



Te Whetumaramatanga

May 2013

Letter from the Interim CEO

Tena koe. The first half to 2013 has been eventful for Te Roopu Taurima O Manukau Trust and we thank all of you for your continued support.

During May, we undertook our accreditation and certification audits and I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge all the hard work everyone put in leading up to this. Although we will not achieve accreditation this time, the overall feedback was positive and the effort put in to ensure that certification standards were met reflects a job well done. I look forward to reporting in the future on Te Roopu Taurima O Manukau having regained accreditation, once the corrective actions have been addressed.

We are pleased to announce that we passed the independent ACC audit of our workplace. Our ongoing commitment to health and safety means that we have met the required standard under ACC's Workplace Safety Management Practices and are entitled to a discount on our ACC Workplace Cover Levy. A special thanks to Matthew Paul for his continued hard work in this area.

Also during May, Fairfax Media covered a story relating to several incidents occurring in 2011, which culminated in a Ministry of Health investigation. As other media outlets picked up the story and gave it their own unique spin, I wanted to acknowledge the staff for pulling together and extend a special thanks to Sarah Williams, for her role as media spokesperson during this time.

We continue to implement improvements across the entire service nationwide, which are benefitting our mokopuna and whanau. You'll see, in so many stories contained in this newsletter, the quality of life our mokopuna achieve in our care and the valuable service we continue to provide to those who need us, within the community.

Should you have any further questions, don't hesitate to call your local office, or the freephone number: 0800 500 025, set up specifically to respond to queries regarding the media coverage.

Until next time,

Malcolm Robson
Interim CEO



A beautiful occasion

Our mokopuna, fondly known to many as 'Bubba' (officially Waipapa Puhia) celebrated her 80th birthday in February with everyone near and dear to her at Nga Mahi O Te Ra.

Following careful planning, mokopuna and kaimahi from various whare, including those from other regions, came together for a fabulous day, which marked this special occasion. The event was beautifully presented by kaimahi of Whare Manaakitia, who catered to Bubba's every need at the top table.

A slideshow inspired by Destiny Neilson showcased images from when Bubba first entered the house in 1994, which was then situated in Willis Road, Papakura - under Maori Services for Spectrum Care Trust. Since then, Bubba has become an important part of the Te Roopu Taurima family, has made many friends and enjoyed a full and contented life. Bubba's grandniece refers to Te Roopu Taurima as being her whanau because she is aware that Bubba is loved so much by all of us.

We'd like to say a special thank you to all the people who gave of their time and worked tirelessly to make the event what it was, as well as visitors who travelled to attended.

Rangatiratanga mo tatou katoa i runga i nga tikanga o tena o tena o tena

Ensuring empowerment and self determination regardless of disability, age, gender, race or status.

Mangere gets a new home

13 Ashcroft Ave in Mangere will soon become a construction zone, the site of the first ever home in the country that is both purpose-built for people with disabilities, which incorporates kaupapa Maori values.

While the third purpose-built house for Te Roopu Taurima O Manukau Trust - New Zealand's kaupapa Maori provider of intellectual disability support services - this one will be unique in incorporating a strong Maori influence, with the design and art pieces reflecting Maori culture and values.

The project is set to kick off with demolition of the current property to make room for the rebuild. This will commence following the establishment of a reference group, who will be responsible for consulting with families, mokopuna (clients) who may be residents, kaimahi (staff) and the Te Roopu Taurima Board.

The Mangere property at 13 Ashcroft Ave, holds vast history for the organisation, as it was one of the original homes acquired by Spectrum Care in 1992. At that time, thirty homes were opened and the service supported one hundred and fifty people in the community. Te Roopu Taurima O Manukau Trust is now responsible for 60 whare with over 250 mokopuna in their care and a presence in Auckland, Northland, Waikato and Canterbury.

Named Whirinaki, meaning 'to depend on', the Mangere whare was home to five long-term male residents who were transitioned out of the home late last year in preparation for the rebuild. Lengths were taken to ensure the upheaval caused by the move was minimised for intellectually disabled mokopuna; including close consultation with families involved, visits in advance to their new home, and assurances that the new home would meet these clients' unique needs adequately. It was also an opportunity for these residents to move closer to their families, into a West Auckland based home.

Since September last year, Whirinaki whare has been the short-term home of two male mokopuna who needed accommodation and care, as well as a woman who was referred for respite care and has since become a permanent resident. As we now near the start of the rebuild, these residents will be moved to a new home in Manurewa. Because they get on well, arrangements have been made to move all three to the same house, to further minimise the upheaval caused by the move.

In early May Kaumatua, Monty Hune, performed a karakia (blessing) to officially close the Mangere house, followed by an additional karakia,

songs and feast to welcome the new residents at their new home in Manurewa.



Doing Good in your Hood

Te Roopu Taurima O Manukau Trust are grateful for the generous donation from Z's Good in the Hood Competition. As one of the beneficiaries from the Tom Pearce Drive Z petrol station, out by Auckland International Airport, Te Roopu Taurima O Mankau Trust received \$500 from the available winnings.

Over 600 not for profit groups were part of the programme, which ran across 210 Z petrol stations through the month of March and encouraged customers to vote for their favourite neighbourhood groups and projects.

Te Roopu Taurima were thrilled to have great support by people playing the Token Hunt online, as well as visiting the physical station to vote for them. Their share of the winnings will be used to further the valuable work that they are doing in the local community.

Te Roopu Taurima would like to thank Z for this opportunity, as well as all of the people who voted for them. They hope to be involved in Good in the Hood Competition when it runs again.

Mokopuna has a trucking good time

Te Roopu Mokopuna Walter had prepared for months to attend the hugely popular Truck expo.

Mokopuna Walter had prepared himself for months in the lead up to the annual Truck Expo event held in Mystery Creek. An avid truck fan since childhood, Walter was overwhelmed when he arrived at the expo, with support worker Tremain Tauhinu describing Walter as being like a 'kid in a candy store' when he saw all the different shapes, sizes, makes and models of trucks.



Walter built up the courage to talk to a few truckies as well, had his picture taken with them and his favourite trucks, and even blushed at the thought when he was asked to have a photo with the promo girls.

Since returning home, Walter's love for trucks has grown. He simulates the gesture of a truck driver by being a passenger having his arm out the window, waving to every truck driver that goes past, and treasuring his trucking gears he received from the truckers themselves at the expo.



Well done Walter!

Wishlist

Mokopuna Outings

- Movie tickets
- Ferry rides
- Passes for local tourist attractions

In support of our annual events

Each year we run both an annual sports day and the mokopuna ball. We are always looking for donations of goods or services from generous businesses that can aid us with this. Some of the things that would help include:

- A sports personality or celebrity speaker
- Items to be used as prizes for our sports days

Please contact us if you can help with these items, or have anything else that you think we may be able to utilise.

Upskilling our mokopuna with tertiary education

At Te Roopu Taurima O Manukau Trust, we believe in empowering mokopuna to make choices that help them to live their best lives. A recent initiative has been further supporting our Auckland and Waikato mokopuna in doing just that, through engaging in tertiary education.

Several mokopuna have been offered the opportunity to enroll in various Diploma courses offered free through Te Wananga o Aotearoa and some have already graduated and found work within the community, helping them to feel empowered, confident and able to live a life of their choosing.

This year, one of the group of mokopuna enrolled at Te Wananga

o Aotearoa is Bowen Manihera from Manawanui whare, who has decided to tackle a Diploma level course in 2013. Bowen's kaimahi did a superb job supporting him in his entry interview, however Bowen knocked the school's socks off, answering all ten of the random quiz questions independently and to the required standard.

Having just completed his first assignment, Bowen has already learnt so much in terms of time management and consistency of effort, right through to how to use a computer. Importantly also, Bowen recently stood in front of his classmates and acknowledged that he now felt "a part of this class."

That's what it's all about for our mokopuna - inclusion and integration into the community, while they learn new skills and gain independence. Well done Bowen and all the mokopuna students for 2013. We're proud of the journey you've set out on and look forward to sharing in your achievements.





Crossing the ditch for a Conference



Later this year Sydney will play host to the 48th Annual Conference for the Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability. Te Roopu Taurima O Manukau Trust will be attending and would love the opportunity to take some mokopuna also.

Recognising the opportunity for the 'trip of a lifetime', mokopuna from across the country (many of whom have not yet ventured out of NZ) put their name into the ballot to be selected for attending the conference.

Funding applications will be made to determine how many mokopuna are able to be included and the organisation is considering their donation from Good in the Hood to be used for this purpose also.

If you wish to make a donation for this trip, or sponsor one of our mokopuna to attend, contact Mereana Hona.

Proudly giving back

Throughout life, we learn that it is better to give than to receive. Our mokopuna, Karen Cunningham experienced this first-hand recently, giving her time and effort to support our local kaumatua & kuia in the Christchurch community.

Karen and her kaimahi were exploring and found a stream packed full of watercress across the road from their whare. Filling up three huge bags with watercress, Karen and her kaimahi then delivered kai to those whanau of the community who were unable to do this for themselves.

Throughout the day Karen achieved a better understanding of the concepts of manaaki & awahi and a sense of pride and happiness from the many thanks she received from complete strangers. Along the way, Karen also learnt that, even though they didn't sell the watercress, they were paid in full with smiles and gratitude.

At the end of the day Karen and her kaimahi had visited fifteen whanau, leaving a donation of watercress at every stop and gaining many

new friends, which goes to show that a little generosity goes a long way. Thank you to those whanau at Rehua Marae & Te Puni Koriri for allowing this visit.

Na tou rourou, na toku rourou, Ka ora ra te iwi -

Your food basket, with my food basket, There lies the wellbeing for the people.



Whare Marire plans South Island road trip

It's no secret that our country is beautiful and soon, if the funds can be raised, some of our own mokopuna will be able to explore New Zealand further. The Marire whare, next to the marae in Mangere are planning a trip to the South Island later in the year.

Consisting of five male mokopuna, Marire whare are doing all of the fundraising themselves. The adventure will be "quite the road trip", setting off in the roopu van from Auckland, visiting the houses in Hamilton and carrying on down the country and across the inter island ferry to see the houses and fellow mokopuna in Christchurch.

"None of our boys have ever been to the South Island before," says Marire House Leader, Damien. "It will be a trip of a lifetime for them and we can't wait either!"

If you would like to contribute towards the Marire whare South Island road trip, please contact Mereana Hona on 09 259 2853 or via email: mereanah@terooputaurima.org.nz