



# TE KETE POUNAMU

Here-Turi-Kōka August 2025 Pānui

## National Updates



Back Left- Te Rangimaria Warbrick, Leilani Maraku, Kiriana Te Huki, Wi Huata (Co-Chair) Jason Haitana, Paamu Kahu  
Front Left - Hori Kingi (Pou Tikanga), Joanne Henare, Alisha Tamepo-Pehi (Co-Chair), Gloria Sheridan and Vanilla Martin

### Mihi

August has been a productive and significant month for Te Kete Pounamu. We successfully submitted our contribution to Pae Ora Healthy Futures Amendment Bill and would like to extend our sincere thanks to the National Board for their valuable input. As a result of this submission, Te Kete Pounamu has been invited to deliver an oral presentation at Parliament on the 10th of September – a meaningful opportunity to further advocate for our whānau.

Across the motu, our regional leads continue to engage with services and tangata whaiora, building strong relationships and fostering collaboration. We're seeing positive momentum in the regions, supported greatly by the efforts of our Regional Coordinator, Aleisha Sheridan.

The Symposium Committee has also been working tirelessly in preparation for the upcoming National Symposium, which Te Kete Pounamu is proud to host on the 25th of September 2025 at Jet Park. We are excited to announce that the event is officially sold out. We look forward to connecting with our inspiring speakers and whānau on the day.

As we move into the warmer months, we encourage everyone to take time to reconnect with whānau—whether it is at the park, the beach, or exploring our maunga.

Te Kete Pounamu remains committed to being a strong and consistent voice for whānau in the lived experience space, ensuring that all voices are heard and valued - *Alisha Tamepo-Pehi, co-chair*

Find out more about Te Kete Pounamu at:

<https://www.teketepounamu.co.nz/>



**TE RAU ORA**  
Strengthening Māori Health and Well-Being

# Regional Updates

Our Regional Groups/Rōpū continue to grow and thrive across the motu, creating valuable spaces for connection, kōrero, and shared support within our communities.

We are pleased to share that a successful community event was held on 30 July in Whanganui, hosted by our Whanganui/Central Regional Lead, Bill Pehi, with the tautoko of TKP Operations Lead Maddy Schwencke and TKP National Co-Chair Alisha Tamepo. This kanohi ki te kanohi gathering was a wonderful opportunity to come together and strengthen our kaupapa locally. Ngā mihi nui to everyone who attended and contributed to making the day so meaningful.

We are also excited to welcome Heather Turanga as the newest regional member to the Waikato leadership. We would like to wish Heather a warm welcome to the Te Kete Pounamu whānau and would like to express a heartfelt thank you to Matua Tom Green for his ongoing dedication to growing and supporting the rōpū in the rohe.

If you are interested in connecting with your local rōpū, becoming a member, or learning more about our kaupapa, please scan the QR code below — we'd love to connect with you.



# Nōku Te Ao



This August, our Nōku Te Ao facilitators had the privilege of visiting Te Wai Pounamu for the first time, delivering our kaupapa in the Nelson and Wairau rohe – a significant milestone for the Nōku Te Ao movement.

Ngā mihi nui mō tō manaakitanga – thank you for the warm welcome and hospitality. Together, we engaged in rich kōrero, deep reflections, and were truly inspired by the passion and commitment shown by everyone who participated in the wānanga.

It is clear there is strong aspiration within your communities to build a future free from prejudice and discrimination for those with lived experience of hauora hinengaro.

We look forward to continuing these important conversations and returning to your rohe soon.

**Upcoming Wānanga:**  
September 3rd & 5th – Te Whatu Ora Waikato



# Kōtahitanga

Every Thursday, Kotahitanga provides a safe and supportive space for whānau to come together, connect, and engage in meaningful kōrero across the motu. Each week, a kaupapa relating to hauora is introduced, guiding the conversation and allowing whānau to reflect, share, and learn from one another.

Throughout August, we explored the powhiri process and how each step of the process relates to us in a contemporary context, aligning to our health, safety and wellbeing. It was especially powerful to hear the diverse perspectives and deep reflections related to waharoa, karanga and ātea shared by whānau.

The space encourages rich, meaningful dialogue, with whānau sharing both their understandings and their wonderings – creating a collective learning experience grounded in tuakana/teina and, guided by the principles of tika, pono and aroha.



# Celebrations:



Koanga, the spring season in the maramataka, is a time of renewal, energy, and preparation, marking the shift from the stillness of winter into growth and abundance. As the days lengthen and the soil warms, it is the key season for planting, cultivating, and gathering kai, guided by the moon and environmental signs. Spiritually, it represents new beginnings, balance, and vitality, reminding us to align with the natural rhythms of the world, restore our connection to whenua and atua, and set intentions for the year ahead.

## Upcoming Events:

