



**Atiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable  
Trust Board**

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Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Tēnā tātou e te whānau o Whakarongotai,

A special invitation to our Kaumātua and all interested iwi members -

We have a unique opportunity to have an up close and personal look at history being unveiled at the Ngarara Road archaeological site for the MacKays to PekaPeka Expressway.

<b>Te Take:</b>	<b>The MacKays to PekaPeka Alliance archaeology walkover for Atiawa ki Whakarongotai Kaumātua and interested iwi members.</b>
<b>Te Whakaaro:</b>	<b>We can learn more about the archaeology of the region and have a close up look at some of the things that the team have discovered and raise our own awareness and understanding of the realities of this project.</b>
<b>Te Rā / Te Wā:</b>	<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2013 - 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm</b>
<b>Te Wāhi:</b>	<b>Starting with a powhiri at Whakarongotai Marae</b>

Due to limited parking onsite, the plan is to meet at our marae and formally welcome on the expressway alliance team, followed by a briefing about the project and archaeological site. The project team will have information boards and a bus which will transport us directly to the archaeology site, (located approximately 1km from Nga Manu on Ngarara Road, Waikanae), where Mary O'Keeffe, their archaeologist, will talk us through what has been found. Remember to dress appropriately – good walking shoes, umbrella, raincoat etc. Also note that facilities are limited onsite. After the walkover we will return to the marae, in time to be present for the lifting of the hangi (fundraiser by Koro Don, Snooks and Cherie and team), and we will share a kai at the end of our hui.

Please be aware that the Expressway Alliance team will be recording footage on the day, for their records. The following page provides some background information on this project.

Please **RSVP your interest by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013**, and any pātai or queries, to Kristie at the trust office on (04) 902 5208 or [admn.atiawatrust@xtra.co.nz](mailto:admn.atiawatrust@xtra.co.nz).

Ngā mihi i runga i te ngākau iti ki to tātou kaupapa whakahirahira.

Nāku noa nā,  
Hemi, Georgie, Mahutonga and the Trustees

## Background Information:

The MacKays to Peka Peka Alliance, who are carrying out the work on behalf of the NZ Transport Agency, will be holding an archaeology open day on Sunday 20 October, 11:30am – 3pm at Nga Manu Nature Reserve where people can learn more about the archaeology of the region and have a close up look at some of the things that the team have discovered.

The project team have been working with a group of archaeologists and local iwi to examine this historic area as part of preparatory work ahead of construction for the proposed Expressway. Transport Agency Wellington state highways manager Rod James says the team have already uncovered several artefacts that provide a rich source of information about the history of local area. This is exciting for us as iwi who reside here on the coast, it presents an opportunity to have our history recorded from this factual history being uncovered.

“The Expressway passes through 16km of land that has been undeveloped for the past 50-years so the recent discoveries have uncovered important findings about past activity along the Kapiti Coast. We have located a number of middens, which essentially are rubbish heaps, typically containing shells along with fish, rat and bird bones”, he says.

Other artefacts that have been discovered so far include:

- two small adzes (used to carve wood) made of argillite from the Nelson area dating from approximately 700 years ago. They are in good condition and the precise age is still being determined
- stone flakes which were either used as small cutting tools, or are waste pieces that have been chipped off bigger pieces
- obsidian - volcanic glass, used as cutting tools
- hollowed out piece of pumice (used to keep embers glowing for fire lighting)

This is an exciting opportunity to learn more about this area’s rich history and preserve significant findings for current and future generations to learn from.

The interesting thing about these items is that none were made from materials found locally on the Kapiti Coast - this means that the materials must have been brought to the region from elsewhere in New Zealand, suggesting trade routes existed for food and goods.

No human remains have been found and no evidence of settlements exists at the sites of these discoveries, suggesting these sites were used by a small number of families for a short period of time.

All artefacts have been taken back to Otago University for analysis, cataloguing and photographing, and will then be registered with the Ministry of Culture and Heritage (a legal requirement), before being returned to iwi. Local iwi have been monitoring the archaeology work since the start of the project, and the Historic Places Trust have been closely involved with the excavation work.

Archaeologists will continue to work closely with the construction crews to record any sites that turn up during the construction phase. The archaeological work currently underway forms part of the Expressway's enabling (preparatory) works. A date is yet to be set for the formal start of construction.

The M2PP Expressway is one of a number of projects that make up the Wellington Northern Corridor (Levin to Wellington), one New Zealand’s seven Roads of National Significance introduced by the Government to move people and freight around the country more safely and efficiently.

For more information on the project people can visit [www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/mackays-to-peka-peka](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/mackays-to-peka-peka), or contact a member of the M2PP Alliance team on 0508 M2PP INFO (0508 6277 4636) or email [info@m2pp.co.nz](mailto:info@m2pp.co.nz).