



Aukaha

KIA KAHA, AU KAHA

October 2021 Pānui

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to Aukaha's latest pānui!

In this month's edition, our different pou share insight from their teams and mahi. We introduce Jacinda Kohey to the Mana Ahurea team and mihi to Maria Russell, a stalwart from our Tumai Ora team who has recently departed from Aukaha to embark on new adventures.

Aukaha are operating in what feels like a constant state of flux - probably not helped by rapidly changing responses to Covid-19. The raft of legislative reforms that are underway will ultimately have a massive impact on how Aukaha operate on behalf of Rūnaka in the future. The most recent of these is the review into the future for local Government, and their interim report '[Ārewa ake te Kaupapa / Raising the Platform](#)', publicly released not too long ago. While this is the first milestone into a two-year review, it's already signaling more major changes for both rūnaka and Aukaha, and we expect more on the horizon.

With all this change comes opportunities. Strategy has been a major focus of the Aukaha Board for the last year and is also being worked on by our Leadership team. Alongside blue sky thinking, we are very focused on building capacity and succession planning. Being rūnaka owned with a vision that meets the aspirations of our rūnaka, this means our strategic thinking needs to be inter-generational!

Feedback and thoughts shared at previous hui with stakeholder rūnaka inform our thinking and are an essential voice in guiding the direction Aukaha moves in, and although we were in the reluctant position of having to cancel the Hui at Hokonui scheduled for Monday, 11th October, we are still committing to having regular hui with our collective shareholding rūnaka.

Stay tuned for details of the next engagement hui and maybe a new inspiring name for this.

Jacinda Kohey



Ko Taupiri te Maunga
Ko Waikato me Awaroa nga awa
Ko Tainui te Waka
Ko Tainui/Waikato nga Iwi
Ko Ngāti Te Ata te Hapu
Ko Tahuna Kaitoto me Reretewhioi nga Marae
Ko Jacinda toku ingoa

Kia ora koutou,

It has been nice to getting to know some of you a bit around the office. I'm enjoying this new role as Project Coordinator and I am feeling very inspired, I have received great support and direction from Caron and Simon - Thank you for helping me find my feet with all of the projects and warming me in the Mana Ahurea space.

Prior to Aukaha I was working as a Whānau Ora Navigator. I also have a background working in Mental Health, Disability and Hairdressing.

In my home life, I am a mum of two tamariki aged 9 and 11 years - my babies are my world. I am also part of Dunedin Roller Derby and have played for the past 4 years, it keeps me fit and is always a challenge.

Thank you all for welcoming me to Aukaha, my transition into my role has been a nice experience.

Mana Aukaha

Kia ora e te whānau,

It has been a busy month for the Mana Aukaha team responding to Covid and the changing alert levels, as well as settling our newest members into the team and life at Aukaha. While we're still in Alert Level 2, we are coordinating staff who are still working from home and those who have returned to the office. The office remains closed to clients and visitors under Alert Level 2, but we are looking forward to the move down to Alert Level 1 (whenever that may happen!) and reopening our doors to welcome all staff, clients and visitors back to the office.

Progress at our new premises in Hanover Street continues, with the Leadership team recently attending a site visit to see how things are progressing. While we are yet to confirm our official move in date, we are excited that the move into a space more suited to our growing organisation and the needs of the business, is on the horizon. We will keep you posted as more details become available.



Image Above - Central meeting spaces.
Window area will be home to one of our teams

The first quarter of the financial year has flown by in the blink of an eye, with preparations for the Aukaha Annual Report and AGM well underway. Covid has had little disruption to our year-to-date financial forecasts, maintaining a profit during lockdown was very pleasing and testament to the commitment and dedication of our staff.

Health & Safety is a key area of mahi that we remain focused on investing in and improving. Recently, we gained Prequal Level 2 as part of the Whiria Project requirements, and now we aspire to gain Prequal Level 3. We are excited to bring a refreshed and engaging approach to the Health & Safety to the organisation, our staff, volunteers, stakeholders and clients alike.

Key Upcoming Event:

12 November - Aukaha AGM

Please save this date in your calendar if you would like to attend. Further information will be communicated to rūnaka as this becomes available.



Image Above - Central Boardroom and meeting spaces

Mana Ahurea

This month Mana Ahurea has been busy with some new projects being commenced and progressing cultural narratives to be published for local schools.

Tia Taiaroa, supported by Megan Pōtiki and Justine Camp, have completed a series of cultural workshops for Plunket. Tia managed this mahi, and developed a great relationship with the Plunket participants, who gave great feedback on the work. Cultural workshops are a service we have been quietly responding to over the past two years when time allows, and for organisations who approach us with a genuine desire to embrace the process. Thanks again to Tia, Megan and Justine for your support.



Image Above - Plunket Workshop

Last week, council agreed to progressing with the one-way design of George Street. This means that much of the mahi we started two years ago (which was our very first project) can now be picked up again! With the controversial debate around one-way/two-way street, it is sometimes forgotten how vital these works are from an infrastructure perspective. DCC are clear that this 3 waters project is critical, but it is also an opportunity

to create a vibrant urban space. Enhancing the visibility of mana whenua is one of the key benefits identified by the works, and we will be working hard over the next year or so to start integrating our values through our co-design process, as well as pushing for social and sustainability outcomes where possible for whānau. Watch this space!

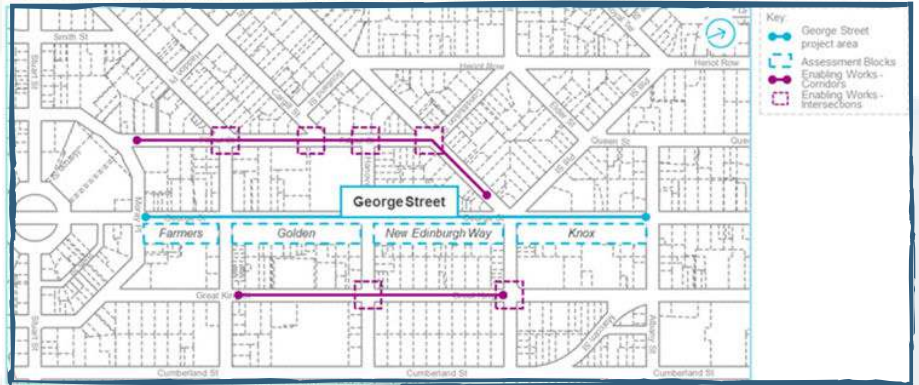


Image Above - George Street Plan

As a relatively new team, we have been reviewing our processes to identify what we need to do keep things flowing smoothly to ensure we are delivering the best outcomes possible. We are seeing more and more interest in the Art & Design space, so it is vital we take time to reflect on our processes to ensure we are taking opportunities to continually improve. Earlier in the year we took some time with our Mana Whenua Panel, to check we were still on the right track and to ensure our strategy was still sound. This week, we had a planning hui at Ōtākou with some of our contracted Project and Design Leads to identify areas for operational improvement and assessing the workplan. It was so great to celebrate what has been achieved to date, but also identify what we need to work on to build our capability and capacity moving forward. Even though we are a small team of two, we would not be able to deliver anything without our amazing and committed contractors and mana whenua experts, and we are hugely thankful for your commitment.



From left to right: Caron Solomon-Ward (General Manager), Jacinda Kohey (Project Co-Ordinator), Simon Kaan (Design Lead), Kirsten Parkinson (Design Lead & Artist), Ashleigh Arthur (Architectural Graduate), Kitty Brown (Project Lead/Manager) and Keri Whaiteri (Project Lead/Design Lead).

Mana Taiao

Otago Land and Water Regional Plan

Otago Regional Council (ORC) is developing a Land and Water Regional Plan (OLWRP) for Otago. The plan aims to improve water quality and quantity in Otago within one generation. ORC and kā rūnaka are working in partnership on this mahi, with mana whenua representation at governance level, and Aukaha staff working alongside ORC staff in project teams.

A new national policy direction for freshwater management in Aotearoa released last year prioritises Te Mana o Te Wai as the central concept and first priority.

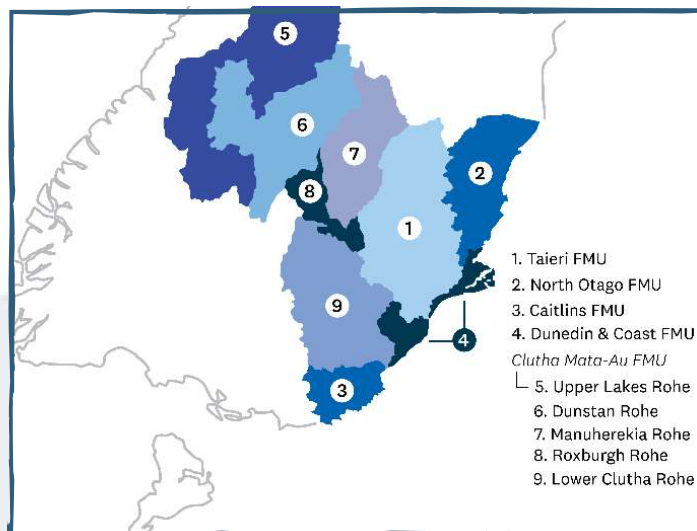
Te Mana o te Wai refers to the fundamental importance of water and recognises that protecting the health of freshwater protects the health and well-being of the wider environment. It protects the mauri of the wai. Te Mana o te Wai is about restoring the balance between the water, the wider environment, and the community (National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020, section 1.3).

The role of mana whenua in defining Te Mana o te Wai is another central aspect of the policy, as is integrated management of freshwater systems. The new direction marks a significant change from the way freshwater has been managed in the past.

Working with Aukaha staff, kā rūnaka have provided ORC with a definition of Te Mana o te Wai that recognises the Kāi Tahu relationship with wai māori. The definition requires that land and water management reflects their interconnectedness, and protects and restores the mauri of water bodies.

The OLWRP will not be completed until 2023, but there is a lot of work to be done in the meantime. For each catchment, ORC will be undertaking public consultation and collecting scientific data and other information to develop policies and rules that will give effect to Te Mana o te Wai.

Over the next 18-24 months, Aukaha staff will be working with ORC on the five freshwater management units (FMUs) identified - See image below.



Whakaahua 1: Freshwater management units in Otago. Source: Otago Regional Council, 2021.

We need you! We will be looking for whānau to help out with this mahi, by being involved in cultural assessments on our awa and roto, to ensure that ORC understand mana whenua aspirations for these waters, or by providing your thoughts on the policies and rules needed to manage land and water use.



It is crucial that mana whenua perspectives, aspirations, and values are reflected during this process. Please contact korako@aukaha.co.nz if you'd like to be involved.

Mana Takata

More from Mana Taiao

Consents Process Review

Resource consents is a significant part of the work of the Mana Taiao team. Tania Richardson, Consents Officer, is one of the Aukaha OGs, starting here in 2000 - she has built the Consents team from the ground up.

Over time, the workload has increased hugely. From around 10 consents a week when she started, Tania and her team are now managing up to 60 consents per week, sometimes receiving more than 15 per day!

In order to get on top of the workload, Pam Walker, Senior Planner, has been appointed on a fixed-term contract to conduct a systems review of the Consents workstream. Pam and Tania have identified a number of strategies, that they will be introducing to rūnaka representatives soon. The aim is to make the Consents mahi more sustainable, and to ensure that our processes promote the aspirations of rūnaka as our top priority.

Possible strategies include:

- Weekly consents report by email
- Regular contact by Zoom
- Dedicated administrative support
- Remuneration and support for rūnaka reps

If you have an idea or a suggestion that you think might help, please contact kate@aukaha.co.nz and let her know.

Mana Takata

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

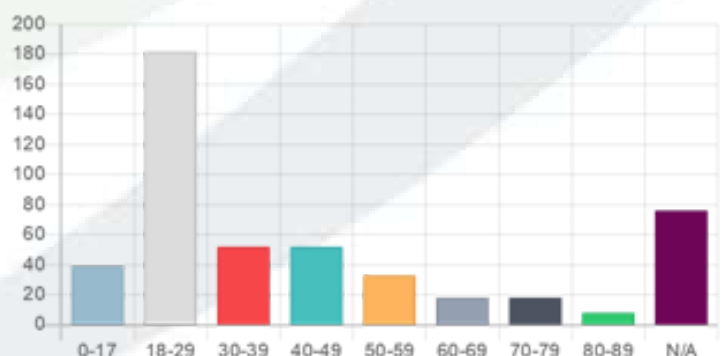
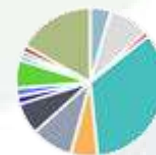
In this pānui we will provide an insight into the Navigators from the Mana Takata Team and farewell Maria Russell.

Although the easing of lockdown restrictions has brought some relief for many whānau, there remains a sense of uncertainty and anxiety for others. There is still more work to be done to ensure whānau are resilient and able to cope with whatever the future may bring.

The Mana Takata Team are busy working with whānau to build this resilience, from the creation of career pathways, budget advice and training or re-training to transferable skills. We are also continuing to refer to and/or develop or deliver programmes to meet the health and mental health needs of whānau.

Post lock down we have seen a steady increase in the number of referrals coming through to all our services, particularly whānau seeking support for firewood, power bills, mental health support and transition into employment.

Below is an overview of clients across all our services.





Farewell to Maria Russell

As a team we would like to pay tribute to Maria Russell. Maria has made a huge contribution to whānau wellbeing in North and East Otago. Maria's unwavering and steadfast focus on whānau self-determination, holistic health, the healing ability of Rongoā, mirimiri is well known and will continue through into Maria's new adventures and the establishment of her own entity.

We wish Maria well and realise this isn't farewell but the start of a new journey that will sit well alongside the foundations already established with Tumai Ora Whānau Services.

From the Board

The Board met for a general Board meeting in September. Aside from the usual business conducted at general board meetings, progress on a 5 Year Financial Strategy and Strategic Planning was discussed.

The Board reminds shareholder rūnaka that their AGM is on the 12th November at 2.30pm (venue to be confirmed). All are welcome to attend.



268 Stuart Street
Dunedin Central
Dunedin 9016

Waea: 03 477 0071
Pae Tukutuku: www.aukaha.co.nz