



***Background information  
for Taiao Role  
September 2022***

# Who are we?

KO RANGUIRU TE MAUNGA

KO KAITUNA TE AWA

KO TAPUIKA TE IWI

RANGIURU IS OUR MOUNTAIN

KAITUNA IS OUR SACRED RIVER

TAPUIKA IS THE PEOPLE

## *A brief History*

The Iwi of Tapuika is the tangata whenua of the Te Puke region and Tapuika refer to this area as Te Takapū-ō-Tapuika (Takapū). This rohe (tribal estate) was named by their ancestor Tia, who claimed the land for his eldest son, Tapuika.

Te Takapū o Tapuika (Tapuika tribal estate) begins with the arrival of Te Arawa waka (canoe) almost 800 years ago. As the waka journeyed down the east coast of the North Island, the tupuna (ancestors) on board the waka began to taumau (claim) certain places for themselves. The taumau or claiming of land by naming different areas after parts of the body made that land sacred and ensured that the taumau (claim) would be respected by others. As the Te Arawa waka traversed the coast, between Motiti Island and the Wairakei Stream, Tia stood to taumau (claim) the area between the range of mountains in the distance to the Papamoa Hills for his son Tapuika.

*“Mai i ngā pae maunga  
ki te toropuke e tū kau mai ra  
ki te awa e rere mai ana  
waiho te whenua  
ko te Takapū o taku tamaiti ā Tapuika”*

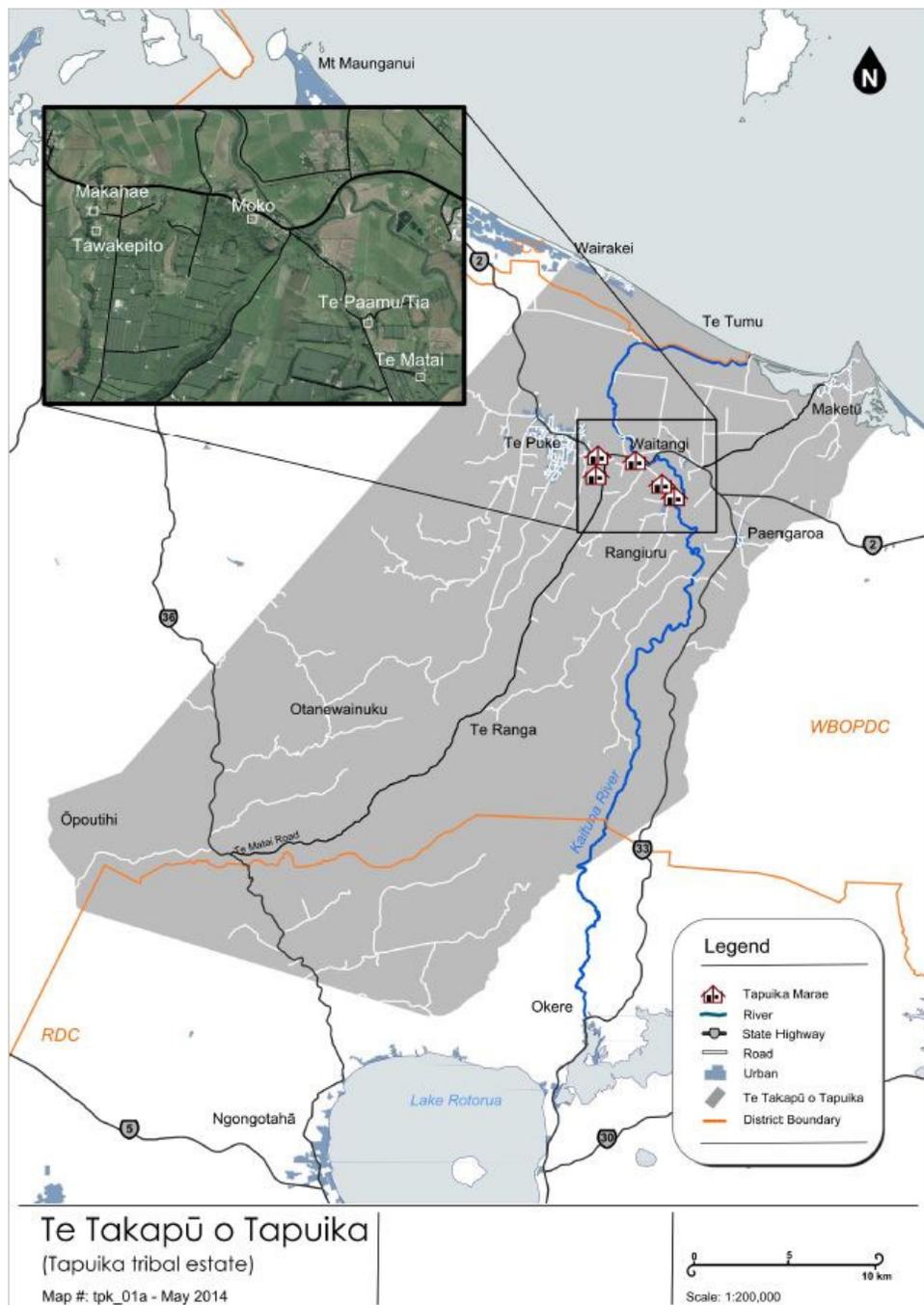
*“From that range of mountains in the distance  
to the hill that stands before me (Papamoa Hill),  
to the river flowing towards me (Wairakei Stream),  
I claim this land as the belly of my son, Tapuika”*

*- Tia*

This claim persists today and intrinsically links Tapuika to the land, rivers and ocean here on the Te Arawa coastline.

When the Te Arawa waka made landfall at Maketū, Tapuika and his children settled on the lands radiating inland. Tapuika is buried in the ancient urupā of Koaretaia at the former mouth of the Kaituna at Te Tumu. The children and grandchildren of Tapuika settled on, and secured mana whenua, over Te Takapū o Tapuika, occupying and naming many places. Through chiefly marriages and alliances Tapuika, for the most part, established mutually beneficial relationships with neighbouring iwi.

During the 1830s, Maketū became a hub of early commercial and trading opportunities, leading to a struggle between Tapuika and other Māori over control over the area's coastal resources. These struggles culminated in protracted warfare and the temporary abandonment of the Maketū area, before Tapuika returned to their traditional coastal settlements.



## *Tapuika Today*

The main hapū of Tapuika are Ngāti Tuheke, Ngāti Moko, Ngāti Marukukere and Ngāti Kuri. Our five marae are clustered between Te Puke and Rangiuru.

According to the 2013 Census, 2,022 people affiliate themselves to Tapuika. There is one Regional Council (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), and 3 Territorial authorities in the Te Takapū O Tapuika (Tauranga City Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council & Rotorua District Council).

In 2014, Tapuika settled all of its historical Treaty claims with the Crown and the Tapuika Claims Settlement Act (2014) was signed at Moko Marae, Waitangi, Te Puke. Following the settlement, the Tapuika Iwi Authority (TIA) was endorsed by the Tapuika people to act as their Post Settlement Governance Entity. Governance of the Trust is through elected representatives comprising two hapū representatives from each of the four hapū. There are also three taurahere representatives from around Aotearoa (Northern, Central /Lower North, Southern).

The TIA also has a charitable fisheries arm called the Tapuika Fisheries Trust (TFT) that is now responsible for undertaking all charitable activities on behalf of the Iwi. It has the same Trustees as TIA. As per the Māori Fisheries Act 2004, the TFT cannot manage the assets, so these are actively managed by the Tapuika Holdings Ltd (THL). TFT is about to be renamed Tapuika Oranga Toa to better reflect the fact that it does much more than just work in the realm of fisheries and the eventual plan is to merge TIA into this entity as well in order to simplify the structure and cut down on administrative costs.

During 2020 shortly after the COVID-19 lockdown, TIA/TFT entered into a brief hiatus due to financial constraints so that the organisation could regroup, reprioritise and ensure financial sustainability into the future. . All paid staff left at this time other than the contractor looking after commercial & rental properties.

A new Pou Ārahi (Chief Executive) was appointed in September 2021 to lead the re development of the Tapuika Group, re-establishing a Taiao Team is the first priority.

## *Te Taiao*

The key document guiding the Iwi's environmental activities is the **Tapuika Environmental Management Plan -2014 – 2024**. This outlines the Iwi's aspirations for the Taiao and conservation and management of natural resources in the rohe. This is due to be reviewed in 2022.

Tapuika has always been very active in this space but a lot of the activity was put on hold in 2020 during the hiatus, and a lot of what was being done by paid staff was given to trustees on an interim caretaker basis. We are now rebuilding the organisations environmental capacity again with the help of external partners, most significant of which is the Department of Conservation. The Taiao is an area of significant importance to Tapuika.

Part of the Tapuika Claims Settlement Act (2014) was the establishment of a river authority for the management of Kaituna, a significant awa to Tapuika.

Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority is a co-governance partnership mandated to restore, protect and enhance the environmental, cultural and spiritual health and well-being of the Kaituna River. The Authority is the co-governance partnership made up of iwi representatives from Tapuika Iwi Authority Trust, Te Kapu Ō Waitaha, Te Pumautanga o Te Arawa Trust, Te Tāhuhu o Tawakeheimoa

Trust and Te Komiti Nui o Ngāti Whakaue, and council representatives from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Rotorua Lakes Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Tauranga City Council. It is a permanent joint committee of the four councils.

*Please refer to the Tapuika Environmental Plan 2014-2024 for the full list of significant environmental features in Te Takapū O Tapuika.*

## *Mō Mahi mō te Taiao - Jobs for Nature*

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government established the \$1.219 billion Jobs for Nature package in mid-2020 to support a greener recovery for Aotearoa New Zealand. The four-year programme will bring thousands of people into nature-based employment, benefiting te taiao (the environment) and New Zealand's communities.

The agencies administering the funding are Ministry for the Environment, Department of Conservation, Ministry for Primary Industries, Land Information New Zealand and Ministry of Business Innovation and employment.

Department of Conservation developed a programme utilising this funding to provide capacity to Iwi in order to work in the environmental space, with a particular focus on conservation projects.

## *The role*

One of the main drivers for creating our roles is so Tapuika can be visibly active in regards to ocean, estuary, wetlands, rivers, forestry and conservation activity across all corners of the takapū (our region)

We now seek an addition to the team who can support the projects that aim to connect our people to the taiao o Tapuika, to foster kaitiakitanga within our iwi, and to protect and enhance our taiao for future generations. You will deliver quality results that contribute to these outcomes.

We need someone who has extensive experience in an office environment, has high skill levels in both verbal and written communication, and can use computer software and programs with ease. This person needs to have an affinity with the values of the Tapuika Iwi Authority and operate with dependability, pukengatanga, trust, humility, collaboration, honesty, integrity, innovation, respect, professionalism, excellence, quality, responsibility, pride, authenticity, and commitment.

This role involves supporting the implementation of environmental projects and supporting the staff who are leading the projects. This role includes the coordination of procurement, arranging group excursions, project personnel, logistics, project liaison, monitoring project progress, raising issues, reporting, administrative tasks, and a variety of different responsibilities. This will require exceptional written and oral communications skills, problem solving initiative, someone who can self-manage and who holds themselves to high standards of work.

Ideally this person has an affinity for the taiao and a moderate level of fitness to be able to work in the field from time to time.

*For more specifics about the role please see the detailed Job Descriptions*

### *How to apply*

Suitably qualified candidates are now being sought for these roles and a market comparable salary is being offered for the position.

To apply simply fill in an application form, write a covering letter and attach your up-to-date CV.

***Then submit to:*** andy@tapuika.iwi.nz

**Applications close at 5pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

*Anyone who wishes to have a confidential chat about the position is welcome to ring  
The office on 573 5351.*