



## North Island hapū visit Rotoiti

Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō welcomed kaitiaki representatives from the North Island hapū collective, Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngā Wai Māori, along with Cawthron Institute and Tasman District Council to Rotoiti to share mātauranga regarding kaitiakitanga of tuna.

Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngā Wai Māori are passionate about protecting tuna in their rohe. Water pumps are causing devastating effects on local tuna populations in their wetlands. They challenged the use of pumps and successfully removed one pump in favour of a more sustainable alternative.

Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō reciprocated by sharing experience with the wetland restoration project at Mangatāwhai (Black Valley) in St Arnaud as well as the annual tuna monitoring programme at Rotoroa. Both of these workstreams helped to exchange knowledge about iwi priorities, expectations, and values concerning the management of our lands, waterways and taonga species. It was an inspiring day spent with Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngā Wai Māori, and we look forward to building upon this new relationship.

See more photos on page 2.

## *Kia hiwa rā* NEWS AND EVENTS

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## Nelson Tenth's update

On 31 October 2024, the High Court released its decision regarding *Stafford v Attorney General* (otherwise referred to as the Nelson Tenth's Case). We are pleased to let you know that it is a strong decision in favour of the customary owners.

The Nelson Tenth's Case (also known as the Wakatū Case and the Stafford Case, after the plaintiff Matua Rore Pat Stafford), aims to resolve one of the largest pieces of litigation against the Crown this country has seen.

This case upholds fundamental property rights that apply to every one of us in Aotearoa New Zealand.

While there are still outstanding matters to decide, including the details of the award to be made, the judgment is a significant victory for Uncle Rore Stafford,

the customary owners of the Nelson Tenth's Reserves whom he represents, and for all of us with a connection to the whenua at the heart of this issue.

Te Here-ā-Nuku Working Group has been set up to consider, among other things, how to advance any settlement or redress. It will take time to process the detail of the decision and decide next steps. Dr Peter Meihana and Nicole Akuhata are members of this Working Group.



# Te pae o angitū – whānau achievements

## Riley Cribb wins at Tasman Cup

Congratulations to Riley Cribb on her recent tour with the New Zealand International Softball Association in Sydney, Australia.

Riley gained valuable experience through exposure to strong gameplay and coaching during the tour. Her team reached the final of the Tasman Cup and won! Ka rawe!

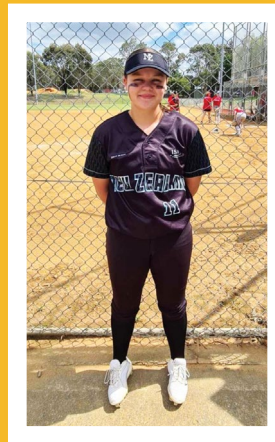
Riley will trial for the Whanganui U17 team and Manawatū U19 team for their respective national tournaments.

We wish you all the best for the future, Riley.



## Houston Roussel at Basketball New Zealand South Island regional competition

Houston Roussel received a grant from Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō so he could attend the Basketball New Zealand South Island regional competition. He played for the Marlborough U14 Boys A basketball team and placed seventh in the competition. Congratulations Houston.



## Tuatara release

56 tuatara were released into a 3.7-hectare, mouse-free enclosure at The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary, marking a significant moment in conservation.

This translocation is the first of its kind on the mainland in Te Taihu (the top of the South Island) and represents a historic step forward for both the tuatara species and local ecological restoration efforts.

The 3.7-hectare enclosure, free of introduced predators, provides an ideal environment for the tuatara to thrive. By removing threats like rats and stoats, the project aims to ensure the long-term survival of these ancient reptiles. The successful translocation offers hope for the future of tuatara in Te Taihu and could serve as a model for further restoration initiatives.

# Kaumātua Corner

## A message from Brendon Wilson (Kaumātua sub-Committee member)

Kia ora koutou

It is a privilege to serve our kaumātua, through the Kaumātua sub-Committee. It's good to work with Lawrence, Erina and Denis, along with Hinemoa and Nicole.

Because we evolved from a point of potential obliteration in the 1900s, successfully recovering our identity as an iwi through the 1980s and 90s and settling our historical grievances with the Crown in the 2010s, the path we have followed is far from traditional. The persistence and tenacity of our people over a long period, particularly Aunty Kath Hemi and her large band of supporters and followers (too many to name at the risk of offending any), must be acknowledged. The iwi spent significant amounts of time and money "in the fight," not only with the Crown, but also with other iwi as we battled through the settlement process. Our ability to do things as an iwi during that time was limited – even the ability to gather and share whanaungatanga was largely confined to whānau pockets.

Like me, many of you will remember being "shoulder tapped," with registration forms shoved under your nose with the direction "sign here!" Much of this activity was necessary to gather the information to meet Crown rules – proving we had the appropriate number of beneficiaries (frankly a term I don't like), with whakapapa lines back to the acknowledged tipuna of Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō. What got lost in translation was that many of our people struggled to understand exactly who they were.

We had also lost our cultural identity along the way, so the role of kaumātua adopted by many iwi and clearly defined as "the holders of knowledge, responsible for passing that knowledge to the next generation", had not yet been re-kindled within Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō.

This, though, creates opportunity. We now have the chance to shape the way forward, to fill the knowledge gap, and to fill the void that history has forced upon us. You too can play a part in that, and we invite you to do so. Some great events are already happening – Kai Ngātahi around the motu, kaumātua get-togethers, the Kurahaupō Ball and more. These are all part of the re-building process. If you have any ideas for things that you'd like to see, or ways to build on the work that has been done to date, please let the office know.

Noho ora mai.

**Nga mihi  
Brendon Wilson**



## Kaumātua koha

The Trust likes to assist our kaumātua every year at Christmas with a koha.

If you are registered and 60 years or older as of 25 December 2024 and have not received this grant in the past, please contact the office with your bank details.