

Kāpiti Coast District Council

Policy for the Rongoā Māori

1. POLICY OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this policy is to develop a sustainable approach and guideline that assists the Kāpiti Coast District Council (Council) to support the implementation, utilisation and promotion of Rongoā Māori including:

- Reserve planting
- The uses of Rongoā Māori
- Awareness of Rongoā Māori training providers in the community

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF RONGOĀ MĀORI TO WHANAU, HAPŪ AND IWI

Rongoā Māori, in its wider sense, refers to the traditional medical system of the indigenous people of Aotearoa, New Zealand. The knowledge of rongoā was considered tapu (sacred) and was passed onto a select few. Remedies could be made from either a single plant or by a combination of many. Māori traditional healing or Rongoā Māori includes a range of traditional healing methodologies including rongoā rakau (herbal remedies), mirimiri (physical therapies, massage and manipulation), karakia (spiritual rituals, healing and incantations), cultural and spiritual counselling among other variations¹. Remedies are gathered from plants, berries, leaves, bark and roots

Māori traditional healing is actively practiced in many Māori communities and Māori communities have consistently identified a preference for access to these services alongside of more conventional forms of healthcare². Over the past two decades, however, there has been a resurgence of interest in Rongoā Māori, prompting many calls for it to be formalised within the New Zealand Public Health System.

3. EXPLANATION OF COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT

The Memorandum of Partnership first signed in 1994 by the Council and representatives of the three iwi, recognises the special status of the tāngata whenua as separate and distinct from other interest groups. The Council recognises the need for active engagement with and support of tāngata whenua interests and taonga tuku iho.

The Council has prioritised initiatives to build sustainable relationships with Māori, and support opportunities for Māori development. Council is committed to the maintenance and development of this ongoing relationship through whānau, hapū, iwi, marae and through the iwi partnership group Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti.

¹ [http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/4581/\\$File/1b38-rongoā.pdf](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/4581/$File/1b38-rongoā.pdf)

² [http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/4581/\\$File/1b38-rongoā.pdf](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/4581/$File/1b38-rongoā.pdf)

The Councils Long Term Council Community Plan provides opportunities to ensure that:

“tangata whenua intangible and spiritual connection/association to the land, waahi tapu and natural and physical resources is represented and understood, “and

“working together, we can ensure that our Districts Heritage, cultural health development, health and education flourish.”

4. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy will support activity that develops a sustainable approach and guideline to assist the Council to implement, utilise and promote Rongoā Māori.

5. CRITERIA FOR EXCLUSION

Any exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Chief Executive.

5. SUB-POLICY STRUCTURE

There are no sub-policies attached to this document.

6. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The policy will consider the following areas

1. Reserve planting
2. The uses of Rongoā Māori
3. Awareness of Rongoā Māori training providers in the community.

7. POLICY PROCEDURES

The Council adopts the following procedures for the management and funding of Councils Reserves and Open Spaces

7.1 Reserve and Open Spaces Planting:

- Providing opportunity to establish Rongoā Māori Spaces within Council reserves
- Undertake a scope of Council reserves to understand the types of native plantings with medicinal properties and opportunities to further enhance reserves with additional native plantings with medicinal properties.
- Establish maintenance requirements in line with Councils Reserve Asset Management Plans.

- Work with tangata whenua to ensure that:
 - a data base of rongoā species that whakapapa to the district (Foxton Ecological District) is available;
 - the quality of Open Space is preserved and maintained for the rongoā to establish and flourish; and
 - ensure the values of tangata whenua values are expressed as part of the Asset Management of the Open Space. These values will be ascertained from existing Iwi Plans. (Where these plans are not available, Council will support tangata whenua establish Iwi Plans).

7.2 The uses of Rongoā Māori:

- Develop signage to designed to assist the community understand the medicinal purpose of each plant and their preparations
- Identify Rongoā Māori within key current and future Council documents not limited to but including; District Plan, Tangata Whenua Strategy (DRAFT), Open Space Strategy (DRAFT), Social Well Being Strategy (DRAFT).
- Promote the resilience that Rongoā Māori provides communities during natural disasters.
- Provide opportunities for Council staff to better understand Rongoā Māori
- Establish opportunities to develop knowledge and understanding of Rongoā Māori amongst the regions environmental care groups.

7.3 Awareness of Rongoā Māori training providers in the community:

- Work with providers of Rongoā Māori to develop links for the community to access training opportunities
- Promote training providers of Rongoā Māori
- Support opportunities to build capacity of Rongoā Māori practitioners

Glossary of Māori terms

Kupu Māori

Rongoā Māori

Aotearoa

Whānau

Hapū

Iwi

Tapu

Rongoā rakau

Rongoā

Mirimiri

Karakia

Taonga tuku iho

Māori

Marae

Tangata whenua

Whakapapa

Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti

Waahi Tapu

Māori

Meaning

traditional medical system of the indigenous people of New Zealand

indigenous name for New Zealand

extended family

sub tribe

tribal group

sacred

herbal remedies

to treat, apply medicines

physical therapies, massage and manipulation

spiritual rituals, healing and incantations

inherent values to Māori

indigenous people of Aotearoa

a place of gathering

people of the land

genealogy

the Confederation of tribes (ART) and the Council

sacred land

indigenous person of New Zealand