



**TE PĀ**

**Annual Report  
2025**

**Artist**

O'Dell Toi

**He Kura Tangihia, he Maimai Aroha**

**Haruru ana te whenua, ka karanga te Pō**

**Ko te hinganga o ngā Tōtara Rangatira i te Waonui ā Tāne e haehae kinotia ana i te mata o te whenua**

**Koinā ko te Wenerau, ā koinā ko te Mūrau e takatakahia ana i te ara whāiti o Maui Tikitiki ā Tāranga ki Te Tira o te Pō, nō reira e āku Piki Kōtuku Tiketike ki te Rangī, haere rā koutou, moe mai rā, oti atu**

**Over the 2024 to 2025 period, Aotearoa lost some amazing, irreplaceable representatives and champions of Te Ao Māori. He hotuhotu te tangi, he kupu mōteatea te tuku**

**With the passing of each generation, the divide widens and the exemplars of old fade into the pages of history. The battles and tribulations faced by these stalwarts of Te Ao Māori to ensure equity for this generation and the future generations to come have been carved into the historical heart of Aotearoa. Kei wareware tātou**

On August 10 2024, the Nation wept at the passing of **Kahurangi Mabel June Hinekahukura Mariu née Waititi DNZM QSM**. Hailing from Te-Whānau-ā-Apanui and Ngāti Porou and being affectionately known as Auntie June or Mrs M, she championed Māori representation in sport, education, health and within Iwi Leaders forum. Auntie June represented tenacity, resilience, aroha and humility in all that she did and in all that she achieved. Kei te Marekura o te motu, moe mai rā.

7 November 2024 begat a finality to a chapter of heroism, sacrifice and bravery that will echo across the caverns of time, as **Tā Robert Nairn 'Bom' Gillies KNZM**, the last survivor of Te Hokowhitu ā Tū 28, the 28th Māori Battalion, drew his last breath as the bugle played and resounded the Last Post. The son of Te Arawa, Ngāti Whakaue and Ngāti Kahungunu embarked on his final march, following in the footsteps left behind by his kārangā maha, whānau and friends who dwelled in Te Mura o te Ahi, The Fires of Hell, with him overseas. The 28th Māori Battalion once again stood at attention on the parade ground, delivering their final salute to the last of their brothers and comrades to rejoin the ranks of the Sons of Tūmataūenga. E te Mōrehu Hoia o te 28, moe mai rā.

3 January 2025 saw the Māori political pillars across the nation shake and reverberate with the passing of **Kahurangi Tariana Turia née Woon DNZM**. The mōkai of Ngāti Apa, Ngā Rauru, Ngāti Tūwharetoa and Whanganui was a staunch uncompromising champion and advocate for Te Tiriti o Waitangi and equal rights for Māori as articulated in the Māori version of the Treaty. Small in stature, but fiery and unrelenting in her quest for equity and the redress of past wrongs imposed on Māori, Kahurangi Tariana was a force of nature on a mission of righteousness. From leading land occupations and Māori initiatives across the health sector and representing in the House of Parliament, to the creation of the Māori Party and Whānau Ora, Kahurangi Tariana epitomised mana wāhine and iwi leadership. Kei te Kahurangi o te motu, moe mai rā.

**Ka huri rā te kupu mihi ki Te Whare Tapu a Pōtatau Te Wherowhero otirā ki a rātou e noho ana i runga i te Ahurewa Tapu ā rātou mā. E ai rā ki te kōrero Mate atu he tētēkura, ara mai anō he tētēkura Ko Tūheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero te Tuawhitu ki te Rangī Ko Ngā Wai Hono i te Pō ki te Whenua Rire, rire hau Paimarie ki a rātou otirā ki a tātou e whai nei i ō rātou tapuwae Tihei Mauri ora**

On 1 February 2025, the sound of the pūtātara resounded across the peaks of Maunga Hikurangi at the passing of **Kahurangi Iritana Tāwhiwhirangi née Thatcher DNZM MBE**. The mokopuna of Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu and Ngāpuhi crossed the marae ātea for the last time as her final karanga beckoned her to the Tira o te Pō, leaving behind a legacy that embraces our tamariki and mokopuna in the cloak of cultural knowledge of who they are, where they are from, and their knowledge of cultural protocols and practice. A warrior of equity and cultural validation, Dame Iritana will be remembered for her passion and dedication to the revival of te reo Māori in the Kōhanga Reo movement, which led to the creation of Kura Kaupapa Māori and Whare Wānanga. E te Kōkā o te motu, moe mai rā.



**WHĀNAU, HAPŪ & IWI**

*Family, sub-tribe & tribe.  
Male lineage on the left,  
Female lineage on the right.  
Enclosed within a circle,  
no corners, no shadows,  
everything is transparent.*



## Te Rārangi Kaupapa | Contents

Nau mai, haere mai, whakatau mai, ki te Pā Tūwatawata.....	6
Te Pā.....	8
From the Heamana/Board Chair.....	10
Te Poari/The Board.....	11
From the Tumu Whakrae/CEO.....	12
Ngā Tikanga Tā Te Pā.....	26
Ngā Tohu Rangatira o Te Tau/Employee of the year.....	27
Our Whānau, Our Story.....	28
Our Services.....	30
Guiding Mafi's journey.....	32
Te Whare Taurikura - A home for healing.....	34
Ko te pae tawhiti, whāia kia tata. Ko te pae tata, whakamaua kia tina.....	37
Nicole Godinet.....	38
Rob's life in the shadow.....	39
Louisa Peterson.....	40
Tangata Ora Performance Outcomes.....	41

# NAU MAI, HAERE MAI, WHAKATAU MAI, KI TE PĀ TŪWATAWATA

## KO WAI A TE PĀ? WHO IS TE PĀ?

Te Pā is a kaupapa Māori organisation that responds to community needs and vulnerable whānau. We have a substantial history working in the space of reintegration and social services with whānau who are in the justice system, exiting the system, or have been deported from overseas.

Our driving philosophy is to support whānau to lead their own change and to be the rangatira they were destined to be.

We realise this by addressing the most difficult barriers, such as stigma, judgement, lack of access to equitable resources, and social exclusion, which prevent our tangata from reintegrating into their whānau, hapū, iwi, community and New Zealand society.

Te Pā is committed to improving the lives of tangata and whānau and is intentional about disrupting the pipeline of disadvantage for the next generation.

## TANGATA WHENUA TANGATA TIRITI

We acknowledge the unique status and rights of Māori and emphasise the need for a collaborative and equitable approach to issues affecting Māori communities.

## MANA ŌRITE

We are governed by 50% Tangata Whenua and 50% Tangata Tiriti.

Two of the Tangata Whenua board members are mana whenua representatives.

## OUR PURPOSE

To be led by Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We support the self-determined moemoeā (dreams) and wawata (aspirations) of our tangata and their whānau.



# TE PĀ

## OUR VISION

Living, thriving ecology of care that heals, restores and transforms our people.

## OUR MISSION

To whakakaha the cultural, social, economic and political imperatives of whānau.

## OUR VALUES

Rangatiratanga, Whanaungatanga, Arohatanga, Manaakitanga, Whakapapa, Wairuatanga

KAITIAKI  
Guardian of support

# FROM THE HEAMANA/BOARD CHAIR



**Hurimoana Dennis MNZM**  
Heamana/Chairman  
Tainui Representative appointed by Kiingi Tūheitia  
Tangata Whenua Board Member, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu, Rongowhakaata

## More gains than losses

As anticipated, the operational and funding spaces proved challenging this year, with governmental budget cuts being felt widely across the sector. Like many of our fellow providers, Te Pā experienced the loss of specialised services, and at the same time, fixed-term contracts come to an end. Testament to its proven successful management, Te Pā maintained all core service contracts.

As is the cyclical nature of these things, this is not the first time, nor is it likely to be the last, that others' policies place obstacles in our path. It is why we remain agile and alert, keeping a sharp eye for opportunity and incorporating innovation in the Te Pā strategic priorities. So, while the effect has been felt, Te Pā has continued strongly forward in pursuing its vision of a living, thriving ecology of care that heals, restores and transforms our people. We do not need to be challenged to find the light; there are always reasons for optimism, and this year's report highlights the growth and impact of such thinking.

In less than a year since its establishment, Pā2watawata Ltd is forging ahead with community housing projects that are realising the basic human right of a roof over one's head while our kaimahi support the reintegration of whānau. We are very fortunate to have the skills and experience of two outstanding rangatira, Alan Wilcox and Jen Deben, governing this initiative.

## Te Poari

This year the Board farewelled Tangata Whenua and Ngāti Whātua representative Graham Tipene as he left to focus on work commitments. The Board will miss Graham's discernment and wisdom, and wish him well. We now look forward to the nomination of a new representative from Ngāti Whātua.

My gratitude goes to my fellow longtime board members for their mahi over the past year, and I extend a warm welcome to the three new board members who have joined us in governing the kaupapa of Te Pā. As committed to last year, our Board is now even more representative of lived-experience and rangatahi representation. The introduction of new skills and fresh insights brings depth to a board, and I look forward to working alongside you all.

## He Mihi

On behalf of the board, I would like to thank visionary Te Pā lead Tui Ah Loo and her committed team for facing the challenges of the year head-on. We are keenly aware of how fortunate Te Pā and its clients are to be in such capable hands.

Pai mārire

## TANGATA WHENUA BOARD MEMBERS



**Hurimoana Dennis, MNZM**  
Chairperson  
Tainui Representative  
Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu, Rongowhakaata  
Experience: Justice sector, leadership for Māori, Māori-lead community development, innovation



**Graham Tipene**  
Ngāti Whātua, Ngāti Kahu, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Manu  
Experience: Te Ao Māori designer (tā moko, civic structures), governance, cultural advisor, health and education



**Professor Tracey McIntosh, MNZM**  
Ngāi Tūhoe  
Experience: Academic, Māori studies, research, education, justice sector



**Eruera Lee-Morgan**  
Ngāti Naho, Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāti Rangiwewehi, Tūhourangi  
Experience: Māori development, media, governance, Māori language revitalisation



**Sean Selby**  
Co-opted Member | Lived Experience | Rangatahi Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Pikiao  
Experience: Business, Mentor, Web Development, Justice System, Lived Experience

## TANGATA TIRITI BOARD MEMBERS



**Liz Caughey**  
Anglican Representative  
Experience: Youth development, community networks, justice reform, advocacy



**Lesley Young**  
Quaker Representative  
Experience: Health sector, counselling, social services and family violence



**Craig Young**  
Treasurer | Catholic Representative  
Experience: Finance, Accounting, Governance, Audit and Risk



**Tanya Hart**  
Jewish Representative  
Experience: Communications, Public Relations, Management, Strategy, Governance, Justice of the Peace



**Peter-Paul Barker**  
Co-opted Member Lived Experience  
Experience: Art and culture, cross-cultural consultancy and justice reintegration

## MĀREIKURA



**Janet Hepi**  
Life Member  
Former Jewish representative on the Board

## KAHURANGI



**Vivi Lee MNZM**  
Kahurangi  
Ngāti Ruanui  
Experience: 40 years of loyal service to Te Pā tangata and whānau

## CEO



**Tui Ah Loo**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ngāti Porou, Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti, Rongowhakaata, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairoa, Tūhoe  
Experience: Strategic relationships, justice sector leadership, Māori development

# FROM THE TUMU WHAKARAE/CEO



**Tui Ah Loo**  
Tumu Whakarae/CEO  
Ngāti Porou, Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti, Rongowhakaata,  
Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairoa, Tūhoe

*Ahakoā ngā ueue  
Kia kaha, kia toa, kia manawanui!*

*When you find things that are difficult in life  
Stand strong, stand tall and be of great heart!*

This whakataūāki is interpreted as, far too many times, we fear making the hard decisions and instead settle for the mediocre. As a consequence, our lives remain unchallenged and unfulfilled. We consciously select easy options. We choose to be less than we can become only because we never try to become better. But we know the easy path is rarely the best way and that we were made for something better.

The following report gives expression to this whakataūāki.

## Our Pā

The past year presented a complex socio-economic and political landscape and offered many challenges as we navigated the outcomes of changes in policy settings and government funding priorities. Despite this, Te Pā once again rose to the challenge and pivoted, creating opportunities and initiatives to strengthen and fortify our Pā.

Key areas of growth and development included the appointment of new Tangata Whenua board member Sean Selby, and Tangata Tiriti board members Tanya Hart and Craig Young, who were welcomed into the Te Pā whānau with a formal pōhiri. Te Pā is delighted to welcome such accomplished board members with the skills and experience required to navigate an ever-changing environment.



► Photo: Craig Young, Tanya Hart and Sean Selby

Te Pā also appointed a permanent Pou Arahi Tikanga who is responsible for the advancement of tikanga Māori both within Te Pā and within our services and programme delivery to whānau. This will ensure that Te Pā is enhancing the mana of our people by connecting them back to their whānau, hapū, iwi, marae and waka, with a primary focus on tangata being deported mainly from Australia. The role also includes mentoring and coaching of staff to develop cultural capability and capacity in their practice. Refer to page 16.

## Pā2watawata Ltd

*Ki te whakaruruhau te tangata  
Ka mauri tau  
Ka taurikura.*

*When people are sheltered, they can settle,  
and they can thrive.*

At Te Pā, we are serious about housing our people, and to this end we have established Pā2watawata Ltd, a 100% subsidiary of The Pā Incorporated, for the purpose of property acquisition and property management. Pā2watawata Ltd is a holding company of Te Pā Group's property assets and will provide its services to Te Pā who holds all the Government contracts, including a transitional housing contract with Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.



► Photo: Tui Ah Loo and Jen Deben

We had the pleasure of welcoming Jen Deben from Te Āti-Haunui-a-Pāpārangi into the Pā whānau as a co-director of our housing subsidiary. Jen brings a wealth of experience to the role, including housing and regulatory industry experience, strategic leadership in Māori housing, compliance and risk management, governance leadership and national advisory roles. Te Pā is delighted to have Jen supporting our vision to create and provide a home of belonging for our people. Jen is working alongside co-director Alan Wilcox of Ngāti Kahungunu who has been leading Pā2watawata Ltd since its inception in 2024. Refer to page 14 for profiles of Jen and Alan.

Over the last financial year, Pā2watawata Ltd has purchased three properties to facilitate the release, deportation and reintegration of the whānau we support.

One of these properties is a complex which offers 16 studio apartments with shared kitchen, dining and living facilities. We have two live-in kai āwhina providing 24/7 support as needed, while our dedicated navigators work one-on-one with returnees, ensuring they receive the necessary support for successful reintegration back into Aotearoa New Zealand.

To learn what this opportunity means for our returnees, read a quote below from one of our community leaders who attended the Puhinui opening.

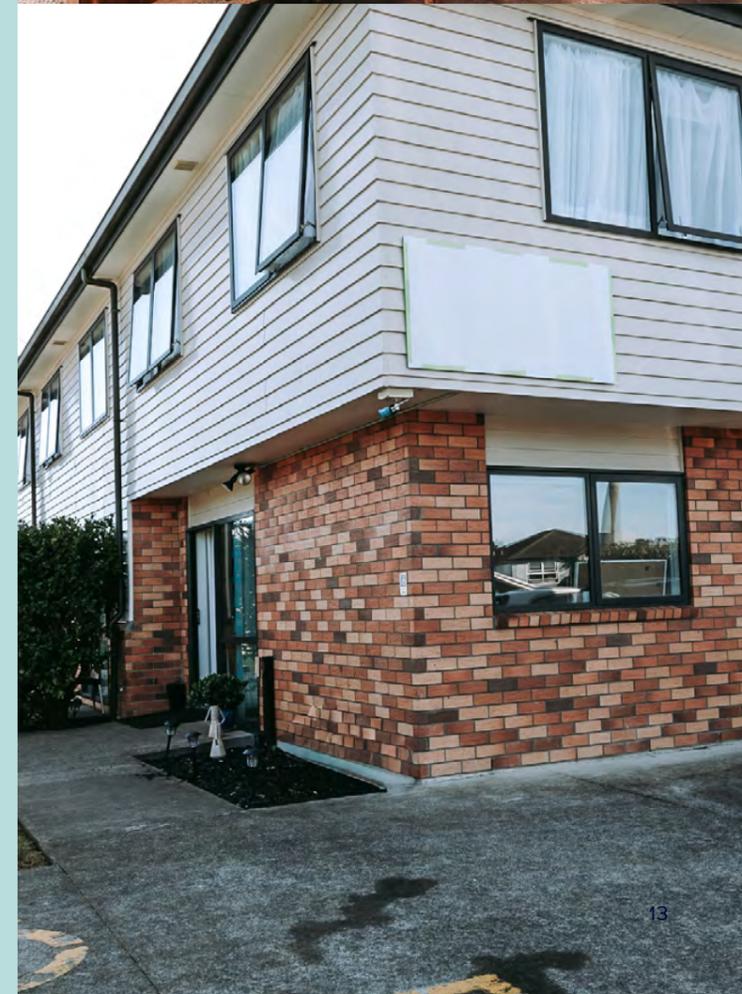


**Alf Filipaina**  
Manukau Ward Councillor  
Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Council

*"It's who we are as Pacific, it's who we are as Māori and so for us it's around identity saying, 'hey you're coming back home now' we need to work on you so that you don't go through the drama that you've gone through. You don't have that mamae that you had over there, you don't have it. You're coming back here in a safe environment but it's a whānau environment and then that way at least you'll be better equipped to handle outside once they leave the whare. That's why this place is so important to all our whānau, to the Pasifika to the Māori it's so important to them and that's why I'm glad I'm here."*



Photo: Interior of Te Whare Taurikura





**Alan Wilcox** BTP. MSoc Sci (Hons)  
Ngāti Kahungunu  
Principal, Alan Wilcox Associates



**Jen Deben**  
Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangī  
Associate Director, Tuia Group  
CEO, Kaenga Hou

## Pā2watawata Ltd

Pā2watawata Ltd was established in 2024 as a subsidiary of The Pā Incorporated, with the purpose of acquiring and managing property to support Te Pā whānau reintegration through transitional housing. Accommodation has been a successful Te Pā offering via various contracts for a number of years, and given increasing whānau need, growing this arm of the organisation aligns perfectly with the Te Pā mission, to whakakaha the cultural, social, economic and political imperatives of whānau.

We are exceptionally fortunate that the governance of Pā2watawata Ltd is in the capable hands of Alan Wilcox and Jen Deben. Together, they bring a wide range of complementary skills and experience to the table. The directors' role is to grow and expand the Pā2watawata Ltd property offering; maximising opportunity for whānau, and financial benefit for the purposes of Te Pā.

Alan is an experienced chief executive, manager, strategist, planner, trainer and consultant. He has worked in a broad range of areas from personal initiatives in property development, town planning, export and import, and the development of private schools, to executive management positions in local and regional government. Alan was the first Chief Executive of the New Zealand Land Transport Safety Authority.

Having already worked with Te Pā in an advisory capacity for a decade prior to Pā2watawata Ltd being established, Alan's broad skills and experience—including his own papakāinga housing development firm—see him well-placed to be advising on all matters housing.

The list of organisations which have benefited from Alan's expertise is extensive and diverse, including government, non-profit, and private organisations, as well as a number of iwi.

*"Everyone deserves a chance to reconstruct their lives and Te Pā offers that. To work together with my colleague Jen Deben and Tui and her team in this kaupapa is a privilege and joy for me."*

Jen has over 20 years' experience in housing development, finance, and regulation. She brings strong strategic skills and extensive national networks to client projects, including proven risk management capability and commercial acumen.

A passionate advocate for Māori development, Jen focuses on initiatives which benefit Māori communities and contribute to an equitable Aotearoa. She has been instrumental in leading projects for Te Matapihi, the Māori Housing Peak Body, and leading the evaluative process for the Community Housing Regulatory Authority, to improve housing affordability at a national level.

Making the decision to work with Pā2watawata was easy for Jen. She has knowledge, experience, and expertise to offer the business, and in turn she gets to work with motivated visionaries, creating opportunities that will support whānau into the future; well beyond their time with Te Pā. As Jen notes, transitional housing is so much more than a halfway house; it is an opportunity to effect long-term change, a foundation for people to grow and learn that will positively impact them for the rest of their lives.

*"Whānau leave the service because they are ready to integrate into the community as accountable and contributing members of society; stronger and more capable, on their own feet and on their own terms."*



## Our Board and Kaimahi

With the disconnect between Australia and Aotearoa faced by deportees and the need to connect our people back to whānau, hapū and iwi, the Te Pā board saw the need to provide specialist support to the CEO, staff and whānau across a range of areas. In response, we appointed Novi Marikena to the role of Pou Arahi Tikanga. Novi was welcomed into the Te Pā whānau in December 2024, where his role is to accentuate tikanga within Te Pā as a kaupapa Māori organisation. Novi brings a wealth of cultural wisdom and experience to Te Pā.

Nau piki mai rā i runga i te reo pōhiri e karangahia nei ki a koe e te uri o Te Aotawarangi, o Ruataupare, o Iritekura, o Hūnaara, o Tūwhakairiora otirā o Te Ariki Matatara-a-Whare, Te Tuhi Mareikura o Rauru arā ko Porourangi te manawhenuatangā mai i te Toka ā Taiau tae noa ki Pōtikirua.

Novi's whakapapa lineage hails from Tokomaru Bay and throughout the hapū of the East Coast.

Novi's background is in total immersion teaching. He was teaching in kōhanga reo (kindergarten) in the origin years of the kaupapa, then moved into kura kaupapa Māori, kura tuatahi (primary), kura waenga (intermediate), wharekura (high school), and whare wānanga (higher education). Novi has also worked as Head of Department Māori in mainstream high schools and worked as Pouako Matua Mātauranga Māori at Tāmaki Paenga Hira (Auckland War Memorial Museum). Novi has also worked in cultural advisory positions for the Ministry of Education, Auckland University and Auckland Council.

Novi's wife Mona comes from Ngai Tūhoe, Ngāti Raukawa, Tūwharetoa and Kai Tahu. They have five adult children who were all raised and educated in kōhanga, kura kaupapa Māori, wharekura and whare wānanga, and twelve mokopuna who are following in the educational footsteps of their parents.



Novi Marikena  
Pou Arahi Tikanga

## Toi Kahurangi Award

Vivi Lee, or Heretaniwha as she is known by, is the Kahurangi of Te Pā. In 2024, Vivi was awarded an MNZM King's Honour in recognition of her life service to the disruption of the intergenerational pipeline of incarceration, which included the exhumation of Whakatōhea ancestor Mokomoko from the Mount Eden prison and the journey to return him to his people, along with the continued connection to those serving life sentences. Heretaniwha has dedicated more than 40 years of her life to serving the regeneration of intergenerational and inherent mana within incarcerated whānau of Aotearoa.

The Toi Kahurangi Award is therefore inspired by Heretaniwha and provides an organisational approach to recognising and rewarding those dedicated to healing, restoring and transforming the intergenerational pipeline of incarceration and disadvantage here at Te Pā. 'Toi' to signify the many ways, 'Kahurangi' to signify achieving excellence. Excellence is unique to each individual, therefore creating a framework which empowers kaimahi at Te Pā to recognise and reward excellence in all shapes, sizes and forms; from small daily exceptional behaviours, through to the recognition and rewarding of significant contributions of kaimahi. Furthermore, the Toi Kahurangi framework enables Te Pā to recognise and reward the life service of Te Pā staff at the completion of every 10 years of commitment. It is important any such framework is fit for purpose, showing integrity, fairness and transparency. This framework will therefore continue to evolve and improve over time with kaimahi feedback.

The first recipient to be acknowledged under this award was Aroha Jessop. Aroha commenced employment with the organisation on 13 August 2001, and was acknowledged at a special ceremony last year to mark over twenty years of dedicated service to Te Pā and the people we serve. Aroha was supported by three generations of her whānau at this auspicious occasion, and was presented with a korowai to honour her achievement. Please refer to page 18 for the story of Aroha Jessop - Toi Kahurangi.



Aroha Jessop & Vivi Lee at Aroha Toi  
Kahurangi Award Ceremony

## Aroha Jessop, Housing Operations Manager Ngāti Rehia, Mātaatua Waka

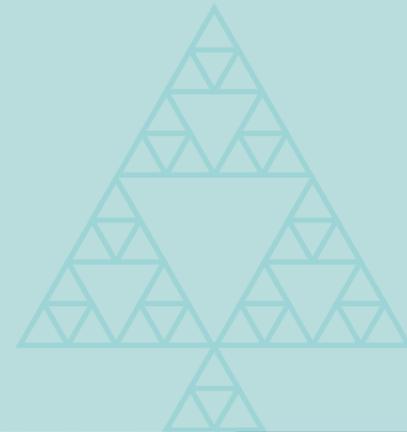
Last year Te Pā celebrated the dedication of our long-standing kaimahi, Aroha Jessop, who has been a valued team member of the organisation for more than 20 years. A special event was held to honour Aroha exceptional commitment to our people where she was presented with the inaugural Te Pā Toi Kahurangi Award. Aroha kindly shared her journey with us.

Fifteen-year-old Aroha started her working life as a clerk with the Department of Courts through a Public Service Cadetship from the then-Department of Māori Affairs. Although she was young, Aroha was a natural people-person, and she wasn't at all intimidated by those she met over the counter. Assisting people from all walks of life and backgrounds helped her to build the core customer service skills that she has called on throughout her career, including the significance of professionalism and non-judgment.

Working in the same small town she grew up in meant many of the people she dealt with through the court were known to her from her school days or were family friends. When sitting with a judge and reading out charges, it was important to Aroha that people knew their right to privacy was safe with her.

At the court, Aroha saw the faces and heard the stories of the victim, the accused, and the system, and over time she felt a yearning to "be on the other side of the fence", helping whānau directly. Her cousin worked at Te Pā (at that time known as Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Society or PARS), and when he was leaving, she invited herself to his farewell. While there, she approached the Executive Director Graeme Page and asked if there was a position going. Graeme was impressed by this upfront and passionate young woman, and offered Aroha a job. She had found her new work home!

PARS represented an opportunity to move from a system that locked her people away, to a place that supported, nurtured and offered whānau opportunities to reimagine their lives and move in a positive direction. From the very first time she walked through Mount Eden Prison, Aroha felt that she was a connection for tangata to the outside. "They are dependent upon people like us to keep them connected, as they have lost all rights and all of their freedom." She was never fearful; her faith in God kept her feeling safe.



Aroha notes that the basic needs of tangata were no different back then to what they are today, but that the system was very different in those days. She cites as examples that organisations like Te Pā used to be relied on for their support and there was a large volunteer base that transported family members to the prisons. There was even a tea trolley available so visitors could have a cuppa. Over time, that human touch has been removed. There are no more tea trollies, no more volunteers caring for tamariki during visits. These changes saddened her, and when Tui Ah Loo joined PARS as Chief Executive in 2012, Aroha was heartened to have someone who felt the same as her leading the organisation. And so began an evolution that has been a deeply meaningful and empowering part of Aroha career.

The redefining of PARS from 'Prisoners' Aid and Rehabilitation Society' to 'People At Risk Solutions' was a change that is particularly special to Aroha. The word prisoner had never sat well with her and was a barrier in building trust with tangata. In her words, "It was a way of labelling individuals, and that was such a deficit for our people. At Te Pā, it is about the person, not the offence". Likewise, she feels honoured to have been a part of the journey that started in 2019 to Te Pā becoming a kaupapa Māori provider. The distinct indigenous rights of Māori as tangata whenua are now at the heart of Te Pā and its decision-making; defining its culture of inclusiveness, unity and fairness where all individuals are valued, treated with dignity, and empowered to achieve their potential. What Aroha had once only imagined, she has now been a part of realising, and these types of advances in thinking and approach give her the sense that each new service and each new direction is bringing the pieces of an intricate puzzle more closely together.

Twenty-plus years down the line, Aroha has worked in most areas of the organisation; from field work to administration to operations. Each role has brought opportunities to learn professional skills, to evolve her own belief systems, and to expand her ability to support her people – from the original one-to-one with tangata, to the now one-to-many with whānau. Aroha feels that, like Te Pā, she has been in a constant state of evolution, reflection and improvement over the years. When asked what keeps her coming back every day, her answer comes easily. It is that the Te Pā vision aligns with her own and the trajectory is tika. She can't wait to see what the future unfolds.



## Our Whānau

At the heart of Te Pā is the desire to heal. We exist to provide a living, thriving ecology of care that empowers and transforms whānau. We are a kaupapa Māori organisation that responds to the needs of whānau who are either in the justice system, exiting the system, or are returned from overseas. We provide a range of specialist services that restore and enhance physical, mental, spiritual, and whānau wellbeing to support successful transition back into whānau and the community.

Te Pā continues to deliver Reintegration Services for Returning Deportees and Supported Accommodation, and in the past year, we have supported 162 deportees in their resettlement into Aotearoa. Our strategies are built on the models of Mana Motuhake, Mana Tangata, Mana Ōrite, Mana Whānau and Mana Ūkaipō.

We understand the reasons behind the high level of incarceration rates for Māori, and we are wholeheartedly committed to changing these through increasing and continuously improving our services, with a focus on healing, restoring and transforming our people.

## 501 Conference – Overcoming Deportation

*Whakatinania te kōrero!  
Be the things you talk about!*

From the call of the karanga, to the wero and the haka pōhiri to our deportees and their supporters, the day saw speakers sharing their inspiring stories of overcoming deportation and the heavy label of being a '501'. The Fresh Start, as they pulled together a day full of real talk and resilience from our returned tāne and wāhine who have pushed through the hard yards of deportation and created a new positive life for themselves.

The truths shared that day were raw and authentic. We couldn't be prouder of everyone who stepped up and shared their journeys. And we could not be more proud to be a sponsor of the event. Much aroha to host Timi Tairi, co-ordinators Mark Talanoa of the Road to Redemption Trust and Dave Obeda, who stands solid, walking this path alongside our whānau and showing everyone they are never in it alone.



Dave Obeda, Hana-Espie Matene and our Kahurangi Vivi Lee, 501 Conference 2024

*Ka Pū te Ruha, Ka Hao te Rangatahi.*

*When the previous net retires, the new net goes fishing.*

We believe in and promote intergenerational responsibility here at Te Pā, and listening to those who will come after us. We believe the most effective way to encourage positive futures is to listen and support ideas that will help the generation they involve to flourish. Co-ordinated and led out by our Te Ohomai Rangatahi team, Te Pā hosted 42 rangatahi from varying backgrounds who affirmed our belief that wellbeing needs a holistic approach and that each person will have their own different needs. One thing that came up consistently was that positive social group environments are fundamental to good decisions being made.

A highlight for Te Pā was the whaikōrero being led by our Pou Arahi Tikanga Novi Marikena and responded to by his grandson on behalf of the rangatahi. Ka mau te wehi!



► Photo: Post-mihi whakatau greeting between Pou Arahi Novi and the rangatahi

## Our Hapori/Community New partnerships

In order to ensure increased collective impact for whānau, Te Pā actively builds partnerships with other providers in the reintegration space. In May, we had the privilege of visiting Salisbury Street Foundation in Ōtautahi (Christchurch), a long-standing reintegration provider doing vital work in their community. We were honoured to be part of the launch of their new strategic plan, logo and website; an exciting milestone that marks a new chapter in their journey.



► Photo: David, Dan (CEO of Salisbury Street) Kylie and Greg (Manager of Clinical)

In recognition of our growing connection, our team gifted the Salisbury team a kōpae, symbolising eternity, continuity and partnership. This taonga reflects our shared commitment to walking alongside whānau on their path back into the community, especially those with complex needs. We are excited about the possibilities for whānau that such collaborations will bring.

There are so many people who contribute to the vision and mission of Te Pā – too many to name individually – but I am so grateful to each and every one of you for your support.

To the amazing Te Pā team, my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for everything you do to ensure that our people are supported to be the best version of themselves.

I want to acknowledge and thank the Te Pā Chair and Board; an exceptional group of rangatira who have trusted and supported me as the Tumu Whakarae to keep the home fires of our Pā burning in a challenging political environment.

To all of our partners and the community groups and service providers we work alongside who contribute to improved social, cultural and economic outcomes for our tangata and whānau; your support is immeasurable. Thank you.

To the individual donors, the donors who wish to remain anonymous, philanthropic funders such as Share My Super, Awhero Nui Charitable Trust, Anglican Community Trust, Quakers, and the many others who provide much needed financial support and resources to Te Pā; your giving enables us to keep delivering the services that make whānau stronger and support our people to be the rangatira they were destined to be.

Lastly and most importantly, I want to acknowledge our people and the whānau we serve. Thank you for trusting Te Pā to walk alongside you and bear witness to your transformation. You are our reason. Kia Kaha, kia māia, kia manawatu.



## MANA MOTUHAKE

Building interdependent and transformational partnerships to ensure increased collective impact for whānau.

## MANA TANGATA

Enhancing the mana of our people through connecting to one's whānau, hapū, iwi, marae or waka.



**TE PĀ**

Te Pā Tūwatawata o Ngā Tangata - this tohu is visual manifestation of the five pou that make up our strategic direction, coming together as one.



## MANA ŌRITE

Unrelenting pursuit of equal power, control and authority to deliver transformed status quo and equitable outcomes for Māori.

## MANA ŪKAIPŌ

Belonging and contributing to your whenua, kainga, tūrangawaewae and Te Ao.

## MANA WHĀNAU

Whakamana te whānau by established meaningful, reciprocal and familial relationships.

# NGĀ TIKANGA TĀ TE PĀ

It is imperative to start with the whakapapa (genealogy) of Te Pā to gain an understanding of from whence we came to where we are today as a service.

Te Pā is a Kaupapa Māori organisation that exists to provide a 'living, thriving ecology of care that heals, restores and transforms our people' through our mission to whakakaha (strengthen and intensify) the cultural, social, economic and political imperatives of whānau. We have existed in various forms and under different names, originally The Prisoners' Aid and Rehabilitation Society, and latterly PARS Inc since 1946, before affirming our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi with the name Te Pā in 2021.

Our Foundation - A Mana Ōrite Governance Structure

Te Pā is governed with equal representation: 50% Tangata Whenua (Indigenous treaty partner) and 50% Tangata Tiriti (non-Māori treaty partner) members who together drive decisions that uplift Māori self-determination.

Te Pā recognises and validates the importance of cultural knowledge in its ecological model of care and service and uses that knowledge as a vehicle for achievement, reconnection, opportunity and change on an individual and whānau level. These models of cultural ecological learning modelled in Kōhanga Reo, Kura Kaupapa Māori and Whare Wānanga have been adopted by Te Pā for staff and for whānau who utilise Te Pā services.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi overarches our organisational structure and is embedded within the Te Pā culture and ecological model of care. Te Pā embodies the indigenous culture, tikanga and kawa of Aotearoa which is the tuāpapa (foundation) of our whare.

Cultural empowerment and connection is paramount in the wraparound service afforded the whānau who come to Te Pā seeking opportunity and positive avenues of reintegration back into the community.

Manaakitanga, arohatanga, rangatiratanga, wairuatanga, whakapapa and whanaungatanga are the foundations and pillars of Te Pā Tūwatawata and the village that resides within.

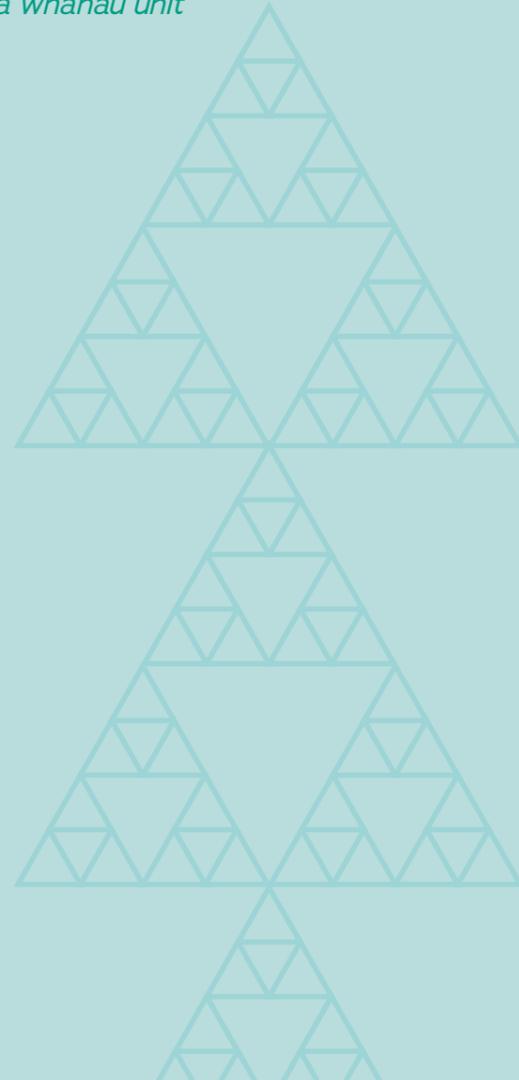
In line with the philosophy and Tikanga Matua of Te Pā, there are cultural learning wānanga offered to staff, which are all adhered to in work hours:

- ∞ Te Reo Māori classes
- ∞ Te Pae Urutapu – Whaikōrero classes
- ∞ Wānanga Karanga classes
- ∞ Whakahihiko Wānanga at Unitec Marae – Te Kotahitanga

The diversity and expertise of the Te Pā staff models best cultural practice care utilising Mātauranga Māori as the indigenous cultural model of Aotearoa and blends in the cultural knowledge and protocols across the Te Moana-nui-ā-Kiwa Pacific basin.

*Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi engari ko taku toa he takiwhānau kē*

*I do not stand as an individual, I instead stand as a whānau unit*



# NGĀ TOHU RANGATIRA O TE TAU EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

TE ARAWA, NGĀTI PIKIAO, NGĀTI HINEKURA

**Ko Matawhaura te maunga  
Ko Te Waiiti te awa  
Ko Te Arawa te waka  
Ko Ngāti Pikiao te iwi  
Ko Ngāti Hinekura te hapū  
Ko Te Waiiti te marae  
Ko Renee Stone tōku ingoa**

Renee started with Te Pā (formerly PARS) as a temp in early-2020, supporting the accounts team with administrative tasks. Renee kindly shared her journey to joining Te Pā in our 2020 Annual Report, where we witnessed her grit and determination to provide a life of opportunity for herself and her whānau. And now a few short years later, Renee is living up to her potential; working her way up to the Kaitoko Pūtea Taituara (Financial Accountant) role, and being honoured with the 2024 He Tangata Pūmahara award.

He Tangata Pūmahara recognises an individual who is 'Thoughtful, Astute, Wise, Perceptive'. Such prestigious recognition is not given lightly at Te Pā and is acknowledgement that the recipient is held in highest regard by their colleagues. Unsurprisingly, the award nominations from Renee's workmates paint the picture of an inspirational role model.

*"A true example of wisdom, excellence, and resilience."*

*"Her thoughtful approach to both life and work is inspiring and she consistently brings clarity and insight to every situation."*

*"A woman of integrity, she navigates challenges with grace, emerging stronger each time."*

*"Renee's unwavering commitment to adding value and seeking solutions reflects her dedication to continuous growth and improvement."*

*"I am grateful to know her and believe she truly deserves recognition for both the visible and quiet contributions she makes to Te Pā and her community."*

*"Her impact is felt deeply, and her example encourages those around her to strive for greatness."*

Typically humble, Renee shares the honour. "To me this award is a representation of my Ahi Kā team mates here at The Pā; the ones in the back who keep the home fires burning. I dedicate this award to them."



# OUR WHĀNAU OUR STORY

From the moment you walk through the doors at Te Pā, there's an instant sense of belonging. It's the smiles, the laughter and the way everyone is welcomed as whānau. Inclusivity isn't something we try to create it's something that naturally lives within our people. It shows in the way we celebrate one another, in our language weeks and in the pride that fills the room when kaimahi invite their whānau to join in our celebrations.

Our diversity is what makes us strong. Across Te Pā, you'll find people from all walks of life, cultures and experiences, united by the same purpose which is to uplift and support our communities. That shared sense of connection has created a workplace that feels like home, a place where people want to stay. Many of our kaimahi have been part of Te Pā for years, a reflection of the aroha, respect and belonging that flow through our organisation.

Te Pā isn't just where we work it's where we grow, where we learn from each other and where everyone has a place. Together, we continue to build a culture that celebrates diversity, values, every voice and nurtures a sense of whānau that runs deep in everything we do.



# OUR SERVICES

## Te Whā Nāu Services

### ∞ Whānau Resilience Service – Kia Puāwai Te Kākano

Our early intervention whānau resilience programme Kia Puāwai te Kākano, focuses on lifting the hearts and minds of vulnerable tamariki between the ages of five and twelve to forge their own path, to live their own dreams, to aim for their own goals.

### ∞ Child Travel Fund

Whānau is central to everything we do here at Te Pā it connects us and harnesses our collective strength. For our tangata in any of the fourteen prisons across Aotearoa, the whānau connection is equally important, yet fragile. The goal of the Child Travel Fund is to remove the barrier of distance between incarcerated parents and their tamariki so that they can keep their connection strong.

### ∞ He Ara Whānau

This service provides navigation support to whānau of Māori sentenced to imprisonment or remanded into custody at Auckland Prison, Auckland Region Women's Correction's Facility, Mt Eden Corrections Facility, and Spring Hill Corrections Facility. The service focuses on working with whānau to create a plan that is centred on the principles of whānau ora through accessing and connecting wrap-around support with and for the whānau.

### ∞ Rangatahi Services - Te Ohōmai Rangatahi

Te Ohōmai Rangatahi is a rangatahi-centred and whānau-inclusive service for rangatahi who have been part of the justice system. This service specialises in preventing rangatahi from entering the justice system, or when they are in it, to get out and stay out.

### ∞ Te Huringa o Te Ao

Te Huringa o Te Ao, a service supporting men who use whānau harm, is reflective of the needs and aspirations of whānau and supports sustainable behaviour change to restore whānau wellbeing.

## Reintegration Services

### ∞ Reintegration Support Long Servers (RSLs) – Anga Pae Tata

The primary aim of Anga Pae Tata – Supported and Emergency Accommodation Service is to assist and support high-risk, high-need tangata through their transition from prison into the community in the Northern Region, to enable them to develop skills and strategies to lead independent and productive lives.

### ∞ Returning Offenders – Anga Pae Tawhiti

The Anga Pae Tawhiti Service supports whānau returning to Aotearoa under deportation order to overcome the barriers to their reintegration. By creating a foundation of āhurutanga, tangata are supported to thrive in their new environment and reclaim Aotearoa as their tūrangawaewae.

### ∞ Hiki Mana, Hiki Ora - Creating Positive Pathways

This service is delivered in partnership with Kāhui Tū Kaha and focuses on providing permanent housing and support services with the goal of assisting tangata to reach and achieve better life outcomes and the ability to sustain a tenancy.

### ∞ Te Hokinga Mai - Raki Out of Gate Service

This service is delivered in partnership with Kāhui Tū Kaha and Ngāti Hine Health Trust and focuses on providing reintegration services to tangata who are on remand (either accused or convicted) or serving a short sentence (less than two years) in prisons in the Northern Region. The service includes a rolling remand education programme for those on remand in prison.

## Hou Ora Services

### ∞ Assessment and Triage Services

These services are delivered in collaboration with Turuki Health Care and provide mental health and addiction services for tangata and vulnerable whānau who would otherwise be marginalised from accessing health services.

### ∞ Hepatitis C Assessment and Linkage to Treatments Services

These services are delivered in collaboration with Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand with the overarching aims of improving Māori health outcomes and the reduction of Māori health inequalities. The service is intended to support elimination of hepatitis C amongst at-risk people in the Northern Region through the provision of comprehensive and systematic hepatitis C testing and linkage to care through Te Pā services.

## Employment Services

### ∞ Mahi Āwhina Supported Employment Service

This service is open to both tāne and wāhine and provides help preparing for finding and sustaining employment. The goal is to empower tangata with self-confidence, self-worth, and financial independence. One of the fundamental principles of Mahi Āwhina is that the service is tangata-led.

### WHAKAREI ~ SURFACE CARVING

*Patterns being the Puhoro, Mangopare and Koru representing journeys from the past to the present*

# GUIDING MAFI'S JOURNEY

*Ruth's observation as his kaiārahi*

*"Mafi arrived in Aotearoa on 17th June 2025. After his week stay at a hotel booked for him prior to his arrival, he moved straight into our Te Whare Taurikura facility where he is currently residing. Mafi has made huge progress during his time in the whare. He has used this as an opportunity to work on himself by creating a personalised plan, taking the necessary steps to achieve his goals, and beginning to envision what his new future could look like.*

*Mafi has made amazing progress. He has adjusted well to his new normal, completed a budgeting course, participated in some of our fit sessions with other whānau staying at Te Whare Taurikura, joined a gym, got his full licence, secured full-time employment, got a car, and is hoping to move in to his own private rental in the next couple of weeks.*

*With his main goal of being reunited with his partner and daughter, Mafi is setting things up well for himself and his small whānau. I truly believe with all the hard work and effort Mafi is investing into himself right now, he will see that goal achieved very soon."*

**- RUTH (KAIĀRAHI)**

## INTERVIEW WITH MAFI

**How were you feeling when you first arrived in New Zealand?**

I was pretty sad because my family, partner and daughter were in Australia, and I don't have much family here in NZ that I'm really close to. But being back I've been able to bond with family I haven't seen or spoken to in years. It was hard being away from my partner and daughter because I really wanted them to come with me right away, but I needed to find a job, get a car, and find a place for us for when they move over, which I've done. I was also kinda of happy because I finally had freedom without so many restrictions. There have been some ups and down and stressful times, but I stayed patient and it's all working out.

**What was your experience moving into the Puhinui whare?**

I got to be around people that were in similar situations as me, so it felt okay. Then I started making friend with the boys that live there and have a good bond with them. Puhinui whare is a good place, it was a roof over my head that helped me slowly get back on my own two feet.

**How has your reintegration journey been working with Te Pā ROO team and Ruth?**

The journey has been a ride but well worth it. The team and especially Ruth have been great! They have helped me so much, from taking me to places, to sorting my stuff out or getting me rides. The benefit was helpful and I'm grateful I was able to get it thanks to Ruth. Te Pā and Ruth have made things so smooth for me since arriving. The vouchers that were given to me as well helped me out a lot. I was able to get me groceries and clothes.

**What is one challenge/goal you have faced since being back in New Zealand that you are proud to have accomplished?**

I moved to Aus from NZ in 2015, so being back felt different. It was a challenge at the start finding a good paying job that would hire me, but my partner told me to be patient and that if the job was for me I would get. It was stressful waiting to get a job but in the end I was able to get my forklift licence and an agency helped me get a full time job at Tri-Star. I'm proud of myself because I put in the hard work to show them I'm committed and in just 1 week of the trial I got the contract.

**What is the highlight for you, living at Puhinui whare?**

The biggest highlight for me at the Puhinui whare is that I have made some really good friends for a lifetime. Once a week, some of us go out a have dinner and just catch up on what's been happening. I'm glad I was put in that whare. It's also pretty cool because it's kind of like a hotel in a way.

**Where do you see yourself in the next 3-6 months?**

Bringing my partner and daughter over and finally being together after so long. I wanna continue to save and build my family. Right now I'm comfortable, but once I'm in the clear, I want to be able to travel and see the world with my partner and daughter. And hopefully climb the management ladder at work from working hard.

**What is one word to describe how you feel about your future, since living in the Puhinui?**

Bright



Returned tangata and kaiārahi Renee (left), Anga Pae Tawhiti Boxing Class for Men's Wellbeing Month

# TE WHARE TAURIKURA - A HOME FOR HEALING

Ruth's experience on how Te Whare Taurikura enhances her mahi

Earlier this year, we celebrated the opening of our new 16-unit apartment complex, purchased to provide safe and supportive housing for tangata returning from overseas. With 24/7 onsite support and dedicated kaimahi, the whare offers a healing environment that fosters stability, connection, and growth. On August 8, it was officially named Te Whare Taurikura, meaning prosperous, thriving, and at peace - reflecting our vision of helping people settle, heal, and thrive as they reintegrate into Aotearoa.

Although only a few months in operation, we are already seeing the positive impact of Te Whare Taurikura through the experiences of our kaimahi and partners. This success is encapsulated by Kaiārahi Ruth Tafu, who shared how the whare has supported her mahi.

## 1) How has Te Whare Taurikura supported your mahi as a kaiārahi?

It has made things easier by relieving the pressure on us as kaiārahi. More importantly, returning whānau no longer have to carry the burden and anxiety of finding safe and sustainable accommodation. This shift has allowed us to focus together on the immediate needs they face upon return, creating a more supportive and effective environment for everyone involved.

## 2) What do you see this whare offering whānau who are returning to Aotearoa?

It provides a safe and empowering space for our tāne to rebuild themselves. It offers them a chance to feel proud of who they are and to look forward with confidence to what the future holds. It's more than just a place to stay, it's an opportunity to restore hope in their lives. Our tāne can focus on their individual goals without the constant stress and distraction that comes from lacking stable accommodation, sustainable living conditions and consistent support. This environment allows them to truly invest in their personal growth and transformation.

## 3) How has the engagement with whānau been since the opening of the whare?

It's a powerful process to witness. In the beginning, many of our tāne arrive guarded and unsure. But as they settle into their new reality, something shifts they start to let their guard down. I remember one tāne who was completely closed off and wouldn't speak to any kaimahi. Over time, as he saw us consistently present in the whare, running workshops and simply being there, he began to engage first with quiet questions, then small talk, and eventually open conversations. That's the impact of a safe, consistent, and supportive environment it creates space for healing and trust.

## 4) What do you envisage for the whare, the whānau/tangata, the team and the wider community of Te Whare Taurikura over the next 6-12 months?

I see incredible potential for growth within the whare, especially through workshops and training that are aligned with the goals and aspirations of the tāne currently residing there. One of the most powerful aspects of this whare is its flexibility and responsiveness; no season will ever be the same, because everything is shaped by the unique and evolving needs of each individual.

I also strongly believe in the importance of building a deep sense of community connection by helping our tāne truly engage with the wider South Auckland community, feel at home in their new hāpori, and grow comfortable in their surroundings.

Ultimately, the end goal remains the same – to provide the highest quality service to our whānau, supporting them to set up their future with strength and stability, so they can confidently move towards living independently.

This shared vision is echoed by our partners at the Department of Corrections (Ara Poutama), who reflected on the success of our collaboration and the positive outcomes achieved through Te Whare Taurikura.



**Vanessa Walker**  
Regional Manager Reintegration Services - Manukau  
Department of Corrections, Ara Poutama Aotearoa

*"Overall, the experience has been largely seamless, despite a few initial challenges. Once we established clear lines of communication, the partnership between Ara Poutama and Te Pā has been effective in addressing the needs and progress of tangata, along with any concerns regarding their behaviours within the whare.*

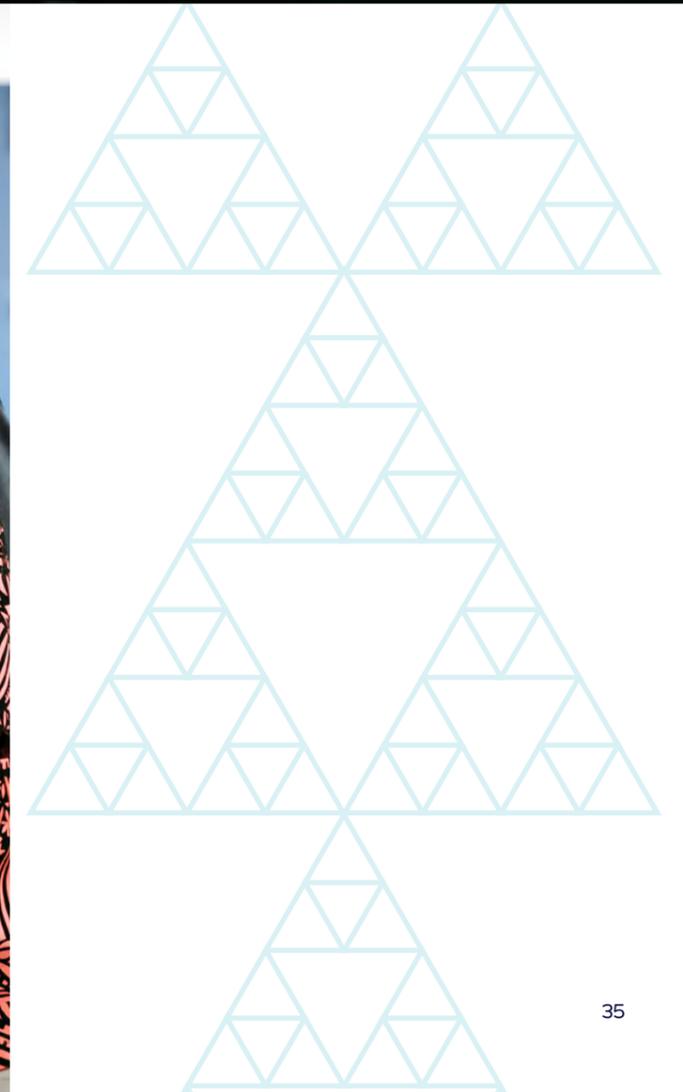
*The ability to share resources and leverage relationships with external providers, particularly in areas like driver licencing and mental health support, has proven invaluable. This collaborative approach enhances our collective efforts and ensures that tangata receive comprehensive support.*

*Additionally, receiving updates about new tangata entering the whare, including the name of the kaiārahi support, facilitates stronger relationships between Ara Poutama and Te Pā, fostering a more cohesive environment.*

*Thank you for your continued support."*



Mate Webb and Toko Nathan from Department of Corrections at Te Pā





## 'Ko te pae tawhiti, whāia kia tata. Ko te pae tata, whakamaua kia tina.'

Seek out distant horizons, and cherish those you attain.

On Friday 11th October 2024, Te Pā was privileged to sponsor the Road II Redemption 501 Conference – a conference lead by Mark Talanoa and his wife Desiree from Road II Redemption Trust and David Obeda of The Fresh Start, to give voice to the experiences of whānau returning to Aotearoa.

The kaupapa began i tīmata tika, with our returnees being welcomed into the space with a pōhiri. For some, this was their first experience of a cultural practice they had never been a part of before, and for others it was a reconnection to a practice they had forgotten. The pōhiri was guided by Timi Tairi who ensured tikanga was upheld and that our whānau felt embraced in a culture that hadn't forgotten them.

From Te Pā kaiārahi perspective, we could see that as whānau were gathering outside some were unsure of what to expect. As the pōhiri started, it was heartening to see those who are knowledgeable in Te Ao Māori stand side-by-side with whānau throughout the process to ease some of that uncertainty; creating a safe space for whānau to not only participate, but also to learn.

A large part of our role for the day was to ensure seamless flow from start to finish. Taking care of the logistics meant that those who attended as a guest or guest speaker could give the kaupapa their full attention.

Throughout the conference, there were several speakers who spoke from an organisational perspective about how they have been supporting whānau who have returned home. It was an opportunity for returning whānau to hear what supports are available or currently in place, and to see the people behind the services that are being provided. It was uplifting to see their faces when one of their own stood on the stage to share their testimony; what they have endured since they got back, and where they are now. It was as if they were looking in the mirror at their future selves at the other end of the tunnel.

From a practitioner's perspective, it is important for our whānau to see that the hard work ahead can result in a positive pathway. It was just as important to hear of the setbacks and barriers faced by those in similar situations. This shared experience created solidarity among the returnee community. These real-life examples offer a different narrative than what is often seen in the media. An event like this provides an opportunity to highlight the potential of whānau when surrounded by the right supports.



# NICOLE GODINET

By Andrea Reid  
Youth Worker, Te Whā Nāu Services

Nicole Godinet, is a young wahine verging upon entering adulthood. She is fresh, vibrant and full of hopes, dreams and aspirations of taking on the world. Like most rangatahi she dreams of completing her education, graduating, gaining employment, travelling the world, discovering relationships, finding a partner, getting married, and, God-willing, having children. Now try to imagine achieving this walking a mile in Nicole's shoes.

Nicole grew up in a home environment where family violence was the norm. She regularly experienced trauma, abuse and abandonment from the people closest to her. The impacts of growing up in a home affected by mental health issues impacted every aspect of her childhood. Happiness was as elusive as the necessities of life she required.

Nicole never had the opportunity of a stable education, she had little to no job prospects, and the one interpersonal relationship she had with her partner was toxic. He left her pregnant, single and alone. A scared young māmā-to-be, facing life as a sole parent, unsure, with no support and homeless. Nicole Godinet is a 16-year-old rangatahi, who began her journey with Te Pā Te Ohomai Rangatahi Transitional Housing in May 2025.

Nicole described entering Te Ohomai Rangatahi as a refuge from her unstable home life. Respite from the transience and displacement of home and a welcome relief from the unreliable and inconsistent adults who came into her life, then left her when she needed support the most.

Nicole recalled when she was younger, she would read books to escape from the problems that marred her childhood. She remembers reading Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events. In those books refuge was defined as "a small, safe place in a troubling world." Lemony Snicket also used the analogy of an oasis in a desert or an island in a storm to further illustrate this concept. Elaborating on that thinking, Nicole stated that refuge isn't necessarily a grand or permanent solution, but rather a temporary respite from the harsh realities of the world.

Nicole acknowledges and thanks Te Pā for providing this respite for her and her soon-to-be baby girl. Since settling into Te Ohomai Rangatahi, Nicole has completed her goal planning with her youth worker's support. Her career goal is to be a beautician. Nicole has enrolled and attends a teen/parent unit to gain the necessary NCEA credits to qualify for this in the future. She wanted to learn how to drive a car, and has recently gained her learner licence.

Nicole independently organised her midwife and booked herself into a birthing unit, and she budgeted her money and bought many of her baby items and household goods for when she finds long-term housing. Nicole consistently applies for private and social housing properties with a positive attitude, determined to find a safe and secure home for her and her baby girl. Nicole completed this mahi during her second and third trimester. Even when in labour, she communicated with her youth workers from her hospital bed, keeping them updated about her and her baby's situation.

Under Nicole's quiet, unassuming demeanour, lies a strong, resilient wahine toa. She is intent on breaking negative cycles which could affect both her and her daughter, and replacing them with positive health behaviours.

It has been a privilege to walk alongside Nicole during her journey of discovery, and we watch and wait to see what she and her daughter achieve in the future.

We wish them every success.



# ROB'S LIFE IN THE SHADOW

Kylie Tipene  
Service Manager, Anga Pae Tata

Rob's life started in the shadows.

Born into a whānau with little connection and support, his early years were marked by struggle and pain. Abuse within the home shaped his understanding of the world, teaching him to survive rather than to trust. With no solid whānau foundation to stand on, Rob was left to navigate life on his own from a young age. That path eventually led him to a 16-year prison sentence that stripped away his freedom, but couldn't take away his potential.

When Rob came to Te Pā, he carried the weight of his past. But what he found here was something new—a place of healing, support, purpose: whānau.

Over the past year, Rob has embraced every opportunity for growth. He found employment in landscaping and gardening, and with time, patience, and care, he began to turn bare soil into vibrant life. At our whare, Rob has become the kaitiaki of our gardens. What started as a job grew into a passion. The gardens he has established and maintained aren't just beautiful, they are a symbol of transformation, both for the whenua and for himself.

Not stopping there, with the awahi of Te Pā, Rob took a leap of faith and started a small business selling his plants. Each one carries a piece of his journey resilience rooted in every pot, hope blooming in every flower. What once felt like a dead end has become a fresh start.

Today, Rob is more than just a worker. He supports our kaiārahi and kaiāwhina, always willing to lend a hand, share a laugh, or offer guidance to new tangata who arrive at Te Pā. He knows what it's like to feel lost, and he knows how powerful it can be to feel seen and supported.

Rob's journey is far from over, but he's no longer walking it alone.

From a childhood of hardship to a future full of promise, he is a living example that it's never too late to change, to heal, and to grow.

Photo: Rob's plants on display at Te Pā



# LOUISA PETERSON

By Gina Parata

Kaiārahi, Te Hokinga Mai Raki

Louisa came to Te Pā by way of a referral from Bail Support Service and I began supporting her in July 2024. When I first met Lou, she was on bail, living with her brother, and struggling with her mental health and sobriety. She had come to Auckland where she had no friends to get away from the temptations and bad relationships of her home town in the South Island, determined to remove herself from an environment that could tempt her back into habits that did not support a healthy future.

At that time, Lou's relationship with her three children was almost non-existent. Her relationship with her mother was difficult and at times painful, with much history to be worked through. Her relationship with her brother was hanging by a thread. She struggled with setting boundaries; being a champion for those who were unable to stand up for themselves, and risking being taken advantage of, as she had been time and time again. She was experiencing intense highs and lows, always fighting the urge to give up and return to her old life.

When she was introduced into the Te Pā whānau, Louisa's personal priorities were to renew her driver licence, allowing her the independence to move around freely, and to find a hobby that would add joy and value to her everyday life, Louisa found comfort in spending time with her pets and getting creative through arts and crafts. She would make scrap books for her children as an outlet and a form of expressing love for her children. Louisa was keen to engage, which made supporting her easy and a pleasure. We helped her to get on track with opening a bank account, renewing her licence, and engaging with probation and other legal service obligations. We also supported her with immediate needs such as kai, and she was interested to discuss kai sovereignty. With the right supports in place and the guidance and encouragement of Te Pā, Louisa was able to lead out the next steps of her new life. This included other practicalities such as finding full-time employment and purchasing her own car, as well as addressing her lived trauma through ACC sensitive claims counselling and attending regular NA/AA meetings.

A highlight for Lou has been that she recently celebrated her first year of sobriety! She had wanted to give up countless times, but this was only possible when she removed herself from the temptations and environment that always saw her slip back into habits that did not serve her well.

Today, Lou is living independently in her own flat, with her two beloved cats. She has learnt the meaning of self-love and healthy boundaries, and takes accountability for the hurt she caused to herself and her loved ones. She has worked hard to rebuild and nourish her relationships, and she has grown a strong bond with her kids in particular.

Lou has an inherent ability to articulate what she has learnt on her journey. Today, she says, she understands there is a difference between 'loneliness' and 'solitude', and she has a deep appreciation for the value of being on her own – in her own space, doing her own thing, being responsible for her own life.

Lou has now reached a huge milestone in her journey to mana motuhake: her referral to Te Pā has officially closed. Despite understandable nerves, she feels strong, capable, and ready to navigate her new life on her own. She is prioritising herself and her own needs, and is determined to prove to her family and herself that she is committed to maintaining the hard-won improvements in her life. I acknowledge Lou for her strength and commend her for her unwavering commitment to herself. To me, she epitomises this whakataua.

*Ahakoā nga uaua, kia toa, kia kaha kia manawanui.*

*When you find things in life are difficult, be strong, stand tall and be great of heart.*

# TANGATA ORA PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Whānau is at the heart of everything we do at Te Pā it connects us and harnesses our collective strength. For our tangata in any of the fourteen prisons across Aotearoa, that whānau connection remains just as important, though often fragile. The goal of the Child Travel Fund is to help bridge the distance between incarcerated parents and their tamariki, ensuring their bond stays strong.

## Child Travel Fund

Since 1 July 2024



494

Total Applications



601

Total Children Supported



128

Whānau Supported



194775

Distance Travelled (km)



\$104,726.65

Department of Corrections-funded travel and accommodation to enable children to visit their parent in prison

Due to underutilisation of funds prior to the 2023/2024 financial year, Te Pā carried forward extra funding that was used to support whānau travel. This additional funding was fully utilised before the beginning of the 2024/2025 financial year. As a result, Te Pā relied solely on the initial Ara Poutama grant to fund whānau travel in 2024/2025, which was fully expended. This explains the decrease in the number of whānau supported, despite there being no drop in the utilisation of available funding.

# TANGATA ORA PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

## Tangata Supported by Te Pā

**184**

Reintegrated tangata deported back to Aotearoa

Last year: **162**

**374**

Reintegrated tangata released from prison

Last year: **546**

**17**

Reintegrated rangatahi deported back to Aotearoa

Last year: **12**

**24**

Reintegrated rangatahi on remand when released

Last year: **24**

## Assistance in finding Accommodation

**117**

Supported tangata with emergency accommodation

Last year: **177**

**306**

Supported tangata with transitional accommodation

Last year: **342**

**291**

Supported tangata with sustainable accommodation

Last year: **294**

**1578**

Supported tangata with financial aid services and stabilisation

Last year: **1187**

## Supported into employment

**82**

Supported rangatahi at risk to stabilise

Last year: **21**

**391**

Supported tangata with employment and income stability

Last year: **471**

## Pro-social and Community Support

**1018**

Engaged with tangata in whakawhānaungatanga ake

Last year: **1136**

**414**

Supported tangata to engage positively with mandated conditions

Last year: **387**

**160**

Supported tangata with cultural wellness

Last year: **256**

**628**

Supported tangata to engage with pro-social whānau and hāpori

Last year: **721**

## Mental Health & Additional Support

**1327**

Supported tangata with personal health & wellbeing services

Last year: **1032**

**87**

Supported tangata with mental health and drug & alcohol substance abuse

Last year: **161**

**60**

Navigated tangata with specialised mental health and drug alcohol services

Last year: **88**

**-**

Completed kanohi ki te kanohi alcohol and drug counselling

Last year: **146**

This year, Te Pā experienced a significant rise in referrals, driven by economic hardship and a more tougher approach to crime, with the prison population exceeding 10,000 for the first time in four years. Despite shrinking financial resources across the social service sector, Te Pā remained steadfast in supporting whānau through all aspects of reintegration and reconnection.

Housing remains the most pressing challenge. The absence of a coordinated, sector-wide response makes it harder for individuals to break cycles of incarceration. In response, Te Pā took a leadership role in funding, developing, and providing housing delivering 17,981 nights of safe, supportive accommodation to whānau in need. Our Rangatahi Transitional Housing programme continued to grow, focusing on young parents and whānau unity. This year, 47% of Rangatahi successfully transitioned into long-term, healthy housing within six months of referral. Our team has built a strong network of providers committed to reducing Rangatahi homelessness.

Through the Community Connector Fund, Te Pā supported 350 whānau with essentials such as rent, power, and kai - offering immediate relief and reducing long-term dependency. Unfortunately, we lost funding for two critical services:

- ∞ Pou Hononga Cultural Connector, who helped whānau reconnect with whakapapa, iwi, and marae.
- ∞ AoD Brief Intervention Specialist, who provided early support to those at risk of addiction.

Guided by our Pā Tūwatawata ecology of care, Te Pā remains committed to disrupting intergenerational cycles of incarceration and creating lasting change.

These are consolidated numbers for the various services provided by The Pā Incorporated under the contractual agreements with the Government and private organisations. These numbers are not audited.



**E Te Toi Whakairo  
Whakairo i te mana  
Whakairo i te mauri  
Whakairo i te tapu**

**Carving our authority  
Carving our life force  
Carving our sacredness**

This year we welcomed back, with karakia, our transformed former rimu reception desk, a piece that has carried the touch and stories of thousands of tangata who have engaged with our services since 2000. Once stationed in our Mt Eden office, this rimu has journeyed with us through every chapter, from Edwin Street to Unitec, and now to its new home in our Te Pā Tūwatawata foyer.

In te ao Māori, all things carry mauri, a living essence that connects us to the natural world. This same mauri continues to flow through the Rimu, now reawakened as a whakairo rākau, carved by O'Dell Toi (Ngāpuhi). His artistry breathes new life and meaning into the timber, symbolising transformation, connection and resilience.

O'Dell's connection to Te Pā runs deep from his shared army service with our kaiārahi Gary Stock, to his mahi alongside rangatahi in youth justice, reflecting the very kaupapa we uphold. Nau mai hoki mai te whakairo, welcome home.

**CARVED BY O'DELL TOI**

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