



Te Whetumaramatanga

April 2015



Update from the Mana Whakahaere/CEO

Tania Thomas

NGATI KAHU

Kia ora koutou katoa, nga mihi nui!

Three months into the role, I believe Te Roopu Taurima o Manukau Trust (Te Roopu Taurima) has the X-Factor. We continue to have committed kaimahi and many mokopuna who are being supported to make their own choices so they can live the lives they want.

I have been on the road visiting mokopuna and kaimahi in various offices and whare around the regions. In each of the whare I received a warm welcome and got the chance to get to know mokopuna and kaimahi a little better. Thank you for your hospitality Whare Tiaki Mai, Paihere, Awhina, Whakatau Mai, Whirinaki, Whakataa, Puke Ora, Manaaki i te hunga rawa iti, kaihou and the regional offices.

I look forward to visiting more whare around the regions and meeting the people who make Te Roopu Taurima a great place to work.

Mokopuna and kaimahi have also raised a number of issues and ideas for improving our service – thank you.

What you think and feel matters to me. We are in this together, and making changes and improvements needs the support and help of many – no one can do it alone.

Everywhere I have been I have given the same messages – mokopuna should be at the centre of all that we do; mokopuna should come first. We need to listen to what mokopuna and their whanau have to say and we should make it easy for mokopuna and their whanau to talk to us and tell us if they have any concerns or suggestions to make their lives better.

At all times we are to practice the values of dignity, respect and equality in all our relationships. Our offices, whare and practices need to be safe at all times and our services should be ready to be audited any day, any time. Managers need to support kaimahi by providing clear direction, timely responses to kaimahi concerns and regular feedback on how things are going. Good communication is essential as is our Kaupapa Maori approach. Doing things the Maori way means doing things that align with the principles of tika, pono and aroha.

No reira, noho ora mai ra

Tania

Tika

the principle concerned with the right ordering of relationships, among atua, tangata and whenua, the right response to those relationships and the right exercise of mana. In other words the right way to do things.

Pono

the principle that seeks to reveal reality and to achieve integrity of relationships. In other words it calls for honesty and integrity in all that we do.

Aroha

the principle of expressing empathy, compassion and joy for others in all that we do.

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.



Whare Manaaki explore the city

From Kaitaataki/Health Advisor Connie Williams

In January, six tangata whaiora and six kaimahi from Whare Manaaki whanau headed to Auckland, for a much-deserved holiday!

Their motel was lovely, boasting views of the Waitemata Harbour and the Harbour Bridge. The following days were exciting for all, with visits to some of Auckland's top sites, including MOTAT (the Museum of Transport and Technology), the zoo, and a fun mokopuna sports day.

The highlight of the trip was visiting Kelly Tarltons and seeing the huge crayfish and tuna. Yum! Our whanau wanted to take them home to eat! They will also treasure the precious memories of reconnecting one whanau member with his sister, and another with his son. These are valuable moments that will be remembered by all.

Upon their return, whanau felt rejuvenated and relaxed, and gained something even more valuable; the sense of confidence that comes with being part of both a whanau and a wider community.



A Shout Out to Whare Whakatau Mai!

From the Mana Whakahaere/CEO Tania Thomas

The roar of the haka powhiri greeted me as I walked up to the door of Whare Whakatau Mai. The sound of the mokopuna and kaimahi was loud and strong, sending shivers up my spine.

Mokopuna and one kaimahi sat on the taumata. One mokopuna started the powhiri with karakia, then in turn each of the mokopuna welcomed us with wonderful mihi. Finally, the kaimahi spoke, before handing over to our side to respond. Monty Hune responded and commented that the mokopuna would not be out of place at Matatini, they were so polished!

Whakawhanaungatanga followed and it was great to get to know mokopuna and kaimahi a little better and to share some of our common ancestry. Those of us from the Far North were definitely in the majority!

The hakari put on by the whare was amazing. Kaimahi had brought pots of food from their homes and mokopuna had prepared a variety of delicious cultural delicacies. There was raw fish, taro dishes, mussel chowder, salad, fried bread – you name it, it was on the table.

We laughed, sang, told stories, and mokopuna bragged about their skills in playing 'last card' and ping-pong. After eating, a mokopuna took Jillian and me on a tour of the whare, explaining the different areas, all tidy and spotlessly clean - the whare glistened and gleamed!

When it was time to go we said our goodbyes and left with happy hearts and full puku. I congratulate the mokopuna, their whanau and the kaimahi for the hard work and practice that went into making us all feel so welcome. This is what whanau and kaupapa Maori is all about – I was reminded of how lucky we are to work in Te Roopu Taurima O Manukau Trust.

The Community Lifestyle Centre

From the Choices in Community Living Co-ordinator, Mereana Hona

In May we will open our new Te Rito Community Lifestyle Centre in Piki Thompson Way. The doors will open with a celebration that everyone is welcome to be a part of. The building has undergone some wonderful renovations that are nearly finished. A wide range of community organisations are helping us out and will be offering services from the centre once it opens. The Community Lifestyle Centre will be a place to hang out, get fit, join a community class and meet some new people.

For more news about the Community Lifestyle Centre, the activities we are running and the opening celebrations, have a look at our Facebook Page www.facebook.com/teritocommunitylifestylecentre



Working with the animals at Wee Dram Farm

Four mokopuna based in Christchurch have recently gained volunteer work at Wee Dram Farm petting zoo. Reese and John from Whare Rakau Ora and Aaron and Harley from Whare Awhina are working from Friday to Sunday, helping Wee Dram's owner Karen clean cages, care for animals and ensure paddocks are safe and free of debris that animals could injure themselves on.

Having worked in the mental health sector previously, Karen understood how important it was for mokopuna to gain practical work experience. When Care Services Manager Jeremy Rees approached her, she was thrilled to get the mokopuna involved, all of whom have worked tirelessly and been a huge help around the farm.

"They're committed rain, hail or shine," says Jeremy. "As well as gaining experience, this job allows the mokopuna to learn the importance of a good work ethic. They all make their kai the night before, pack the gear they need and are ready for mahi in plenty of time. They work extremely hard on the farm, and Karen's pleased with how quickly they complete tasks."

Since Jeremy set up the arrangement with Wee Dram Farm, caring for animals has also given Reese, John, Aaron and Harley an understanding of animal husbandry.



Caring and being responsible for living things is extremely therapeutic, and gives them a sense of accomplishment when they see all the animals they care for clean, happy and healthy.

When they've finished their work, mokopuna have the chance to play with and cuddle the animals. With horses, goats, sheep, llamas, rabbits, deer, ducks, and chickens on Wee Dram Farm, they've got plenty to choose from!

Mary Smith rocking 50

Mokopuna Mary Smith celebrated her birthday recently at Papatoetoe Cosmopolitan Club, an occasion filled with laughter and smiles. Mary has been within our roopu since she was a young girl, so for many, this was an incredible milestone. Present at the party were special guests, some coming all the way from the Far North.



Everyone dressed for the occasion, a delicious roast dinner was served, and we finished off with a huge, rich, birthday cake. Monty Hune from Korowai Aroha was the MC and had us all in stitches, and throughout the evening we played all of Mary's favourite songs.

The kaimahi worked hard to make this night possible. We take our hats off to them all for the organisation that went into the evening and the personal contribution they made to acknowledge this wonderful milestone in Mary's life.



Paul Beale celebrates his birthday in a secret garden

Whare Whirinaki spent a lovely day in Hamilton's beautiful Rose Gardens recently, celebrating the 64th birthday of mokopuna Paul Beale. All the kai was prepared the night before, and we had a beautiful cake, all ready to be eaten!

Paul had a great time, and the picnic was a success, thanks to the hard work put in by the kaimahi of Whare Whirinaki. We'd especially like to thank Emma Scanlan for her cooking skills and Valerie Lui for the lovely cake. Paul's whanau were all very appreciative of the time and effort that went in to creating such a special day for him, and we're pleased he enjoyed celebrating another milestone.



New kids on the block

Welcome to the new members of the Te Roopu Taurima O Manukau Trust whanau!



Hemant Thakkar

Senior Advisor, Service Improvement

Born and bred in Mumbai, India, Hemant moved to New Zealand in 2002 and currently lives on the North Shore, Auckland with his wife Hina and his son Aryan.

Hemant is an avid learner with nearly 20 years of experience in the disability sector. Hemant worked for 8 years in the special education sector in Mumbai and completed a Masters degree in Psychology. On arriving in NZ,

Hemant worked for a disability service provider for 6 years in various roles, then he worked for nearly 5 years with the Health and Disability Commissioner in the role of Disability Initiatives Manager. Hemant completed his Master of Social Work degree from Massey University in 2008.

Hemant is a full member of the Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers and is currently pursuing his PhD in Social Work from the University of Auckland on a disability related topic.



Jillian Iti

Care Services Support Manager

Jillian is a Registered Nurse with 25 years of experience working in the community and more recently in home and community aged care, as well as holding senior management roles in the disability sector. Married with four adult children, Jillian's husband is of Tainui, Maniapoto descent. She's passionate about providing the highest quality support to mokopuna, and supporting our kaimahi, providing them with the tools they need to do

this. She's very excited to be working with Te Roopu Taurima O Manukau Trust, and is looking forward to the journey we will travel together.



Wayne Bevan

Human Resources Manager

Wayne has over 30 years human resource management and consulting experience in a diverse range of sectors across New Zealand and Australia, including the NZ health and disability sector, where he held senior HR management roles with IHC and Workbridge. He has significant experience in leading strategic and operational HR functions, including employment relations, health and safety, and organisational development

functions. Wayne very much enjoys working with managers and their teams to positively influence organisational culture and contribute to the development of high functioning teams. Wayne is of Welsh, Ngati Raukawa and Te Atiawa descent.

Hikoi with the Ratana Church

Mokopuna Howard Allen, known as "Howie", and his whanau are closely associated with the Ratana Pa Church in Whanganui. Howie first visited the church in October 2013, accompanied by his key worker, and was thrilled to make another visit this January.

Howie had been looking forward to going to church for some time, and the Te Roopu Taurima team were thrilled to be able to make that happen. There was a wonderful powhiri to welcome newcomers, and then we all proceeded inside the church for the service. We sat close to the front, so Howie could listen and take everything in. Afterwards, we listened to various church members speak, then enjoyed a delicious lunch with the rest of the congregation.

Howie was happy with having a wonderful spiritual experience, and reported that this had been his best trip so far!