komiti hui. She has contributed meaningfully to Trust projects, including the Mohaka trip for rangatahi, where she was able to connect directly with their needs and aspirations, and the development of a communications plan to better reach and engage our owners and whānau.

The Assistant Trustee role is an important pathway for developing leadership. Many Assistant Trustees have gone on to governance roles — Myka Nuku, Heitia Hiha and Wiremu Cottrell currently serve on our Board, Shayne Walker is the Trust CEO, and Mana Hazel is Chair of Ngāti Hineuru Iwi.

Applications for Assistant Trustee position are now open.

We are now calling for expressions of interest for the Assistant Trustee role. This is an excellent opportunity for emerging leaders to gain governance skills, contribute to the Trust's kaupapa, and help shape the future of our whenua and whānau.

Applications close:
Sunday, 21st September 2025.

To apply, please email admin@teawahohonu.co.nz for a form or visit our website: www.teawahohonu.co.nz/assistant-trustee.html.