

NGĀ TOHU O TE AO

RECLAIMING MARAMATAKA KNOWLEDGE
TO INFORM TRANSFORMATIVE PRACTICE
IN MARINE MONITORING AND
MANAGEMENT

WAO TŪPUNA | RECLAIMING ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE OF MARAMATAKA

These information cards are part of a series of publications tracking the progress of the Ngā Tohu o te Ao research programme. Collectively, they are intended to present evolving theory and practice in reclaiming traditional knowledge of maramataka, in order to inform transformative practice in marine monitoring and management.

The cards specifically focus on Wao Tūpuna, the reclamation of ancestral knowledge, one of the three fundamental elements of the Wao Atua Framework. Each card elaborates on one of the three key aspects of Wao Tūpuna, focusing on the revitalisation of ancestral cultural knowledge: Whenua—creating culturally appropriate spaces; Tipu—exploration of Māori language; and Hua—sharing reclaimed knowledge.

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WHENUA

WHAKARITE TE WHENUA KIA TIPU
PREPARING THE SOIL

Whenua specifically refers to the necessity of preparing cultural spaces for reclaiming knowledge. Carefully considered spaces were created to ensure the well-being of each whānau research team. It was essential that these spaces were conducive to the safe exploration of Wao Tūpuna knowledge.

Three whenua spaces utilised by the research collective included:

- Marae-based Wānanga—Marae served both as repositories of ancestral knowledge and as safe and familiar spaces for Ngā Tohu researchers. They provided safe immersive environments conducive to open discussion and exploration of Wao Tūpuna concepts, fostering a sense of community and connection.
- On-site Visits—On-site visits helped to connect ancestral knowledge with its cultural places. Whether exploring natural landscapes, historical sites or significant landmarks, these visits offered firsthand experiences that deepened understanding and connection to ancestral knowledge.
- Workshops—Formal workshops provided structured learning opportunities in which participants engaged in guided discussions, presentations and activities focused on specific aspects of ancestral knowledge. Informal workshops offered more flexible and open-ended spaces for spontaneous dialogue, storytelling and sharing of personal insights. The two formats complemented each other, catering to different styles of engagement.



TAUIRA

This short video provides an example of an onsite visit conducted in the early stages of the Ngā Tohu programme.

The video showcases Lake Ngā Keteko, a culturally significant dune lake in Te Hiku. Wayne Petera, the narrator, developed this resource for the tamariki of Ngātaki Primary School.