

Rōpū Tiaki: Role Description

- Role Title:** Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika representative – Rōpū Tiaki
- Organisation:** Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika
- Workload:**
- Monthly meetings (2-3 hours - remunerated)
 - Operational advice/decision-making as required (2 hours per month)
 - Involvement in developing activities, and attendance at events



Purpose of the Role

Rōpū Tiaki exists to uphold the mana of Parangarehu Lakes through a partnership between Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika (Taranaki Whānui) and Greater Wellington Regional Council.

A special group involved in mahi significant to ngā uri o Taranaki Whānui, Rōpū Tiaki meets monthly to implement its co-management plan for the Lakes and to provide direction and advice on operational matters outside the meeting schedule, as required.

Rōpū Tiaki also protects kōrero tuku iho and matauraura specific to Parangarehu, initiates and supports activities that encourage uri to reconnect with this whenua, and promotes the unique qualities of these tupua.

Background

Rōpū Tiaki gives effect to the 2008 Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust Deed of Settlement with the Crown, which recognised the deep cultural, spiritual, historical, and tūpuna associations with these tupua, who were held within the Eastern Harbour Regional Park.

The 2009 Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika) Settlement Act returned these tupua to uri, with the long-term care of Parangarehu subject to a Memorandum of Understanding between the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (Taranaki Whānui) and the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

Rōpū Tiaki was established in 2012 as an advisory group tasked with developing a co-management plan and shared long-term vision for Parangarehu Lakes.

In 2016, Rōpū Tiaki was reformed to realise their 500-year vision for Parangarehu through the co-management plan, and involves three uri o Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika, and three senior Greater Wellington Parks and Biodiversity staff. Rōpū Tiaki also holds a special relationship with Zealandia.

Key Responsibilities

1. Tikanga & Cultural Leadership

- Uphold and embody Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika tikanga and kawa in the co-management of Parangarehu Lakes.
- Embed tikanga into co-management and operational practices.
- Ensure cultural narratives and practices are observed, visible, respected, and appropriately expressed.

2. Kaiitiakitanga / Environmental Stewardship

- Advocate for Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o Te Ika perspectives in environmental management, including consenting processes.
- Promote ecological, cultural and spiritual values in conservation, biodiversity, and ecological restoration programmes at Parangarehu and the takiwā.
- Advise on annual work programmes for Parangarehu and Ōrua Pouanui | Baring Head.
- Support Greater Wellington and Zealandia staff, scientists, and partners to protect taonga species and restore ecosystems.

3. Uri Reconnection

- Recommend and support programmes that reconnect ngā uri o Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika with Parangarehu.
- Facilitate wānanga, noho, and cultural activities that strengthen cultural identity and belonging.
- Actively encourage uri participation in conservation, heritage, and cultural initiatives.

4. Manaakitanga / Representation

- Represent Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika as the voice of our tupua.
- Share the stories, histories, and aspirations of Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika in ways that enhance understanding and respect.
- Uphold the mana of ngā uri o Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika in all interactions.

Skills, Knowledge, and Attributes

Cultural Strengths

- Strong grounding in Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika tikanga, kawa, reo, and cultural values.
- Deep understanding of the whakapapa, history, and significance of Parangarehu and the takiwā.
- Ability to guide others in cultural practice and model tikanga in all areas of engagement.

Engagement & Communication

- Confident communicator, able to engage with whānau, manuhiri, partner agencies, and the wider community.
- Skilled in sharing kōrero in ways that inspire connection and understanding.

Practical Skills

- Experience or interest in conservation, biodiversity, or environmental management.
- Capability and willingness to work outdoors, often in challenging conditions.

Personal Qualities

- Demonstrates whanaungatanga through positive, respectful relationships.
- Embodies the values of kaitiakitanga, manaakitanga, and rangatiratanga.
- Committed to protecting taonga for future generations.

Key Relationships

- **Internal:** Rōpū Tiaki, Taranaki Whānui Trustees, Greater Wellington staff, uri and whanau
- **External:** Conservation partners, local councils, researchers, schools, and community groups.



Rōpū Tiaki, Kohangapiripiri, 10 December 2025

What We Offer

- A unique responsibility to influence the well-being of our tupua.
- Opportunities to engage with a culturally rich and environmentally significant setting.
- A supportive environment that values whānau, tikanga, and identity, and strives to make a difference.