



Archaeological discovery at Ōkahu Inlet near Pūhoi

Information for whānau members of Hōkai Nuku mana whenua alliance

4 May 2018

Tēna koutou

Many of you may have heard reports about a significant archaeological find near Ōkahu Inlet. Hōkai Nuku would like to share as much information as we can at this stage with our whānau members. We will continue to send regular updates.

1. How and when was the archaeological discovery made?

The discovery was made as part of the construction works for Ara Tūhono, National Road of Significance, Pūhoi to Warkworth sector. This is the new Northern Motorway extension that will run from Johnston's Hills Tunnels to Warkworth. A viaduct is being built over the inlet and on the 16th of April, as piling works were underway, workers hit an object in the mud. Work then stopped to enable an investigation.

2. What has been found?

A 17 metre kauri tree that has been cut at the bottom with no roots attached. It is flat on top. Some branches have been cut away, others have not. The kauri is on top of several kauri branches. We are unable to confirm at this stage what it is and if it was traditionally modified by Māori.

3. Are Hōkai Nuku working together with the Project Archaeologists?

Hōkai Nuku have been working closely with the archaeological team since 2010 and we have an excellent relationship. We each respect the different tikanga and perspectives that the other brings.

4. *What is the role of iwi for the discovery?*

Hōkai Nuku have been mandated by the mana whenua of the project area to represent their interests on the project, including for any archaeological discoveries. Our Kaitiaki were onsite when the kauri was first uncovered. When the discovery was first identified as a significant artefact, kaumātua of Ngāti Manuhiri, Ngāti Whātua and Te Uri o Hau conducted a blessing. Since then Hōkai Nuku have ensured the appropriate protocols are in place daily at the site.

There have been other archaeological sites unearthed during the construction of Ara Tūhono. This supports our historical knowledge about Māori occupation in the area over the centuries.

When we have more information about what the Ōkahu discovery is, we intend to wānanga

with Hōkai Nuku whānau to share what we know about this and other finds. We are unsure when these wānanga will take place as we would like the archaeologists and conservationists to learn as much as they can before meeting with whānau.

5. *Has koiwi been found?*

To date there has been no koiwi discovered during Ara Tūhono works.

6. *Who are the kaitiaki for the kauri?*

Hōkai Nuku are the kaitiaki while the kauri is still in situ in the mud. We are on site daily and involved in all decisions. Pouhere Taonga Heritage NZ are legally responsible for the archaeological excavation. There is security on site also.

Manatū Taonga, Ministry of Culture and Heritage has statutory obligations to protect taonga tūturu when they are found, and they will manage all processes regarding eventual ownership and guardianship of the kauri alongside the Māori Land Court

<http://mch.govt.nz/nz-identity-heritage/protected-objects/frequently-asked-questions>

7. I heard there is a tokotoko on site. Who put it there?

A tokotoko was loaned to help us unearth the kauri. A NX2 (Northern Express Group) contractor learned that a possible waka discovery had been made. This person is from Atiu Island in Te Moananui a Kiwa and his whānau are responsible for waka ceremonies and waka building. He placed the tokotoko on site to guide proceedings. The tokotoko has now been returned with gratitude, and in its place is another one that has been crafted by kaitikai using a rākau from Ōkahu.

8. What are the next steps?

The excavation is still underway. When this is completed the kauri will be relocated to a secure site, where wet organics conservationist Dilys Johns from Auckland University will preserve it. <https://unidirectory.auckland.ac.nz/profile/d-johns>

Dilys is the technical lead on behalf of the Ministry of Culture and Heritage for the kauri relocation. You can listen to Dilys talking about the work she will do in a recent radio interview [here](#).

This process will take several years. Meanwhile we will continue to work with iwi, NX2 and NZTA, Pouhere Taonga and Manatū Taonga to ensure mana whenua concerns and aspirations are understood. We hope to wānanga with whānau when Dilys has finished her work.

9. Can we access the site?

No. The site is within a construction area and the Hōkai Nuku Cultural Advisors have decided that there are too many health and safety risks for whānau and manuhiri. However [this video](#) gives you a good view of the site at Ōkahu.

10. Who is Hōkai Nuku and what is your role?

Hōkai Nuku was formed in 2010 as an alliance between Ngāti Manuhiri, Ngāti Rango, Ngāti Whātua and Ngāti Mauku, Ngāti Kauae of Te Uri o Hau. These are the mana whenua of the Ara Tūhono designation area. Hōkai Nuku is the main point of contact in relation to the

motorway project only. We have a formal partnership with New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) and the Northern Express Group (NX2), who are constructing and maintaining the road.

Hōkai Nuku has a Board of Directors appointed by their shareholders, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua, Manuhiri Kaitiaki Charitable Trust and Ngati Mauku/Kauae of Te Uri o Hau Kaitiaki Whenua Charitable Trust, who work directly with NZTA and NX2 executive teams. A Cultural Advisors Committee who make decisions about cultural matters. Membership of the Cultural Advisors Committee comprises representatives from the shareholders and Ngā Maunga Whakahi on behalf of Ngāti Rango. Hōkai Nuku employs a management team and a kaitiaki team to work on a day to day basis with construction workers, planners, designers and ecologists to ensure mana whenua values are upheld.

11. *Who should I contact if I have questions?*

You can contact your iwi representative on the Cultural Advisors Committee:

Ngāti Rango - Tracy Davis tracy@hokainuku.co.nz

Ngāti Manuhiri – Te Ao Rosieur teao@hokainuku.co.nz or Ringi Brown ringi@hokainuku.co.nz

Ngāti Whātua – Joe Timoti joe@hokainuku.co.nz

Ngāti Mauku/Ngāti Kauae – Ben de Thierry ben@hokainuku.co.nz or Thomas de Thierry thomas@hokainuku.co.nz

Alternatively, you can contact Natasha at the Hōkai Nuku office and your query will be directed to the right person: natasha@hokainuku.co.nz

Or check out our website www.hokainuku.co.nz

Media enquiries to – Darry Walker, media manager Auckland and Northland, NZ Transport Agency Darryl.walker@nzta.govt.nz, Ph 021 374 334

12. Can I share this information?

Yes, in fact please let other whānau know who may not have heard about the discovery. We also want as many whānau as possible to know about Ara Tūhono and what Hōkai Nuku are doing generally. There are employment opportunities, apprenticeships and education grants available for whānau who whakapapa to the mana whenua groups of Hōkai Nuku, so keep in touch with your Cultural Advisors or our website www.hokainuku.co.nz

13. Where can I watch the media coverage of the discovery?

You can still watch online clips.

Māori TV - <http://www.maoritelevision.com/news/regional/possible-partially-complete-waka-discovered>

TVNZ - <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/auckland-waka-discovery-nzta-veteran-excited-over-buried-maori-artefact-never-found-anything-like>

