

He Pūkenga Wai

Whanganui River Symposium 2024

He pukenga wai, he nohoanga tāngata, he nohoanga tāngata, he putanga kōrero
Where there is a body of water, people settle, where people settle, histories unfold

Ngā manga iti, Ngā manga nui | 6 August 2024

He Pūkenga Wai this year celebrates the tenth anniversary of the signing of Ruruku Whakatupua, the Whanganui River Deed of Settlement. The signing took place at Ranana on 5 August 2014 by hapū and iwi of Te Awa Tupua under a singular mantle – Te Mana o te Awa, te Mana o te Iwi.

Ruruku Whakatupua is the culmination of a century and half long effort to have the inextricable relationship between Te Mana o Te Awa and Te Mana o te Iwi upheld through kawa, the extant law system of the hapū and iwi of Te Awa Tupua shared with all communities.

“Ngā manga iti me ngā manga nui”

We invite you to join us as we learn about the collaborative endeavours within our community to nurture and advance the health and well-being of Te Awa Tupua.

Keynote presentations during the morning session will demystify Te Awa Tupua, explaining the power of the symbolism within Te Pā Auroa (the Te Awa Tupua framework) to drive greater action as a community to care for our Awa. Such action will occur under the kawa of hapū and iwi shared with the community as a common lens through which to view, care and actively protect Te Awa Tupua. You will be inspired to apply your understanding of this inclusive and empowering framework in your daily life, in your work and through community and sector relationships.

Workshops follow the main presentations with a range of experiences and examples of our community reforming practices and behaviours demonstrating alignment with Te Pā Auroa, the Te Awa Tupua framework, to bring about system change.

Throughout the day, an audio visual of the voices of Whanganui kuia (with translations) will be played to reflect the strength and conviction the iwi continues to hold in kawa, the law system of Te Awa Tupua.

PROGRAMME

9.00am **He Whaikī - Formal Address, Main Hall**

Formal address by **Te Pou Tupua na Te Awa Tupua** Keria Ponga and Turama Hawira.

Te Matū o te Kupu - Recap from day 1

Gerrard Albert (Whanganui) Iwi determination to lead for a better, more inclusive future – recap of themes from keynote speakers in the “Te Mana o Te Iwi” session on August 5th.

He Opega, He Whakamāramatanga

Dr Hinurewa Poutu (Ngāti Rangi, Whanganui, Maniapoto) Symbolism to lead action – the concepts underpinning Te Pa Auroa (the Te Awa Tupua Framework) & Te Heke Ngahuru (the Te Awa Tupua Strategy)

10.30am Kai timo - morning tea

11.45am

Whakauruora - Interactive workshops

(Participants can pick 3 of the following workshops to rotate across.)

Te Kōpuka nā Te Awa Tupua (Main Hall)

Who is Te Kōpuka and what does it take to construct a paradigm changing strategy? The membership of Te Kōpuka will share their experience of building the Te Heke Ngahuru Strategy by upholding Tupua Te Kawa (the innate values of Te Awa Tupua) in the strategy's construction.

Te Pūwaha (Concert Chamber)

A collaborative project under Te Awa Tupua, led by hapu and upheld by project partners to achieve Mouri Awa (abundance for the river), Mouri Ora (abundance for the wider eco-system) and Mouri Tangata (abundance for whanau, hapu, iwi and the wider Whanganui community).

Beyond Legal Personhood (Davis Lecture Theatre)

The Riverine Rights team has been investigating the implementation of the legal framework for the Whanganui River under Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017, which is considered groundbreaking internationally. Members of the team will present their findings in this session.

Mouri Tūroa (Te Whare Huihui)

For the past three years the team of Mouri Tūroa have been working with landowners and contractors across the Whanganui River Catchment to improve riparian margins and wetlands. They will share the achievements and challenges of this work together with examples of the collaborative work the team has led.

1.30pm

Kai nui - Lunch

2.30pm

Tona Rua Ngahuru Tau - The next 10 years

Nancy Tuaine (Whanganui)

3.00pm

Kupu whakakapi - Closing remarks

Sheena Maru, Chair Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui

Ngā kai kōrero o te rā - Speaker Profiles



Te Pou Tupua nā Te Awa Tupua - Turama Hawira & Keria Ponga

Te Pou Tupua is a singular station comprised of two people, speaking with one voice and the face of the statutory status of Te Awa Tupua. Keria Ponga and Turama Hawira currently hold this station.

"We are humbled to stand together, as Te Pou Tupua, tasked with upholding the status of Te Awa Tupua through a single voice. As a station established by statute in 2017, we are mindful Te Pou Tupua exists to support hapu, iwi and the wider community achieve the fullest potential of the arrangements within Te Pa Auroa to address the health and wellbeing of Te Awa Tupua."



Gerrard Albert Ngā Paerangi, Whanganui

Gerrard is chair of Te Kopuka nā Te Awa Tupua, the Te Awa Tupua strategy group. He was one of the architects of Te Pā Auroa and a negotiator for the Whanganui River claim settlement which culminated in the signing of Ruruku Whakatupua in 2014.



Dr Hinurewa Poutu Ngāti Rangī, Whanganui, Maniapoto

Dr. Hinurewa Poutu is currently the Tāhuhu Reo - Director of Reo at Whakaata Māori.

A qualified translator and experienced teacher, Dr Poutu has previously served as a Māori Language Commissioner with Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (Māori Language Commission). Dr Poutu has also been a director of Te Rourou - The Vodafone New Zealand Foundation Charitable Trust.

Ngā kai kōrero o te rā - Speaker Profiles



Te Kōpuka - <https://www.tekopuka.co.nz/>

The purpose of Te Kōpuka is to act collaboratively to advance the environmental, social, cultural and economic health and wellbeing of Te Awa Tupua. Te Kōpuka membership comprises hapu and iwi appointments, mayors of District Councils, the Chair of Horizons, sectorial interests (environmental primary industry, recreation and tourism), a Crown appointment, Fish and Game, Genesis Energy. Hui of Te Kōpuka are open to anyone that impacts Te Awa Tupua, to become aware of, and action, a common obligation to address our impacts. The primary function of Te Kōpuka is to develop and approve Te Heke Ngahuru ki Te Awa Tupua (Te Heke Ngahuru).



Te Pūwaha

Te Pūwaha is a project for revitalisation of the Whanganui Port progressed under the auspices of Te Awa Tupua and through the leadership of hapū unlocking the voice and viewpoints of the community to work under Tupua te Kawa, an abundance mindset that enhances the Awa and its resources.

Ngā kai kōrero o te rā - Speaker Profiles



Riverine Rights Research Team

For the past 4 years, the Riverine Rights project team have been researching 'cases' where rivers have been recognised as having rights and personhood in Aotearoa New Zealand, India and Colombia. These cases have captured the world's attention, because instead of being based upon human rights to extract from or use natural resources for human benefit, these cases of Riverine Rights reflect a deep, interdependent and ancestral relationship between people and river territories and entail an obligation to care for rivers for the benefit of future generations.

Their published work *Beyond Legal Personhood* can be found here: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13642987.2024.2314532>



Gordon Cribb **Ngāti Hinerua, Ngāti Uenuku**

Gordon Cribb, of Ngāti Hinekura, Ngāti Ruru, and Ngāti Uenuku descent, was born and raised in Raetihi, where his deep connection to the land and waters of Manga-iti and Manga-nui began at a young age. He fondly recalls a time when the water quality in his region was pristine, abundant with trout, eels, and koura, reflecting on the richness of the environment that shaped his upbringing.

After pursuing a career in large-scale industrial projects across China, Norway, and Southeast Asia for a decade, Gordon felt the pull of his roots and returned home five years ago. Today, he serves as the Programme Manager at Mouri Tūroa, a role that aligns with his passion for environmental stewardship and cultural revitalization.

Mouri Tūroa's mission is to improve outcomes for Te Awa Tupua and Taiao, fostering nature-based employment opportunities for future generations while revitalizing traditional tikanga associated with ngāhere and waterways. Gordon emphasises collaborative leadership and a unified approach among hapū and iwi to achieve these goals.

Central to Gordon's work is addressing environmental challenges like sediment buildup in rivers, advocating for riparian planting, and community engagement as critical solutions. He emphasizes the importance of listening to whānau, hapū, and landowners to understand their concerns and collaboratively develop workable plans.

Ngā kai kōrero o te rā - Speaker Profiles



Nancy Tuaine **Ngāti Uenuku, Whanganui**

Nancy Tuaine, of Ngāti Uenuku, Kurawhatia, and Ngāti Ruru descent, currently serves as the CEO of Ngā Tangata Tiaki o Whanganui, where she has dedicated a significant portion of her life to the protection and preservation of Te Awa Tupua o Whanganui. Nancy's journey has encompassed various roles, from strategic governance to her current leadership in operations.

Her advocacy and leadership in indigenous rights are widely respected, with a particular focus on initiatives related to the Whanganui River and Whānau Ora. Nancy emphasises the essential connection between culture, spirituality, and the natural environment, advocating for the integration of indigenous knowledge and values into both environmental management and legal frameworks.

Through her work, Nancy Tuaine highlights the critical importance of preserving these interconnected elements for the well-being of present and future generations, ensuring that the cultural and ecological richness of Te Awa Tupua o Whanganui endures for all.



Sheena Maru - Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui Chair **Te Āti Haunui ā Pāparangi, Ngāti Rangī, Ngāti Uenuku, Ngāti Hikairo**

Sheena has always been dedicated to her whānau, river and community having held a range of governance and project management roles over the years for iwi and community organisations. She is passionate about community wellbeing and development has been critical in developing pathways for Rangatahi and Rangatakapū of the Awa.

Sheena has been Chair of Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui since 2021 and has recently been renominated to sit a further term by Te Rūnanga o Te Awa Tupua.

