

# Aukaha Pānui

Kia ora tātou!

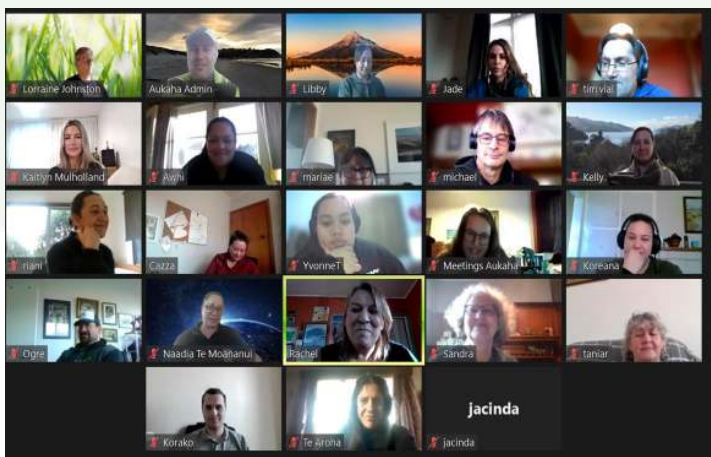
I'm writing this from my dining room table, confined to working from home during Alert Level 3, as most of us are. Essential workers, are of course exempt from this. Aukaha's Mana Tākata team are classed as essential services, and our Kaiwhakatero and Tūmai Ora kaimahi have been working hard within our communities across Dunedin, North and East Otago, distributing kai, firewood, and generally making sure whānau are well supported during a time that can bring stress and uncertainty to many. The kaimahi from the Whiria te Waitaki project have also been seconded by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to assist providing support where needed - including a run to deliver water to Koukourārata! The Whiria kaimahi are spread across the motu from Ōtautahi down to Ōtepoti, so I'm very proud of the support Aukaha has been able to provide across a fair whack of the island!

On the home front, the Aukaha team are still connecting remotely, aside from the usual team Zui, staff are still maintaining their daily quiz via Teams - informal get-togethers such as this are important for keeping our team whānaukataka intact while we're all working apart from each other, as well as providing a much needed 15 minute break during work days that don't seem to be any less busy!

We have had a number of staff changes since the last panui. We farewell Nicola Morand and wish her well with her new adventures - Nic was brought into Aukaha in 2018 by Tahu Pōtiki to establish Te Ohu Aukaha - the employment and trades training programme that has since resulted in nearly 300 Māori and Pasifika being supported into or towards employment, and into apprenticeships! Nic also established and led the Cultural and Economic Development team (now known as Mana Ahurea), and held the Aukaha waka steady as Acting Chief Executive in the year after Tahu's passing. To say Nic had a massive impact on the direction of Aukaha is an understatement - e te kahuraki, nāia atu kupu whakamanawa mōu.

Internal staff changes see Caron Ward take up the reins as Mana Ahurea's General Manager, replacing Nic, and Libby Evans moves into the newly established role of Kaiwhakahaere Mana Aukaha, leading Mana Aukaha (our administrative and financial support services team).

Aukaha welcomes three new staff into Mana Aukaha - Kaitlyn Mulholland, Riani Iti-Metuatai, and Lorraine Johnston. We also welcome Jacinda Kohey as Mana Ahurea's new Project Co-ordinator. Nau mai, tauti mai koutou, we're excited to have you on board!



Aukaha team pictured in staff zui



Image from Cadbury demolition - See Mana Ahurea update (page 3)

# Mana Aukaha

Since the last update, the Mana Aukaha team have welcomed two new staff members, Kaitlyn Mulholland as Kaiāwhina Tari and Riani Iti-Metuatai as Kaiāwhina - Mana Aukaha. We also farewelled Emma Lang who is pursuing her HR passion at Otago Museum. Kaitlyn and Riani bring a range of administrative skills to the team and fill a much-needed gap in capacity - they are a welcome addition to the team. Libby now oversees the Mana Aukaha team as Kaiwhakahaere Mana Aukaha, and our wee gem Maria Ellison is still the friendly face greeting you at Reception. I am excited to have the positions in the Mana Aukaha team filled with talented wāhine, and to continue to refine systems and processes so we can serve the wider organisation and mana whenua to the best of our abilities.

The surprise lockdown has been challenging for our team due to Kaitlyn and Riani still undergoing induction and training, however the team have adapted well and are now settling into working from home. Key learnings were taken from the first lockdown so we were able to react confidently to the short notice that we would be moving to level 4 lockdown. Staff have settled into working from home well, with few IT constraints noted. Having Microsoft Office 365 up and running has been crucial to the ease with which staff are able to pack up and move to a working from home arrangement during Alert Levels 3 and 4. The health and well-being of staff working from home and out in the navigational space as essential workers remains a priority, so we have been busy reviewing our health and safety measures and covid response for each alert level.

Our departure from 268 Stuart Street has been put on hold, with the landlord agreeing to a month-by-month arrangement until our new premises is finished or until the landlord finds a new tenant, and we are quietly hoping this will see us through until we are ready to move to 266 Hanover Street!

## Key Upcoming Dates:

- 11 October - Shareholders Hui at Hokonui.

We have begun preparations for this hui and invites have gone out to rūnaka this week. If you have any questions, please get in contact with your rūnaka manager or our team.

- 12 November - Aukaha AGM.

Please save this date in your calendar if you would like to attend. Further information will be communicated to rūnaka when that becomes available.

# Riani Iti-Metuatai



Tēnā koutou katoa  
Ko Taranaki te maunga  
Ko Waitara te awa  
Ko Aotea te waka  
Ko Owae te marae  
Ko Te Ātiawa te iwi  
Nō Mangaia ahau, engari nō Ōtepoti e  
noho aha  
Ko Riani toku ingoa

I am very pleased to be working at Aukaha, being part of an organisation that supports people and the community.

Prior to working at Aukaha, I worked as a Support Worker in long term rehabilitation homes for two and a half years. There I worked with a diverse range of people with Intellectual disabilities, brain injury and mental health. During my time in this role, it was evident I had a strong passion for working with people, supporting them to live their best lives. I am excited to bring the same passion to the organisation.

Not only do I have a passion for people, I have been interested in the Arts from a young age and spend my spare time creating art, making jewellery, shooting film photography and cooking.

I look forward to working with everyone and couldn't be more thankful for the opportunity to be apart of the team.

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.

# Mana Takata

The Mana Takata team members have been registered as essential workers and have been provided with PPE so they can safely work with whanau that require assistance.

Although needs have not reached the levels we saw a year ago, we have helped a number of whanau with assistance to access to firewood, kai, and other essential items. We will continue to support whanau and remain in contact to assess needs.

On Wednesday the 25th of August the Tūmai Ora kaimahi supported whānau and Runaka across East and North Otago with deliveries of food provided by Kiwi Harvest.



If you or someone you know needs help please don't hesitate to get in touch with either of the following:

Chris 027 284 4410

Awhina 027 958 5499



# Mana Ahurea

As you will all know there has been a few changes in Mana Ahurea lately. Our General Manager Nicola Morand has sadly resigned and will soon start on a new exciting journey with the DCC. We just want to take a moment to thank Nicola for her enormous contribution to our team. She was instrumental in this team's development and ensured that the voice of mana whenua was always heard in all of our mahi and relationships with our Partners.

Caron our Programme Manager will be stepping up into Nicola's shoes, and they are certainly big shoes to fill. We have also welcomed a new team member Jacinda Kohey to the team as a Project Co Ordinator. Jacinda has started with us in lockdown which put an interesting spin on first day introductions! Hopefully we will be able to properly farewell and welcome these staff changes after lock down.

All Mana Ahurea mahi has continued with pace, with very little slow down for Art & Design Projects, Cultural Narratives and Translation requests. We are currently progressing engagement in three new projects in Dunedin City and hope to be able to share more about this in our next update.

The work on Whakatuputupu, the new Dunedin Hospital project, continues to be a big focus, with a Design Sprint occurring shortly before lock down at the Dunedin Art Gallery. We were excited to introduce Fayne Robinson to the wider Design team as one of our lead Artists.



We were also able to view materials such as timber beams from the Cadbury's demolition which we hope to be able selvedge and re-use in the new build. However, the team were intrigued by the old Cadbury's equipment and they certainly got their artistic juices flowing!

We are now entering into the developed design phase, where design opportunities will start to take shape, informed by the narratives and values that have been identified.

Our team is excited for the future and can't wait for the opportunities which are still growing every day. Our continued focus is to champion mana whenua values and ensuring we put in the hard work to achieve great outcomes.

# Mana Taiao

Lockdown has hit just in time for submission writing for the Mana Taiao team. On Friday the 3rd of

September, submissions close for one of the significant policy documents for Otago, the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement (PORPS) 2021.

So, what is a regional policy statement (RPS) anyway? And why are Mana Taiao so excited about this one?

An RPS is a overarching policy that identifies significant resource management issues for a region, and identifies objectives, policies, and methods address these issues.

Regional councils like the Otago Regional Council and ECan are required to develop a RPS under the Resource Management Act 1991, with the RPS then influencing all other regional plans and district plans in the region.

For us in Otago, the shape of the RPS will direct the shape and form of the Land and Water Plan (LWP), which is due to be in operation by the end of 2025. Water in Otago is currently managed under ORC's 20 year-old Water Plan. The new LWP will have a much stronger focus on the health and wellbeing of our rivers, lakes and wetlands, and involvement of mana whenua in how these are managed.

And why are we so excited about this RPS? Because, for the first time that we know of, Mana Taiao team staff had a hand in writing portions of it, particularly in relation to wai māori (freshwater).

## From the Board

With a higher focus on strategy in recent months, the Board opted at their July meeting to hold regular Board meetings bi-monthly, with the 'off month' devoted to meeting to discuss strategic kaupapa. Progress on a strategic planning document continues, with a draft plan nearing readiness. The Board have a very firm eye on the horizon, particularly with the raft of legislative changes occurring over the next couple of years. While these changes have a potentially positive outlook for mana whenua and Aukaha, there have been some forecasts of a 50% increase in workload for us!

Sitting alongside strategic planning, work has begun on a Five Year Financial Strategy, which will be a fantastic tool for aiding the Board and staff to financially ensure the outcomes contained with the draft strategic plan will be met.

The newly formed Audit & Risk Committee met in July - this Board subcommittee consists of Chair Phil Broughton (Puketeraki), Trevor McGlinchey (Moeraki), and Juliette Stevenson (Waihao). The committee is tasked with maintaining a higher level of oversight on behalf of the board in terms of financial reporting, risk management, and legal compliance.

There is still plenty to comment on though, as the PORPS 2021 covers a lot of different aspects of our environment, including:

- Air
- Coast
- Land and freshwater
- Ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity
- Energy, infrastructure and transport
- Hazards and risks
- Natural features and landscapes
- Urban form and development

A big mihi goes out to our reps from Ōtākou, Puketeraki, Moeraki, and Hokonui, who have been hard at work reading over the draft submission and providing us with feedback - me he tē, koutou!



# Ko Manuherekia te awa

Many of us have watched in dismay the events of last week at the Otago Regional Council, who voted not to note the recommended flow volumes for the Manuherekia.

There is a lot of mahi being done behind the scenes at Aukaha and amongst papatipu rūnaka to keep steering the collective waka in the right direction for this awa and te Mana o te Wai. Tēnei te mihi ki a koutou – kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui.



The Manuherekia River. Source: Wikipedia Commons

For those of you who'd like to know more about what's happening with the Manuherekia, follow the links below to learn more:

[Alexa Forbes is an ORC councilor](#), her blog provides a good summary, and includes links through to documentation, including the letter tabled by Edward Ellison and Lyn Carter.

Recent Newspaper Articles - Click the below article titles to view

[ODT - Clear support on Manuherekia River Flow \(22 July 2021\)](#)

[ODT - Fish & Game says ORC delaying Manuherekia decision \(27 August 2021\)](#)

[ODT - Call to disband councillors, bring to commissioners \(30 August 2021\)](#)

## Opportunities

We're on the hunt for a talented Consents Planner to join our dynamic Mana Taiao team. Feel free to pass on to everyone you know!

Aukaha have a number of employment and career opportunities in the civil and trades sector. If you know of anyone, wāhine, tāne, or rakatahi, who is seeking or just wanting a change of pathway, please get in touch with the following for more information on these opportunities.

Jade Saville, [jade@aukaha.co.nz](mailto:jade@aukaha.co.nz) 027 383 2355 or

Paul Miller, [paul@aukaha.co.nz](mailto:paul@aukaha.co.nz) 021 198 1350

Experience is not essential, however, you must be willing, punctual, and motivated.

CV not updated? We can support you around updating this.

Are you an experienced and talented researcher and writer, with whakapapa connections to our shareholder rūnaka?

We are always on the lookout for new talent to add to our pool of Mana Ahurea contract researcher/writers. To be considered, please send your CV and sample of your work to Caron Ward, General Manager Mana Ahurea, [caron@aukaha.co.nz](mailto:caron@aukaha.co.nz)