

HE PUNA KORIKORI CASE STUDY

Hokianga Sports Club

Waves of Resilience: Te Whare o Tangaroa's Impact on Hokianga Youth

Hokianga Sports Club: Ko Wai?

Hokianga Sports Club (HSC) is a hapori Māori led organisation that was created in 2012, by a group of active parents, who saw a need to provide more sports and recreation opportunities for the community of Hokianga.

In 2023, HSC received funding from He Puna Korikori to deliver 'Te Whare o Tangaroa'(TWoT). This programme is about inspiring rangatahi to explore and connect with the ocean environment, as our tupuna did. TWoT' is embedded with local narratives and whakapapa, connecting tikanga Māori and the Taiao. Water safety and play is nurtured through water activities, (surfing, paddle-boarding, waka-ama, kayaking), fishing and collecting kaimoana; building rangatahi skills, confidence and connection with the Moana.

The programme was developed as there was a lack of positive activities for local youth. Hokianga is an isolated area, with minimal sports teams or activities and facilitators and community members noted that youth were becoming increasingly involved with problems such as violence, drinking, drugs and crime. Youth in the community and within Te Kura Kaupapa o Hokianga and Opononi Area School were eager for a Moana based programme, as some youth had already started surfing with Piripi and were becoming interested in the ocean environment.

Piripi Rawiri, facilitator of TWoT is skilled in surfing and teaching with experience throughout the world. He has whakapapa links to Hokianga and lives with his extended family at their homestead in Koutu. Piripi connects with his local Marae, Marae Committee, TKKM

o Hokianga and Opononi Area School. Piripi is highly knowledgeable in Hokianga history. He serves as a kaikōrero on the taumata of the three marae of Whirinaki, and he holds a first-aid certificate as well as an ocean safety qualification. Piripi is mana whenua in the Hokianga, and is well connected. He has the backing of marae, kura and community.



Ngā Whāinga Matua o Te Whare o Tangaroa

- To have fun in a safe supportive environment with others
- To increase knowledge of Te Ao Māori me ōna tikanga and the history of Hokianga
- To understand and learn Te Reo Māori
- To increase knowledge in regards to the ocean environment, navigation skills, tides and conditions, safety requirements
- To set and achieve personal health and wellbeing goals
- To learn surf/stand-up paddle board/ waka-ama/ kayak/ collecting kaimoana/ fishing skills and techniques
- To reflect on personal evaluations of skills and techniques
- To build self-confidence and team building skills
- To understand our roles as Kaitiaki in our area

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Te Whare o Tangaroa is a Hokianga-centric, multi-faceted water programme for rangatahi, to play and engage safely with the diverse Moana environments of the Hokianga.

Headed by a community supported leader, Piripi Rawiri, TWoT creates a space for rangatahi to build connection and confidence within themselves, others and the environment. The range and variety of activities and spaces enables recreation to work with what nature provides, from surfing on a rough and windy day to paddleboarding when it is calm and flat. Participant safety and well-being is nurtured through a whānau unit of parents that actively support, feed and transport the group.

"Tākaro, commonly translated as "play," held a far deeper significance than its modern English equivalent. It wasn't simply recreation; it was a pedagogy, an ideology designed to keep learning engaging and fun while subtly weaving in community philosophies, pūrakau (stories), and whakapapa (lineage). Tākaro served as a tool to cultivate intelligence and foster vital interrelationship skills." (Recreation through a te ao Māori Lens, Kuruho Wereta)

Eke Tangaroa! - Surfing to success.

'We get to see our cousins and our friends and we get to surf.' Marino (8) 2023

'Everyone loves to do it and comes to do it together.' Ngātai (10) 2023

'It's amazing, bringing families together... and it is all year round.' B.Davis (parent) 2023

Ngā Taonga Tuku Iho - Transmission of Knowledge

'Te Hokianga-nui-a-Kupe: te Moana, te Oranga hoki, Te Puna o te Ao Marama.' 'Te Whare o Tangaroa' delivers a programme, rich in Tikanga and Mātauranga Māori specific to Hokianga. Whakapapa is interwoven through the activity, which takes place in sites of significance, spoken to and supported by 'Kōrero Tawhito' (Old-stories). A Maori lens of knowledge transmission is fostered through the understandings and learnings from Iwi specific narratives and karakia; which are broken down and understood by participants in real world activities, so that their connection to the taiao and their rituals become deeper.

Mātai-nuku, Mātai-rangi, Mātai-uta,

Mātai-tai These 4 spaces of observation (**Mātai**) below (**nuku**), above (**rangi**), in land (**uta**), to sea (**tai**); create a compass of connection to activity, through observing and working with nature. They also work to inform safety procedures and cautions in the environment. Spaces of whakawhitiwhiti kōrero, allow rangatahi to share their views and experience to the activity, enhancing their mana and recognising their part in the activity.

The Māori Voices of Play Insights Report 2020 states, ***"These culturally specific sporting contexts create a platform for mātauranga Māori, Māori values, beliefs and whakapapa to be shared from one generation to another."***

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Removing Barriers

Te Whare o Tangaroa addresses cost, travel, gear, and language barriers by offering the program in Te Reo Māori with additional support as needed, promoting accessibility regardless of socioeconomic status.



Kaitiakitanga of their cultural narratives and connection to ancestral spaces enables participants to walk in the footsteps of their tipuna, building their rangatiratanga as manawhenua of Hokianga, descendants of Kupe. Kaitiakitanga is also practical, with participants providing kaimoana for their families; understanding, respecting and caring for kaimoana environments and cleaning and removing rubbish from the foreshore.

Whanaungatanga is an integral part of TWoT. Activities are designed specifically to support youth to make connections. Strong relationships and communication with the many stakeholders (school, marae, whānau and Hokianga Sports Club facilitators) help rangatahi to build a strong sense of community, belonging and hokiangatanga.

Hauora

The Te Whare o Tangaroa programme embodies the holistic principles of the Te Whare Tapa Whā model, addressing spiritual,

physical, mental/emotional, and social well-being. It encourages participants to connect with their cultural heritage and the natural environment for spiritual fulfilment (taha wairua), engages them in physical activities like surfing to strengthen their bodies (taha tinana), offers coping strategies and emotional resilience building (taha hinengaro), and fosters strong social connections within the community (taha whānau). This comprehensive approach supports participants' overall well-being by nurturing all dimensions of health.

Ngā Hua - Key Success Factors

- **Rangatiratanga:** Rooted in Māori culture, Te Whare o Tangaroa incorporates local narratives, ensuring resonance with the Hokianga community.
- **Community Engagement:** Supported by local marae, schools, and the Hokianga Sports Club, the programme fosters a strong community network.
- **Experienced Leadership:** Led by Piripi Rawiri, with extensive local knowledge, the programme benefits from skilled leadership.
- **Holistic Approach:** Addressing physical, mental, and cultural aspects, Te Whare o Tangaroa promotes overall well-being.
- **Cultural Transmission:** Deepening participants' connection to ancestral spaces, the programme facilitates cultural knowledge transmission.
- **Inclusivity:** The programme aims to remove barriers to participation such as cost and travel, promoting inclusivity.

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References and Readings

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