

Empowering Māori career and employment aspirations so that our whānau can flourish



Greetings from our Pou Whakahaere/ Chief Executive

Kia ora koutou

Ngahuru has arrived, and the year is already in full swing! From preparing for the months ahead to welcoming our taiohi back to school and university, there's been plenty happening—including the excitement building for Te Matatini o Te Kāhui Maunga 2025!

Te Matatini was an incredible event, and we were honoured to be involved. Our Kaiārahi, alongside Why Ora taiohi from both North and South Taranaki, volunteered throughout the week. It was a unique and rewarding experience, offering everyone the chance to be part of such a significant Māori cultural event. Here at Why Ora, we have a packed events programme running from March through to November—you'll find all the details in this newsletter.

Recently, we hosted Hui Whānau in both North and South Taranaki, bringing whānau together to learn more about how we support career development. Coming up, we're excited to launch our first Rapuara Hauora workshops for the year. These workshops provide Year 11-13 taura the opportunity to engage with health professionals and explore career pathways in hauora, including oral therapy.

In April, we will celebrate a major milestone—our 15th anniversary—with our AGM. Over the years, we've seen some incredible journeys unfold. In this issue, you'll read about: Morgan Tenana, an oral therapy student who secured a summer internship in Taranaki, Moniqua and Jocasta Demetriou, who completed tertiary studies in Te Reo Māori and education, and have recently started their journey as Kaiako, and Tilya Fenton, who is working hard towards a career in engineering and fabrication.

We hope you enjoy reading!

Ngā mihi, Tanya Anaha
Pou Whakahaere, Why Ora

Why Ora Events/Programmes coming up...

March

- Hui Whānau North/ South
- Rapuara Hauora workshop 1

April

- Rapuara Hauora workshop 2
- Why Ora Annual General Meeting

May

- Rapuara Hauora workshop 3
- Rapuara Ako workshop 1

June

- Rapuara Hauora workshop 4

UMANGA

A meaningful and rewarding career can change lives and change the future. There are so many possibilities and paths to take. Our career stories can help to show what is possible!

Moniqua and Jocasta Demetriou - Education is our future!

Twin sisters Moniqua and Jocasta have recently graduated and gained employment as Kaiako in schools.

The sisters connected with Why Ora while at New Plymouth Girls High School, attending our Rapuara Hauora workshops, engaging with our kaiārahi and participating in a university visit with our team. After completing school, they took a gap year, something they recommend, then enrolled in a full immersion course in Te Reo Māori, completing their Te Tohu Paetahi diplomas at the University of Waikato.

They were both so inspired, both decided to become educators, and enrolled for a Bachelor of Teaching at Waikato. Completing the degree in 2024, the sisters will formally graduate in April and have already secured employment as Kaiako.

Below both sisters share their current aspirations, and Jocasta shares her experience of being at university, and advice for taiohi embarking on tertiary studies.



Photo: (L-R) Moniqua and Jocasta

"As a newly qualified early childhood teacher, my aspiration is to apply the mātauranga I have gained throughout my Tohu to support our tamariki Māori - ko te tamaiti te pūtake. While in the future I hope to pursue further education, such as a Master's degree, for now, I am cherishing my time with the tamariki, their whānau, and the hāpori." Moniqua.

"I aspire to support tamariki Māori within my kura, ensuring they have the opportunities and guidance to thrive. I teach in a Reo Rua classroom within a mainstream school and am committed to being both a voice and an advocate for these tamariki. I'm thoroughly enjoying my time in the classroom and am excited to see where this journey takes me."



I loved my degree and my life at university. After the Halls I flatted with my best friends and got amongst the university life. I worked two jobs while studying and I knew all the hard work would all pay off in the future. It was stressful at times, but I had the right motivation and passion to keep going to get my tohu - which is exactly what I did! Jocasta

Photo: Jocasta and Moniqua attending the Why Ora Hui Whānau (2019) along with other registered Why Ora taiohi

TŪHONONGA

Tūhononga means strengthening and bringing together (Tū is to strengthen, hononga is to bring or join together). We all need connections that can help us to grow, to know who we are, where we've come from and help us get where we are going!

Ngāti Mutunga Services Expo



To kick start the year, mid-January our Kaimahi attended the Ngāti Mutunga Services Expo Day in Urenui. The purpose of the event was to give organisations throughout Taranaki an opportunity to showcase their services to whānau, in one place. It was great day, sharing the kaupapa of Why Ora with whānau, what support we have to offer and strengthening and creating connections within our rohe. Ngā mihi nui Ngāti Mutunga!

Whanaungatanga Sessions

We hold our annual Whanaungatanga sessions at the beginning and end of the year within secondary kura in Taranaki. We use these sessions to build relationships between our Kaiārahi and our registered Why Ora taiohi. We use kēmu to get to know each other and explore what types of support our taiohi may need in order to reach their aspirations. This event is particularly for new Year 11 taiohi that show an interest in joining Why Ora, we also invite our current registered Year 12 and Year 13 taiohi, to share their experiences with Why Ora.



Photo: Sacred Heart Girls' College taiohi

Te Matatini o Te Kāhui Maunga

Te Matatini is the world's largest celebration of Māori traditional performing arts. Te Matatini o Te Kāhui Maunga 2025 was hosted in Ngāmotu 25 February -1 March. Our team volunteered along with our Hoki Mai Ki Why Ora taiohi. Each were able to experience the mauri of Te Matatini and volunteer at the Volunteer Hub and Tamariki Zone.

We also had Tane Whithead volunteer, Tane attended the University of Otago and is currently working in Dunedin. Tane has been a part of Why Ora since 2018, it was great to have him join us and reconnect with our kaimahi. On the following page check out what our whānau had to say about being at Te Matatini!



Photo: (L-R) Alex, Liam, Terrence, Kaiārahi Rory and Maria

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Te Matatini o Te Kāhui Maunga continued...

"Te Matatini has been a cool experience especially catering to the volunteers and its awesome to see the loads of people that have come from all over the place"

Terrence Johns-King



"I think it has been great to see an abundance of volunteers which are sometimes lacking across the rest of the mōtu. Good to see whānau connecting watching Te Matatini"

Tane Whitehead



(L-R) Why Ora kaimahi - Liahna, Nina and Olivia

"It's been a fun day being surrounded by my culture and serving kai to the many volunteers, I can't wait to come back on Thursday"

Alex Whitham

"I love being able to watch the Te Matatini groups, especially watching Miz, that made me emotional. I loved volunteering in the Tamariki zone, seeing the amount of families that attend the event was so cool!"

Mia Waruhia

(L-R) Kaimahi Rory and Mia



(L-R) Olivia and Alex



WHY ORA KAIĀRAHI IN KURA

Our Kaiārahi work within Taranaki secondary schools to empower taiohi career and employment aspirations so they can flourish! We do this through offering Māori taura relevant opportunities, events and activities, as well as manaaki (support) of taura who are registered with Why Ora.

All that I do is for my siblings. I want a great future for them and to show them that if I can do it, they can too! I come from a whānau of 16, making a better future for my siblings will always be on the top of my list!

Secondly, I want to help my taiohi find that ahi within them and I know I can do this by simply turning up for them every week, whether it is to work on their goals or if they just want to have a kōrero over some kai, Ill be there!

MIZIAH MARTIN-KEMP

Kaiārahi and Events Lead
Ngāti Tama | Ngāti Mutunga
Waitara High School



My son is my why, I want to ensure that the future is bright for him and that he will have as many opportunities as possible to proudly be his true self and find what makes him happy. I think that the greatest things I have achieved in life were made possible because of the people behind me, those beside me and in front of me. If we move and grow together there is no limit to what we can accomplish!

GRAHAM JONES

Kaiārahi
Ngāti Hamo



Te Pae Pae o Aotea
Patea Area School
Stratford High School

RORY MAXWELL

Kaiārahi
Ngāti Mutunga
New Plymouth Boys High
School | Francis Douglas
Memorial College



For me, knowing what I wanted to do after school was a real struggle. I felt that I had plenty of options but many more barriers. When I go into kura and manaaki our taiohi, I want to support them in breaking down those barriers and allow our taiohi to feel confident and comfortable in their career aspirations and move onto their new haerenga outside of kura.

I am passionate about working with our taiohi to help find their place. It is about helping taiohi find what works and unpacking their why. The more ripples I can help them create, the better the ao will be for them. I hope to give the support that was not available when I was in school.

Chelsea Crewe

Kaiārahi
Te Rarawa
Coastal Taranaki
Spotswood College



My motivation is the undiscovered potential of our taiohi Māori. I aim to be their support person that can encourage them to follow their dreams and aspirations and having the ability to provide meaningful opportunities..

It's about finding their passions, flourishing and being proud of who they are. My why stems from my irāmutu, I want them to invision themselves in meangiful careers and flourish in whatever they wish to do, and realising that being Māori is cool.

Liahna Smith

Kaiārahi
Te Ati Haunui-ā-Pāpārangi
Sacred Heart Girls College
New Plymouth Girls High School
Inglewood High School



My son is a great driving force for me to be the best version of myself so that he grows up confident and proud of who he is. My life experiences have made me realise that being Māori is my superpower, and I want to empower our people to recognise this for themselves.

Jasmine Jones

Kaiārahi
Ngāti Ruanui, Tainui,
Ngāruahinerangi
Ōpunake High School
Taranaki Diocesan
Teen Parent Unit



2025 WHY ORA EVENTS/ PROGRAMMES



Whanaungatanga sessions

Building relationships with our Kaiārahi and registered Why Ora taiohi. Whanaungatanga helps us to get to know each other so we can support our whānau to the best of our ability.



Hui Whānau North/ South

To meet with whānau at the beginning of the year connect and strengthen our relationships. To inform whānau about our kaupapa and events/ programmes we run.



CV sessions

Exploring requirements for a CV, what employers are looking for, identifying skills and talents and creating a CV from a Māori perspective.



Pūtaiao - Year 9 & 10

A hands-on expo event for Year 9 and Year 10 taiohi to inspire a passion for science, Mātauranga Māori and increase Māori uptake of science.



Year 10 Promo

Why Ora promo aims to inform taiohi and schools about who we are, what we do, why we do what we do and what activities/opportunities we offer.



Rapuara Hauora Year 11 - 13

Rapuara Hauora provides an opportunity for Year 11 to Year 13 taiohi to see and experience meaningful careers in the hauora/health sector.



Rapuara Ako - Year 11 - 13

Rapuara Ako provides an opportunity for Year 11 to Year 13 taiohi to see and experience meaningful careers in the education sector.



University Trip - Year 11 - 13

University Visits provide Year 11-13 taiohi with the opportunity to visit and become familiar with a university environment.



Mātaki shadowing - Year 12 & 13

Provides Year 12 and Year 13 taiohi with specific work experience opportunities for taiohi interested in a rewarding career in that industry.



Annual Hui Whānau

An opportunity for taiohi and whānau all ages to connect with tertiary providers, to ask pātai and listen to kōrero.

MANAAKITANGA

Our Manaakitanga means we genuinely nurture, encourage, respect and care for one another throughout our mahi, in whatever work we are doing.

Morgan Tenana

Dental Internship, Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora - Taranaki

Over the summer holidays Morgan Tenana had a fantastic opportunity to experience what it is like working in a public dental clinic in Taranaki.

Morgan is currently enrolled in tertiary studies in Oral Health Therapy, and is working towards completing a Bachelor of Oral Health at Auckland University of Technology (AUT).

In partnership with Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora, over the summer break Why Ora was able to help Morgan secure an internship, based at Rangiatea Dental Clinic in Ngāmotu.

There is a significant need for dental therapists to work in communities in Taranaki and Aotearoa. This experience has broadened Morgan's focus from private to community practice. We are so excited to see Morgan's career develop and wish her well with opportunities in the future!

"My experience doing some work experience with Te Whatu Ora over the summer holidays was super interesting and eye-opening. I've never experienced what it is like to work in a public dental clinic and prior to my internship I was almost certain post-graduation I would opt to work in a private clinic. After spending a few days with Te Whatu Ora I believe I'm more interested in working in a public dental clinic and giving back to our Taranaki community. My future aspirations, I'd LOVE to own my own dental practice but have smaller goals like securing a job with Te Whatu Ora after graduation is a big goal of mine."

Morgan Tenana



Tilya Fenton

from Hoki Mai ki Why Ora to a future career pathway



Photo: Tilya Fenton and Chris Jamieson

Since first engaging with Why Ora while at High School, Tilya reconnected with Why Ora in late 2023 and enrolled with our Hoki Mai Ki Why Ora initiative. Over the past year Tilya has achieved so much!

Tilya identified future aspirations, pursued work experience opportunities, enrolled in and completed study and to help build her confidence, participated as a speaker at our 2024 Why Ora Hui Whānau sharing her story with an audience of over 70 people!

In December 2024 we connected Tilya with P + P Engineering Consultants in New Plymouth to participate in a work experience day with the design team.

Well on her way to her future career, Tilya says she has gained confidence and is keen to gain a range of work and life skills in 2025. One of her long-term goals is to work as an engineering apprentice. We are very excited for Tilya and where her path will lead next!

Tilya Fenton story continued...

"I first got introduced to Why Ora when I was attending Stratford High School, at that time I was still intrigued by school, but by Year 12 I didn't know if it was for me, so I left. I didn't know where to go from there, until I went to a career expo where I met Katie from Why Ora in 2023. From there we kept in contact and Katie helped me find out what I was leaning towards doing. She also helped me get my restricted drivers' license and book into driving lessons. I passed the test and signed up for trade study at WITT to do a Level 3 Certificate in Mechanical Engineering.

Through WITT I also got a scholarship, which helped with the gear I needed. Katie left Why Ora just before WITT started and then I met with Jazz who has been a big help to me getting where I am now. (Our former Why Ora Kaiārahi Katie moved overseas in 2024).

Engaging with Why Ora helped me boost my confidence at being around people I'm not used to being around and being more vocal instead of shying away and not participating in activities. Meeting people outside my comfort zone made me more outgoing as well. The Why Ora Hoki Mai ki Why Ora wānanga I attended connected me to some very cool individuals. This also boosted my confidence in succeeding in my studies which led to me graduating with all A's!" **Tilya Fenton**

Feedback from **Chris Jamieson, Design Delivery Manager, P+P Engineering Consultants**

"Tylia showed a genuine interest in engineering which made my job easy! I outlined the day-to-day duties of an engineer and designer working at a consultancy and explained the different disciplines of engineering we deal with such as mechanical, civil, structural and process engineering, and showed the tools we use including 3D Models, and AutoCAD drawings. Tylia also spent time with one of our Mechanical engineer team members to get an understanding of their duties and responsibilities. I wish Tylia all the best with her future, and I hope to see her in the world of engineering!"

2025 Funding partners and Supporters

The Toi Foundation, The Ministry of Social Development, Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora
Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou! Thank you to all of our community and supporters - without your help we would not be here to support our whānau!

Health New Zealand
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Don't forget your Kaiārahi is here if you require tautoko