

MARANGA MAI NGĀTI KUIA

He maunga pakohe, he wai pounamu



Te Reo Kia Rewa 2026

TE PŪ - THE PAST

TE REO KIA REWA

This year's Te Reo Kia Rewa brought together ngā uri o Ngāti Kuia at Whakatū Marae for four days of learning, waiata and whanaungatanga during Matariki.

Now in its sixth year, Te Reo Kia Rewa continues to provide a welcoming space where whānau of all ages and abilities can grow their confidence in te reo Māori together.

Grounded in the kaupapa of strengthening te reo me ngā tikanga across generations, participants explored practical te reo, waiata, karakia and Ngāti Kuia mātauranga in a supportive whānau environment. The wānanga reflects our commitment to revitalising and normalising te reo within our homes, marae and communities, ensuring that Ngāti Kuitanga continues to thrive for future generations.

A huge mihi to our kaiako, Matawai and every whānau member who attended, who all contributed to another successful year of Te Reo Kia Rewa.



TE HAUTAPU O NGATI KUIA

One of the most special moments of the wānanga was the opportunity for Ngāti Kuia to hold our first hautapu in modern times.

For many of our whānau, it was a powerful reconnection with our tipuna traditions and a chance to honour Matariki and Puanga in a way that reflects our unique Ngāti Kuitanga.

As an uri of Ngāti Kuia, being part of this historic occasion felt significant and memorable, marking an important step in the revitalisation of our tikanga.

We look forward to seeing our whānau at our next hautapu.



VEINS OUTREACH

Over the last six months, Ngāti Kuia and Skin Institute partnered together to support 16 uri o Ngāti Kuia, who live across Aotearoa, by providing specialist treatment for varicose veins. These whānau can now experience lighter, less painful legs, with reduced swelling and discomfort, and greater freedom to enjoy their lives without their veins getting in the way.

This kaupapa was also made possible by the generous support of Sigvaris and Medtech, whose sponsorship helped bring these procedures to life by providing the necessary medical supplies. Ngāti Kuia are continuing to think outside of the box on how we can bridge the gaps in health for our whānau and we are excited to continue growing partnerships like these that put the wellbeing of our people first.



IWI ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ngāti Kuia recently hosted representatives from Tasman District Council, Nelson City Council, and Marlborough District Council at Te Hora Marae to share Ngā Kanohi Kārearea, the Ngāti Kuia Iwi Environmental Management Plan. The hui provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships with council staff and increase their understanding of Ngāti Kuia values and environmental priorities.

By sharing the aspirations of Ngāti Kuia for te taiao, the presentation helps ensure iwi perspectives are considered in future planning and decision making across our whenua, wai, and takutai. This is an important step towards better collaboration and stronger environmental outcomes.

For more information contact taiao@ngatikuia.iwi.nz



TE TARO O TE ORA

Te Taro o te Ora was held on 18–19 July at Te Hora Marae in collaboration with Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō. The wānanga provided an opportunity to teach whānau practical skills they can apply on the whenua as kaitiaki, strengthening food sovereignty and supporting the development of a pātaka for iwi, hapū and whānau.. Lee Mason led our participants through hands on activities and they were able to experience the entire process from preparing to hunt, butchering meat and all the way to the kitchen.

This mātauranga contributes directly to the long term wellbeing of our marae, taiao and iwi. Te Taro o te Ora is an ongoing kaupapa that serves as an opportunity for whānau to get involved in restoration projects, pest and ungulate management, and the protection of our whenua and taonga species. Whether you're keen to learn, contribute, or simply spend time on the whenua with whānau, Te Taro o te Ora provides a meaningful way to make a difference.



TE WEU - THE FUTURE

HAUORA STRATEGY

Ngāti Kuia is currently developing a hauora strategy with a simple aspiration: for our whānau to be thriving every day as Ngāti Kuia.

Over recent months, we have listened to whānau voice, reviewed research, and reflected on what matters most to our people. Key themes have emerged, including the importance of cultural connection, prevention, cultural safety, advocacy, and ensuring whānau are heard and supported to navigate complex systems. We also recognise that hauora is holistic and that different groups within our iwi, including rangatahi, require approaches designed with them in mind.

Using these insights, we are shaping a strategy focused on the outcomes whānau want for themselves and future generations. This mahi is not about the rūnanga being the sole provider of services, but about leading, partnering and advocating in ways that strengthen intergenerational wellbeing.

Please contact Nicole at nicole@ngatikuia.iwi.nz if you would like to be involved.

TE KURA REO O NGĀTI KUIA

Nau mai, haere mai ki Te Kura Reo o Ngāti Kuia ka tū ki Whakatū Marae hei te Paraire 11 ki te Hanarei 13 o Hepetema 2026.

Te Kura Reo o Ngāti Kuia 2026 is open to everyone aged 16 years and over, not only Ngāti Kuia uri. This kura reo is designed for fluent speakers of te reo Māori who are ready to further strengthen and elevate their reo journey. Whether you're a confident conversationalist, an experienced kaikōrero, or somewhere in between, this wānanga offers a rich environment to sharpen your reo, deepen your cultural knowledge, and connect with other champions of te reo Māori.

Day 1 will commence on Friday 11 September at 10.00am with a pōhiri and conclude on Sunday 13 September following hākari (approximately 4.00pm). A detailed programme will be sent to all registered participants in the coming weeks.

Register online or email matawai@ngatikuia.iwi.nz for more information.

TE MORE - THE PRESENT

EMERGING DIRECTORS PROGRAMME

This year marks the launch of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Kuia's Emerging Director Programme, a pilot initiative designed to nurture future iwi leaders and strengthen governance capability across our whānau.

The programme provides practical governance experience, mentoring opportunities and pathways for future trustees, directors and committee members. This is an investment in the future of Ngāti Kuia, succession planning while bringing fresh perspectives to our governance tables.

Meet Dina-Marie Hawea-Kahaialii, Vasiti Palavi, Melissa Linton and Selah Hart, our inaugural Emerging Directors.

DINA-MARIE HAWEA-KAHAIALII

Through her whānau line to her mother, Celia Hippolite/McGregor, she carries a strong connection to whakapapa and iwi. Joining the Emerging Directors Programme, she hopes to build her governance capability, deepen her understanding of iwi history, and contribute meaningfully to the aspirations of Ngāti Kuia.

VASITI PALAVI

is an uri of Watene Hemi and is continuing her governance journey in service of Ngāti Kuia. Grounded in service and whakapapa, she is committed to strengthening her governance capability through shared learning and relationships. She aspires to contribute to governance that supports collective wellbeing and creates opportunities for future generations to thrive.

MELISSA LINTON

Melissa is a mokopuna of Chester Hemi and Kaiurungi at Te Kotahi o Te Taihū. With more than 20 years in the social sector, her career has grown from working alongside whānau and communities to leading the people, services and systems that support them. Together with completing Tumu Herenga Waka Māori Governance, this experience has strengthened her drive to create opportunities for Ngāti Kuia to grow and thrive for generations to come.

SELAH HART

Selah Hart has been appointed as an Emerging Director of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Kuia, bringing extensive executive leadership experience in hauora Māori, public health and system transformation. Currently serving as Interim Executive National Director for Hauora Māori Services at Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora, she is committed to advancing the aspirations of Ngāti Kuia through strong governance, strategic leadership and a steadfast focus on the wellbeing of Ngāti Kuia.



NELSON TENTHS

DR. PETER MEIHANA

The story of the Nelson Tenth is not a new story, nor is it a story that began with the Native Land Court in 1892. It is a story that reaches back to the earliest days of colonisation in Te Taihū, to promises made by the New Zealand Company and obligations imposed by Commissioner Spain in 1845. It is also a story of generations of whānau Māori who continued to seek recognition of their rights, despite those promises not being fully honoured.

When the New Zealand Company established the Nelson settlement, it promised that one-tenth of the land would be reserved for the benefit of Māori. Commissioner Spain's 1845 award further required that Māori occupation lands, including pā, urupā and cultivations, be excluded from lands granted to the Company. Neither of these obligations were fully carried out. As later courts found, this failure had lasting consequences for the descendants of those customary owners who should have benefited from those protections.

For many years, public understanding of the Nelson Tenth was shaped largely by a Native Land Court decision made in 1892. However, historians, researchers, the Waitangi Tribunal, and the modern courts have all had access to a much wider body of evidence than was available to Judge Mackay at that time. That evidence includes whakapapa, oral histories, archaeological research, Crown records, petitions, maps and extensive historical scholarship. Together, these sources provide a far richer picture of customary relationships and rights within Te Taihū.

Importantly, historical evidence given by Meihana Kereopa on behalf of the Kurahaupō peoples in 1892 did not suggest that Ngāti Kuia, Rangitāne and Ngāti Apa interests had disappeared. Rather, he spoke of continuing relationships sustained through whakapapa, occupation and tuku whenua. While that evidence was ultimately rejected by the Native Land Court, historians today recognise that the Court's decision was only one moment within a much longer and more complex history.

The historical record demonstrates that customary relationships in Te Taihū were often layered and interconnected. Rights and responsibilities were maintained through whakapapa, occupation, marriage, alliance and shared use of resources. These realities do not always fit neatly within nineteenth-century legal concepts of exclusive ownership, but they remain an important part of our history and understanding of place.

After decades of research, Waitangi Tribunal inquiries, court proceedings and negotiations, the High Court reached a significant decision in 2024. Justice Edwards found that the Crown had failed to reserve the full Tenth, failed to exclude Māori occupation lands as required under the Spain Award, and had consequently held land on trust for the descendants of the customary owners since 1845. By agreement of the parties, descendants of Kurahaupō iwi living within the relevant area in the 1840s were recognised as customary owners for the purposes of those proceedings. The Te Here ā Nuku (Nelson Tenth) Bill is the latest chapter in this long journey. It gives effect to the Resolution Agreement reached following the litigation and provides for the transfer of legal title from the Crown, acting as former trustee, to Te Here ā Nuku. Rather than creating new rights, the Bill seeks to implement rights and obligations that have already been recognised through the courts and accepted by the Crown.

As discussions continue, it is important to remember that the Nelson Tenth story cannot be reduced to a single court decision, a single generation, or a single interpretation of history. It is a story spanning more than 180 years, shaped by the experiences of our tīpuna, the persistence of those who pursued justice, and the ongoing effort to honour commitments made in the earliest years of settlement in Te Taihū.

We are revitalising our historical information section of the Maranga Mai pānui, which many of you have told us you have missed. Each pānui we will revisit an important chapter of our history, sharing stories and insights that help us better understand the journeys of our tīpuna and the issues that continue to shape Te Taihū.

We thank Dr Peter Meihana for his contribution to this month's issue.