



PĀNUI PĀPĀHO

Mō te Tuku Atu Inaiane | For Immediate Release

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Ngāti Hine Forestry Trust Launches Te Rautaki Ngahere Māori – A World-First Indigenous Forestry Strategy

Ngāti Hine Forestry Trust proudly launched the completion of *He Ringa Ahuwhenua, He Hanga Mahi*, a world-first Indigenous forestry strategy that reimagines a transition from exotic monoculture forestry toward a living, breathing ngahere Māori. Developed over four years (2021–2025), this visionary kaupapa was led by Ngāti Hine Forestry Trust in partnership with Scion (Crown Forestry Research Institute, now as a group within the newly formed Bioeconomy Science Institute) and funded by Te Uru Rākau – New Zealand Forest Service through the One Billion Trees programme. The strategy delivers a bold, intergenerational direction for restoring native forests grounded in kaupapa Māori and guided by the aspirations of Ngāti Hine. At its core, the kaupapa asks: He aha tā Te Tū o Ngāti Hine hei ārahi i te whakaora i ngā ngaherehere o Hineāmaru?

Te Tū o Ngāti Hine: Where mātauranga leads and science supports

Rather than offering a single fixed solution, *He Ringa Ahuwhenua, He Hanga Mahi* presents Te Rautaki—a 100-year Indigenous forestry transition strategy (2025–2125) offering multiple, adaptable pathways for the regeneration of ngahere Māori on Ngāti Hine whenua. The strategy is built on a uniquely Ngāti Hine approach, where Te Tū o Ngāti Hine leads, and Western science supports. The kaupapa integrates the Hua Parakore principles—whakapapa, wairua, mana, māramatanga, te ao tūroa, and mauri—into the ngahere restoration process. The strategy also introduces the Te Kuira (the quilt) approach—a mosaic-like reforestation approach that replaces the dominance of *Pinus radiata* (pine) with diverse, interwoven native trees, plants and other systems.

He Whenua Hua He Tangata Ora

From 2021 to 2025, the project was guided by three interconnected components:

1. Wānanga held at marae and hui to hold rā whakatō rākau (planting days).
2. Ngahere Papatō and Trial Sites – Six sites were established where half of the site applied a Ngāti Hine, Hua Parakore informed approach to planting. The other half of the site was based on a Scion trial site approach.
3. The creation of Te Rautaki Ngahere Māori – An Indigenous Forestry Strategy.

Wānanga became places of learning, and collective design. These hui shaped seed selection, planting techniques, and site development, while also bringing forward kōrero about birdlife, insects, animals, Papatūānuku and people. Repo (wetlands), awa, and the wider mauri of the environment and water from Ngāti Hine catchments to the Kaipara and Bay of Islands harbours were also discussed. During rā whakato rākau (planting days) whānau, tamariki from kōhanga reo and kura planted native trees to the sound of waiata, alongside kaumātua, and kaimahi.

“We are not just planting trees—we are reviving systems. Ecological, cultural, spiritual, and social systems, grounded in who we are as Ngāti Hine,”
— Peter Prime, Kaupapa Project Manager

“Our mokopuna will one day walk among the trees they planted. Through this kaupapa, we’re embedding Hua Parakore values into the soil, the ngahere, and the future,” — Hineāmaru Ropati, Puna Mātauranga Kaitautoko

He Ringa Ahuwhenua, He Hanga Mahi is more than a strategy—it is a long-term vision for the next generations.

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For more information visit our website

Website: <http://www.ngatihine.maori.nz/>

See also photos from the launch and Ra Whakato Rakau held this year (below).



HRAWHHM Launch at Motatau Marae, Friday 12 Mahuru September 2025



Whānau gather at NHFT Te Pae Tata Farm for the Rā Whakatō Rākau (planting day) in Haratua -May this year.



Ray Tipene with mokopuna Jovan Tipene and Pae Matire Tipene-Komene at the Rā Whakatō Rākau in Haratua -May.



Photos at NHFT Te Pae Tata Farm for the Rā Whakatō Rākau (planting day) in Haratua -May this year.