



TE MANA O TE WAI

18-19 PIPIRI 2024

HUI MĀTAURANGA INSIGHTS SUMMIT

TŪRAMATIA TE ARA O TE WHAKAKITENGA, GIVE LIGHT TO THE PATH OF THE VISION



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao



HON NANAIA MAHUTA

Mānātū Mō Te Taiao, the Ministry for the Environment hosted a two-day Insights Summit at Lake Karāpiro from 18-19 June 2024, which, for the second time, brought together rōpū from across the motu who have been delivering projects funded through Te Mana o Te Wai.

The Honourable Nanaia Mahuta initiated proceedings with her rousing opening address which delved deeper into the importance of Māori representation and intergenerational excellence. She encouraged iwi to continue striving towards their goals and to focus on the future of the wai.



From protecting and monitoring activities on the health of a waterbody, to developing measures and indicators regarding mauri, to understanding the ecological health of wai required for tāonga species to survive and how to improve collaboration in local decision-making. The opportunity to influence environmental outcomes through diverse knowledge systems has never been more powerful.

Our expanding body of knowledge and evidence accumulated from across the motu to validate how important indigenous knowledge practices and Western Science can be as an integrated planning tool. Internationally these approaches are being cited as opportunities to innovate sustainable environmental management practices.

HON NANAIA MAHUTA



KŌRERO REFLECTIONS



Nanaia, encouraging all iwi, to not give up the fight, and the importance of our wai, for the future.

We really gained inspiration from this kōrero. Personally, I hadn't learned of the history of the great Waikato River until this day, I took a lot of learnings from how she spoke of her father's mahi in the Waikato Crown Settlement.

Keeping striving for Māori representation; Focus on intergenerational excellence; be independent of the Crown.

Her comparative examples where indigenous communities are leading innovative approaches to freshwater management that we can draw further insights from. Our expanding body of knowledge and evidence accumulated validates just how important indigenous knowledge and practices are, and how it complements Western science as an integrated planning tool.

"Nobody owns water, but we must uphold our responsibility as kaitiaki."

Ride out the swings of the changes in the government. Find the opportunities regardless of who holds the reins of power. Iwi are here. We're strong. We're resilient. We will be here doing this mahi long after governments are long gone.

SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS



Inspiration from like-minded people.

Her passion for her people and the environment.



TE MANA O TE WAI INSIGHTS

Six Te Mana o Te Wai projects were showcased at the Insights Summit: Mana Tāhuna Charitable Trust, Ngāti Tama Ki Te Waipounamu Trust, Te Iwi o Rakaipaaka, Pohaturoa Trust, Rongomaiwahine Iwi Trust and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust. Representatives from each project were welcomed onto the stage to discuss their mahi.



Respect for all the awesome mahi that is taking place across the Motu. Funding has allowed hapū and iwi to build skills and expertise.

That each of those who shared their narratives reinforced the work that we are doing and that what matters is the taiao. That each forged a different and meaningful relationship with the Ao Tūroa. That each was invested in making our/their world a special taonga space.

Plenty of whānau doing great mahi all around the motu, and that there are plenty of tools and processes already developed - through whanaungatanga and respectful exchange, we do not need to invent new wheels.

Awesome mahi whānau! There are so many different ways of exercising our kaitiakitanga.

SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS



The value of partnerships.

Empowerment and leadership.



SUMMIT WORKSHOPS

TOOLS FOR MEASURING THE HEALTH OF FRESHWATER



Nearly 70 participants attended the first session run by Dr Ian and Manawa Ruru on tools, methods and experiences the groups are using in freshwater management. Five groups spent time with each other discussing and then presented back to the room (enticed by a competitive prize – chocolates!). There was creative, wide ranging and comprehensive coverage of the freshwater tools and methods project participants are using and know of. The entire scale of practitioners' experience was evident, from on the ground in the water practices assessing scientific and biophysical features to kaitiakitanga in all of its spiritual and physical manifestations, influencing planning and policy at local, regional and national levels.

This shows that, in the Te Mana o Te Wai intervention logic, the intervention is indicating achievement of medium term

outcomes, that tangata whenua are actively participating in and influencing freshwater management decisions and are actively contributing to collective freshwater management efforts.

Groups had encompassing visions and ways of working with their people, indicating the time and effort required to take their people on the journey toward implementing Te Mana o Te Wai. These efforts take place in situ and facilitate partnerships for everyone.



DIFFERING WORLDVIEWS

Tools and methods often differ depending on your world view. For example:

- Western Science models focus on education training results,
- Mauri is steeped in observations, feelings, traditional materials, and
- Taonga species relates to our tipuna, and has an altogether different scope.

Innovative mātauranga based assessment tools were shared, using real life examples of managing tuna movement through dams, to ensure the tuna heke continues and also being able to work with power companies. Some of that mātauranga needs to be protected.

Interactions took place between an iwi who are mana whenua for a major city and an iwi based in an isolated rural setting. They both shared their differing issues but also shared outcomes. For example, the urban iwi have pressing water infrastructure challenges and the rural iwi are focused

on working in catchments and with hapū on whenua and restoration.

Other tools mentioned included GIS, use of drones, use of mycelium as a filter for E.coli, eco sourcing seeds for riparian restoration, teaching others policy influence tools such as consents and submission making and designing hapū management plans.



KŌRERO REFLECTIONS



I found this workshop engaging, the whole thing was great, being more of a proactive workshop.

Fun and interactive workshop, I enjoyed the efforts put in from like minded people, and how we as a collective can identify and make good decisions for our communities. Introductions of water monitoring tools and resources available was very informative.

An understanding of how other hapū, marae and whānau are looking after their awa.

Being from a strongly urban iwi within a severely modified context, it was great to see the challenges that other hapū/whānau face in their kaitiaki experience, and the broad range of innovative and place-based initiatives.

Was a cool workshop understanding what others do.

That where we are going with our testing serves our being more informed and therefore better able to initiate those practices for best wai/taiao whakapapa outcomes.

Our tohu are relevant measures of the health of the taiao.

That kaitiakitanga is an ongoing kaupapa.

SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS



Great to see the amount of work being done by other iwi groups.





WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY

INVESTING IN LARGER TO SMALL SCALE RESTORATION PROJECTS

Waikato iwi consider that their river is an ancestor.

The Waikato River Authority (WRA) catchment includes the Lower River (Waikato Iwi), and is supported by the Upper River (Tūwharetoa), Maniapoto, Waipa. The Tainui Settlement includes, as part of addressing the historical confiscation of 1.2 million acres, a redress of \$170 million (including \$60 million in cash repaid over five years).

The presenters shared their experience of the negotiations. An initial proposal provided to the late Sir Robert Mahuta, was that the Crown would provide \$2 million as redress to settle all Waikato River claims, back in 1995. The answer was, lets complete the Raupatu and place the river claims to the side, for another time.

Subsequently the Waikato River negotiations were initiated in 2010 and completed at a later date by Sir Robert's wife, Lady Raiha.

The Waikato River Authority's governance arrangement consists of 10 members: each iwi authority appoints one member, and the Crown appoints five. This governance is facilitated through dual management agreements and ministerial accords.



WRA WATER QUALITY

Te Ture Whai mana or the Vision and Strategy outlines the direction to restore and protect the health of the river, which all legislation must meet. Under their settlement agreement with the government, they must submit an annual report to the Ministry for the Environment to receive their allocated funding.

A story was shared relating to the river claims and it called into question, who owns the water? The Crown position was no one owns the water. The Iwi was offered ownership of the riverbed. When this was communicated to iwi, our kuia replied, “we don’t karakia with stones from the riverbed, we don’t clean with stones from the riverbed and we don’t drink the stones from the riverbed.” Therefore, owning the riverbed was not accepted by the iwi. The iwi decided to place ownership rights to the side and said that all people had a responsibility to look after the river which

was the genesis for the creation of the Co Governance arrangement that is the Waikato River Authority.

WATER QUALITY AND RESTORATION FUNDING

The health of the Waikato had improved since 1950 through technology and regulation but has seen a decline in the last 20 years due to land use. The state of the water has changed over time, with a 75% reduction in wetlands.

Phosphorus and nitrates contribute to blue-green algae blooms, leading to water closures in Waikato and posing risks to animals. In 2023, avian botulism, caused by low oxygen levels, resulted in fish and bird deaths.

RESTORATION STRATEGY

WRA have funded \$72 million in grants, across 450 projects, such as, retiring land to return to wetlands and small whānau puna restoration. They have a comprehensive restoration strategy which guides their funding decision making and application assistance is encouraged and provided to ensure successful fund distribution. The river has 19 native species of fish so projects can include the removal of barriers to fish passage which impact their life cycles as native fish move between the headwaters to the ocean.

In terms of the restoration strategy, they indicated an important challenge is gaining knowledge around how to address poor water quality in the many shallow lakes in the catchment and some catchments remain with very little restoration work. Other challenges include lack of scale in terms of project outcomes and the level of capability and capacity in

some communities. They operate an end-to-end funding system “Smarty grant” (submit application, managed, and completed through the system) and have a wide range of collateral online via the WRA website to help/guide/inform projects prior to applying for funding.



KŌRERO REFLECTIONS



Unity not only empowers each marae and hapū to apply for additional funding and mana whakahono agreements independently, but also ensures that their combined voice and influence are recognised and respected in environmental and water management decisions.

In time and given good support we can do great things in our little corner of the world. It requires drive and determination with a focused core vision to participate with authority in our spaces.

Very inspirational insights.

This workshop was really helpful, the case study of Waikato opened my mind up to possibilities.

Have taken away and will be sharing in upcoming wānanga; WRA templates to develop small projects, costings etc. Also, information on the funding they have and training in CIA for whānau - loved this session.

We need disciplines of business cases to make the most of innovative opportunities.

I just listened to the kōrero, on how they got to where they are now.

Was good to know how WRA works and the stats.

SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS



They were amazing and provided some really fantastic insights into their awa and what they've done to improve the health of their awa.





MAXIMISING POTENTIAL

Tawera kicked off the second day of the Insights Summit with his compelling kōrero on collective potential and solid business frameworks. He provided ideas for expanding upon existing practices and motivating teams and he highlighted the importance of connections and relationships in achieving team goals.



Great motivational speaker, can relate to his whakāro and good to see he is a kaitiaki practitioner.

Very empowering and inspiring, makes you realise the importance of maximising collective potential and a solid business plan framework. Also gave some great ideas to expand upon.

Appreciated his presentation and the importance of integrity using Melbourne Storm as an example. The connections, relationships and partnering his hapū and marae use for their taiao was clever where it was a win-win for commercial and environmental sustainability. Rangatahi was also inclusive in their succession planning.

It's all about mindset, good leadership and inductions. Knowing your past, upholding values and being accountable.

I especially enjoyed the second stanza of his kōrero. This was directly related to his relationship with his whenua. Sharing their whānau business and how growing potential and independence can be achieved.

SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS



ORA KŌRERO

Melaina's presentation on ORA emphasised staying true to one's identity and cultural roots. Melaina lives her life based on a set of mā tāpono which form part of a reflective model of practice she calls ORA. ORA is applied to every aspect of her life and she presented this framework at the Insights Summit.



Melaina reminded us to stay true to our identity even when busy with work. She emphasised the importance of reconnecting with our cultural roots.

Enjoyable kōrero and grounded in a cultural approach to self and the environment.

I loved this. ORA is such a great way of thinking above and beyond the kupu oranga.

Biggest takeaway was the cues that we can find when we use our mātauranga. The example she used of the waiata, the occasion in which it was used and why. Highlighted a valuable resource that we have in front of us.

As kaitiaki, we need to care for the well-being of our whanau - and ourselves.

I look in my Ora mirror every day and ask how my Ora is? It's been really good.

To kōrero, don't be shy, connect.

SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS



This presentation really hit home for me. Ko tōku aro, ko tōku ora, ko tōku ora, ko tōku aro. This struck home as my wellbeing and work focus are suffering because of my health, so I need to do something about that.





COUNCIL KŌRERO

Our three council panelists gave raw insights into how to influence council policy and plans. The panel included:

Jono Naylor, Deputy Chair- Horizons Regional Council;

Toi Kai Rākau Iti, Māori Constituency Councillor, Bay of Plenty Regional Council;

and Melaina Huaki, former Hamilton Māori Ward Councillor.



We need to support our own who go into politics. Their mahi inside the political establishments, and their insights, are invaluable.

Need to upskill whānau in changes to NPSFM. Relationships are key to collaboration. Whānau, hapū, iwi are facing engagement fatigue.

I really appreciated learning about the Bill amendments and how the different councils work differently under the guidelines given by government.

Another great presentation. Toi was very informative in how councils operate including bureaucratic difficulties that come to bear on environmental matters or that create barriers that even Councillor's find troublesome. Striking the right balance between commercial utilisation and protection of the environment was obvious in Jono's kōrero, but not so easy to accomplish.

SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS

Navigating Board room politics in the current climate is challenging and distracts from focusing on key mahi; Māori Councillors bring value and expertise to the decision making table.



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“
Venue was beautiful. The Taitokerau trailer (Lab and incubators) should have had a presentation session to comprehensively explain it with examples and then audience go outside to view.
”



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Thank you Te Rau Aroha Kura, ngā Mātua, te whānau whānui hoki. Ka nui te mihi. Te Rau Aroha tamariki demonstrated true manaakitanga.



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“
Venue was perfect. Great to have time to interact and network. Loved the videos and speakers. Delicious kai and great that the local kura supported the event. Mean kapa haka, good Māori humour and lovely wairua.
”



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“
Engaging the local rangatahi as hosts worked well and provided them with opportunity to manaakitanga and to be around kaitiaki mātauranga.
”



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