

## Nau Mai, Haere mai

### Health and Social Services

*He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata*

*What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people.*

This whakataukī is as important now as it has always been, the Health and Social Service Team continue to support whānau during these testing times.

As Covid-19 took us from Level 3 to complete lock down and Level 4, we applied for and were successful in securing essential worker status for the team. This allowed our Navigators to assist whānau, particularly those with vulnerable members, to access shopping, delivering of medication and access to hospital appointments where necessary. Our Navigators also make regular calls to check in, assess needs and lend an ear to listen to whānau.

We have been receiving referrals from Te Putahitanga for new whānau across Dunedin. We are seeing a rise in whānau being laid off from their jobs, worried about affording even the basics and how to get through winter



Awhina delivering supplies to whānau

with heating and wood costs rising. Levels of anxiety are increasing and unfortunately family harm incidents are on the rise. To meet this increased need we have contracted in two part-time navigators. We are grateful for the support from Te Putahitanga, and the co-ordination and sharing of up to date information they provide has meant we have what we need to support whānau.

We realize that this is going to be a “long-game” and our support and planning will not cease at the end of the 4-week lockdown. We know that on-going support will be required as the full impact of the pandemic is realized.

We are committed to doing all we can to support whānau through the next few trying months and beyond.

#### A few important links and pānui:

<https://www.manaaki20.org/>

The Winter Energy Payment has been doubled this year. The payment is made from 1 May to 1 October. Single people with no children will receive \$40.91 a week, and couples and people with dependent children will receive \$63.64 a week.

Here is the link to the information about the payment.

<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/winter-energy-payment.html#null>

### **COVID-19 for Aukaha**

There are some very sad situations emerging from the business sector and Aukaha, like many SME's, is facing a challenging time as we look toward the future, our sustainability and the dramatically changed and uncertain landscape we will all be navigating. Several major projects have been put on hold, funding is going to become more difficult to secure as funders, clients and LGA's re-assess their priorities and our commercial work will reflect the expected economic downturn.

Prior to lockdown we had started to organize an annual shareholders hui for May which will now likely be delayed for a further month or two. It will be more important now than ever to regroup and hear from shareholders about their priorities and aspirations for the coming year. It will also provide an

opportunity for whānau to hear from our governors and staff and discuss how Aukaha can support the vision of our shareholders.

Aukaha staff will continue to operate from home at least until we are in Level 2, but like many businesses we are exploring alternative options and ways of working to reduce costs, such as working from home on a more permanent basis or sharing workspaces on a rotational or rostered basis. Although this might be new way of doing things, we do not foresee any major disruption to the services we provide.

### **Wai Māori**

As always, there has been a lot going on in this space! The ORC is working through two plan changes in preparation for notifying a Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) in 2023, and much of our mahi centres around that. The plan changes (the Water Permits Plan Change and the Omnibus/Water Quality Plan Change) have been called in by the Minister for the Environment. This means that the plan change process will be managed by the Environmental Protection Authority, and the plans will go straight to the Environment Court (meaning Environment Court hearings rather than council hearings, but these will still be held locally). This increases the chance that decisions on the plan change won't be affected by local politics, and that the timelines set out by the Minister will be met. The sooner we achieve positive outcomes for our awa the better!

We are also working on streamlining our responses to water permit applications. Tania currently has approximately 40 of these that may all eventually go to a hearing, so we are doing what we can to avoid appearing at 40 separate hearings! This has included

developing a standard response to these applications, and we are now fine tuning the conditions to make sure that we are achieving the position you are seeking.

These are just the highlights! If you would like to know more about the kaupapa or have any questions, please contact Courtney at [Courtney@aukaha.co.nz](mailto:Courtney@aukaha.co.nz)

### Arts & Design

Arts and Design mahi is charging on. We still have lots to do for the University of Otago and the Queenstown Lakes District Council. Despite QLDC being hit hard with Covid -19, a couple of projects we are involved in are now likely to be fast tracked as they are 'shovel ready'. These include the Wanaka Lakefront upgrade and the Queenstown Town Centre Upgrade, which takes on some of the CBD as well as the Queenstown Gardens.

Unfortunately our involvement in the Te Pā Tāhuna project has ended, but the seeds of our cultural design contribution are still there for the project team to draw upon. It will be interesting to see where all our efforts land and we are looking toward future opportunities to partner with Ngāi Tahu Property again.

The University of Otago has a couple of key projects that are underway; the PE Building next to the Museum, and the Food Science Building next to the Owheo. Consistent with Te Pā Tāhuna, whānau contributions to this mahi have been awesome so we have rich design concepts to advocate for within the form and function of the buildings.

On the horizon we anticipate involvement in the Te Rangi Hiroa building, a Cultural Engagement Strategy and the Sciences Division Head Office.

The other piece of mahi of significance is the New Dunedin Hospital Rebuild, which is starting to ramp up as of this week. We are currently planning what is needed here, and how best to work alongside the huge design team to get some Kāi Tahu whakapapa embedded into the design.

### District Plan reviews

We worked with rūnaka contacts for about two years to map 45 wāhi tūpuna sites in the Queenstown Lakes District, and developed rules to go alongside them. These make sure rūnaka have a say on activities happening in the wāhi tupuna that could affect their values. Council supported this work and notified the draft Wāhi Tūpuna chapter to the general public for comment. Council got hundreds of submissions opposing the chapter – many people got the wrong end of the stick and thought it gave Kāi Tahu a veto to block development, which isn't the case. Other submissions were very constructive and prompted us to be more precise about which activities rūnaka consider a threat.

Now we're preparing to defend these maps and rules in council hearings, by writing cultural and planning evidence with rūnaka. We don't have a date for hearings yet. A related piece of work coming up soon is the Environment Court mediation on the Earthworks Chapter, which was dealt with earlier on. We opposed aspects of the chapter that made some earthworks in wāhi tūpuna permitted – i.e. you would never get consulted.

Similar work is continuing on the second generation Dunedin district plan, where we are in Environment Court mediation to protect the provisions you wanted around wāhi tupuna and papakāika housing. This is a

long process that will go on for some time. Work has resumed on the Waitaki district plan review, where rūnaka have also sought wāhi tupuna mapping, and provisions to protect the sites. We will be reviewing all the other plan chapters with rūnaka input as they are drafted. Behind the scenes, we are about to start fine tuning some early work that was undertaken on the wāhi tūpuna mapping and provisions for the Central Otago district plan review, which will kick off again soon.

### Wider Council work programmes

We are waiting on the outcome of the annual plan processes to see how council work programmes have been affected by Covid-19 and the new pressure on finances. Much work we know is continuing; for example:

- QLDC Spatial Plan (a partnership with central government and QLDC to map out where growth should occur over the next 30 years)
- 3 waters consents – QLDC and DCC have agreed to get rūnaka involved right at the start in the design stages, not at the end when applications are completed and lodged
- Smooth Hill landfill – CIA underway.

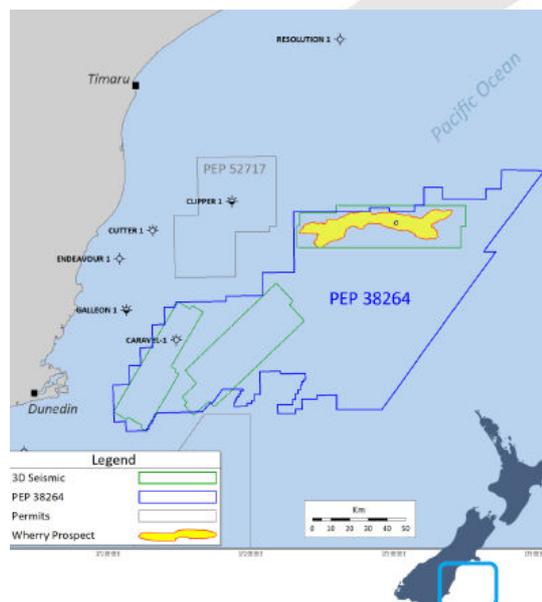
### Shovel ready projects

We have signalled to councils that partnering with Kāi Tahu is essential in any conversations about recovery and reset. Councils have made applications for central government funding for ‘shovel ready’ projects – many of which we have already been involved in through the planning stages on your behalf. There may be social procurement opportunities coming from these also. We have signalled the risks around ‘fast tracking’ projects, and have asked this doesn’t occur without your input.

### Minerals and Petroleum

A lot has happened on this kaupapa this year. In February, OMV drilled an exploration well but did not find commercial quantities of hydrocarbons. OMV still needs to do some environmental monitoring to ensure that their drilling didn’t have any adverse effects, so I am working with Rūnaka on how best to engage with OMV to keep up to date with their findings.

In the meantime, Beach Energy has been in touch to engage with Rūnaka on their application to drill exploration wells off the coast, out to sea north of Dunedin up to the Waitaki. I have been working with Rūnaka on how to respond to their application and will be drafting a submission on their deck drainage discharge consent soon.



Exploration wells may be drilled within the green shapes

Work continues with OceanaGold at Macraes Mine, with writing a CIA for the Deepdell North III project underway, and another application for a new underground project expected to hit my desk soon.

If you have any questions or feedback on this mahi, please get in touch!

## Consents

Consents volumes are down although we have the usual long list of water related consents to deal with. The consents space is increasingly very connected to the policy/plan change work we do on your behalf so we have been reviewing our processes to make sure the consents recommendations we give you are consistent with what you have been seeking through plan changes.

If you have any questions about these or other projects please get in touch.

## Working through the noho rāhui

After a mad rush setting ourselves up to work from home, Aukaha staff are now settled into working remotely. This has been a quieter work experience for some of us, and has presented new and noisy challenges for others (tamariki seem to be the main factor here!)

We also have an array of furry work colleagues who often make appearances in our Zui, such as Walter below who provides important moral support to Courtney (and doesn't care that she is allergic to cats!)



Kathryn lives near the town belt and is appreciating the bird watching opportunities from her desk, with several tauhou, korimako, pīwakawaka kererū and tui visiting her garden.

## AUKAHA VACANCY

### Chief Executive

### Permanent – Dunedin Based

Aukaha is involved in a wide range of private development and local government work programmes across the wider Otago region. Owned by five Rūnaka from across the region, everything we do is to build a stronger economic, social, cultural and environmental base for our shareholders and our communities.

This is a significant opportunity to be part of purpose driven organisation creating enduring outcomes.

We need an experienced senior leader with substantial management and relationship skills. This role partners with our governors and team to optimise the shareholder's assets and protect the resources for which we are responsible.

This role needs to work across a wide range of internal and external stakeholders, so relationship confidence and experience is critical.



We are looking for someone with vigour and a proven result focus to bring energy to our cultural, environmental and economic strategies. The Chief Executive reports to the Chair and leads and supports a dedicated team. To be successful in this position we need;

- An experienced pragmatic leader with strong commercial judgement.
- A strategic thinker with the ability to inspire and motivate

- A natural communicator with an affinity for connecting and engaging with people.
- Someone with a strong sense of servant leadership and a results orientation.

Apply here:

<https://www.trademe.co.nz/jobs/executive-general-management/listing-2605439507.htm?rsqid=a4a5da64ec47408db4ad4edb25d922d7-001>



**To find out more about any of our services  
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