

## KI A

Te Whānau o Wairewa  
me Te Taumutu

## NĀ

Tāwhaki Kaimahi

## TE RĀ

Ko te tekau ma rima o  
Whiriringa-ā-raki, 2023  
(15 November 2023)

## TE KAUPAPA

SOK 2023, beginning of  
runway construction and new  
aerospace testing

## Kia ora e te whānau,

With Raumati just around the corner and our daylight hours longer and warmer – we hope this finds you well.

The team and I are excited to update you on some of our latest mahi including:

- 1) State of Kaitorete – Sunday 19 & Monday 20 November 2023
- 2) Construction underway for Aerospace Centre upgrades
- 3) New aerospace company testing on site

### State of Kaitorete 2023

We are thrilled to be out on the whenua at the end of this week for our second annual State of Kaitorete (SOK).

A ropū of whānau members from Wairewa and Taumutu will return to assess and investigate ten sites across Kaitorete, documenting and sharing mātauranga over the course of two days. SOK is vital to the kaupapa of Tāwhaki as we measure the impact our mahi has over time on whenua rejuvenation and healing, and the deepening connections whānau have with Kaitorete.

Supporting this mahi are Iaeen Cranwell, Craig Pauling, Mapihi Martin-Paul, David Perenara-O’Connell, and Tāwhaki kaimahi. Ngā mihi nui to everyone involved in the organisation and continuation of SOK.

Want to learn more about SOK? [Watch our short video](#)



*State of Kaitorete, 2022: Tui Falwasser (Wairewa) and whānau from Wairewa and Taumutu at sites Te Wai o Te Mapua and Kaikanohi*

## Runway construction underway at Kaitorete

Construction has begun on the 1-km runway being added to our Tāwhaki Aerospace Centre.

Before construction got underway, we had a whakawātea to mark the start of mahi and wish our cultural monitors and construction team well on this next phase, and we were treated to a spectacular sunrise!



*Tāwhaki CEO Linda Falwasser, Hana and Maia McIntosh (Wairewa)*



*Matua laean Cranwell (Wairewa) and Kaitorete Ranger Rulon Nutira (Taumutu)*



*Whānau and cultural monitors, Les Wanhalla and Ana Gray at Kaitorete.*

Construction for the runway and hangar facilities were made possible with a \$5.4m grant from the Kānoa Regional Strategic Partnership Fund to meet urgent local and growing international aerospace demand.

The site of our current Aerospace Centre underwent years of intensive farming before Wairewa Rūnanga, Te Taumutu Rūnanga, and the Crown came together as a joint venture to purchase the whenua. We have since removed all cattle, pine tree shelter belts full of predators, and are working to rejuvenate the site.

It's hugely exciting to be creating new opportunities to help our people and whenua flourish for generations to come.

Ngā mihi nui to our whānau and cultural monitors Les Wanhalla (Taumutu) and Ana Gray (Wairewa) who are out at Kaitorete during the earthworks.

If you missed the announcement or the whānau hui last month you can [read more about it](#) on our website or [watch a short video](#) featuring some whānau members.



*Work starts on upgrading facilities at the Tāwhaki Aerospace Centre at Kaitorete*

## Kia ora to Wisk

We're excited to share that we will be welcoming [Wisk](#) in the coming days to test their technology with us at Kaitorete. Wisk is working towards a self-flying, electric air taxi that carries passengers for short flights – offering a more sustainable transport option and taking traffic off roads in cities.

While this will be Wisk's first time flying with us, they have been testing around Takapō for several years. Wisk will be flying a very small craft at Kaitorete to trial the operating systems that will help make the air taxi possible in the future. There may be media interest in Wisk's testing and we will share this with you on our social media and website.

## Opportunities and inspiration

- Looking for mahi that connects to the whenua? DoC are looking for a [Ranger](#) in North Canterbury!
- Check out this story of a [First Nations Pilot](#) in Australia who dreams of becoming an astronaut

**Noho ora mai rā i roto i ngā manaakitanga katoa.**

Ngā mihi nui,  
Linda and the Tāwhaki team.

Want to keep up to date with our mahi in between pānui? Follow us on social media, visit our website or get in touch at [info@tawhaki.co.nz](mailto:info@tawhaki.co.nz)

