NGĀTI APAKURA

Kia ora e te whānau,

October was a significant month for Ngāti Apakura, marked by two important days of whakawhanaungatanga, manaakitanga and kotahitanga at Kahotea Marae.

On 9 Oketopa, whānau gathered at Kahotea Marae to welcome Te Ariki o Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Te Rangimaheu Te Heuheu Tūkino IX, and Te Tumuaki o te Kīngitanga, Hone Tamihana, alongside our manuhiri and iwi huānga. The following day, 10 Oketopa, we returned to Kahotea for the 2026 Apakura Rūnanga Trust Annual General Meeting, coming together again to reflect on the year that has been and to share the direction ahead for Ngāti Apakura.

Across both days, Kahotea Marae was filled with kōrero, whakawhanaungatanga, laughter, kai and the warmth of whānau coming together. These occasions reminded us that our kaupapa is carried not only through formal meetings and presentations, but through our relationships with one another and through the many hands that quietly make these gatherings possible.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to these two special days. To Kahotea Marae, ngā ringawera, kaumātua, whānau, trustees, kaimahi, volunteers and everyone who worked before, during and after the hui - tēnei te mihi nui ki a koutou.

To everyone who travelled to be with us, who stood on the pae, supported the pōwhiri, shared kōrero, worked in the kitchen, helped with preparations, packed down afterwards, or simply came and added their presence to these occasions – nei rā te mihi maioha ki a koutou.

These two days were a powerful reminder that the strength of Ngāti Apakura lies in our people and in our ability to come together.

Take a look at the short reel below celebrating the mahi of the past financial year and the wonderful kaupapa we have been able to share with whānau. Click to watch and reflect on the year together. https://youtu.be/kkZ5rfx4LzA?si=aCbdW2zR1Xb1Zias








NGĀTI APAKURA
APAKURA
WAIKATO UNI






WHATIHUA



Hui-ā-Tau 2026 | Reflecting on Our AGM

10 Oketopa 2026

Following the haka powhiri for the Ariki, our AGM provided an opportunity to reflect on the mahi undertaken throughout the year and, importantly, to look toward the future together.

Chairperson Hōri Griggs described the year as one of “rebuilding, reconnecting and preparing for the future.” That rebuilding can be seen across our kaupapa - from progressing Hohou i te Rongo and strengthening the Rūnanga, to reconnecting uri with whakapapa and iwi, caring for our whenua and taiao, and strengthening the relationships that enable the voice of Ngāti Apakura to be heard.

1,154 registered whānau	**28,960** plants planted through Taiea te Taiao	**3 + 1** livestreamed hui + Rangiaowhia wānanga
7 iwi huānga engaged on Hohou i te Rongo	**8** core policy areas	**1** iwi classification application accepted into Stats NZ review

These numbers tell only part of the story. Behind them are whānau, trustees, kaimahi, kaumātua and partners contributing their time, whakaaro and expertise to strengthen Ngāti Apakura.

Te Iti o Apakura | Our New Strategic Plan

One of the important kaupapa presented at the AGM was Te Iti o Apakura - our new strategic plan. Its name reflects our journey as an iwi and honours Ngāti Apakura kaumātua Pupuhi Whakamau, who used the expression and named a papakāinga after it.

Whakapapa & Whenua Uri connected to identity, whakapapa and community	**Te Mana Whakahaere** Robust, transparent governance for our future
Toitūtanga Financially sustainable, with strong income streams	**Ngā Ara Whanaunga** Strong, informed connections and effective advocacy

Our immediate priorities include improving our uri database and access to whakapapa resources, strengthening governance, establishing a clear financial and asset baseline, and developing coordinated communications and key relationships.

Please download our strategic plan from our website: https://ngatiapakura.co.nz/mo-matou-about-us#Strategic-Plan



Te Pāhuatanga ki Rangiaowhia – A Story of Exile, Survival and Hope

A special moment at this year's AGM was the launch of Rachael Tuwhangai's new pukapuka, Te Pāhuatanga ki Rangiaowhia – Te Panaia, Te Whaioranga, Te Tūmanako The Rangiaowhia Invasion – A Story of Exile, Survival and Hope.

Rachael joined us at Kahotea Marae to introduce the book and share the kaupapa behind its creation. Grounded in extensive research and whakapapa, the story honours the tūpuna of Rangiaowhia who survived, suffered and lost their lives during the invasion of 21 February 1864. Through the story of her great-great-grandparents Hounuku and Karo, and their son Puataata Tuwhangai Hounuku, Rachael brings this history to life for a new generation while acknowledging the historians, kaumātua, researchers and whānau whose mātauranga and mahi helped make the pukapuka possible.

In a meaningful koha to our people, the descendants of Hounuku and Karo have gifted the story to Ngāti Apakura Rūnanga to support our ongoing mahi of reconciliation, healing and hope. The launch at our AGM was a fitting opportunity to acknowledge Rachael and her whānau, and to recognise the importance of preserving and sharing these kōrero so our tamariki, mokopuna and generations yet to come understand the experiences, resilience and strength of their tūpuna.

We'll share more information with whānau soon about how you can access a digital copy of this special pukapuka.



Rachael pictured third from the right holding a copy of Te Pāhuatanga ki Rangiaowhia

Te Tau Kei Mua | The Year Ahead

The AGM gave whānau a clearer picture of the Rūnanga work programme for 2026/27. Seven workstreams will give effect to the first-year priorities of Te Iti o Apakura:

- **Whakapapa, Uri & Mātauranga**
- **Rangiaowhia & Hohou i te Rongo**
- **Whenua, Wai & Kaitiakitanga**
- **Governance & Organisational Excellence**
- **Toitūtanga & Future Readiness**
- **Marae, Communications & Whanaungatanga**
- **Advocacy & Strategic Relationships**

The mahi includes simpler registration and verification, preserving oral histories, progressing reconciliation, planning for Rangiaowhia, developing an environmental work programme, strengthening governance, establishing our financial and asset baseline, improving communications with whānau and marae, and strengthening the relationships through which Ngāti Apakura is represented.

Hohou i te Rongo

Hohou i te Rongo remains one of the most significant kaupapa before Ngāti Apakura. Te Kāhu o Apakura is our reconciliation framework: reconciliation, not a transaction. It seeks a long-term process of restoration rather than a single apology, payment or event.

Whenua me te Taiao Whenua, waterways and ngahere	**Ahumahi me te Ōhanga** Iwi and whānau enterprise, jobs and leadership
Ahurea me te Mātauranga Bringing taonga home; recording whakapapa and stories	**Whakatipu me te Whai Rawa** Lasting resources for our mokopuna

The journey to this point has included historical research, engagement with our people, Crown workshops and ongoing negotiations. As the kaupapa progresses, we will continue to keep whānau informed about what happens next and how you can participate.

Rangiaowhia Whenua Planning and Property

Planning for the future of our whenua

Important groundwork continues at Rangiaowhia, with Stage 1 of the Whenua Analysis now complete. This mahi brings together historical and cultural research, knowledge of the whenua, environmental considerations and whānau aspirations to help us better understand the opportunities and challenges across the site.

The next proposed stage, Healing Korowai, will build on this foundation by developing a shared long-term vision and roadmap for Rangiaowhia. Working alongside Kahu Creative Studio, the kaupapa will consider how the whenua may be cared for and used into the future, including restoration, kai and food systems, buildings, infrastructure, access and the protection of important cultural and environmental values.

Planning and construction work at 61 Rangiaowhia Road is also continuing. Pricing has been received for the kitchen and office cabinetry, with installation potentially able to take place before Christmas, subject to the site being ready.

Further work is underway to confirm the remaining construction programme, costs and completion timeframe. We look forward to sharing a clearer update with whānau as this mahi progresses and we move closer to having the property ready for use.

Upcoming Hui and Wānanga

Unveiling | Te Pou o Te Rua o Tawhiwhi

Kei ngaku nui, kei ngaku rahi, kia ikapahi nei tātou ki runga ki te whenua taurikura o ngō Te Rua o Tawhiwhi: He Tawhiwhi, he tohu rangatira.

Te Rua o Tawhiwhi: The native jasmine, a symbol of Chiefs.

We're pleased to share that Te Pou o Te Rua o Tawhiwhi will be unveiled on:

Date: **Sunday, 29 November 2026**
Time: **7am**
Venue: **Te Whare o Rangiaowhia, 61 Rangiaowhia Rd, Te Awamutu, 3875**

Te Rua o Tawhiwhi holds an important place in the history of Rangiaowhia and our tūpuna.

The first water-powered flour mill in Aotearoa, Te Rua o Tawhiwhi, was built on a stream behind the village of Rangiaowhia by Ngāti Apakura and Ngāti Hinetu.

The mill took its name from Tawhiwhi, a native jasmine that grows along the waterways of the area. Historically, its flowers were dried and hung in the homes of Chiefs, with some Chiefs wearing dried Tawhiwhi around their necks and being recognised by its distinctive scent.

By 1849, the Waipā valley was home to flourishing flour mills and extensive crops of fruit and grain, with Māori communities exporting produce to Auckland and further afield.

Among those leading this enterprise were Te Waru of Ngāti Apakura and Kahawai Pahi of Ngāti Hinetu, who operated successful mills at Rangiaowhia and Ngahuruhuru.

Their story is part of a remarkable period of Māori innovation, enterprise and prosperity.

We extend our mihi and thanks to Mātauranga Māori Facilitator Te Ao o te Rangi Apaapa (Taiea te Taiao mā Mangapiko mai i Maungatautari ki Pirongia te aroaro o Kahu ahu ake), for helping bring the kaupapa to life and for partnering with Ngāti Apakura to make this possible.



Stay in the Loop

Kōrero with us on Facebook

Our Facebook page is where we're posting the day-to-day of this journey, the history behind Hohou i te Rongo, explainers on the package, and updates as they land. Following, sharing and commenting doesn't just keep you informed, it helps this information reach whānau who might not know about Hohou i te Rongo, including cousins who've drifted from the marae or only just found out they're Apakura.

Follow the Ngāti Apakura Facebook page and share posts with your whānau: https://www.facebook.com/ApakuraRunangaTrust/

Subscribe to our Youtube channel

Connection and pūrākau for te iwi o Ngāti Apakura. Wherever you are in Aotearoa or across the world, we're here to connect Ngāti Apakura uri and whānau to our people, our stories, and our future https://www.youtube.com/@NgatiApakura

Subscribe to the Pānui

There's a lot to get through over the coming months, and not every whānau member is on social media. If there's anyone in your family who isn't already getting the pānui (e.g. parents, cousins or kaumātua), encourage them to subscribe so they don't miss the detail that matters over the next few months.

Ask whānau to subscribe: admin@ngatiapakura.co.nz

This is a big chapter for Ngāti Apakura, and it only carries the weight it should if whānau are a part of it -informed, registered, and ready when the time comes to have your say.

Ngā manaakitanga

Apakura Rūnanga Trust

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