

Pānui
February 2022



Aukaha

KIA KAHA, AU KAHA







Kia ora koutou

Ngā mihi ki a koutou i taro o te wā Raumati

I hope all whanau were able to get some well-deserved rest and recreation over the holiday break to spend time with loved ones, get some sun and water in, and recharge the batteries!

Aukaha kaimahi had barely returned to the office after an excellent and restful three-week break, before Covid traffic light settings changed. This means we have a mix of staff working from home or from the office. Regardless of the working 'base', all staff remain highly busy working across all of our pou. The Aukaha office is closed to casual manuhiri and we are encouraging virtual hui as much as possible. However, if you need to meet in person with a staff member at the office, please ensure you have made an appointment to come to the office beforehand.

Over the last month, I have been meeting with rūnaka Chairs and Managers to discuss rūnaka priorities and how Aukaha can align themselves closer with supporting rūnaka aspirations. Aukaha's mahi is driven by the values and aspirations of mana whenua, so I see this as an important exercise, not just for the whakawhānaukataka with rūnaka, but also to keep Aukaha on track to support and

deliver the outcomes that help provide a positive impact for our hapū and rūnaka.

Aukaha has recently engaged NĀIA to create Communications Plan for us. We have so many grey stories from our mahi and need to improve how we let the world know! Keep an eye on our social media and website over the coming months as we start rolling them out. It has been a fantastic experience working with some very skilled and talented whānuka.

The Aukaha Board of Directors have now settled into a rhythm of alternating between strategic and full board hui. At their January strategy hui, the Board made significant progress on the draft 2022 – 2025 Strategic Plan. The board and I look forward to finalising this significant piece of work in time for implementation in the new financial year

Chief Executive, Rachel Wesley

MANA AUKAHA

Kia ora e te whānau

Kā mihi o te tau hou! I hope everyone enjoyed a safe and happy holiday with lots of whānau time and R&R.

With the move to a Red Traffic Light, our office is still open and operating, however tighter restrictions are in place to ensure we are meeting current public health guidelines. If you wish to schedule a visit, please contact us first. We are screening all visitors prior to entry, to ensure the health and safety of our staff and whānau, and will also require you to scan or sign in for contact tracing.

Construction work at the new office fitout at Hanover Street resumed mid January, with all hands on deck to complete works for our move in date of 1 April. We are at the exciting end of the project where we can see the design concepts coming to life and are able to get a good sense of the size and beauty of this space, and we look forward to hosting you once construction is complete.

The management of Human Resources and Health & Safety are a focus for us this quarter, with two new pieces of software being implemented to strengthen these systems, MyHR and ThinkSafe. As the organisation continues to flourish and grow, the software positions us better to respond to these key components of the business, engage staff and bring a revitalised approach to Health & Safety and HR.



MANA TAIAO

Kia ora whānau,

He mihi nui ki a koutou. Ko te tūmanakō o te Mana Taiao, kei te noho ora koutou ko ngā whānau o ngā rūnaka. Mauri ora

Mana Taiao are off to a busy start to the new year, with new faces, and new and continuing projects.



Charlotte Boyt *Intermediate Consents Planner*

Ngāti Pāhauwera, Tūhoe, Tūwharetoa, Ngai Tāmanuhiri,
Kai Tahu, Kāti Ruahikihiki, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha,
Ko Charlotte Boyt ahau

Tēnā Tatau e te Whanau

The last four years I have been reconnecting with my natural grandmother's whakapapa being Kai Tahu, Kāti Ruahikihiki, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha. We found out through our Moeraki whānau that the place we decided to settle and raise our son was where my taua Teitei once lived in her later years.

Prior to our move my husband and I owned, and I operated a local business in Murupara which was a radical change from my previous work/study life where I have always been in Environmental Advisor and Planning roles since I finished high school. My fields of expertise are in Conservation (Biodiversity Monitoring), Indigenous Cultural Heritage facilitation and engagement, Mining (Monitoring and Compliance), Post Treaty Settlement, Social Change and Sustainability Auditing/ Quality assurance in both a government and corporate workplaces in New Zealand and Australia.

This is a wonderful opportunity - I hope to contribute, share knowledge and experience to our team at Aukaha, continue the hard work paved by the team, ensuring whānau's indigenous voices are being heard and not overlooking when it comes to any future planning in our Takiwā.

Mauri Ora.



Dylan Thomas

MPlan Summer Intern

Tēnā koutou,
Ko Tainui tōku waka
Ko Maungatautari tōku maunga
Ko Waikato tōku awa
Ko Raukawa tōku iwi
Ko Tūkorehe tōku hapū
Ko Ruapeka tōku marae

This summer I have been very fortunate to have an internship opportunity at Aukaha in the Mana Taiao team. This has been a great team to be a part of and everyone has been very friendly and supportive. The experience has offered a wide variety of work that has showcased much of what Mana Taiao do.

I grew up in Dunedin in Macandrew Bay, and I currently study at the University of Otago where I already completed a degree in politics. I am now studying for a Master of Planning at Otago.

A focus of my study this year will be writing a thesis about urban light pollution and its potential effects on the celebration of Matariki around the country. My interest in this topic stems from my long-time fascination with the night sky, coupled with a growing realisation that it needs to be safeguarded so traditions and knowledge can be passed on.

Alongside study, I play hockey for Waikato-Maniapoto at the national Māori Hockey Tournament and New Zealand Māori. I am aiming also for senior New Zealand selection one day, with the goal to play at the Olympics. I have played in the National Māori Hockey Tournament since 2015 for my home rohe Waikato-Maniapoto and look forward to it every year.

Ngā mihi.

Marissa Kelderman

MPlan Summer Intern

My name is Marissa Kelderman, and I am currently completing a master's degree in planning at Otago University. Previously, I was a youth worker both here in NZ and in the Netherlands, where I enjoyed helping young people navigate their teenage years.

I'm currently pursuing a career transition that will allow me to put my people skills and environmental passion to good use, in the hopes of contributing to New Zealand's land and water management.

In my personal life, I am happily married with three wonderful daughters who keep me busy and entertained. As a family we enjoy swimming at the beach, riding our bikes, and hitting the slopes.



Waihola Wastewater Treatment Plant hearing

Clutha District Council applied for a resource consent for the Waihola township wastewater treatment plant. The plant discharges treated wastewater into the Lake Waihora (Waihola) outflow channel which flows into the Waipōuri River and the Taiari River. Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou, Te Nohoaka o Tukiauau (Sinclair Wetlands Trust), and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu opposed the application.

A hearing was held on the application in January. Tim Vial provided planning evidence for this hearing, with cultural evidence being provided by Edward Ellison, Paulette Tamati-Elliffe, and Steve Bryant. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu supported the preparation of evidence and provided legal submissions on behalf of mana whenua at the hearing. Whānau emphasised that the discharge of treated human waste into water is contrary to tikaka and their aspirations for the gathering of mahika kai within the Waihora-Waipōuri wetland complex. A decision on the application is expected in March.

Throughout Otago only 16% of treated wastewater from urban areas is discharged to land, despite discharges of wastewater to water being culturally offensive to mana whenua. Aukaha is working with whānau to advocate for the removal of wastewater discharges from wai māori to protect mana whenua identity and wellbeing. Recently, Edward Ellison has provided evidence in the Environment Court on the effects of urban discharges including wastewater on mana whenua values and identity, and Aukaha lodged a submission opposing the renewal of the resource consent for the Omakau wastewater treatment plant and the continued discharge of treated wastewater from that plant to the Manuhereki River.

Cultural health monitoring on the Taiari

Between January 19th and 21st our Kaiārahi Taiaroa (Environmental Advisor) and whānau were out in the Taiari catchment undertaking cultural health index (Tipa & Tierney 2006) and cultural flow preference studies (Tipa *et al* 2016). The assessments will help prepare the mana whenua position on issues and aspirations for the Taiari Catchment under the forthcoming Otago Land and Water Regional Plan. The mahi involved assessment of sites all around east Taiari, Sutton, Hyde/Tiroiti, Waipiata and the Upper Taiari. The sites build on cultural health assessments undertaken by whānau in 1999-2000 which all look at the quality of water from a holistic and values-based lens.

There will be lots of opportunities in 2022 to do this mahi in your takiwā. The work is not possible without the help of mana whenua field team members. Please keep an eye out for communications from Aukaha to get involved. A huge mihi to the whānau who attended these site visits and to Gail Tipa for her invaluable knowledge and experience.

MANA AHUREA



Mana Ahurea have had some exciting milestones across Otago in the last period. Recently Keri and I joined whanau at the sod turning of the new Beaumont Bridge development. Thank you to Hinerangi and Mauraka for leading the blessing and to other whanau for attending.

Aukaha and our Mana Whenua Panel have engaged Ngai Tahu artists, Keri Whitiri (as Design Lead), Neil Pardington and Emma Kitson to work with Waka Kōtahi's design team to integrate our rich history in this area. This has a particular focus on the Mata-au and Māhika Kai. We hope to share final designs in an upcoming panui.

Also, closer to home in Mosgiel, precast panels have started to be installed for the new aquatics centre being constructed. The key narrative being integrated in to the Pool design is depicting Matamata, Turi Makamaka and Puke Makamaka with the inclusion of Kowhaiwhai, and Niho Taniwha patterns on glazing,

pre-cast concrete panels, and sandblasting on paving leading into the complex. We engaged Simon Kaan (Design Lead) and Ephraim Russell to work on this project, and can't wait till we can show you more!

This work has led to our involvement in working the the DCC on integrating mana whenua values into the branding and signs on all of their Aquatics facilities, so that we can see more visual design in signage, as well as incorporating te reo where possible. We also hope to be co-designing the redevelopment work being undertaken at the St Clair Salt-Water Pool and Moana Pool this year.

Outside of the Art & Design realm, we continue to get many requests to deliver cultural workshops. This has been a difficult undertaking, with many of our whanau being busy with their full time mahi. However we will be hoping to be able to deliver more regular workshops this year. Watch this space!

Homemade Apricot Jam and Relish

This is Maggie. Last year Maggie registered with Aukaha to have navigation support from our Mana Takata team. She is 70 years old, and she wants to create independent wealth working from home. Aukaha have been supporting Maggie to prepare an art exhibition that was to launch in 2021. However, she ended up in hospital for a six-hour surgery and has been recovering since.

Aukaha gifted Maggie a bucket of apricots to support her journey to wellness and encourage her to carry on with her aspiration. Over two days Maggie had looked up recipes on Google and cooked over five kilos of apricots into delicious relish and jam.

As she washed and pitted each apricot, she reminisced the days making jam as a young mum of two children, living in Waititi.

“At first I thought, what am I going to do with all those apricots?” Once she started the process she couldn’t stop. “They just kept going!”

She filled all her jars and called friends for more. With over fifty jams and relish Maggie gifted these to friends, family and those in her community including neighbours and some of our mana Takata team.



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