



Kāpō Māori Aotearoa New Zealand Inc.

He Pūrongo – Christmas 2016 Edition

Welcome to He Pūrongo, Nau Mai, Haere Mai!

In this panui:

- Update from the Executive Officer
- Projects we're working on, and
- Staff and Event updates.

EO CHAT ...

E ngā mema raua ngā kaitautoko o Kāpō Māori Aotearoa, tena tātou katoa

As I sit and reflect on the past year I am filled with reverie and sadness at the passing of a work colleague, confident, sounding board and very dear friend, Mary (Mere) Courtis, who passed away on 11th October 2016 in Otautahi. I first met Mere in the year 2000 after she had been recommended as a potential field worker by a Board member, our meeting and subsequent relationship spanning over a decade. Mere, her husband Tony and brother Stevie joined our organization at a time when we were rebuilding our Society. Back then we didn't have much, but we had enthusiasm, drive and belief in the kaupapa of Ngāti Kāpō, known now as Kāpō Māori Aotearoa. Mere's first position was a field worker and she worked with four others to re establish and connect with our community. Mere came into this role knowing nothing about our community, she was the new kid on the block, however, what she achieved in her first year was a testimony to her work ethic and belief in making a difference. Her work ethic and belief and fierce loyalty to our organization and those she worked for and with remaining strong right up to her passing.

Mere meant many things to many people but for myself she was someone that I could trust and rely on, willing to step up and throw herself into activities and for the most part uncharted waters. Many of the programs and activities that Kāpō Māori Aotearoa offers today can be attributed to Mere 'putting the plan into action!' As our organization grew so did Mere's role and responsibilities and in 2013 she was appointed National Projects Coordinator and became team leader of our national operations, her title changing in February 2015 to Operations Manager. She took on

these new responsibilities with gusto and the teachings she shared with her team came to the fore at her passing, as they continued their work, business as usual, something I know Mere would have expected.

2016 was a difficult year for Mere, having lost her beloved Tony in August 2015. However, she found some solace through her work continuing to assist members to find their voices and achieve their goals. She also assisted me to plan out, like previous years, the activities updated in this panui, the last one being the Whāia Te Ao Mārama focus groups. Both Mere and I were looking forward to getting out on the road together kanohi ki te kanohi with our community, but sadly this was not to be.

I take this opportunity to thank Te Kahui Tumuaki for their support and guidance over the last year but in particular these last three months. I also would like to acknowledge those external supporters and organisations for their understanding.

To our operations team, Hannah, Adele, Horiana and our newest field worker Awhi, there are no words that can express my gratitude to you all for stepping up and working together.

In closing I would like to acknowledge you the members for engaging and agreeing to participate in our activities over the last year and I hope that you will continue to support and assist us in our endeavours to develop solutions that positively contribute to your individual and whānau journeys to attain whānau ora.

Will our organization miss Mere, absolutely! Will our mahi continue, absolutely! Mere would expect nothing less. At this time my team and I are focused on ensuring that communication and support to you all is maintained and I ask for your patience and understanding over the next few months as we adjust to this new way of working.

Well whānau that is all from me except to say Meri Kirihimete me te Hape nū la (Merry Christmas and a happy New Year) to you all. I hope you enjoy the contents of this our last panui for 2016 and that you have a safe and restful Christmas and New Year.

Kati taku korereo, ngā mihi koutou

Chrissie Cowan
Executive Officer

WE REMEMBER ... Mary (Mere) Courtis

On 11 October 2016 Mere passed away as a result of health complications after suffering a severe stroke in late September. Mere's tangihanga was held at her home with her life celebrated by her family, Te Kahui Tumuaki members, work colleagues and friends.



Mere was a loyal staff member of Kāpō Māori Aotearoa for 16 years, and a strong advocate of our kaupapa. She had a unique ability to connect with people from all walks of life but her joy was catching up with and assisting members to achieve their goals. Although we miss her greatly we know that she is now with her beloved Tony who passed away in August of last year. E Mere, moe mai e hine i to moenga roa.

TE KAHUI TUMUAKI TIMES ...

Elections for positions on Te Kahui Tumuaki, 2017-2019 will be held at the 2017 Biennial Conference in Invercargill. Postal and proxy voting will be introduced at this election and available for those Tangata (financial) members who are unable to travel to Invercargill for the General Meeting.

SPOTLIGHT ON ...

Staff, Awhina Tibble, National Field Consultant

How did you get involved with Kāpō Māori Aotearoa?

I am the new kid on the block, being employed as the new National Field Consultant and I am based in Auckland. However, my whanau and I have been involved with Kāpō Māori Aotearoa since its inception, through my father, Maaka. I have many memories of our time spent at the house on Titoki Street.

What was your first impression of Kāpō Māori Aotearoa?

I am in a unique position of seeing how much Kāpō Māori Aotearoa has grown from its inception to now. I am impressed by the amount of rangatahi that are active members and the leadership they will bring to the growth of Kāpō Māori Aotearoa.

What might be someone be surprised to know about you?

I enjoy participating in line dancing. I may not be an expert at it as I usually am the one that fumbles around at the back laughing and having fun.

DID YOU KNOW ... Staff Updates

The Operations Team is based throughout Aotearoa:

Field

- ***Hannah Pascoe, National Field Consultant, Invercargill***

Hannah has been part of the team for 6 years, working closely with members over the phone checking in and linking to services available and supporting members to access and engage in blind vision services and local community networks.

- ***Horiana MacGregor, National Field Consultant, Wellington***

Horiana is currently on maternity leave and in November she and her whanau welcomed a daughter, Leila. Horiana will return to work in March 2017.

- ***Awhina Tibble, National Field Consultant, Auckland***

Awhi joined the team on 10 October and has been busy familiarizing herself with our organizational processes, visiting newly referred members and assisting to complete Kāpō Māori Aotearoa projects.

Administration:

- ***Adele Vukula, Executive Assistant, Hastings***

Adele joined Kāpō Māori Aotearoa in March 2014 and works in the national office. She provides administration and support for Management, Te Kahui Tumuaki, the Operations team and is involved in all team projects.

- ***Janene Tihema, Volunteer, Hastings***

Janene completed a number of projects throughout the year including registering members, DSS and DIAS phone surveys and panui administration support.

- ***Lisa Edwards, Volunteer, Hastings***

Lisa completed DSS and DIAS phone surveys during the year.

Governance Sustainability Project

Te Kahui Tumuaki is pleased to announce that they will host two one-day wananga in Auckland and Wellington for those Tangata members who want to learn more about becoming a Te Kahui Tumuaki member.

Dates and venues will be confirmed by the end of this year. Please register your interest with Adele on 0800 770 990 or email adele.vukula@kapomaori.com

Tangata (Financial) Membership

To be eligible to become a Te Kahui Tumuaki member, we remind you that you must be a Tangata member. The 2015-2017 annual fee is \$20. Other benefits of being a financial member include discounted conference rate to attend our Biennial Conference in 2017 and participate in determining the strategic direction of Kāpō Māori Aotearoa. To register as a new tangata member or renew your membership, contact Adele on 0800 770 990 or email adele.vukula@kapomaori.com

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...

- **Refresh of Whāia Te Ao Mārama Disability Action Plan - Focus Groups**
During November, Chrissie Cowan, Executive Officer hosted five focus groups in Whangarei, South Auckland, Tauranga, Wellington and Christchurch. A big thank you to all who participated in the focus groups and completed the on-line survey. Your feedback will be shared with Disability Support Services, Ministry of Health for consideration in the refresh of Whāia te ao Mārama – Māori Disability Action Plan 2017-2022. It is anticipated that the draft plan will be available for comment by the Māori disabled community in February 2017. If you would like a copy of the draft plan please register your contact details by either phone 0800 770 990 or email adele.vukula@kapomaori.com
- **Global Network of Indigenous People with Disabilities Meeting**
This meeting was due to run from 21 to 23 November 2016. However due to the earthquakes in Kaikoura and Wellington, the meeting has been deferred to March 2017.
- **Tangata Whai Kaha Māori Whānau National Leadership Network**
We have received positive support for this Māori disabled led network with registrations steadily flowing in. The network is a kaupapa Māori initiative that Kāpō Māori Aotearoa is hosting as a solution to build and strengthen relationships between Māori disabled and whānau in Aotearoa New Zealand. There is no registration cost and is a separate entity to Kāpō Māori Aotearoa membership. The network provides registrants with the opportunity to link with other like minded Māori disabled and whānau within your local community and nationally. The network is a means by which to inform Māori disabled and whānau about events that affect our community as well as provide opportunities for network members to participate in activities that recognize our cultural identity and build self determination, self advocacy and leadership. To register your interest and find out more, contact 0800 770 990 or email adele.vukula@kapomaori.com

- **Website... 2017 Launch**

The site is in the final stages of development and testing, and will go live in 2017, resulting in an exciting and responsive experience for our members. The current site is still active and has panui and other resources, visit the site at

www.kapomaori.com

- **Launch of New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026**

On 29th November 2016 the Office for Disability Issues launched the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026. This document will guide Government in how it will work over the next ten years to improve outcomes for the disability community. We have copies of the strategy available in standard print, large print, braille, CD audio and electronic (Word). Te Kahui Tumuaki would like to encourage all of our members to take the time to read the strategy. If you would like a copy or have questions about the strategy please contact 0800 770 990 or email adele.vukula@kapomaori.com

- **Christmas/New Year Break**

All of our offices will close 22nd December 2016 and will re-open 9th January 2017. Our 0800 free-phone 0800 770 900 and Facebook page will be manned during this period and any enquiries will be answered.

What's Coming Up

- 3rd December 2016 – International Disability Day
- 8th – 9th December 2016 – Kāpō Māori Aotearoa staff training
- 22nd December 2016 – Kāpō Māori Aotearoa Office closes for Christmas
- 9th January 2017 – offices re-open

**On behalf of the team at Kāpō Māori Aotearoa,
Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hou!**