



**Aukaha**  
KIA KAHA, AU KAHA

# Aukaha Pānui

May 2023

# From the CEO



Kia ora koutou,

We took time out of the office recently, when our Dunedin-based kaimahi were hosted by the Whiria Te Waitaki team at Te Puna ā Maru. This was a great opportunity for whānaukataka with our wider Aukaha whānau, who we don't get to see too often. We're really proud of their achievements on the Waitaki awa. The impact of Whiria Te Waitaki can't be underestimated. It's creating access to mahinga kai that has been inaccessible for generations and from a cultural, hauora and wairua perspective, this project is achieving so much and laying a foundation that will allow our whānau to reintegrate, reconnect and reassert themselves in the Waitaki area. I'd also like to specially acknowledge Les Tipa for his panache on the BBQ!

The leadership team spent a day at Ōtākou Marae recently, planning for the next financial year. It's been great to review the last year, to note the big wins, acknowledge the fall-shorts, and remind ourselves of the big picture that we're working towards. Although planning mahi is still underway, it was great to dig into assessing next financial year's priorities, shoring up the gaps we've identified, and come away feeling re-enthused for the Aukaha purpose.

I'd also like to welcome our new staff: Aleisha Matsinger and Mareikura Tawhara (Kaiaka Taiao and Junior Kaiaka Taiao respectively, in Whiria te Waitaki – Mana Tākata); welcome back to Larissa Hinds and Pam Walker (Larissa – Policy Intern and Pam – Senior Planner, Consents, both in Mana Taiao). Both Larissa and Pam have been with us before, Larissa as a summer intern and Pam as a contractor, and it's great to welcome them into the Aukaha whānau. Also, welcome to Sarah Marshall (Employment and Training Kaiāwhina with Mana Tākata).

Nā Rachel

Chief Executive  
Rachel Wesley

# From the Board



Kia ora koutou,

In April, we, the board, conducted our governors' self-review, using a format that probed a range of competencies, strengths and weaknesses including director/board effectiveness and awareness of rūnaka shareholders aspirations.

The outcome of the process indicates that the board has a good balance of skills and experience across the range of competencies. We also noted that opportunities for professional development for board members would be beneficial, for example, attending conferences or events relating to the core business of Aukaha – such as RMA, Māori business development or exposure at local government level. Also, with an eye on potential retirements, we will be looking to attract additional skills around financial literacy.

The exercise also included very beneficial one-on-one discussions between myself and each director. These discussions provided an opportunity to expand on the critical areas that Aukaha is navigating, in that area of balance between a service provider and that of assisting the empowerment of nga rūnaka aspirations and growth needs.

It is important to note that rūnaka have their own personality and direction, it is not a one size fits all, and that their geographic/takiwa location is also influential in terms of opportunity, growth or perhaps focus. So good two-way communication and understanding how rūnaka aspirations and growth intersect with the Aukaha function is critical and very much part of the board focus.

The self-review also resulted in the board confirming the initiating the process for installing a second independent director to the board – preferably a person who has particular skills in financial management/literacy field. With the significant continued growth in the business over the last five years and the attendant responsibility to deliver on time, within budget while strengthening the organisation, fiscal management is of critical importance.

Regards, Edward.

# Mana Tākata



As the Otago region continues to see significant growth and development, we at Aukaha, want to ensure we are providing positive opportunities for Māori and Pasifika individuals and businesses. We do that by working to harness the potential of increased economic activity, and to help sector partners be more inclusive in their supply chain and employment processes.

We're committed to continue to establish ourselves in this area of broader outcomes and, in line with Government aims of a 5% increase in Māori and Pasifika businesses, we are keen to see manawhenua at the centre of relationships that guide procurement practices.

The construction of the new Dunedin hospital will obviously be a key opportunity for the construction industry in years to come but we want to show Māori and Pasifika businesses that there are many opportunities out there besides the hospital.

Aukaha's Mana Tākata team has been doing a lot of work to insert broader outcomes clauses into tender documents, while also ensuring to "close the loop" by sitting on evaluation panels. This allows us to set the scene for those businesses to be prosperous – and if Māori and Pasifika businesses are successful in gaining contracts, they're more likely to hire Māori and Pasifika workers if they have continuity of work.

This broader outcomes work has the potential to make a real difference and the effect on the community is profound. Providing a seat at the table means Māori entities have equitable opportunities to access contracts and work that can have much wider positive impacts. Bringing together socially-driven businesses and social enterprise suppliers to build business relationships generates wider social benefits for Māori and Pasifika people. That's what sits at the heart of our social procurement processes and we're committed to working in collaboration with our partners to facilitate supplier/contractor diversity and trade training in a range of sectors.

Nā Chris Rosenbrock



*Brent (Project Manager) and Daniel (Business Owner) from New Build Otago. NBO have undertaken the building and trade management for our TPK homes repairs programme and are a Māori-owned business.*

# Mana Ahurea



## Auahi Ora – The University of Otago

Mana Ahurea was approached by Campus Development at The University of Otago to be involved in the building refurbishment of the Union Dining Hall.

The team worked to establish a conceptual design approach that reflects the values and narratives brought forth by our mana whenua panel, and to ensure they are appropriately woven into the design.

The former Union Dining Hall was in need of a refresh to create a more relaxing and interactive space for students that can be converted into a venue for evening events. The need for change was sparked by conversations from consultants and the Otago Students Association, who both said students did not really have anywhere to "get away from it all" on campus.

This feedback was enough to evoke conversations with our mana whenua panel, around traditional gatherings for Kāi Tahu Māori. There was opportunity for us to involve some cultural visualisations and for a new name of the area, and it was discussed and approved by mana whenua to use Auahi Ora, which comes from a whakatauki recorded by Herries Beattie around 1920. "E auahi, e aumoana, aua tonu atu" which can be interpreted as 'Smoke of the a fire of life, smoke at sea, who knows' that can be transferred to modern day as well 'Where there is light, there is life and people'.

Ahi (Fire) was traditionally used to signal occupation of the whenua but also as a gathering place to share stories, sing, dance, and connect socially. These concepts of fire and life drive the visual design for this space.

Work began in October 2022 and Auahi Ora was completed in February. Mana Ahurea's design assistant and contemporary artist, Aroha Novak (Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngāti Kahungunu) created the designs of the new flooring based on a piupiu pattering, to help separate the different zones; and the servery was painted with a graphic representation of native plants traditionally used to start fires.



## Visit to Te Pā Tahuna

On May 5, Caron, Riani and Ashleigh visited Tāhuna to inspect installations at Te Kararo (Queenstown Gardens), Marine Parade and the Takiwai Apartments, which are part of Te Pā Tāhuna.

Designer, Morgan Mathews-Hale was engaged by Aukaha to be involved in several projects around Tāhuna, so it was a good opportunity for her to view these in person also.

Morgan was involved in the design for glazing manifestation, vinyl wall design, signage and interpretation panel at Te Pā Tāhuna and the sand-blasted pavers and tohu whenua in Te Kararo; along with the sand-blasting design for Marine Parade.



## Cultural Narratives Delivered

We have delivered more cultural narratives to schools around Ōtepoti since our last update.

This year we have produced narratives for Fairfield School, Brockville School and Taieri College. If whānau have tamariki at these schools please get in touch by e-mailing [ced@aukaha.co.nz](mailto:ced@aukaha.co.nz) and we can provide you with your own copy.

A cultural narrative is an illustrative document that highlights some – rather than all – key places, people and moments in Kāi Tahu history that are relevant to the

takiwā the school/business resides in. They provide an introductory overview that is seen as a beneficial resource for students and staff learning, and highlights the benefits of developing a relationship with mana whenua.

These narratives are great tools not only for the schools but also whānau, who can, at times, get “leaned on” to support the school with Māori kaupapa.

Nā Caron Ward



# Mana Taiao



Kia ora e te whānau,

It's hard to believe that we are almost halfway through 2023 already! It has been a whirlwind of activity here at Aukaha, as we continue to advocate for the rights and interests of manawhenua in environmental and resource management.

Last week, we took a day out of our busy schedule as a team to focus on our strategic direction for the next 12 to 18 months. This is an opportunity to look at where we are now and where we have come from, and to plan our upcoming priorities.



## Introducing The New Look Consents and Enquiries Team

When I first started work at Aukaha two years ago, we had one person dedicated to our Consents and Enquiries team; now, with the recruitment of our new staff, we have three staff members, with recruitment for a fourth role coming up soon.

This very much reflects the importance of this area of work. Work related to resource consents is fundamental to everything we do – it's where Aukaha started in fact. Given the importance of this workstream, we're delighted to welcome Pam Walker as our new Senior Planner, Consents. Pam will provide leadership for the Consents team, working with our new Consents Officers, Mereana Goodman and Makareta Wesley-Evans.

Pam brings significant experience as a Planner, having worked in local government and as a private consultant. Pam grew up in Palmerston North, however, her family connections to Otago are strong, her parents having come from Beaumont and Lawrence. Scottish ancestry features strongly in her whakapapa, but there is also a link to iwi Māori through her maternal line, with ancestry to Ngāti Toa and Ngāti Raukawa. Pam is still exploring these links, having not grown up with a connection to her tūrakawaewae.

A significant focus of Pam's role will be to provide support and guidance for our two new Consents Officers, to grow their skills, passion, and experience so that the sustainability crucial workstream is protected for the future.

## Recruitment

Further recruitment is crucial to build capacity with the Mana Taiao team. We have an exciting employment opportunity for a role that will enhance our ability to advance the aspirations and intentions of rūnaka.

With our Consents and Enquiries team working harder than ever, we are now recruiting for a **Kaiwhakamahere Whakaetaka (Planner – Consents)**. The role will provide extra resourcing for the Consents and Enquiries Team.

Noho ora mai rā koutou,  
Nā Kate Timms-Dean



# Mana Aukaha



Kia ora e te whānau,

Whakawhānaukataka has been the focus for the Mana Aukaha team this quarter. We held two "staff bonding days" since the last pānui, and have these scheduled every two months for the remainder of the year as we continue to focus on building relationships across all pou; and the opportunities created for whakawhānaukataka through these ventures.

A highlight in the last quarter was the staff bonding day at Te Nukuroa o Matamata on 8 March. This was a great opportunity for staff to get out of the office and into nature, and for bonding between pou, engaged with other rūnaka-run projects. A big thank you to the Te Nukuroa o Matamata crew for hosting us, telling some great stories, and taking the time to show us around their mahi.

We had a second bonding day with the Whiria te Waitaki team at Bortons Pond in the Waitaki Valley. That was a very valuable day of whānaukataka, where we learned more about the whakapapa of the takiwā and the project itself. It was fantastic to see the lay of the land and the "Whiria Office" (being outside, in nature, undertaking weed control, revegetation), and to connect with the Whiria whānau. I'd like to extend a huge thank you to Kelly and Patrick for organising the day - Kā mihi nui ki a kōrua, Kelly rāua ko Patrick. The Aukaha office kaimahi thoroughly enjoyed the time we spent at Bortons Pond.

Now, as we move towards the end of financial year, our focus will begin to shift to annual reporting requirements. Our AGM is scheduled for 10 November, 2023 for those who want to "save the date" now.

Lastly, we have several job vacancies currently advertised – head over to our website to learn more about these: [www.aukaha.co.nz/work-with-us/](http://www.aukaha.co.nz/work-with-us/)

Nā Libby Evans.







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