

# KIA HAUMARU, KIA ORA NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Issue 1

Tēna tātou Katoa

Welcome to the third issue of *Kia Haumaru, Kia Ora*, the official **Ngāti Maniapoto** *Kia Kite ai te Ora COVID-19 Life-changing* research project newsletter. In this issue, we will provide some kōrero about the progress of the project, celebrate and acknowledge some updates from Taumarunui Kokiri Trust and Te Nehenehenui (two of the organisations that are part of this research), and share the next step for one of our team member, Neil Rogers.

## Ngāti Maniapoto COVID-19 Experience Survey

In 2023, our research team promoted the Ngāti Maniapoto COVID-19 Experience Survey. This survey sought insights into Ngāti Maniapoto's lived experiences of COVID-19. In just over seven months, our team promoted the survey with five Māori organisations that are part of this project: our research host Ngāti Maniapoto Marae PACT Trust, Raukura Hauora o Tainui, Taumarunui Kokiri Trust, Te Nehenehenui, and Te Rūnanga o Kirikiriroa. The survey was also promoted through social media, including many Ngāti Maniapoto marae Facebook pages. Our team were also given opportunities to promote at various events and workplaces in the King Country and Waikato regions. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey and helped promote it. Our team is currently analysing the results, which will be shared in the coming months.



Senior Researchers Rachel McClintock and Neil Rogers promoting the survey at a community event in Te Kuiti

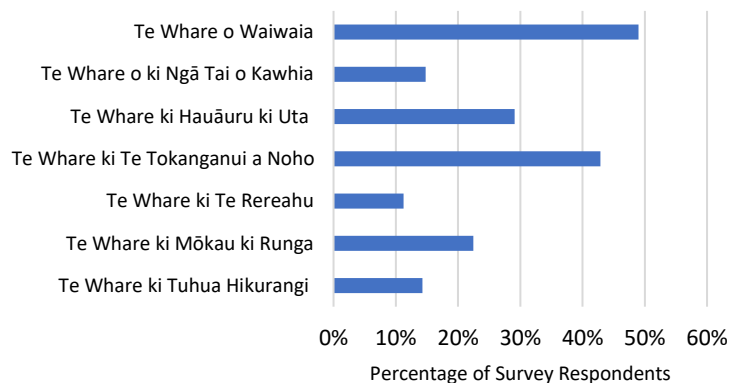
As a thank you for completing the survey, respondents had the choice to go into the draw to win one of eight \$250 grocery vouchers. The winners were randomly drawn early this year. Congratulations to all the winners, who have all since been contacted.

### Survey Snapshot

During the research the team tried to recruit participants with whakapapa from all corners of Ngāti Maniapoto. This graph shows that there were participants from all of the whare of Te Nehenehenui. The three most common whare that people had whakapapa to were Te Whare o Waiwaia (49%), followed by Te Whare ki Te Tokanganui a Noho (42.9%), and then Te Whare ki Hauāuru ki Uta (29.1%).

Note: People are able to whakapapa to more than one whare. You can learn more about the marae that make up Ngā Whare o Te Nehenehenui at <https://tenehenehenui.iwi.nz/>

**Ngā Whare o Te Nehenehenui: Survey Respondents Marae**



## Celebrations

In March 2024, Dr Kahu McClintock (Research Lead) had the pleasure of catching up with Christine Bears (CEO of Taumarunui Community Kokiri Trust) and Sonya Hetet (Pūtiki Covid Hub Lead, Te Nehenenui).

## Taumarunui Community Kokiri Trust

Taumarunui Community Kokiri Trust celebrated 25 years of operation in March of this year. This important Māori health organisation that started with four staff based in Taumarunui has grown to over 100 staff across Taumarunui, Te Awamutu, Te Kuiti, and Tokoroa. The *Kia Kite ai te Ora COVID-19 Life-changing* research team congratulates Christine Bears and her team on this significant achievement. It has been a pleasure for the team to work with Taumarunui Community Kokiri Trust on this project, and we look forward to continuing to work together.

<https://kokiritrust.org.nz/index.php/en/>

## Pūtiki Covid Hub

Established in 2022 and based in Te Kuiti, the Pūtiki Covid Hub provided wrap-around services for whānau in isolation. As a key contact centre, the Hub was able to provide services to whānau and connect them with other beneficial services in the rohe. While the service has recently closed, in line with many other COVID-19 support services around Aotearoa, the *Kia Kite ai te Ora COVID-19 Life-changing* research team would like to thank Sonya Hetet and Pūtiki Covid Hub for the vital care and support provided to whānau during the pandemic.



Sonya Hetet, Christine Bears, and Dr Kahu McClintock

## Hearing Whānau Stories

Within the Ngāti Maniapoto COVID-19 Experience Survey, there was an opportunity for survey respondents to indicate if they were interested in being interviewed about their experience of COVID-19. Fortunately for the research team, many indicated that they would. From September to December 2023, 38 Ngāti Maniapoto iwi members were interviewed by senior researcher Neil Rogers.

## New Beginnings



Senior Researcher Neil Rogers' time with the *Kia Kite ai te Ora COVID-19 Life-changing* project came to an end at the beginning of this year but his connection to the kaupapa and Ngāti Maniapoto is everlasting. During his time with the project Neil was an integral team member. He played a pivotal role in the development and roll out of the Ngāti Maniapoto COVID-19 Experience Survey and is well known to many participants as the project's interviewer.

Neil describes being part of the project as a privilege. As a person with Ngāti Maniapoto whakapapa, it was an invaluable experience to be part of a Ngāti Maniapoto research project. An opportunity not everyone gets and one that taught him more about Ngāti Maniapoto and more about himself.

Neil's favourite part of the project was the interviews, which he described as powerful. Learning about the COVID-19 struggles Ngāti Maniapoto members experienced and the work they did to keep their whānau, their marae, and their communities safe was inspiring.

While with the project, Neil also completed a Masters. He will graduate from AUT this August and start his PhD soon. The *Kia Kite ai te Ora COVID-19 Life-changing* team wishes him the best for the future. E te rangatira e Neil, ki runga ake koe. Kei te mihi, kei te mihi.