

# Te Kārere o te Wā

**Tui Ora**  
Let Unity Prevail

## Update

**E ngā iwi, e ngā reo, e ngā karangatanga maha, o ia marae huri noa o te maunga Tītōhea ā Rua Taranaki, tēnei te mihi manahau mō tēnei wā ki a koutou kia ora tātou katoa.**

### E whakanuia nei e te Minita Papa Atawhai te Hinonga Taiohi hōu

**Minister praises natural connections of taiohi project**

Tiki Toa is a “magnificent project”, according to Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage who called into Tui Ora during a recent visit to Taranaki.

The project involves Devon Intermediate and Te Pihipihinga Kākano Mai I Rangiātea pupils taking part in outdoor workshops or classes on Mt Taranaki, at local marae and cultural sites.

*“Instinctively it feels like the best thing to do. I think what you are finding in terms of connection to our environment is the basis of good mental health and wellbeing,”* said Minister Sage.

*“Congratulations in terms of thinking outside the box and all of the work that has been involved in setting up this programme.”*

The approach aims to intervene early with potential health and wellbeing issues, and takes a Whānau Ora approach so that a young person’s wider whānau is also involved.

Kaitiaki Taiohi Markham Grey talked during the presentation to the Minister, about the “layered” conversations he shares with the young people as it is important for them to think beyond themselves.



*“One of the boys said, ‘it’s not good to litter.’ We had a kōrero about keeping rivers clean as he was thinking of the wider environment. Now I hear those same kids teaching others at school, passing on their knowledge.”*

Minister Sage asked what it would take to scale the project up as she could see other regions wanting to institute something similar.

The programme is in its second year but needs another year to fine-tune its delivery, said project manager Hinenui Wano-Bryant.

While Charles Walters had started as kaiwhakahaere (manager), funding for

additional staff would be helpful given the need to meet health and safety requirements, and track the young people over the coming year.

Funder Te Pōu Matakana is providing flexible funding and is supportive of the project with plans to highlight it at a conference it will hold in September, said Tui Ora Deputy CEO Ruth Smithers.

*“We have a good solid group gathered around the project and it’s exciting because it’s different ways of looking at wellbeing and its relation to nature. We have this most amazing resource on our doorstep.”*

Minister Sage congratulated the team, commenting on the students’ energy, vitality and enjoyment. *“As Minister I will do what I can to ensure some of the big projects we’re undertaking could be invested in programmes like this, those that are the basis of healthy people.”*

*\*The Taranaki Mouna project is a collaboration between the Department of Conservation (DOC), eight Taranaki iwi and the NEXT Foundation, a philanthropic organisation, supported by founding sponsors Shell New Zealand, Jasmine Social Investments, TSB Community Trust and Landcare Investments.*

### Kua timataria tētehi pōu reo māori, pōu o te hāpori ki Tui Ora

**Māori teacher and community leader starts at Tui Ora**

Thirty years of teaching Te Reo means Rukutai Watene is called upon by all age groups to learn the language.

Rukutai’s oldest students are 94 and 92 years, and he even travels to Australia to run wānanga and teach expats. He brings that experience and community standing in his new role as Tui Ora kaumātua based in Hawera.

Rukutai began his working life as an army radio operator before becoming a locomotive assistant on trains. When his grandmother suffered a heart attack, Rukutai was drawn home, and then started teaching.

He recalls attending polytechnic in Hamilton with Ihaka Noble (also a Tui Ora staff member) and being asked to write down the number of Te Reo Māori words he knew.

Approximately 150 words flowed from him, and he completed three years’ worth of learning in one year.

*“I understood it. My grandmother used to speak to me in Māori and I would reply in English. I just needed the sentence construction and to formalise parts of what I already knew.”*

By his mid-twenties, he was teaching back in Taranaki, alongside wife Peeti, Ihaka and a cousin.

Rukutai worked most recently for Te Reo O Taranaki, running classes for a range of ages around the mountain. *“I find the oldest generation the easiest to teach. It is repetitive learning for them so after five times they already have it - it’s just remembering the words and putting them together.”*

He is motivated by the understanding that grows in new students and *“by the look on their faces when they are able to kōrero.”*

*“Once upon a time it was me and my grandmother who spoke Te Reo, and now it’s all my family. It’s the same with these people, the knowledge is spreading.”*



Rukutai is of Ngāti Ruanui and Ngā Ruahine descent, as well as having links to Te Atiawa and with coastal iwi. He and wife Peeti are currently living at Taiporohēnui marae in Hawera while they build a house at Parihaka papakāinga. Their extended family includes 17 children.





## He mahinga o te ngākau e haere ake nei

### *Taking the practice to heart*

Bernard Leuthart is looking forward to empowering people as the relatively new Clinical Director at Tui Ora.

*"I feel very excited about the role due to the scope of services being offered. I want to help people understand that it may take time to tease out medical problems from the social problems."*

Bernard's philosophy in life is to let the good flow. *"Our first task is to be happy and kind - it's a great way to approach general practice,"* he says.

Prior to returning to Taranaki, Bernard had worked for 16 years as a GP in Lower Hutt. The former Francis Douglas Memorial College student left Taranaki in 1981 for Wellington's Victoria University and spent 13 years completing a BA in English Literature, a Diploma in Teaching and a Graduate Diploma in Arts.

Teaching in London was an entertaining experience before he returned to Wellington to teach at St Patrick's College and Sacred Heart College.

However, Bernard's heart finally settled on a career in medicine, which meant another five years of study.



*"I applied for medical school so I could balance my fascination between arts and science."*

While it was challenging, Bernard says it was only possible thanks to wife Kathleen, an educational expert, who supported him for five years while studying at Otago University.

*"I hadn't studied science for 13 years so everything had changed but being a married mature student had its advantages for focusing towards a goal."*

Despite Tui Ora already offering low-cost medical care, Bernard hopes that one day even lower rates can be offered to struggling families.

## Kua tūātia ngā kaiwhakahaere pōari hōu

### *New board directors named*

Two new directors have been appointed to the Tui Ora Board, following an appointment process carried out by the organisation's shareholder, Te Tuituia Trust.

Tui Ora board chair Wayne Mulligan says he is thrilled to welcome high calibre directors, Dr Pieter Pike and Will Edwards to the existing board.

*"Tui Ora celebrates its 20-year anniversary in August and we believe that governance and management structures mean we are well-positioned to advance our community and its people for the next quarter century."*

Director and researcher Will Edwards has extensive governance experience in the iwi and education sectors, as well as skills in research, analytics and data that will benefit Tui Ora.

His rural upbringing is complemented by broad academic training in public health, Māori development, Māori language and horticulture.

Now living in South Taranaki, as the immediate past Chair of Te Korowai o Ngāruahine, he brings strategic Māori community and well-grounded perspective to governance.

Dr Pike offers a strong record of clinical and health management experience, having worked in Australia and New Zealand.

Most recently, he was executive director of medical services at West Morton Hospital and Health Service in Queensland; prior to that, he held other positions in large Australian health providers.

Dr Pike returns to Taranaki where he worked between 1999-2005 in a number of executive clinical roles at Taranaki Health (now the Taranaki District health Board), Hauora Taranaki PHO and as managing director of Medicross.

Dr Pike's skills and knowledge gives him the ability to deal with a variety of issues facing a challenging industry.

Debbie Packer, who is Kaiarataki of Te Runanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust was reappointed to the Tui Ora board.

She is a former Deputy Mayor of the South Taranaki District Council, current member of the Māori Economic Development panel, Chair of Ngāti Ruanui Asset Holdings, Chair Tourism operation Stratford Mountain House and Director of the largest virtual health social enterprise, Homecare Medical.

The board acknowledges the outstanding service provided by Dr Diane Jones who has been a director since 2011.

*The remaining board members are Wayne Mulligan (chairman), Robin Brockie (deputy chair), Liana Poutu, Shelley Kopu, Te Urumairangi (Pam) Ritai and Hayden Wano as executive director.*



## Ē ngawari ana te haere ki te tari Oranga Taiohi

### *Supporting social service networks*

Young mums and youth shared couch space with a Government MP and top official when they visited Tui Ora on June 26. Minister of Social Development Carmel Sepuloni and Brendon Boyle, MSD chief executive, called into Youth Services (YS) and sat down with 12

young people. YS staff support the youth, in their late teens or early twenties, as they are young parents, not in education or training or are living away from their whānau.

Carmel Sepuloni was keen to hold a baby and chat to the group. *"It's lovely to meet you, and for those that have babies, especially to hear your stories, and I wish you all the best."*

*"I acknowledge the work that people at Youth Services are doing. They are all in this because they are united to ensure you guys meet your potential."*

Just before leaving, Carmel said she had visited Tui Ora because of the organisation's reputation. *"Youth Services is one of the many parts where there is a reputation of good work with families, young people and children."*

*"That covering off of specialist work - with families, young people and children. It's great that there's a focus on a whānau ora approach of social services that Tui Ora is working across."*

*\*Carmel Sepuloni's visit follows a walk around at Tui Ora on Friday June 22 by Cabinet Minister and local MP Andrew Little. He met with Tui Ora Board chair Wayne Mulligan, deputy chairman Robin Brockie, CEO Hayden Wano and Clinical Director Bernard Leuthart.*