A woman of passion, commitment, stance, and a stalwart in tikanga Maori

A tribute to Tiraha Ngerengere

Hoea ra tou waka wairua ki tua o te maumahara, ki te kainga o tou tipuna matua e tatari mai ana, i te tatau pounamu, Hoki atu ra e te whaea.

We pay tribute to our whaea Tiraha, a woman of passion, commitment, proud stance, and a stalwart in tikanga Maori. Her passion for mokopuna ensured that they were represented as well as being exposed to Maori culture. This was whaea Tiraha.

Each and every one of us has their own special memories of whaea and what she did for the roopu and the mokopuna, but one thing is certain - her dedication to our organisation never waivered. Her son Gary continues to reside within one our whare. Whaea Tiraha believed in Roopu values, principles and kaupapa. Her knowledge of Te Ao Maori and tikanga Maori stood us in great stead and supported our adherence to maintaining a kaupapa Maori service.

Thank you whaea for enriching our lives and leaving us such beautiful memories.

Nga mihi nui ki a koe e te ruahine, hoki wairua atu ra ki ou ukaipo!! Kore matou e warewaretia.

E te Heamana me nga mema o Te Poari o Te Roopu Taurima O Manukau tae noa ra ki nga kaimahi, nga mokopuna, me o ratou whanau, e mihi whanui tenei ki a koutou katoa, il roto hoki i te kaupapa o te hingatanga nei o to tatou whaea a Tiraha.

E kore e mutu te mihi aroha ki a koutou i tae ki tona taha me te taha o tona whanau i roto i tenei aitua i waenganui i a tatau. Ki Te Korowai Aroha me o koutou awhi, pumau mai i te mauiuitanga o to tatau whaea, tae noa ki tona hingatanga, nehu hoki. Ki nga kaimahi me nga mokopuna mo te mau aroha tenu koutou katoa. Ki te hunga i awhi i te whanau i roto i nga mahi maha o te marae, ki nga ringa wera me etahi atu, nga mihi ki a koutou.

Ki a koe ra e te whaea, me pehea hoki te mihi ki a koe, mai i taku timatatanga i tera tau ki te mahi mo tenei Roopu, ko koe tetahi i awhi pono mai i a ahu. Nga mahi maha i oti ia koe mo tenei Roopu e kore rawa e warewaretia e matou o tenei Roopu. No reira e te whaea haere hoki atu ra ki to tatau Matua nui i te Rangi, ko matou enei e noho mokemoke atu nei i tou wehenga atu. No reira e te whaea moe mai ra koe i to moengaroa i roto ano hoki i nga ringaringa atawhai o to tatau Matua Nui I Te Rangi.

Collective contributions from Malcolm Robson, Waitai Petera & Kaanga Skipper.
From the CEO
Well, it’s been a while now that I’ve had my feet under the desk here at Te Roopu Taurima and I believe we’re really starting to see some of the changes and improvements we’ve been working on coming to fruition.

Te Roopu Taurima is all about mokopuna – providing them with choices towards their own self-independence and quality of life. That’s why the articles in this month’s Te Whetumaramatanga are so great – they show our mokopuna getting out into the community, and spending time with whanau.

The aim of “mokopuna first” is still very much driving us and we are constantly and consistently working towards and achieving improvements to the way we run our organisation in line with this.

I want to thank you all for your support. I am honoured to be sharing this journey with you.

Malcolm Robson
CEO

Nana Keita strikes again!
Tena koutou katoa

The other day I was eavesdropping on a conversation (cause that’s what Nanas do) and I overheard that there are some fabulous training opportunities being offered to our kaimahi. The first round was about Supervision and Performance Management. All these years, I always thought that these sorts of things were negative, but it turns out that they are a positive thing for kaimahi and for the organisation. The kaimahi who took the training were excited about what they had learned and couldn’t wait to utilise the tools they were given in their work environment.

I must say that the Human Resources team have done a great job organising these training courses, and those who have had the opportunity to attend them have nothing but awesome things to say. I think Te Roopu Taurima is on the road to creating even greater kaimahi leaders. These courses will be on offer again throughout the year, so keep your ears open and look out for the panui.

If you get a chance, take a look at the feature story in our He Korero newsletter, “Top training helping all staff become their best” – it’s really good reading.

For now my dears, Nana has to go take a nap, but I want to leave you with a very catchy phrase I heard in the hallway – “Performance manage all day every day”

Ma te wa

Nana Keita

Our Maunga Pou
a tribute to a beloved mokopuna

Maunga Pou passed away in her sleep on 31st February, 2014 at whare Taurima. Maunga spent the last 20 years of her life in services beginning with SPID and Spectrum Care, then joining Te Roopu Taurima, spending many years as a West Auckland mokopuna.

Maunga was a very lively old lady and at times cheeky – she tended to be almost naughty just to get a laugh. One had to laugh at some of the things she used to do, from pulling all the cups out of the cupboard and drinking cold tea from the tea pot to playing peek a boo with kaimahi and laughing out loud.

Her favourite thing was drinking tea - and lots of it! Everyone knew that “Mau” loved tea. More often than not she would put all the tea bags into the tea pot and fill it with cold water while kaimahi were hanging out the washing or making beds. Then she would fill her cup and daintily hold it (her pinky pointing out of course), sipping it like a lady from the manor.

Maunga took numerous holidays up North with kaimahi and other mokopuna, visiting places like Cape Reinga, Whangaroa, Matangirau, Tauranga and Mahinepua, Wainui Bay, Te Ngaire, and Matauri Bay. She picked numerous pipi, shelled oysters, and picked tuatua and kutai at Ahipara. She loved kaimoana and ate this with hot fried bread and golden syrup.

Over the years she moved between whare Aomarama, Te Ririkore and Taurima. Although over the last few years she became quite frail, but every now and then her old humour would come back and that old smile and cheekiness would reappear. Maunga travelled up and down the motu attending tangihanga for kaimahi and mokopuna. It is the tender moments that we remember, and we celebrate Maunga’s life and the impact she had on kaimahi and our whanau.
Special mokopuna do us proud at the Special Olympics

For a few of our mokopuna, the Special Olympics are an incredible opportunity for them to show off what they can do. Darcy Burkhardt, Kerry Partridge and Jarden Kake recently had the chance to attend the Special Olympics in Dunedin, and they all did Te Roopu Taurima very proud.

Darcy blew the competition away, picking up a gold medal for the 50m breaststroke, while also finishing in 5th place for the 100m freestyle. Jarden finished fourth in the Aquatics 15m walk, and also competed in the 15m Flotation race.

Darcy and Jarden, who both live at whare Te Awhi Tu in the Bay of Islands, have trained twice a week for many years with Paul & Barbara Lincoln in Kawakawa. Jock Matiu, who accompanied Jarden and Darcy along with kaimahi Sam Marsh, says that Darcy "hated the water when he arrived to us. He once got pulled out by a rip, so our goal was to help him overcome his fear and give him a skill that could save his life." Clearly his goal has been accomplished!

Kerry from whare He Korowai travelled down unsupported, and enjoyed meeting so many people. He held his own in bowling, coming 4th both in singles bowling and in the mixed team division.

Mokopuna and their kaimahi who travelled down to Dunedin for the competition stayed at Mox College, part of Otago University, where they were treated to delicious, healthy meals. They had the chance to meet many different people and enjoyed tourist attractions like the Cadbury chocolate factory, making it a very enjoyable and valuable experience for all three mokopuna. Says Jock, “It enhanced their public integration – it was a really good example of how things could be for them.”

Aatarangi mokopuna celebrate the New Year with whanau, kaimahi, and lots of love

Te Whare Aatarangi rang in the New Year in style this year, with mokopuna having a fantastic week at Te Keeti Marae thanks to kaimahi and whanau.

Mokopuna from Aatarangi spent New Year’s week at the marae in Otorohanga which has supported them since 1991. Jason, Stephen, Georgina, and Alfred, the Aatarangi mokopuna, are very familiar with Te Keeti marae, and loved having the chance to share the week of New Year’s there.

New Year’s Day was a very special time, with mokopuna, whanau, kaimahi, and the whanau of kaimahi coming together to share a delicious luncheon and enjoy the day together. The room was fit to burst, and there was an abundance of laughter and joy.

The following day, another great day of whanau, music, and food was had by all, with a well known family band from Rotorua playing and supporting the event. All of the Aatarangi mokopuna enjoyed the band and music, and took part like everyone else who was willing to get up and perform. With this kind of whanau support, the week went off without a hitch, and the three mokopuna who decided to stay at the marae, Stephen, Georgina, and Alfred, had a fantastic time.

Newa, Kararahi for Te Whare Aatarangi, is hugely grateful to the Koroheke and Collison whanau who funded the week, as well as to the Aatarangi kaimahi, who brought in food to share. Says Newa, “On behalf of Aatarangi, I thank all concerned for giving Jason, Stephen, Georgina, and Alfred this great opportunity.”

Choice in Community Living helping mokopuna make their own independent choices

We recently gained a contract called Choice in Community Living, which is specifically designed to support mokopuna to determine their own life choices. We assist mokopuna in a number of ways to help them make these choices, and support them to continue to become more independent in their lifestyle.

With our mission being to provide mokopuna with choices towards their own self-independence, Choice in Community Living is a perfect match with the other services provided by Te Roopu Taurima O Manukau Trust.

We are working closely with other providers in the Choice in Community Living project to widen the range of options and support we can offer our mokopuna. Taikura Trust has been significant in the whole project and we appreciate their continued support as we begin to facilitate this new programme. We are hugely excited about the future of this project and the wider opportunities and independence it will provide to our mokopuna.
WHARE FOCUS  Marire boys get out into the community

Whare Marire is full of movers and shakers. The four mokopuna in the whare have all been working and getting involved in the community, with strong encouragement from Pehau and the rest of the kaimahi.

Says Pehau, “all our boys only get the bare sickness benefit, and we want them to be able to save up some money for when they leave the service.” With that in mind, mokopuna Lance has just taken on a full time job putting in foundations for houses. Prior to this he was studying towards a diploma in IT, something he’s a whizz at. When he gained the full time job, he became too busy to complete it, but he is loving the opportunity to get out and work in the community instead.

Similarly, mokopuna Michael, who has been with the service for over 8 years, works at New World for one day a week. Mike, who’s incredibly social, is “more famous than John Key” in the community, according to Pehau. Mokopuna Arona also works three days a week for Work Force, at the Mangere cemetery.

Jason, who has been with the Roopu for many years, has been focusing on becoming better dressed – kaimahi have been very sure to tell him that women like beautifully dressed, clean men and our boys (like most members of the male species) respond well to this kind of korero.

Marire mokopuna have started building gardens at the whare, growing veges that they eat themselves. They have even entered the Mitre 10 Big Pumpkin Contest, with Lance taking responsibility for growing what will hopefully be the biggest pumpkin in the area by April 5th!

The whare has started fundraising as well – to date, staff and mokopuna have raised over $3000, which will help mokopuna as they leave the service and become independent. One of the ways in which they hope to raise money is through building outside barbecue tables that they hope to sell to the public. Kaimahi at the whare are incredibly dedicated to helping mokopuna become independent, with Pehau saying “it’s a vocation. We want to teach them to have a good mentality, so we treat them fair but firm.”

Meet the team

Raniera Bassett

Raniera Bassett has proven that taking advantage of staff training and development can lead to great things. Having been with Te Roopu Taurima two and a half years as a support worker, Raniera recently completed training which included Level 4 Business Line Management, foundations skills, and first aid. “It broadened my mind and my spectrum of thinking. It educated me on how to analyse, think strategically, delegate, learn from my mistakes, make personal goals and reflect on them,” says Raniera.

This has been an immense help for his role in whare Poutu Te Rangi. “We’re now into our third month of running, and I requested an audit to find out what we could improve on. I’m really proud that we’ve nearly accomplished all of the things that the audit highlighted for us,” says Raniera, who won’t take all the credit. “That comes down to an awesome team and delegation.”

Mereana Hona

Mereana, Executive Personal Assistant to CEO Malcolm, shows how someone can love what they do both at work and out. Having worked for the Roopu since 2002, firstly as the PA to the late Tui T enari and also to T e Korowai Aroha, Mereana has seen many leaders come through the organisation and many changes over the years. Says Mereana, “I am lucky to work with extraordinary people from kaumatua and whaea, to management and kaimahi – each and every one of them has contributed to the journey and the fabric of Te Roopu Taurima O Manukau Trust. The same goes with the appointment of Malcolm Robson, who brings a whole new dynamic and style of leadership to the Roopu.”

Mereana says she loves working for Te Roopu Taurima because “it has been more than a job to me – more like being part of a whanau.” For Mereana, focusing on what really matters is what makes her job so rewarding. Says Mereana, “I have always seen my role as a cog, being in a supportive capacity to assist where I can to achieve our greater goals. I believe if you come from the premise of mokopuna and the reason why you are here, then this will guide you in your decision-making and how you function.”

Outside of work, Mereana spends much of her time involved with Waka Ama. As the Vice-President of the local Waka Ama organisation, she and 5 of her children were all part of helping get the group to 6th place in New Zealand at the recent Waka Ama NZ Nationals at Lake Karapiro in January. She, alongside Malcolm, who is also an enthusiast in Waka Ama, hope to look at incorporating Waka Ama as a vocational activity for mokopuna in the future.