



Pahi whakarite whenua

On Saturday 15 March, Trustees, whānau and kaimahi gathered for a whakarite whenua ceremony to mark the beginning of land being turned for the development of our Pahi at Rotoiti.

Kiley Nepia and Kereopa Baker led the whakarite whenua, beginning with a short hikoi through the bush to the sound of birdsong before gathering in a clearing for karakia, kōrero and waiata. After the hikoi, whānau were shown the concept drawings by our architect, and in a special moment, a pīwakawaka joined us in the gazebo – seemingly eager to get a closer look at the plans as we shared kai.

The construction of the Pahi is a significant milestone for Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, carrying the legacy of our tūpuna and anchoring our presence at Rotoiti. Once completed, the Pahi will serve as a cultural space for wānanga, hui, events, and iwi activities.

A big mihi to all the whānau and trustees who attended, especially Kiley and Kereopa for leading the whakarite whenua. This marks an important step forward, and we look forward to a whakatō mauri later in the year.

Tūhura ki uta, tūhura ki tai,
kia tō te rā, e Apa, maranga mai.

Kia hiwa rā NEWS AND EVENTS

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Paepae Wānanga

On Saturday 8 March, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō held our second Paepae Wānanga at Te Hora Marae in Canvastown.

Building on the foundation set at our last wānanga in October, whānau from across Te Taihū gathered to take part. Designed for all levels of Te Reo speakers, from beginners to advanced, the wānanga provided a safe and supportive environment to explore the different aspects of speaking on the paepae.

The day kicked off with interactive games and workshops to lighten the mood, fostering an atmosphere where whānau felt comfortable and confident. Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō waiata and karakia were practiced before breaking into groups to role-play pōwhiri and mihi whakatau. Whānau shared the responsibilities of running the paepae, stepping into the roles of both manuhiri and hau kāinga.



The relaxed environment allowed beginners to practice karakia, while more advanced learners refined their whaikōrero.

A big mihi to all the whānau who took the time to attend the wānanga. We look forward to holding several more Paepae Wānanga in 2025, open for all whānau. Keep an eye out for upcoming dates, which will be released soon.

Te pae o angitū – whānau achievements



The next generation of Apa basketball superstars!

Paranihia Seng-Whitikia and Te Aranui Seng-Whitikia (tamariki to Brooke Seng) were recipients of a Sports and Recreation Grant from Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō. This grant supported them both to participate in a Māori basketball tournament Poitūkohu Māori Aoteroa in Roturua.

Paranihia competed in the under-14 kōtiro grade and narrowly missed out on the playoffs by four points. Te Aranui played for the under-8 grade and made it to the semifinals where she placed fourth overall.

Congratulations to both Paranihia and Te Aranui for your performance at the tournament.

Do you have any news to share with Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō?

Do you have any whānau achievements that you would like to share through our monthly pānui?

If you do, please email comms@ngatiapakiterato.iwi.nz so we can highlight the amazing mahi of our Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō whānau.

FROM THE CHAIR

Kia ora koutou

This is a sad day for me as this will be my final contribution to the 'Chair update' as the Chair of the iwi. My term as Chair comes to an end at the end of March, following a decision by the Board to concentrate on succession planning. New Chair Nicole Akuhata and Deputy Chair Adrian Wilson will lead us through until the AGM.

I look forward to continuing to serve the iwi as a trustee and to complete many projects that are in progress. It has been an honour and privilege to serve as your Chair, and I am especially proud of our continued growth – increasing membership, strengthening whānau engagement, growing our pūtea, and realising the aspirations you identified as priorities.

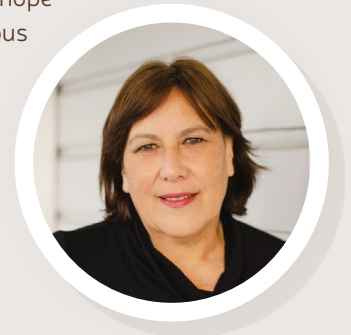
Last year, in particular, was both relentless and satisfying, with significant progress on major kaupapa such as the Base Woodbourne settlement, the South Island Customary Regulations, and The Nelson Tenth. Some projects and initiatives are still ongoing including the potential purchase of the Carters Beach archaeological dig site and the housing of the taonga recovered from there. We also continue to navigate the complexities of the Marine and Coastal Area

(Takutai Moana) Act 2011, replacing the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004. The settlement documentary is also at the end of production, with the launch date expected in the months ahead. I acknowledge and mourn the passing of Albert Lionel Kato Te Naihi McLaren (Sonny), who features in the documentary. Additionally, our mapping project, Ngā Araru, is progressing well and once completed, I hope it will be a valuable resource for all whānau. The Pahi Project is finally making headway, and we are within sight of securing a builder and submitting plans for resource consent.

One of the key milestones achieved during my time as Chair was the completion of the tipuna list. This piece of work was started by my cousin Mahara Gilseman, and after her death was completed by her friend Mark Moses with the assistance of Dr Peter Meihana.

The year ahead is full of opportunities for everyone to meet and I hope to see many of you at various wānanga, luncheons and dinners through the coming months.

Ngā mihi
Hinemoa Conner
Chairperson



Kaiwhakahaere / General Manager job vacancy

Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō Trust is looking for a visionary General Manager / Kaiwhakahaere to support the iwi to build a bright future.

Based in Te Tauihu o te waka a Māui, we are a vibrant, proud iwi committed to realising our rangatiratanga and dedicated to preserving and revitalising our Te Reo Māori.

If you (or somebody you know) is passionate about advancing the aspirations of Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō Trust and believe you have what it takes to lead this transformative era, view and share our job advert or contact Russell Spratt at Tau Mai – email russell@tribegroup.com or phone 029 446 3770.



Scholarship recipients announced

Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō Trusts are delighted to announce the recipients of our scholarships and grants for 2025.

Kath Hemi Huia Kaimanawa Scholarship

Mei Riwai-Couch

Mei is studying for a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Te Reo Māori. She is passionate about revitalising Te Reo Māori and ensuring its quality and accessibility in education and communities. Alongside this, she is also studying psychology to better understand and support Māori well-being, particularly in addressing intergenerational trauma and cultural disconnection. Mei aspires to work as a cultural advocate and educator, fostering intergenerational knowledge sharing while also contributing to Māori mental health. Her goal is to strengthen both cultural identity and hauora within her iwi and the wider community.

Rotomairewhenua Taiao Scholarship

Reon Bidmead Morrison

Reon is studying a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management. He aspires to strengthen Māori leadership in environmental management by taking on leadership roles that empower Māori to protect and restore the whenua while reinforcing cultural identity. Through this path, he aims to support his iwi in reclaiming their role as kaitiaki and fostering sustainable, meaningful engagement with the natural world.

June Robinson Kuru Pounamu Memorial Scholarship

Jessica Nootai

Jessica is in her final year of medical school and aspires to contribute meaningfully to health and well-being of Māori by addressing health inequities and bridging the gaps in access, outcomes and culturally safe care. Jessica embodies the values of kaitiakitanga, whakawhanaunatanga, manaakitanga integrating them into both her clinical practice and everyday life. Jessica aspires to give back to her iwi by providing healthcare services, mentoring rangatahi, and advocating for system-wide change—ensuring the long-term health and success of her people.

Nikita Gapper

Nikita is studying medical imaging and aims to work at Wairau Hospital upon completion, contributing to the Marlborough community and her iwi. She is committed

to improving health equity in Aotearoa, particularly addressing disparities in Māori mortality rates and life expectancy. Guided by the values of manaakitanga and whanaungatanga, Nikita believes that by culturally connecting with her Māori patients, she can enhance their healthcare experience and contribute to better health outcomes for her people.

Mangatawhai Pakihi Scholarship

Scarlett McKay

Scarlett is studying towards a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Economics and Finance. She aspires to support her whānau and wider community by enabling better decision-making within her iwi and contributing to the development of economic policies that improve the welfare of all Māori across Aotearoa. Scarlett is passionate about understanding how government policy, resource distribution, and financial decision-making impact our people.

Grant recipients

The following people received Education or Trades Training grants:

Macy Cribb	Te Waimātao Suter Potaka-Osborne
Brigham Riwai-Couch	Te Paea Paringatai
Charquera Tobin	Terina Ah Far
Crystal Gordon	Tiffany Matthews
Danielle West	Tui-Aroha Fransen
Erin Bunt	Walter Sandbrook
Flynn Warren	Wiremu Te Moni
Georgia Gapper	Xanthe Banks
Harley Huntley	Paige Kirby
Jessica Bothwell	Charlize Hynes
Kama MacDonald	Haylee Roussel
Lorraine McDonald	Maiara Ah Far
Lydia Huntley	Ruth Dodemaide
Michael Tamepo	Zara-Lee Rota
Miriama Bailey	Sarai Egan
Rose Kupa	Te Paea Paringatai
Shane Henry	Wayden Smith-Page
Shanell Kelly	Zion Chalmers-Miller
Tanenuiarangi Norton	