

Ko Maungatapu toku maunga
Ko Maitahi/Maitai toku awa
Ko Te Tai Aorere toku moana
Ko Tainui te waka, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Toa Rangitira
Ko Kurahaupō te waka, Ngāti Kuia, Ngāti Apa ki te Ra Tō, Rangitane o Wairau
Ko Tākitimu te waka, Ngai Tāhu oku nga iwi
Ko Te Taihu Te Waka a Maui toku rohe
Ko Whakatū toku marae
Ko Matt Hippolite taku ingoa

A summary of Ngāti Koata's manawhenua status regarding the site and Kākā Hill.

Ngāti Koata originates from the waka of Tainui that left Hawaiki and arrived in Aotearoa c.1400. Tainui was captained by Hoturoa and was finally hauled ashore to rest between the two pillar stones of Puna and Hani in Kāwhia (located behind the Maketu Marae) in the North Island. Ngāti Koata takes its name from the ancestress Koata who was born c.1617. She lived in the Kāwhia area where she had two sons, Kāwharu and Te Wehi (the latter becoming Ngāti Te Wehi). Peace initially dwelled amongst the people of Koata as they settled the land. Conflict began to arise around population growth, intermarriages and land boundaries leading to an exodus of people from Kāwhia in the early nineteenth century. Ngāti Koata who formed an alliance with their whanaunga (relations) Ngāti Toa and Ngāti Rārua also departed. Many Koata remained in the Kāwhia area and to this day we maintain strong relationships with them.

The main heke (migration) for Ngāti Koata was called 'Te heke Whirinui' led by our Tupuna, who were known for their military strength. They travelled down the Western side North Island and with the support of Ngāti Awa, Koata travelled through Taranaki and continued onto Te Waewae Kapiti o Tara rāua ko Rangitāne (Kapiti Island) where they had settled at Te Waiorua. Soon after, Kurahaupō tribes of Te Tau Ihu led an assault on the Tainui tribes on Kapiti.

An important leader of the Kurahaupo waka, Tutepourangi was captured. A Ngāti Koata child, Tawhi, was also captured and taken South. With Tutepourangi onboard, Ngāti Koata followed the retreating waka to retrieve Tawhi. Realising the severity of the situation Tutepourangi gave a tuku (ceding) to Ngāti Koata in exchange for the safety of his people and the safe return of Tawhi. This tuku was accepted by Te Putu of Ngāti Koata.

The boundary of this tuku extends from the Clay point to The Trios, to The Jags, to Takapourewa and out to Farewell Spit and back to Whakatū (Nelson).

Ko Maungatapu te maunga, Ko Maitahi te Awa, Ko Te Aorere te tai

Ngāti Koata were the first of the five Northern Iwi to establish themselves as manawhenua and many intermarriages between the people of Ngāti Koata and the original iwi of Kurahaupō occurred.

Due to colonisation many of our people became alienated from their coastal lands. Whakatū (Nelson) and its adjoining areas became one of the major destinations for education and employment opportunities for our whānau.

Maungatapu the mountain, Maitahi the River and Te Aorere the seacoast are associated with this area and form part of our rich tapestry.

Ngāti Koata has maintained customary interests in northern South Island, a region often referred to as Te Tau Ihu.

Ngāti Koata continue the migration tradition today and currently live all over the world, although Te Tau Ihu continues to be our home.

In October 2006, the Crown recognised the mandate of Ngāti Koata along with other 'Tainui Taranaki' iwi to enter negotiations for a comprehensive Treaty of Waitangi Settlement.

The Crown signed terms of negotiations with the mandated negotiator on 27 November 2007.

On 11 February 2009, the Crown and 'Tainui Taranaki' iwi, including Ngāti Koata, signed a Letter of Agreement which formed the basis for this settlement.

The Deed of Settlement was initialled on 7 October 2011 and signed on 21 December 2012.

The Deed of Settlement included the following

The crown's apology:

The Crown regrets and apologises for its failure to properly respect the rangatiratanga of Ngāti Kōata. Crown actions, moreover, left Ngāti Kōata virtually landless in Te Tau Ihu and alienated them from many of their most sacred sites. For this too the Crown apologises. Their disconnection from their lands, marginalised Ngāti Kōata in the economic development of Te Tau Ihu, and had devastating consequences for the social, cultural, and spiritual wellbeing of Ngāti Kōata. Those consequences continue to be felt today.

Cultural redress:

This redress recognises the traditional, historical, cultural and spiritual association of Ngāti Kōata with places and sites owned by the Crown within their rohe. This allows Ngāti Kōata and the Crown to protect and enhance the conservation values associated with these sites

Statutory Acknowledgements and Deeds of Recognition Statutory Acknowledgements (known as Ngā Tapuwae o Ngā Tūpuna, in the Ngāti Kōata settlement) register the special association Ngāti Kōata has with an area and will be included in the settlement legislation. Statutory Acknowledgements are recognised under the Resource Management Act 1991 and Historic Places Act 1993. The acknowledgements require that consent authorities provide Ngāti Kōata with summaries of all resource consent applications named in the acknowledgements. Ngāti Koata holds a Statutory Acknowledgement for the Maitai River and its tributaries

Commercial Redress:

Ngāti Koata had the ability to purchase more than 9,000 hectares of the licensed Crown Forest land in Te Tau Ihu. Ngāti Koata selected the Hira (4,500 Ha) and Waimea (4,500 Ha) Crown Forest lands due to their long and rich associations with these areas.

Ngāti Koata's interests in and aspiration for the relevant parts of the development.

Kaka Hill is close to Nelson City, in the lowland hill country of the Maitai Mahitahi Valley: 2 kms from the sea, and 4 kms from both the city centre and the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary (as the Kereru fly). Sharlands Creek - Kaka Hill is popular with mountain bikers, with tracks running on the ridge top and down between the areas of significant forest, attracting a high level of community interest and connection. Kaka Hill, on the eastern face, also contains plantation forestry in a lease arrangement with Tasman Pine Forests Ltd, in a partnership with Ngāti Koata. Ngāti Koata and Nelson City Council have been working with forest ecologist, Dr Adam Forbes, to develop a longer-term vision for a restoration plan for Kaka Hill, and parts of the wider Hira Forest estate. This project has the full support of Tasman Pine Forest Ltd, who have committed in kind support to the work planned. The Kaka Hill Restoration Project links not only to Project Mahitahi but is spatially linked to Te Hoiere Restoration Project (neighbouring catchment), the Mount Richmond Wilding Conifer Control Project (the mountain range that separates the two catchments), and to the landscape scale work envisaged through the Kotahitanga mo te Taiao Alliance Strategy.

Ngāti Koata Trust's Taiao strategic intent is to maintain, strengthen and develop their kaitiakitanga and relationship with their environment.

"The management of Te Taiao is dependent on how natural attributes are managed and utilised, preserved and conserved, restored, and replenished for their own intrinsic worth against developments and impacts of pollution and natural disasters. Ngāti Koata prides itself on maintaining a strong commitment to the environment within their rohe and beyond."^[i]

Secondly, due to the significant past alienation of Ngāti Koata whanau from their ancestral land and areas of significance (for which the crown has acknowledged), Ngāti Koata wish to pursue opportunities that will improve the wellbeing of its whanau by creating pathways to affordable home ownership in areas where they have significant connection.

The proposed Kaka Hill vision seeks to deliver on these intents.

Ngāti Koata's oversight of the development of the components of PC 28 with the lens of matauraunga Māori and Ngāti Koata's tikanga.

In future this site can expand upon Ngāti Koata's kaitiaki and manākitanga obligations through direct engagement and participation by its members and partners. The site has the benefit of being within close proximity to Ngāti Koata whānau, enabling regular access and connectivity. Engagement in the restoration actions and restored biodiversity can enhance their personal wellbeing through physical exercise and being close to nature. Native plantings including Rongoa (traditional medicine and taonga species) could enable a sustainable cultural harvest for the treatment of common ailments and broader cultural use. Transfer of knowledge from one generation to the next can be enabled through at place wananga learnings. Other iwi cultural connections to the whenua can be explored and celebrated also, through the multiple iwi partners supporting Project Mahitahi co-led by Ngāti Koata and Nelson City Council.

The wider community will also benefit from the restoration and engagement in this site. There is extensive recreational interest in this area that include bathing, walking and mountain biking. Recreational Clubs could be approached to support the establishment of multi-use tracks to facilitate and improve accessibility to our private land. Once established these tracks could also enable a predator trapping network to be implemented to protect native bird establishment in this area as a flow over of species present and reintroduced within the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary. This could in time facilitate the return of Kaka and other native birds return to Kaka Hill. Increased native plantings can prevent soil erosion and sequester carbon to improve water and air quality within the catchment. This could in turn facilitate the NZ government to meet its climate change commitments through inclusion in the NZ Emission Trading Scheme and provide future revenue for restoration and maintenance. Alternatively, these ETS credits could offset deforestation penalties for registered production forest retirements.

Once restored the site could enable and facilitate further economic benefits such as apiculture, eco-tourism, and low impact sustainable Kanuka/Manuka harvesting.

Ngāti Koata's interest in seeing the indigenous biodiversity of the Kākā Valley improve.

In December 2021 Ngāti Koata Trust was successful in its application to the Department of Conservation's Jobs for Nature Māori Landowner Fund to restore 60Ha area on the northeast face of Kaka Hill. This project aims to restore a site of high cultural and ecological value on land owned by Ngāti Koata Trust via its Asset Holding Company (AHC) Koata Limited.

The primary focus will be to restore and protect an old growth forest remnant which historically has provided habitat for Kaka, Kiwi, and Kakariki, and still supports Kakaruwai, Miromiro, Kereru, and Korimako. Forest species present are heavily impacted by many years of neglect while this site was a Crown Forest, with vine weeds threatening to fell forest giants, and animal browse prevents future regeneration. Pest plant control, along with pest animal control, will be at the forefront of this project, to enable natural regeneration. Targeted planting of taonga species in regenerating forest buffering the old growth forest remnant, will take place to a limited extent, as will planting in the upper reaches of Sharlands Creek. Cultural Health Monitoring will be undertaken to form a baseline of forest health and will continue as appropriate for the length of the project. The project will provide employment opportunities and capacity building for Ngāti Koata whanau including training. There is urgency to address the pest animal and plant impacts on one of the few remaining primary forest remnants in the catchment. In the 2007 ecological surveys, these forests were described as "in a perilous state with old man's beard poised to inundate the forest. It is already thoroughly entrenched and is one of the worst infestations noted to date in this survey (27 sites)". Work has been undertaken since the return of this area to Ngati Koata ownership. Crown funding was sought to restore the health of sites which contain rare primary forest while there is still time to do so.

This project is Ngāti Koata led and owned. Work this year has begun on the lower reaches of Sharlands Creek with the first year of the Peneamine Restoration Project. Ngāti Koata whanau are invested in this work, and the site has high cultural significance for them. The Ngāti Koata Kaumatua Council has been involved in the Peneamine site (named after my Koro Benjamin Peneamine Hippolite), guiding the project including its naming. As this project has a connection with Project Mahitahi, the work is supported by multiple iwi partners of the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance.

The gift of Kākā Hill to restore Ngāti Koata as kaitiaki.

If a tree falls and no one is around to witness it, does it make a noise? “Yes, it does” A Kaka will lose its roost, a Powelliphanta will be crushed and a forest giant that has stood throughout time will be forever lost. But if our people are close to these areas, then they will have the opportunity to actively reduce these pressures and fulfil their Kaitiaki obligations and teach their children about the importance of doing so, for the benefit of all. Kaitiakitanga cannot be practice from a far, you need to be able to connect with the area both physically and spiritually to be able to experience the unique wairua and mauri that exist there.

Ngāti Koata’s support of PC 28.

Our lost taonga (treasures) have been enjoyed by all and have greatly benefited the development of Nelson City and its residents. We ask that the community to recognise these significant contributions and the impact that has had on the wellbeing of our whanau. Our people need to be able to thrive alongside those that currently enjoy these benefits. They need to be able to re-establish their connections to place and purpose and they need warm and safe homes to nurture their whanau, so they teach the next generations about their responsibilities.

I therefore support the PC 28 approval process.
