



TE MATAKŌRERO

TE MATATINI



Te Matatini chief executive Carl Ross visits Taiwan to promote kapa haka.

NAU MAI HOKI MAI KI TE MATAKŌRERO PĀNUI 16

This month: we meet our new staff at Te Matatini and the appointment of our Pou Takawaenga in the regions, Te Matatini chief executive's visit to the Pasiwali Music Festival in Taiwan, the 2023 New Zealand TV Awards to celebrate the nomination of the live Te Matatini TV coverage, we meet new staff member Thomas Tawhiri, and Te Matatini champions Te Whanau-ā-Apanui are off to Hawaii!

NEW STAFF

We've expanded our team with five new staff members in our Head Office in Wellington, and the appointment of 11 of our 12 Pou Takawaenga based and living in the different rohe across Aotearoa.

The Pou Takawaenga were all appointed by their respective rohe and will have the important job of being a conduit between the different regions and Te Matatini Society Incorporated.

Their focus will be to coordinate, plan, and support their rohe and teams in the regional and national competitions and develop and nurture the love of kapa haka.

The roles show a huge commitment and financial investment by Te Matatini into the regions to promote the organisation's vision: Mana Motuhake ki te Kainga: Matatū, Mataora, Matatini ki te ao - rohe led and Te Matatini enabled, supporting the kapa haka aspirations of each rohe.



A mihi whakatau was held for our new Te Matatini staff in Wellington in November.

Meanwhile, in the head office, new staff members include:

Loreen Henare (Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, Ngāti Whakaue, Tūwharetoa) Kaiwhakahaere-ā-Rohe – Regional Director.

Thomas Tawhiri, (Te Whakatōhea, Ngāi Tai, Ngāti Raukawa ki Wharepūhanga) – Kaihautū Mahi – Director of Operations.

Aroha Awarau. (Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Porou, Nuie, Samoa) – Mātanga Whakawhiti Kōrero – Communications Specialist.

Mo Imrie (Te Whakatōhea) – Kaiāwhina Hautū Mahi – Administrator.

Wetini Rikirangi (Rongowhakaata, Ngāti Porou) - Kaitātahi Pakihi / Business Analyst.

Laykin Paenga (Ngāti Toa) Kaitohutohu Pūtea – Accountant.



PASIWALI FESTIVAL

An exchange between two cultures rich in musical traditions – Māori and Taiwanese – was held in November during the Pasiwali Music Festival in the Taitung Country in Taiwan.



Te Matatini chief executive Carl Ross accompanied Te Matatini Herenga Waka Herenga Tangata 2023 joint runners-up, Te Kapa Haka o Ngāti Whakaue, to the festival that was established to celebrate indigenous singers, dancers, and performers.



During the trip, Carl met with local dignitary, Icyang Parod, the Minister of the Council of Indigenous Peoples in Taiwan to discuss the impact of kapa haka, its growth and the contribution to the social wellbeing of our communities.



NZ TV AWARDS

We were represented at this year's NZ TV Awards held earlier this month in Tāmaki Makaurau. We were nominated for Best Live Event Coverage for the Te Matatini finals.

Board members, Sir Selwyn Parata and Annette Wehi, and CEO Carl Ross, attended. The eventual winner was Whakaata Māori for their ANZAC Day coverage.

ALOHA TE WHANAU-Ā-APANUI

Te Matatini winners Te Whānau-a-Apanui will be part of New Zealand's delegation of 85 artists and performers at the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts in Honolulu, Hawaii, in June.

The delegation's expertise spans 11 different art forms and includes artists from six Pacific nations. Aotearoa is one of 28 Pacific nations participating at the event. FestPAC is the world's largest celebration of indigenous Pacific Islanders, drawing artists, cultural practitioners, and scholars.



Iwi: Whakatōhea, Ngāi Tai, Ngāti Raukawa ki Wharepūhanga.

Like many in the Te Matatini office, Thomas is no stranger to the kapa haka stage. His passion for performance began in the sixth form when he stood at the Te Whanganui-a-Tara regionals.

In 1988, he met Te Matatini life members, Tom and Vicky Ward,

and joined Pukeahu for their first national festival in Whangārei and was part of the group till 2005.

He began his career as a high school Māori teacher before joining organisations like NZQA to work with wharekura on NCEA assessment and moderation. Before starting with the Te Matatini team in October, he held a senior position at NZ Customs.

Thomas has been a kapa haka judge and has a passion for mau rakau and mau patu.

He's played representative and premier rugby and league, holds a black belt in martial arts through Rangataua o Aotearoa and is a NZ representative in Waka Ama.

MEET THOMAS!

We will be getting to know some of our new Te Matatini staff members. First up, Thomas Tawhiri, Te Matatini's new Kaihautū Mahi - Director of Operations.