

NGAWHA

- Kei roto i a koe to ake mana – Within each of us lies a seed of potential.
- As mokopuna we carry the memories of our tūpuna. Their reflections inspire and remind us of journeys – past, present and future. The whānau delegation from Ngawha carried and delivered their kaupapa.
- There are serious questions concerning the levels of mercury in Papatūānuku.
- There are serious concerns for the safety of our communities.
- There are measurable signs of pollution and seepage of sewage.
- There is desecration of Papatūānuku.
- Traditional food supplies of ika and tuna have been damaged.
- As a Rūnanga we had real concerns for health and safety, the spiritual dimensions and tikanga, and the Treaty rights of whānau and hapū.
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi affirms the uniqueness of who we are and it protects the potential seeds of uniqueness that will follow on from each of us.
- We met with the Department of Corrections and kaumātua from Ngāti Rangi who carried and delivered a different perspective on the same kaupapa.
- The process to undertake construction of the prison has taken 5 years.
- The prison design focuses on rehabilitation.
- Young Māori men make up 14% of the population and 52% of the prison population.
- Local people will have increased employment and training opportunities.
- In summary, the Rūnanga heard from both whānau groups and accepted to act in a kaitiaki role to facilitate, to advocate and to protect the rights of all whānau, hapū and iwi. This role is on-going .