

Iwi Pānui

Tāwharautia Te Whakatōhea

Issue 02 | March, 2025



Tēnā koutou katoa,
A lot has happened since our last pānui in late October. I am pleased to share some of the key milestones we have reached and the exciting developments that will shape our future

KEY MILESTONES

November 2024

- Official closing of the Whakatōhea Māori Trust Board
- Final TToTW Trust meeting of the year at Kutarere Marae

December 2024

- TToTW AGM and WMTB AGM at Maromahue Marae
- The Appointment & Remuneration Committee begins selecting Independent Directors and Trustees for Te Pou Oranga o Te Whakatōhea Charitable Trust and Te Pou Tāhua.

January 2025

- Independent Trustees and Directors appointed
- Submission to the Treaty Principles Bill

February 2025

- Pōhiri for Te Pou Oranga o Te Whakatōhea Charitable Trust appointed Trustees and Te Pou Tāhua Directors.
- First joint meeting between TToTW Trust, Te Pou Oranga o Te Whakatōhea Charitable Trust and Te Pou Tāhua
- First TToTW Trust meeting of the year

FAREWELLING THE WHAKATŌHEA MĀORI TRUST BOARD

On 2 November, whānau gathered in the early hours to bid a final farewell to the Whakatōhea Māori Trust Board. The morning began with karakia and speeches honouring past Trustees and staff who have served the trust board since its inception. This was a solemn yet significant moment as the new name, Te Tāwharau o Te Whakatōhea, was unveiled above the doorway, alongside a commemorative plaque acknowledging all past Trustees.



The ceremony was followed by a gathering at Waiaua Marae, where over 100 whānau attended, many returning home to acknowledge and celebrate their tīpuna and their contributions to Whakatōhea; the event followed an exceptional hākari and kōrero. A highlight of the day was a powerful rangatahi panel discussion. The message from our rangatahi was clear: "Get on with it, heal the rifts, because we've got work to do."



FIRST AGM AS TE TĀWHARAU O TE WHAKATŌHEA

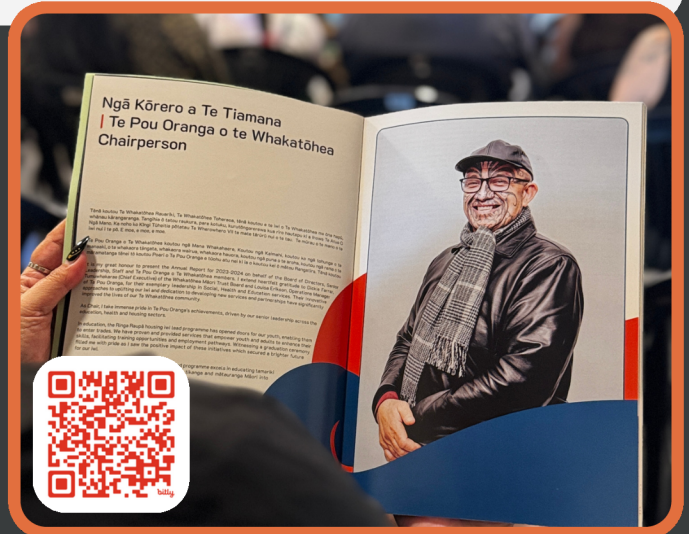
On 14 December, we held our first Annual General Meeting (AGM) as Te Tāwharau o Te Whakatōhea at Maromahue Marae. The day was perfect and set the tone for a well-received AGM. This event was a significant milestone, as it marked the first full 12-month report from Te Tāwharau o Te Whakatōhea, alongside the final report from the Whakatōhea Māori Trust Board.

This was the final official duty of the outgoing trust board. It was a poignant moment to collectively acknowledge and thank all Trustees and staff for their service since the Board's establishment. He mihi nui, he mihi aroha ki te Poari – tēnā koutou katoa. Ka nui te pai o ā koutou mahi, o ā koutou manaakitanga.

The AGM was live-streamed and can be viewed on the Whakatōhea website. All reports presented at the hui are available online.



AGM meeting held at Maromahue Marae,
Saturday 14th December, 2024



INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS APPOINTED



Pōhiri for the new Trustees for Te Pou Oranga o Te Whakatōhea Charitable Trust and Te Pou Tāhūa Directors. Ōmarumutu Marae, Friday 21st February

Te Tāwharau o Te Whakatōhea received over 70 applications for the six positions across Te Pou Tahua o Te Whakatōhea Company and Te Pou Oranga o Te Whakatōhea Charitable Trust.

The calibre of applicants was incredibly high and we thank each and every one for taking the time and effort to engage in the process.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa e whai nei i tēnei huarahi hou mō tō tātou iwi. We are proud to introduce the following Independent Trustees and Directors.

Te Pou Oranga o Te Whakatōhea Charitable Trust Independent Trustees



Anameka Paenga



Nanaia Mahuta



Vaughn Payne

Te Pou Tāhua o Te Whakatōhea – Independent Directors



Mike Pohio



Tawa Campbell-Seymour



Traci Houppapa

WELCOMING OUR NEW TRUSTEES & DIRECTORS

On Friday, 21 February, a pōhiri was held at Ōmarumutu Marae to welcome our newly appointed Trustees and Directors. As part of their induction, they participated in a Whakatōhea haerenga around the rohe and had their first of many meetings as the three governing entities. A heartfelt mihi to our kaumātua and kaimahi, who made the day a memorable and meaningful occasion. We look forward to working closely together as we move forward into this exciting phase.

STRATEGIC PLANNING – YOUR VOICE MATTERS

We are about to begin our Strategic (Long-Term) Planning process, and for it to succeed, we need your voice, our uri, whānau, ahi kaa, and hapū – wherever you are in the world.

Your whakaaro is vital. We want to hear what “belonging” means to you, your aspirations as an uri, and your vision for the future of Whakatōhea.

Keep an eye on our social media channels and pānui for updates on how and when we’ll be engaging with you all. We look forward to hearing from you! E roi te Whakatōhea i te roi a Tinirau. Whakatōhea, united by kinship.

Nāku noa,
Nā Arihia



This month we farewell some of our whānau and celebrate the ongoing mahi that strengthens our vision, “Ko te kai hoki i waiaua”, and purpose “Kia Rangatira ai ngā uri o te Whakatōhea”.

Iwi Development

As the pākehā new year unfolds, our hearts remain set on strengthening our cultural foundations and growing our educational kaupapa. We’re working hard to breathe life into our ngā taonga tuku iho, with our kaimahi and out amongst the people, sharing reo, tikanga and kawa so our tamariki and mokopuna can stand tall in who they are.

Our Kaiarahi Rautaki Reo, Tracy Gilmer, brings her expertise to initiatives like **He Waka Kōrero** – our reo revitalisation programme for whānau. This kaupapa welcomes everyone, especially those just starting their reo journey, with regular hui either kanohi ki te kanohi or through Zoom. He Waka Kōrero isn’t just about learning words – it’s about building the confidence to speak our reo with pride.

Te Reo o Te Kainga continues to support whānau throughout the year as they reclaim the reo that belongs in our homes. Through hands-on learning and profound cultural experiences, this kaupapa helps whānau develop practical reo skills while strengthening their understanding of our tikanga. This mahi binds us together, strengthening and connecting our community through our shared taonga.

These kaupapa are grounded in our Manaakitanga, Rangatiratanga, Kotahitanga, and Matawhānui values. They strengthen who we are by creating spaces where we can learn, connect, and celebrate te reo Māori together. Our commitment to nurturing Whakatōheatanga for the generations to come remains unshakeable.

Tohekura Kura Reo 2025

Ka puta mai anō a Tohekura Kura Reo! Mark your calendars for 2025, and be ready to register when tickets become available – remember, last year, they were snapped up within 24 hours!



Tracy Gilmer Kaiarahi Rautaki Reo

Latest updates:

- **Kaiaako:** We’re talking with experienced kaiako and will let you know who’ll be guiding our learning in the coming weeks
- **Matariki Wānanga:** Pencil in 20-22 June for our special Matariki wānanga.
- **Wāhi:** Ōmarumutu Marae will welcome us home from Thursday, 19 June to Sunday, 22 June 2025
- **Rēhita:** We’re setting up registrations and working out this year’s hōtaka. Watch this space.



**Tohekura
2025**

Matariki
| He Timatanga Hou
June 19th – 22nd 2025

**Save the
date!**

Te Pou Oranga o Te Whakatōhea Charitable Trust

At the heart of our Trust is our purpose: “Whānau Ora, Hapū Ora, Ka Ora ai te Iwi”. When our whānau and hapū thrive, so does our Iwi. Here in Ōpōtiki, we’re a pou for community wellbeing, providing services that lift our people up. Our kaupapa embraces everything from kōhanga reo to sustainable living, from cultural enrichment to growing leaders – all through a Te Ao Māori lens that nurtures every part of who we are. Join us as we celebrate the strength of our whānau and hapū, knowing that we’re building a resilient, flourishing Iwi together.



Hohepa Hei
Operations Manager

Te Pou Oranga o Te Whakatōhea
Charitable Trust

Farewell and New Beginnings

We mihi to Louisa Erickson for her 15 years of dedication to Whakatōhea. After returning home to serve her people, Louisa looks forward to precious time with her 25 mokopuna and growing kai on her whenua. Our deepest gratitude goes to her on this next stage of her journey.

In her place, we warmly welcome Hohepa Hei as our new Operations Manager. After three years as our Education Manager working alongside Louisa, Hohepa brings both heart and head to this role. He'll focus on excellence and improving our services, bringing our teams closer together and ensuring our Iwi-led kaupapa continues flourishing. We're already seeing the mauri he brings to our organisation and whānau.



Louisa Erickson

Poroporoaki ki te Kaiwhakahaere o Te Puna o Tarawa ECE

We bid farewell to Whaea Tangiahua, our beloved Manager from Te Puna o Tarawa Early Childhood Centre, with heavy but grateful hearts. Tangiahua has poured her wairua into our kaupapa, nurturing our whānau and mokopuna with boundless aroha and commitment.

The legacy she leaves will warm our hearts for generations to come. As she returns to her people of Te Whānau a Hīkarakutai to share her mātauranga at Te Kura Mana Māori o Maraenui, we send her forth with our aroha and deepest respect.

Nā mātou noa,
nā Te Tāwharau o Te Whakatōhea



Tangiahua Churchward

TE TĀWHARAU O TE
WHAKATŌHEA



Te Pou Oranga o
Te Whakatōhea
Charitable Trust