

# THE AHUWHENUA TROPHY ROUND UP

SEPTEMBER 2020

## »» Ahuwhenua Trophy awards dinner for Horticulture back on

Put Friday 20th November in your diary: this new date has been set to stage the awards dinner for the inaugural Ahuwhenua Trophy competition for Horticulture and the Young Māori Grower Award. The dinner will be held at Rotorua Energy Events Centre.

While the Ahuwhenua Trophy Management Committee appreciate that in these uncertain times there is a risk that things may change at the last minute, we will continue to plan with the confidence that we will be able to host the event.

With the impact of Covid-19 the final judging round and field days with finalists scheduled for March and April were postponed. Judging is now resuming in October.

Of the finalists Ngāi Tukairangi Trust will still hold a field day commencing at 9.30am on Thursday 8th October, at Hungahungatoroa Marae, Matapihi, Tauranga. All are welcome to attend this public field day.



The three finalists in the 2020 Horticulture competition are:

**Te Kaha 15B, Hineora Orchard**, a Māori freehold land block located in the Eastern Bay of Plenty township of Te Kaha, 65km east of Ōpōtiki.

**Otama Marere** located at Paengaroa near the Bay of Plenty town of Te Puke who grow a mixture of Green, SunGold and organic kiwifruit as well as avocados.

**Ngāi Tukairangi Trust** which is very large kiwifruit operation with one of its orchards, based at Matapihi, just a few kilometres from the centre of Tauranga city.

## ENTRIES CALLED FOR 2021 AHUWHENUA DAIRY COMPETITION

Entries are now being called for next year's Ahuwhenua Trophy competition for the top Māori dairy farm. Details about the dairy competition, including the entry form are on the Ahuwhenua website. Kingi Smiler, Chairman of the Ahuwhenua Management Committee says the competition is a wonderful opportunity for Māori to showcase to all New Zealanders the high standards that are achieved in their farming operations. He says there is much talk about the need for dairy farmers to run sustainable farming operations and significant progress has been made in the industry. In entering the Ahuwhenua Trophy competition, Māori have the opportunity to showcase this to the primary sector and the wider community. For farmers, trusts and incorporations there is the benefit of receiving invaluable high quality feedback on their farms. Past entrants, finalists and winners have all noted the value of this input and how in many instances it has helped improve their businesses. For more information please see our website.

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LEFT: Finalists and Minister Mahuta.  
L-R: Ratahi Cross (Chairman, Ngāi Tukairangi Trust), Minister Mahuta (Minister for Māori Development), Norman Carter (Chairman, Hineora Orchard, Te Kaha 15B) and Homman Tapsell (Advisory Trustee, Otama Marere).

## Ahuwhenua Trophy Finalists Announced

*More than 100 people gathered at Parliament for the announcement of the finalists in the inaugural Ahuwhenua Trophy competition for the top horticultural enterprise.*



The announcement was made by the Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Minister for Māori Development who described the occasion as unique and an occasion that the founders of the event, Sir Apirana Ngata and Lord Bledisloe would be proud of as it adds a new dimension to the prestigious competition.

Previously for sheep and beef and dairy farmers, this is the first time in the history of the competition that the trophy has been open to Māori horticulturalists. A new trophy based on the design of the other two has been manufactured and will be presented to the winner at a special function in Rotorua on the 20th November.

The Ahuwhenua Trophy is the most prestigious award for excellence in Māori farming and was inaugurated 87 years ago by the visionary Māori leader, Sir Apirana Ngata and the Governor General at the time, Lord Bledisloe. The objective is to encourage Māori farmers to improve their land and their overall farming position with an emphasis on sustainability. On a three year rotational basis, the Trophy is now competed for by Māori farmers in the sheep and beef, horticulture and dairy sectors.



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## PRAISE FROM CHAIRMAN



The Ahuwhenua Trophy Management Committee Chairman, Kingi Smiler says it is exciting to see such a positive response from Māori in the horticultural sector. He says the high calibre of all the entrants and the finalists,

highlights the contribution that Māori are making in this industry. He says in the last twenty years, the horticulture sector in New Zealand has become one of the stars of the New Zealand primary sector economy and it is pleasing to see that Māori have been an integral part of that growth.

"Since the inception of this competition we have seen what our sheep and beef and dairy farmers can do and now it is great to have the opportunity to showcase the excellence of our horticulturalists," he says.

Kingi Smiler says while the sector is now thriving, the industry has been through hard times – especially the kiwifruit sector who have had to deal with PSA which significantly impacted on the industry.

"What we see in our finalists in 2020 is a unique combination of vision, resilience, innovation, good governance, smart management and a commitment to their people. They should be proud of their achievements and we are proud of them," he says.

## Jobs and income for Māori



Minister for Māori Development, Hon Nanaia Mahuta says horticulture is an important and emerging sector for Māori. She says it not only provides good returns to Māori Trusts and Incorporations, but also provides career pathways for Māori people and whānau.

She says recent statistics suggest a 300% growth in Māori horticulture in the past 14 years with more growth predicted.

"We know that 3,800 Māori are employed in the horticulture sector and make up 17% of the total sector. The total growth output of Māori farms is \$220 million with more room to improve capacity and capability in the sector. In particular it offers excellent employment opportunities for our whānau and we see a trend of younger people wanting to come and live and work on their own whenua," she says. "These finalists are fine examples of the legacy of the Ahuwhenua Trophy competition," she says.

She says many of the finalists went into the business right at the start of the large scale commercialisation of the kiwifruit industry and as a result have developed very successful commercial operations.

Minister Mahuta praised the efforts of Kingi Smiler and his team for organising the competition which publicly highlights the contribution that Māori make to the New Zealand economy.

## FIELD DAY FOR NGĀI TUKAIRANGI TRUST

*While it won't be possible to have field days at all the finalists' orchards, Ngāi Tukairangi are going ahead and hosting a public event at their orchard in October. Please note that this will not affect the judging of all the finalists, which is also occurring in October.*

*Everyone is welcome to attend. The day will commence at 9.30am and conclude at 2.00pm. This is an excellent chance to see one of the best orchards in Aotearoa and to hear about their journey to success.*

**Thursday 8th October**

**Ngāi Tukairangi Trust**

*Hungahungatoroa Marae,  
24 Hungahungatoroa Road,  
Matapihi, Tauranga*

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# Te Kaha 15b, Hineora Orchard

ALL FINALISTS HAVE THEIR OWN REMARKABLE STORIES OF SUCCESS

Te Kaha 15B is a Māori freehold land block located in the Eastern Bay of Plenty township of Te Kaha, 65km east of Ōpōtiki. The whenua falls within the tribal rohe of Te Whānau-a-Apanui, and more specifically, is associated with Te Whānau a Te Ehotu hapū.

The land comprises an area of 11.5 hectares, on which the Trust run a kiwifruit joint venture operation, a commercial pack-house facility housing the local kiwifruit spray company (in which the Trust holds shares), and a four bedroom home for accommodation at the block.



Prior to the Trust's creation in 1970, the land was largely occupied by different whānau who farmed the block maintaining a subsistence living, growing a range of fruit and vegetables for the local community. Later a citrus orchard was established, however, given the small land area, this did not provide a sustainable economic return for its owners.

By 1998 the trustees recognised that they were asset rich but lacked sufficient capital to develop their land. Fortunately, at the same time, a group of Eastern Bay of Plenty orchardists were seeking opportunities for development of the (then) new Gold variety of kiwifruit and were prepared to enter into 50/50 joint ventures with Trusts, effectively providing capital investment to the value of the land contributed for development by landowners.

The Hineora Orchard operation began in 1999 and was the last of six blocks to join the innovative joint venture development with decisions made, and profits shared, on a 50/50 basis with investors for a period of 20 years.



Originally intended to end in 2021, the joint venture has managed the current orchard operation through the highs of the returns from the original Gold variety, to the lows of the PSA vine disease which devastated large parts of the kiwifruit industry. The land, and its orchard operation, is now due to be returned to 100% ownership by the trust in 2023.

As a result of this 20 year journey, the trustees, who have each served over 15 years on the Trust, now jointly manage an 8.13 hectare orchard operation of G3 SunGold kiwifruit, producing just over 133,000 trays annually. They work closely with their contracted Orchard Manager, and local cool-storage company OPAC. Along with the other five joint venture blocks, they have formed a subsidiary spray company, Te Kaha Gold Sprayers who employ locals to work on OPAC orchards in the area. Significant investment from the six blocks has enabled the company to extend its operations across the Te Kaha and Omaio areas, and they now employ over 20 staff, many of whom are whānau.

The Trust was also influential in the establishment of Te Whānau-a-Apanui Fruitgrowers Incorporated – a charitable community education outreach group, responsible for upskilling 60 local workers to level 4 qualifications in Horticulture as well as supporting locals to build to Diploma level courses.

Whilst the Trust does not have any historic sites on its land, it continues to have a strong commitment to sustainability and offers annual kaumatua grants to shareholders as well as tangi, health, education, sporting, culture and travel grants.

Te Kaha 15B is another example of Māori having the vision, and courage, to embrace a new model of working, taking hold of their destiny and developing their land to its potential for future generations.

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# Otama Marere

## ALL FINALISTS HAVE THEIR OWN REMARKABLE STORIES OF SUCCESS

Otama Marere located in Paengaroa near the Bay of Plenty town of Te Puke has gone through a remarkable transition. The land was originally leased to the local golf club on a 60 year lease at two shillings and six pence per acre. When the lease on the 45.01 hectare block expired in the 1980s, Otama Marere took back the land and converted the golf course into an orchard.

Today, the orchard is a thriving diversified block. There is 11.87 hectares of Hayward Green kiwifruit which produces approximately 527,631 gross kgs per year. There are three blocks of SunGold G3 with 2.21 hectares in

production. In 2018, Otama Marere became one of the first Māori owned orchards to embrace organic SunGold and converted 3.48 hectares of the existing SunGold G3 into an organic kiwifruit block. A further development of 3.06 hectares brings a total of 7.08 hectares to Otama Marere's organic Gold programme. While the organic is still in development, Otama Marere's SunGold kiwifruit produces approximately 418,435 gross kgs per year and this will rise in future years with the newly established organic blocks. Otama Marere has been branded a leader in organic SunGold kiwifruit with companies such as Zespri seeking to bring overseas visitors to the orchard. The conversion has also been an invaluable source for other Māori growers, with the Trust providing education and information to fellow growers and the public alike.

From 2018 – 2020, the Trust planted 950 Gem avocados spanning four separate blocks, a total of 2.1 hectares. A full return is expected on these avocados in year five. Adding to the diversity of the block, Otama Marere also receives Apiary income and grazing proceeds. The Trust is also in the proceeds of re-planting their forestry block which was milled in 2018 with a mix of Manuka and Kauri trees.

Otama Marere employs up to ten whanau owners at any one time, including the Orchard Manager Homman Tapsell. While these staff are employed on various tasks

around the orchard, Seeka a packhouse and orchard services provider, assists with additional labour where needed, particularly around fruit picking.

While there are no sacred sites on the property, there is one on neighbouring land and the Trust is supporting the owners who are conducting investigations into how best



to work with the neighbour on this issue. This is the pa site that was occupied by Rangiiwaho and his whanau. It provides the origins and significance of the name Otama Marere. At that time, the wetland around the pa was abundant in tuna and other vegetables, with the land where the orchard now is located being used for growing watercress, kumara, kamokamo and other vegetables. In order to acknowledge those who have come before and who have nourished the whenua, the Trust has now re-developed a wetland which has seen 7,600 native plants established to bring this area back to life. Birdlife have been attracted to this feature, along with the occasional eel.

Otama Marere has a strong commitment to its shareholders and provides a range of grants. These include grants to kaumatua, tangihana, cultural and sporting grants, education grants and a post-graduate scholarship. Owners in Otama Marere also receive annual dividends and are encouraged to reconnect to the orchard through visits and other events which are held there.

Otama Marere's golf course to kiwi fruit orchard is undoubtedly one of the most unusual and successful agricultural conversions in New Zealand's history.

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# Ngāi Tukairangi Trust

ALL FINALISTS HAVE THEIR OWN REMARKABLE STORIES OF SUCCESS

Ngāi Tukairangi Trust is a very large kiwifruit operation with one of its orchards, based at Matapihi, just a few kilometres from the centre of Tauranga city. Their land is on a peninsular and was originally used for dairy farming. Forty years ago, a number of family members who owned the dairy farms feared that the land would become incorporated into urban development. They decided that they had a better chance of holding onto it by converting to kiwifruit.

At the start of the major kiwifruit boom in the 1990s, a Trust was formed, and the land was planted in kiwifruit. Today Ngāi Tukairangi Trust has expanded and is said to be the largest Māori kiwifruit grower in the country. All told, it owns 110 hectares of land planted in kiwifruit including 60 hectares in Hastings which is covered.

Like most kiwifruit enterprises, Ngāi Tukairangi Trust was caught up in the PSA crisis, but unlike some growers who waited to see what might happen, they immediately grafted the G3 SunGold variety which is resistant to PSA. By acting early, the Trust became one of the first orchards to be producing SunGold and gained a commercial advantage.

When the Trust took over the Hastings orchard, they used their experience in the industry to make changes which saw production quadruple within a year. Today the Trust produces about 1.7 million trays of mainly Gold kiwifruit. They are confident that they can reach the magic two million tray mark and possibly even higher in the near future.



Innovation has been a hallmark of the Trust and they see themselves as very focused on the future and the demands of consumers. With that in mind they are considering strategies to convert their entire operation to organic.

Ngāi Tukairangi Trust has 1,650 beneficial owners. They have made a point of encouraging whanau involvement and employ about 56 staff and as part of their commitment to sustainability have a substantial grants programme focused on education. Over the years they have supported several thousand of their hapū in this way. Grants have been to young people to gain PhDs, masters and graduate degrees, but they have also supported people to gain other skills-based qualifications such as truck driving.

The Trust has been through good and bad times with the kiwifruit industry but through good governance and management have developed a reputation as one of the leaders in the industry.

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# NEW ZEALAND'S TOP YOUNG MĀORI GROWERS

The Finalists in the inaugural Ahuwhenua Young Māori Grower Award were announced earlier this year while NZ was in Covid-19 lockdown. They are:

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Brandon Darny Paora Nga Moki Cross,  
Ngāi Tukairangi, Ngāi Te Rangī,  
Te Whānau-ā-Apanui, Ngāti Porou.

Brandon, 24, works as trainee Orchard Manager for the large kiwifruit orchard management and post-harvest company Seeka.



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Maatutaera Tipoki Akonga,  
Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti  
Kahungunu.

Maatutaera, 26, works as a Senior Leading Hand at Llewellyn Horticulture based in the Hastings area.

.....

Finnisha Nicola Letitia Tuhiwai,  
Ngāti Te Rino raua ko Te Parawhau  
ngā hapū, ko Ngāpuhi te iwi.

Finnisha, 25, works as a Packhouse Manager for Maungatapere Berries located west of Whangarei in a rural town ship called Maungatapere.



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The award which was inaugurated in 2012 is designed to recognise up and coming young Māori in the farming and horticulture sectors. This year the competition is for horticulture.

Long-time judge Aaron Hunt of Te Tumu Paeroa, speaking on behalf of the judging panel says the standard of entrants in this inaugural competition for horticulture was very high and also reflects the number of young Maori who are making successful careers in horticulture. Aaron says Maori have always been involved in the horticulture sector and in recent years they have been involved in significant new enterprises.

"The sector has natural appeal to young Maori because it offers an outdoor lifestyle combined with excellent career prospects leading to management roles. As judges, we found all the entrants passionate about the industry and enthusiastic about their future prospects," he says.

Judging for this Award is now taking place in late September and the winner will be announced at the Awards Dinner in Rotorua, Friday 20th November 2020.

## ABOUT THE FINALISTS

**Brandon Cross** who works for Seeka initially went to Victoria University in Wellington to study for a degree in commerce. But he says the thought of spending another three years in a classroom was unappealing and after two months he left university and headed back home. In Tauranga he was introduced to the CEO of Seeka, Michael Franks who offered him the chance to join his company and he did, moving to Te Puke in the Bay of Plenty a few months later and has been there for the past six years.

"When I started I had no specific interest in horticulture but over time I have developed a passion for the industry and enjoy my role," he says.

As a trainee manager, Brandon gets to a range of tasks especially during the harvest. This includes driving tractors and forklifts or working in the packhouse. Brandon also undertakes vine management which includes, but is not limited to organising sprays, fertilisers, structural maintenance and cultural plant practices.

**Maatutaera Akonga** has worked for Llewellyn for just on three years and before that had worked for other companies, including Turners and Growers. When he left school at 16 he did some seasonal work, then became an apprentice mechanic until that job folded and he got an opportunity to work in an orchard packhouse. He then did a course in orcharding and has remained in the horticultural sector ever since.

Llewellyn Horticulture has about 80 hectares of land on which is grown mainly apples with some stone fruit such as plums, peaches and also some pears. The company is small and Maatu says with two other full-time staff he gets to do a range of tasks.

"We are more or less responsible for keeping the orchard and the business running on a day to day basis. We take care of the pruning, spraying and mowing the orchard but we employ a range of local and RSE workers to harvest the crops throughout the picking season," he says.

Maatu says the outdoor life appeals to him and he loves his job.

**Finnisha Tuhiwai**, who was born in Whangarei was initially a dairy farmer but says the attraction to make a career in horticulture came because it was close to home. She says once she started working for Maungatapere Berries and seeing all the different jobs, such as propagation and about the plants and their life cycle, she really got involved and put her hand up to learn anything she could.

It was while working in the Berryfruit Packhouse that she found her passion.

"I love being involved now in the decision making, troubleshooting ideas, and even working on processes and training. I have discovered there is a career in horticulture, and I can earn while I learn is important for helping me support my family. I enjoy being outside and the variety of teams and people I work with. One thing I enjoy is that horticulture is always changing and developing," she says.

Finnisha Tuhiwai says her goals are to continue her education in horticulture and says she hopes to take her learnings back to her people, be a great role model for her family and show that you can make this a career.

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## NEWS FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

### HOW OUR CLIMATE MADE THE BERRY VERY SPECIAL

Plant & Food Research scientist, Dr Roger Hurst and his team say one of NZ's smallest fruits has the potential to improve the performance of our country's sports people.

They have been researching the potential health benefits of NZ blackcurrants and, along with researchers overseas, demonstrating that blackcurrants grown here offer some significant health benefits.

In the most recent publication the benefits of consuming blackcurrants are shown to specifically relate to improving a sports' persons performance and speeding up their recovery after exercise, training, or a sporting event.

"We have got some good insights both into performance and recovery and managing the stress of recovery. Put simply, there is no doubt that NZ blackcurrants do enhance performance. Further, they aid recovery which also impacts on performance. If you recover quicker from fatigue and damage you are going to be able to perform better and you are going to be able to get back to your training quicker and get back on the field quicker," he says.

Dr Hurst says blackcurrants for example improve blood flow and as a result likely improve oxygen delivery to, and also remove waste products from, the muscles. He says they also help manage stress and inflammation and provide a degree of immunity.

"When it comes to sporting performance, New Zealand blackcurrants may pack more punch than other berries," he says.

One of the challenges facing researchers world-wide has been to work out what makes our berries better than those grown elsewhere in the world. Roger Hurst says our long sunny days and ultra violet exposure is critical for the ripening process and this likely drives the development of the right mix of anthocyanins to appear in the fruit that are responsible for the dark colour and the health benefits.

### BRAND REFRESH MARKS ZESPRI'S NEXT CHAPTER



For the first time in its 22-year history, Zespri recently unveiled a new look and a refreshed brand, to better reflect the company's purpose in helping people, communities and the environment thrive through the goodness of kiwifruit.

The refreshed brand will help position Zespri for its next phase of growth, and continue to invest in the skills, leadership and wellbeing of Aotearoa's communities, to thrive in the long term.

Alongside the brand refresh, Zespri hosted its Momentum 2020 conference in February where it announced a set of sustainability commitments designed to respect and enhance Aotearoa's natural environment, which include making all packaging 100 percent reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025.

In order to help people, live environmentally conscious lives, Zespri has also launched its first nationwide community investment programme, the Zespri Young and Healthy Virtual Adventure, to encourage tamariki and their whānau to eat better and exercise more, while learning more about sustainability. The free adventure is open now for registration at [www.youngandhealthy.org.nz](http://www.youngandhealthy.org.nz).



From left; Ray Karauria, Ron Clark, Rongo Puha, Louise Hau, and Royce Hau.

### MIRAKA MILLIONTH BRICK

The Taupo based Māori dairy company, Miraka celebrated a major milestone in July with the production of the millionth pack of UHT milk.

The UHT 'bricks' are 250 ml Tetra Pacs which Miraka produces exclusively for the Chinese market.

CEO Richard Wyeth says UHT production for China began on the 20th of August 2014 and it has taken just under six years to produce the millionth pack. It has also created more than 40 new jobs.

"We had a fantastic celebration to mark the occasion with special guests including the Mayor of Taupo the China Consul General

Ruan Ping, Terry Lee from Milk New Zealand and the Country Manager in NZ for the Alibaba Group Pier Smulders coming along for the occasion," he says.

Richard Wyeth said this is an outstanding result for the production team at Miraka. He says according to Tetra Pac, the Miraka production line is top performer in Australasia. UHT is an important product for Miraka with 20% of the total milk supplied to them going into this product.

At present Miraka has two production lines producing UHT milk and Richard Wyeth says they planning on putting in a third line to produce a 'concentrated milk'.

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## NEWS FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

### HEALTHY PLANTS INITIATIVE

Healthy plants' contribution to New Zealand's wellbeing and economic sustainability will be showcased throughout 2020 in celebration of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH).

Launched at Parliament in February, 2020 was declared IYPH by the UN to raise global awareness of how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment and boost economic development.

"Healthy plants are the backbone of New Zealand's wellbeing and make a significant contribution to our economy," says Horticulture New Zealand Chief Executive, Mike Chapman.

Horticulture, including viticulture, contributed approximately \$9 billion to the New Zealand economy in 2019.

Mike Chapman says fruit and vegetables are essential for healthy people. However, as many as one in five adults and one in six children in OECD countries are obese at the same time that one in five children under five are malnourished. He says healthy plants offer food security, not only for New Zealanders but for the people in the countries we export food to. Healthy plants are

also a significant contributor to New Zealand's human capital, providing employment and healthy food.

"As a result, planning for future food security, particularly enabling the best use of our land, in these changing times is very necessary," he says.

Philippa Stevens, Group General Manager Science Services at Plant & Food Research, says plants are a vital part of New Zealand – both for our economy and in our culture. She says globally, New Zealand is recognised for its exemplary management of pests and diseases, both pre- and post-border.

"Our horticultural industries use science-based sustainable production systems to ensure our fresh produce is free of pest and disease and meet or exceed the exacting residue requirements of many global markets. This means our produce is exported to 128 countries worldwide with very few barriers. Unfortunately, our plants, particularly our unique native species, are being increasingly exposed to new threats. Increased travel and goods importation provide more pathways for entry and climate change is creating beneficial environments for pests and diseases that previously may not have been able to establish here," she says.

Philippa Stevens says IYPH provides the opportunity for us to highlight and celebrate the work being undertaken to protect our plants for the benefit of New Zealand.

Keep an eye on social media #IYPH2020 or #IYPHNZ for more throughout the year.

### MPI AND TE RUNANGA O NGĀITAKOTO PARTNERSHIP AIMS TO BOOST TO PRODUCTIVITY AND EMPLOYMENT

Far North Iwi, Te Runanga o Ngāitakoto, has started planting its new 20-hectare avocado orchard, Rakau Ora, in Kaitiaki.

The project is the result of four years of extensive planning, in partnership with the Ministry for Primary Industries' (MPI's) Māori Agribusiness Directorate and key businesses in the horticulture sector.

"The orchard is a means to achieve our aspiration of using our Treaty settlement assets to build a strong economic base for our people," says Rangitane Marsden, CEO of Ngāitakoto.

"It will enable greater productive use of the Iwi's land and create new employment opportunities. This is a platform to begin the realisation of our vision, *'If we live as we ought, we shall know things as they are, and if we see things as they are, we shall live as we ought'*. It's a tribute to our kaumatua and kuia who paved the way to settlement."

Andrew McConnell, MPI's Māori Agribusiness Director, says his team, through its Māori Agribusiness Pathway to Increased Productivity (MAPIP) Programme, partnered with Ngāitakoto as the Iwi is following a whenua development pathway.

"We're delighted the Iwi is entering this high-value food sector. It's an excellent example of promoting whānau development through whenua and growing our partnerships with iwi and



*Job done – Kaharau Pou (left) and Hone Āpanui (right) are part of the team who have put in shelter and first plantings at the new Ngāitakoto avocado orchard in Kaitiaki.*

Māori landowners. Through MAPIP we've connected them with the right expertise."

Iwi member Claire Tamati is the newly appointed trainee Orchard Manager. "This ties in with the Iwi succession strategy," says Rangitane. "We are placing some of our people with potential to be future business leaders in our enterprises so they can be mentored and gain experience."

#### About MAPIP

MPI's Māori Agribusiness team administers the MAPIP programme. MPI has a network of staff located regionally who act first points of contact. They will spend time getting to know you and developing a picture together of what you need and how they can help.

To get in touch: [maoriagribusiness@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:maoriagribusiness@mpi.govt.nz)

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SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT HAS ALSO BEEN PROVIDED BY TOHU WINE, AGFIRST CONSULTANTS NZ AND BLUE WING HONDA.