

# NGĀI TAI KI TĀMAKI

Tapuwae o Nuku · Tapuwae Ariki · Tapuwae o Tai



## Te Huru-Manu

Raumati 2025/26

Rukuhia ngā tai whakarunga

Rukuhia ngā tai whakararo

Tukuna mai ngā pukenga wai o tēnei wānanga/hui

He pukenga tāngata

He pukenga wānanga

Ka puta ki the whai ao ki tea o Mārama

Hui e, tāiki e!

Command the sea below

Command the sea above

Let it bring forth this wānanga/hui

And ascending people

Of ascending wānanga

Bring forth to the world of understanding

Together! United!

- nā Mahuika Rawiri i tito

- composed by Mahuika Rawiri

## A WORD FROM YOUR CHAIR

Ngā mihi nui o te tau hou pākeha, kia ora e te whānau.

I hope you have all managed to spend some quality time with whānau and loved ones, as we celebrated Christmas and welcomed in the New Calendar Year.

I also hope everyone has had time to refresh, replenish and fortify their wairua, tinana and hinengaro, as we return to mahi or kura.

Along with all the awesome mahi and outcomes from last year, 2025 was a polarising time, with plenty of political discourse and disharmony. As we know whānau, we will never accept any outside attempts to minimise our mana motuhake and self-determination. We will use the truth and aroha as our weapons of choice while celebrating our shared whakapapa and values.

For everyone fighting to maintain the momentum inherited from our tupuna, for those championing progress, no matter how difficult and frustrating it can be, for those elevating kaupapa māori to the fore and contributing to the future success of our people, I want to thank and acknowledge you all.

We will continue to nurture opportunities for our rangatahi and provide comfort and certainty for our kaumatua and kuia because in the end, it's māori looking after māori and māori supporting kaupapa māori. The benefits can be seen within the Iwi and the wider communities we all live in.

The Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Group will continue the ongoing development of our 'kai basket' through aquaculture and agriculture, advance major property developments while finding even more ways of expressing our Ngāi Taitanga, through tourism products, services and activations.

This year our Group focus will be on internal capability building around financial and investment objectives, literacy and acumen, the pursuit of excellence in governance and property development while rejuvenating our reo and tikanga through regular interactions and wānanga.

As we progress our capability and capacity as an Iwi, we will weave our kaitiakitanga responsibilities to the Taiao and taonga species into everything we do, no exceptions.

On behalf of our boards, the Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Trust, Pou Whenua and Pou Tāngata and our Kaimahi, we wish everyone the very best for the upcoming year.

Let's look out for each other, support each other and celebrate being māori.

Mahia te mahi!!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuia ki ngā whetū kaumātua  
Tuia ki ngā kirikiri onetaitapa a Motutapu  
Tuia ki ngā mana whakaheke o Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki  
Ka puta ki te whaiao ki te ao marama  
Hui e, tāiki e

Two exciting kaupapa are coming up for Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, celebrating who we are as an iwi — honouring our kaumātua while strengthening the future of our reo and tikanga.

Te Tai Huinga Kaumātua, to be held in February 2026, is a special gathering for Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki kaumātua aged 65 years and over. As the name suggests, it brings our kaumātua (elders) together to a gathering (huinga) to celebrate connection, enjoyment, and to honour the generations of knowledge, experience, and wisdom they carry. This kaupapa creates space for kaumātua to reconnect, share kōrero and memories, and guide future generations, strengthening intergenerational bonds across our iwi.



Following this is the inaugural Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Kura Reo, planned for June 2026 on Motutapu Island. This immersive reo Māori wānanga is open to iwi members of all language levels, from beginners to fluent speakers. Supported by guest kaiako and tailored learning streams, the Kura Reo will build confidence, grow reo proficiency, and deepen cultural identity on whenua of deep significance to our iwi. This kaupapa directly supports our 2032 Reo and Tikanga goal of enabling 200 iwi members to be competent in Te Reo and Tikanga Māori.

Together, these kaupapa reflect our commitment to uplifting our people — celebrating our kaumātua today and investing in the strength of our Reo and Tikanga for generations to come.

Nō reira e te rau o Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, he tai mihi ki a koutou e ngā kauheke kaumātua, he tai mihi aroha ki tō tātou reo me ā tātou tikanga, he tai whakaute ki a koutou e ngā uri whakaheke o Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki.



## SAIL GP, EMIRATES AND THE BLACK FOILS



We had the incredible honour of hosting Live Ocean, the Black Foils and Sail GP, as well as Emirates team members onto Motutapu. It was a privilege to welcome them onto this ancestral whenua, where a lot of our restoration mahi that benefits the moana happens.

Commencing with a small pōwhiri, the crew hand-released newly planted rākau seedlings that were settled into the whenua last season. The team rolled up their sleeves and got straight into mahi, despite the blistering heat and were sent off with a karakia and a quick kaukau in the moana.



## MANA MOANA

In Aotearoa, there is a growing need to explore other ways of accessing and applying mātauranga Māori to undo the deterioration of the natural environment. This is to then restore by both culturally and ecologically significant marine taonga species and spaces.

As part of the Pou Rāhui research programme that Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki are part of, we undertook, undertook Tūangi (cockle) surveys within the Umupuia rāhui area in November 2025 alongside the Pou Rāhui collective, and included other sites of significance identified by Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki kuia and kaumātua. The surveys focused on recording Tūangi numbers, where they were and how large they were or were not growing.

Lead researcher Dr Kura Paul-Burke (Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Whakahemo, Ngāti Māhino, Ngāti Pūkeko, Irish) shared her passion for weaving mātauranga Māori and marine science to activate kaitiakitanga in the next generation of Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki taiohi/young people. Kura and the Waikato University research team made the science accessible and transferable.

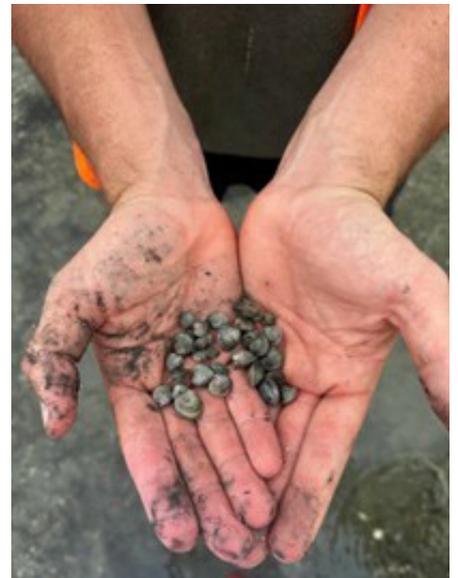
The first phase of the surveys involved tiro tiro (observations) of tohu (environmental signs) at each site. For example, clusters of Torea (Oyster catchers) were observed feeding along the shoreline at Tūwakamana (Cockle Bay), which indicated the presence of Tūangi, which was later confirmed through the survey results.

The second phase involved using customised metal cores to sample Tūangi from randomised plots at each site (see photos). The sediment cores were sifted, Tūangi were counted and grouped into size classes. Over five days, the team surveyed more than 100 hectares across Tūwakamana (Cockle Bay), Kahawairahi (Beachlands), Kauriwhakiwhaki and Motukāraka. Each site showed varying results, for example, at Kahawairahi, the highest count of Tūangi in one plot was 53. However, at Tūwakamana, there were multiple points with no Tūangi. We are yet to receive the analyzed data to tell the full story of size and abundance of these taonga species, however, we noted from the surveys that many taiohi had never tasted Tūangi from these places, as populations have not yet recovered enough to allow harvesting in the way our kuia and kaumātua once did.

This mamae became a strong motivator to continue protecting these taonga. The survey methods were kept simple and transferable on purpose, so tamariki-mokopuna can continue this work over the next 20 years, with the goal of repeating the surveys biennially.

The team faced challenges during the surveys, from different community members, some of whom demanded access to survey results while the work was underway. These experiences highlighted the challenges iwi can face while carrying out iwi-led research within our own rohe, reinforcing the importance of supporting and protecting this mahi.

We are grateful for the incredible support from the Pou Rāhui team and Waikato University for their energy and expertise as we are supported to grow this meaningful mahi.



## AT ELECTRIC FERRY

Our Senior Stakeholder Engagement manager, Whaea Zaelene, has been working with Auckland Transport over the years on a number of exciting projects, one of which has been the implementation of an electric ferry service, enabling the move away from diesel fuel. Whaea Zaelene negotiated the opportunity to name two new waka in the fleet, as well as the new charging terminal at Half Moon Bay whose names will be revealed at the karakia in Autumn. We are excited that ancient Ngāti Tai names will be highly visible in Tāmaki Makaurau again.

## HERD ON MOTUTAPU

February is always a really busy month for our farm crew on Motutapu, as this is when we health check and pregnancy test our cows. With the help of one of our vets from Franklin Vets in Pukekohe, our team managed to move around 500 Aberdeen Angus through the yard. Some were more willing than others, which is typical for the breed, and exciting for the humans. The day was a mix of hard physical labour and new technology with our scanners and wands picking up a 90% pregnancy rate which is incredibly positive, as we will see many more babies on the motu later this year.



## NGĀI TAI PĀKIHI

Are you a business owner or entrepreneur with your own company and services? As an iwi entity we are being offered opportunities for businesses to tender for mahi.

If you are interested in being connected with opportunities in Tāmaki please tell us a little bit more about yourself and what you do in this form linked below.

[Click here to tell us about your business](#)

**Privacy Notice:** Information provided in response to this opportunity will be collected by Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Trust for the purpose of connecting registered iwi members with employment or business opportunities. With your consent, relevant information may be shared with external organisations or partners associated with this opportunity. Information will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020 and our Data Privacy and Cybersecurity Policy. You have the right to access and request correction of your personal information.

## MARAE CLOSURE

Umupuia Marae has been closed for the duration of the summer holidays and has reopened at the end of January.

As a number of you will be aware, the marae will be undergoing significant maintenance works this year, which may close it for eight months, but while that schedule is still being confirmed, general and booking enquiries can still be made through our website: [www.ngaitaitamaki.iwi.nz](http://www.ngaitaitamaki.iwi.nz)

He timunga tai  
He paringa tai  
Whakarewa ake ngā hua o tēnei wānanga/hui  
He tai-whanake  
He tai-whakaora  
Haumi e!  
Hui e, tāiki e!

The outgoing tide  
And the incoming tide  
Presents the offerings of this wānanga/hui  
On a revealing tide  
And a restorative tide  
Bring forth!  
Together! United!

