

## **Te Kōpuka nā Te Awa Tupua -**

### **The White Mānuka**

*Putā Tāne, Tangaroa kia piri, kia ita!*

The close connection between the siblings Tāne Mahuta and Tangaroa.

White mānuka is the raw material used to build the Pā Auroa. This symbolises the connection, co-operation and strength within Te Awa Tupua.

The Whanganui River is central to the existence of Whanganui Iwi and their health and wellbeing; providing both physical and spiritual sustenance to the iwi and hapū from time immemorial. Te Awa Tupua is an indivisible and living being incorporating the Whanganui River and its tributaries, including all its physical and metaphysical elements, from the mountains to the sea.

The Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017 established a unique legal framework; a special feature being the recognition of Te Awa Tupua as a legal person with rights, powers, duties and liabilities. Another feature is Te Pou Tupua, a singular role being performed by two persons, Dame Tariana Turia and Poukōrero Turama Hawira. They are charged with upholding the River's new status. Another distinctive feature is Tupua te Kawa, a set of intrinsic values which represent the essence of Te Awa Tupua. It recognises that Te Awa Tupua is a singular entity comprised of many elements and communities. The collective interest and responsibilities of those communities has been recognised through their inclusion into the strategy group called Te Kōpuka nā Te Awa Tupua (Te Kōpuka).

Te Kōpuka is charged with advancing the environmental, social, cultural and economic health and wellbeing of Te Awa Tupua through developing a river management strategy. The group comprises of up to 17 members appointed by iwi, and other communities with interests in Te Awa Tupua. Each member will have differing interests in, and understanding of, Te Awa Tupua and will offer thoughts and ideas that reflect their community. The personal and cultural skills within the membership will add to the capability and diversity of the group. This presents a truly unique opportunity to work collaboratively, within a distinctive framework, to produce the strategy to advance the health and wellbeing of Te Awa Tupua.

Horizons Regional Council is seeking applications from people interested in representing these communities within Te Kōpuka:

- One member to represent environmental and conservation interests,
- One member to represent tourism interest
- One member to represent recreational interests, and
- One member to represent the primary sector

Members will be required to;

- keep their community informed, seek their views and voice their ideas and feedback; and
- assist in the development of Te Heke Ngāhuru ki Te Awa Tupua, the Te Awa Tupua management strategy.

Members are appointed for a three year term and can be reappointed on completion of the term.

This role will suit an individual that is self motivated who operates well within their own community and can also operate collaboratively with members from other communities in a considerate manner.

The Ideal applicant will;

- have an understanding of the Te Awa Tupua Settlement;
- be able to work collaboratively for the common purpose of Te Awa Tupua;
- be able to uphold Tupua te Kawa – the innate values of Te Awa Tupua;
- have the mana to represent their community and make decisions on their behalf;
- be able to inform their community, seek their views and voice their ideas and feedback in a timely manner;
- participate positively and openly to the work of Te Kōpuka and contribute to agreed actions;
- have a broad range of skills, including communication, diplomacy, attentiveness and the consideration of issues with an open mind;
- be prepared and informed for meetings; and
- be reasonably available to attend scheduled meetings, training or engagement activities.

Members appointed by Horizons to represent community groups, and are not being paid to represent that group, may be eligible to receive a meeting fee and travel costs reimbursement.

Please send a CV and covering letter to Jerald Twomey at [jerald.twomey@horizons.govt.nz](mailto:jerald.twomey@horizons.govt.nz)

Applications close on 24 November 2017.