



PĀNUI WHAKAHAERENGA

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024

HE WAKA TAPU
Me mahi tahi tātou mo te ora o te whānau





CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER UPDATE

What a stunning start to 2024 for He Waka Tapu, it really feels like the team has hit the ground running with some exciting new initiatives and old ones kicking off for the year.

A fresh year always brings vitality and a renewed drive to excel and reach greater heights, with a full external evaluation completed at the end of 2023, which is available on [our website](#), it not only allows us to look at what we do well but as always, reflect on the areas we can improve.

The conclusion of 2023 saw the triumph of our quarterly 'Tikanga day', where the whole team can come together and reflect on our value Rangatiratanga. Looking closely at leadership and what that means in both our work, communities, and personal lives. Additionally, I was delighted to see everyone fully embrace our Christmas party, and the team lip-sync performances were truly outstanding— Ka pai tō mahi!

This year, we eagerly anticipate the completion of our Ahikā Housing Project, a cause close to our hearts and one we hope will be embraced by our community.

For those who were able to attend the first of the Whakaakoako workshops series, you would have appreciated the stories, wisdom, and insights shared by our panel. As they explored the significance of Te Tiriti O Waitangi in our mahi, which you can read about in the Pānui.

We have also experienced some changes and shuffling of roles among our teams, and I trust that each of you will find fulfilment in your new positions and embody the change you wish to see in your mahi. I too would like to offer a warm welcome to all our new kaimahi who have joined us on this journey aboard our waka.

I would like to take this moment to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for your dedication to our community, for showing up day in and day out, and above all, for your loyalty to your mahi.

**Ngā mihi,
Jackie Burrows**





AHIKĀ PROGRESS

In the bustling world of housing projects, Ahikā stands tall, not just for its construction milestones but for the hope it brings to communities. Teaming up with Cook Brothers Construction, we've been hard at work, and boy, have we got some exciting updates to share!

The roofs are standing tall, solar panels basking in the sunlight, and work bustling as internal cladding takes shape on both Block A and Block B. It's been a whirlwind of progress, and we're bursting with pride at what we've achieved together.

Our He Waka Tapu project team has invested time and creativity in achieving our goals, from selecting flooring and joinery colour schemes to sourcing affordable yet reliable appliances for our units. We've meticulously searched through various appliance suppliers to ensure we provide the best value without compromising on quality. Working closely with our joinery supplier Jason at 360 Interiors Limited, we've collaborated to achieve the optimal outcome for the interior aspect of our project.

By July/September, we're looking at 10 low-cost rentals ready to welcome families in need.

Since kicking off this adventure back in August 2023, we've zoomed past the 60% completion mark. It's been quite the ride, seeing these units come to life, but man, it's been worth every moment!

The hard and soft landscaping components of our project are beginning to take shape beautifully. From the sturdy structures of paved walkways and exterior art features to the delicate arrangements of trees, shrubs, and flowers, each element is coming together harmoniously to create an inviting and aesthetically pleasing environment.

But let's not forget, Ahikā isn't just about putting up buildings. It's about creating vibrant, sustainable communities where everyone can thrive. We're all about making dreams of home ownership a reality for families across New Zealand.

Cheers to our hard-working team, our partners at Cook Brothers Construction, 360 Interior Limited, Laura Vis our landscaper, and everyone else who's lent a hand along the way. This is just the beginning of something truly special, and we couldn't be more excited to see where it takes us next!



TIKANGA WĀNANGA RANGATIRATANGA



Several times annually, we come together for 'Tikanga Wānanga', a day-long immersion where we delve deeply into our core values and reaffirm the purpose behind our actions. These occasions hold significant weight in our schedule, offering our team members an opportunity to pause, reflect, and engage in candid discussions about the triumphs and trials of our collective journey.

Under the guidance of our Kaiārahi Tāne Keepa, teams delved into the intricacies of Rangatiratanga and leadership. We explored its personal significance to each of us, its impact on our organisation, and even its resonance within our personal lives.

As an entity, we acknowledge the pivotal role of continuous learning and development in our work. As we embark upon the new year, we eagerly anticipate our upcoming wānanga, where we will delve into the value of 'Whakaakoako' (We all Learn). Recognising the lessons and blessings embedded within our daily challenges serves to enrich our character and foster growth.

Next Tikanga Wānanga - Wednesday, 13 March



WHAKAAKO WORKSHOP SERIES

TE TIRITI O WAITANGI



To inaugurate the year 2024, we launched an exciting new internal workshop series spotlighting one of our organisational values, 'Whakaakoako' (We all Learn). These sessions provide a platform for our diverse teams to share insights and stories about their unique programs and services. It presents a fantastic opportunity for us to deepen our understanding of how each facet of our work intertwines and contributes to our collective mission.

To coincide with Waitangi Day and its profound significance to our work and the community we serve, we were fortunate to welcome our founder, Daryl Gregory, our CEO, Jackie Burrows, Whānau Kaimahi, Zion Taumati, and Kaiārahi, Tāne Keepa, for our panel of speakers. Together, they offered their wealth of knowledge, wisdom, and perspectives on how our efforts align with the principles of Te Tiriti O Waitangi.

We delved into the rich whakapapa of He Waka Tapu, navigating the distinctive challenges we face as a kaupapa Māori organisation, while seizing every opportunity for internal growth and continued positive impact within our community. These discussions yielded invaluable insights that will serve as guiding lights as we evolve further. We're enthusiastic about embarking on this journey of learning and discovery together, embracing every opportunity to enhance our understanding, fortify our internal bonds, and pursue our collective objectives.

#2 Whakaako Workshop - 12:30-1pm Thurs, 7 March



TE POU

'ADDICTION WORKFORCE INNOVATION' AWARD



We were honoured to receive the Te Pou 'Addiction Workforce Innovation' Award at this years 'Cutting Edge - Te toka tū moana' conference that was held in Hamilton in November.

This esteemed recognition serves as a testament to our ongoing commitment to advancing work practices that not only enhance addiction workplace well-being but also promote worker engagement and foster positive outcomes for tāngata whai ora. Presented to the team for our contribution to our community with our Whai Rawatia te oranga (open groups program)

We recognised the critical need for innovative approaches to community engagement and support in addressing addiction issues. With this in mind, we took the initiative to introduce open groups as a proactive means of connecting with our community, eliminating the barriers often associated with referral processes. These open groups serve as inclusive spaces where individuals can access support and resources without the constraints of formalities, allowing for a more seamless and immediate engagement process.

[Click here to find out more about open groups](#)



WHAI RAWATIA TE ORANGA

TE AUKATI MATAHOKI RELAPSE PREVENTION



In this quarter of the Te Aukati Matahoki open group, the focus is on strengthening the four pillars of Te Whare Tapa Whā. The emphasis lies on imparting essential learning skills, such as pēpēha, positive boundary setting, managing triggers, setting goals, and Whakawhanaungatanga, all while incorporating maramataka Māori.

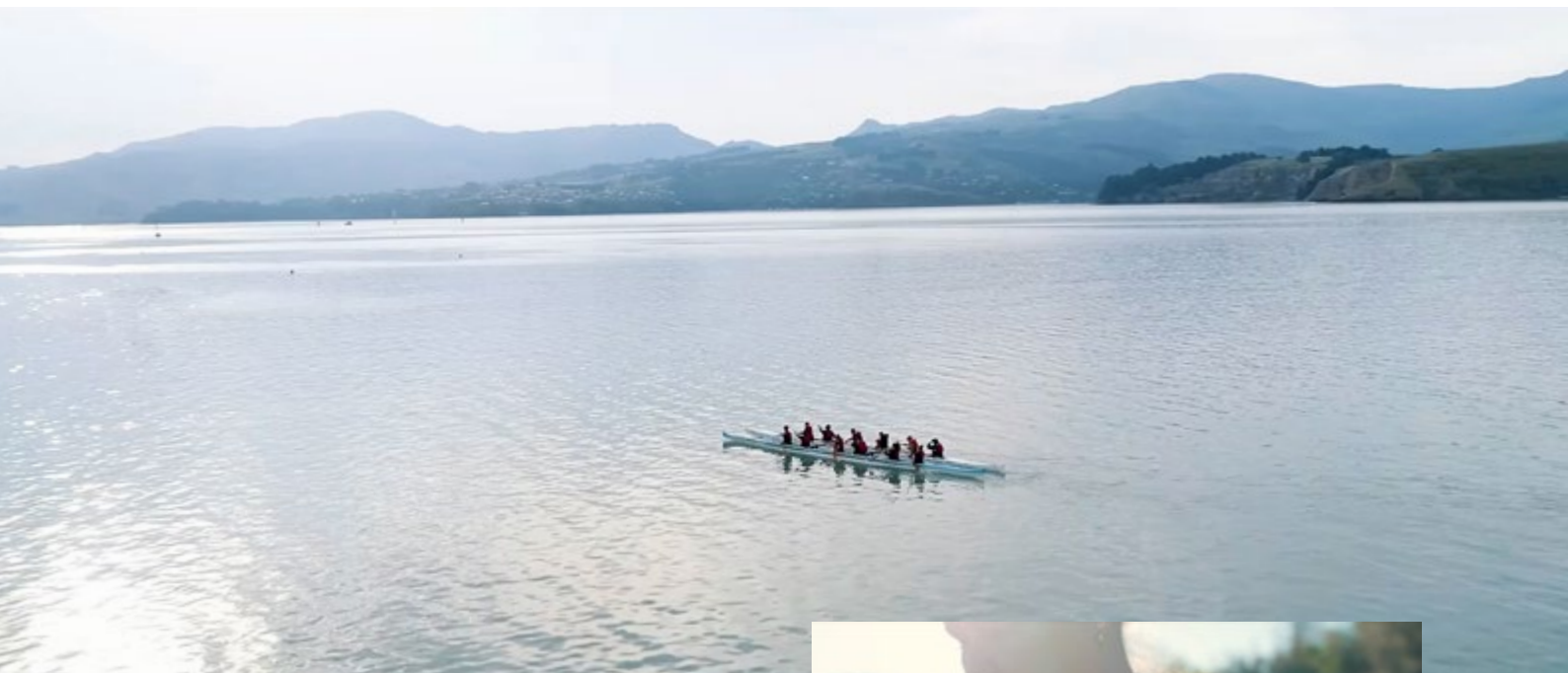
During these sessions, participants are introduced to Te Ao Māori, illustrating its relevance to their individual journeys towards sobriety irrespective of their background history. Strong relationships have been built, fostering a safe environment for deeper discussions, particularly surrounding whakapapa and living positively in a substance-free environment.

Moving forward, the team plans to include key motivational speakers and representatives from other organisations and health services to provide a well-rounded, informative, and engaging Kaupapa.

One inspiring story from the sessions is that of Tāne, originally from the North Island but now residing in Ōtautahi and raising his Tamariki there. Having gone through the MOE program and regularly attending many open groups, he has now become a graduate mentor, guiding others towards a positive lifestyle. Taking on the role of tuakana to many others, he thrives in his passion and imparts great words of wisdom derived from his willingness to share his mātauranga – knowledge.

The group meets every Thursday from 10am to 12pm, with kai provided during break time.

Te Aukati Matahoki - Thursdays, 10am.



TAKAHI TE TANIWHA



Rooted in Te Ao Māori models of wellness, Takahi Te Taniwha is more than just a conventional intervention program. It is a holistic approach that integrates a myriad of methodologies, blending traditional wisdom with contemporary techniques. At its core lies the belief in the inherent strength of whākapapa (genealogy) and the power of pūrākau (narratives) to guide individuals towards transformation.

The program offers a comprehensive tool-kit encompassing harm reduction planning, motivational strategies, and cognitive behavioural therapy, all within a Te Ao Maori. It is designed to cater to the diverse needs of whaiora (participants), providing a supportive environment where individuals can explore their relationship with substances and work towards their goals, whether it be moderation or complete abstinence.

Central to the ethos of Takahi Te Taniwha is the concept of whanaungatanga (kinship) and manaakitanga (hospitality), fostering a sense of belonging and

connection within the community. Through open support groups and personalised interventions, participants are encouraged to share their experiences, draw strength from one another, and forge meaningful connections that transcend the barriers of addiction.

For those seeking to take the first step towards change, Takahi Te Taniwha offers a range of avenues for engagement. Whether it's through a self-referral process or attending one of the related free open support groups, individuals are welcomed with open arms into a safe and nurturing environment where healing and growth can flourish.

Ultimately, Takahi Te Taniwha is more than just a program; it is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring legacy of cultural heritage. By embracing the teachings of our ancestors and reclaiming our rightful place within the tapestry of whakapapa, we pave the way for a brighter, more vibrant future—one where the shadows of addiction are replaced by the light of cultural pride and holistic well-being.



WĀHINE ORA COLPOSCOPY



The Community Colposcopy Clinic initiative is a collaborative effort involving He Waka Tapu (HWT) Wāhine Ora services, Te Aranga Health, and the Te Whatu Ora Waitaha (TWOW) Colposcopy team. This initiative addresses the pressing issue of cervical cancer prevention, particularly within Māori and Pasifika communities, where there are significant disparities in screening attendance and outcomes.

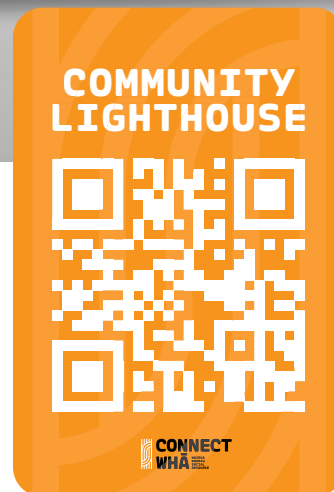
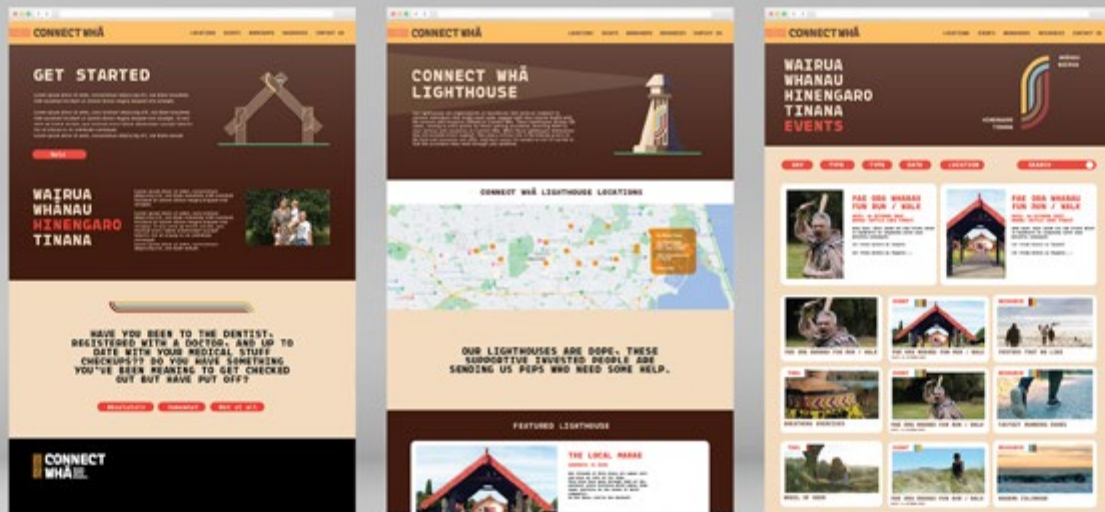
To combat these disparities, wāhine ora services have been established to educate, advocate, and provide accessible screening options. However, colposcopy, an essential part of the screening pathway, has often been inaccessible and intimidating for many individuals, especially among Māori and Pasifika populations. Recognising this, collaborative efforts have been undertaken to develop community-based colposcopy clinics.

The primary goal of these clinics is to bridge service gaps and provide equitable cervical screening services for Māori and Pasifika communities.

By creating a safe and culturally familiar space for healthcare access within a kaupapa Māori framework, the initiative aims to increase participation in colposcopy procedures and ultimately reduce cervical cancer rates.

Looking ahead, the vision is to hold these community colposcopy clinics on a monthly basis, offering a supportive environment where whānau can receive care, ask questions, and engage in shared food and conversation. The TWOW colposcopy team, led by wāhine Māori colposcopist Sarah Te Whaiti, contributes essential equipment and expertise, while Te Aranga Health and HWT provide facilities and logistical support to bring these clinics to life. Through these collaborative efforts, barriers to accessing colposcopy services are being addressed, leading to improved health outcomes for Māori and Pasifika communities.

[Find out more here](#)



CONNECT WHĀ

One of our big projects for this year is Connect Whā, a website that connects individuals with events tailored to support their Te Whare Tapa Whā. This national project, recognises four interconnected dimensions of well-being: spiritual, mental and emotional, physical, and family and social.

The platform's strength lies in its ability to encourage a balanced approach to health and community engagement. By providing a diverse range of events that cater to each dimension of well-being, Connect Whā fosters a holistic perspective on individual health. Through event discovery, the platform enables users to explore activities aligning with their specific well-being goals. This not only facilitates personal

growth but also cultivates a sense of community as individuals with similar interests come together.

Additionally, local businesses, organisations, sports centers in the community can access and use Connect Whā to update and amplify their own workshops, events, groups and much more.

In essence, "Connect Whā" emerges as more than just a platform; it becomes a dynamic facilitator of positive lifestyle changes, community connections, and a collective commitment to holistic health and well-being.

Connect Whā will launch in the coming weeks.

KAIMAHI DEVELOPMENT

Kaimahi Training and Development

At He Waka Tapu, our commitment to fostering a skilled and culturally enriched workforce is unwavering. Currently, four Kaimahi are engaged in Level 4 Health and Well-being studies, with more expressing interest in joining them in 2024.

To ensure our team's continued growth, Kaimahi and Managers are finalising Professional Development Plans (PDPs) for 2024. These plans tailor training to individual aspirations and organisational goals.

Recent training sessions in November focused on De-escalation and Boundaries and Ethics, with further sessions scheduled for March 20th, 2024. These sessions equip our team with essential skills for effective client interaction and ethical practice.

In summary, at He Waka Tapu we believe that investing in our people is paramount. Through professional development and cultural initiatives, we empower our Kaimahi to thrive and make a positive impact in the lives of those we serve.

Africa Mission

NICOLA BEEDLES

Recently, Nicola Beedles, a Whānau Support Kaimahi from our ISR team, alongside a group from Celebration Church, embarked on a mission trip to Africa. Their journey, facilitated by Celebration Church, took them to Uganda and Kenya with the primary goal of sharing the teachings of God, offering practical assistance, and spreading messages of optimism.

During their trip, the team distributed donated clothing, sporting equipment, and essential items to various churches and villages. They stayed in Kampala and Mbale in Uganda, as well as Eldoret in Kenya. Additionally, the expedition featured visits to notable sights such as Cheynik Waterfall and Massai Mara National Reserve.

At each destination, the team was warmly received with dancing, singing, and sincere gestures, leading to profound moments of cultural exchange. For Nicola, stepping beyond her comfort zone posed a personal challenge, ultimately fostering newfound resilience and empathy. Witnessing remarkable acts of faith and determination, including a woman's miraculous recovery and a young girl's aspiration to become a neurosurgeon, left an enduring impression on the team.



Nicola emerged from the experience with a profound gratitude for the everyday privileges enjoyed in Aotearoa, such as readily accessible education, clean water, and abundant resources. This journey not only fortified her faith but also widened her perspective, fostering a commitment to embracing novel experiences, both personally and in her collaborative endeavours with others. Nicola wishes to extend her heartfelt appreciation to sponsors, supporters, and loved ones, recognising the divine guidance that accompanied them throughout this transformative journey.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Easter Whānau Day

In continuation of the success garnered from our previous Easter Whānau Fun Day, we are delighted to announce another Easter event to be held at 161 Pages Road. At the heart of our initiative lies the mission to unite families. These events serve as a platform where the richness of our culture is showcased, fostering an environment that eradicates stigma and cultivates trust and confidence among our whānau in accessing social services. Our Whānau Days, scheduled throughout the year, offer us the invaluable opportunity to extend invitations and forge connections with the community we proudly serve.

Saturday, 23 March 2024

Whakaakoako Tikanga Day (Internal Only)

Our opening Tikanga Day of the year will delve into the depths of Whakaako, aiming to enrich and broaden our collective comprehension. This enlightening event is scheduled for Wednesday, 13 March 2024 at 9:00am and concluding at 3:30pm.

Wednesday, 13 March 2024



#2 Whakaakoako Workshop Series

To foster continued knowledge exchange among our kaimahi, our upcoming workshop will feature a presentation by the Marketing & IT Team. During this session, they will deliver a 10-minute presentation followed by an open discussion. Gain insights into their roles, accomplishments, and how you can effectively utilise their services. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn more about their world!

12:30-1pm Thursday, 7 March 2024



FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES



Reintegration Practitioner

Full Time Permanent

Are you passionate about making a positive impact on the lives of individuals transitioning from prison back into the community?

[Find out more](#)



General Practitioner

Full Time Permanent

Are you a compassionate and dedicated General Practitioner looking for an opportunity to make a significant impact on a community with high health needs?

Join our team and be the driving force behind positive health outcomes and change for both you and the community you serve.

[Find out more](#)


Nurse Practitioner

Full Time Permanent

Are you a compassionate and dedicated Nurse Practitioner looking for an opportunity to make a significant impact on a community with high health needs?

Join our team and be the driving force behind positive health outcomes and change for both you and the community you serve.

[Find out more](#)



ME MAHI TAHI TĀTOU MO TE ORANGA O TE WHĀNAU

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