



Kia ora koutou,

Our warmest greetings to you as we say goodbye to Raumati (Summer) in Tāmaki Makaurau. We are excited to share our first newsletter of the year from [Te Aho Mutunga Kore](#) - Auckland Museum's knowledge exchange centre for Māori and Pacific fibre and textiles.

Te Aho Mutunga Kore has been a huge success in 2025. We have welcomed visitors from university students to retirement homes, onsite and offsite, and our calendar is filling up with events and visits for the next few months.

Sharing taonga

Already under our tātua (belts) we have had a visit by 40 students and their supervisors from the University of Auckland's Summer Start programme. The students requested to see a range of tapa/barkcloth from across the Pacific, which was exciting for our associate project manager Justine Treadwell to bring out. We saw tapa from Papua New Guinea, siapo from Samoa, masi from Fiji, hiapo from Niue, ngatu from Tonga, kapa from Hawai'i and more!

These taonga were also a range of ages--from over 200 year old samples of kapa to stunning and unique siapo sui (embroidered tapa) made by our community navigator Jasmine Tuiā. The students also appreciated the range of specialised tools and equipment used to make tapa, such as beaters, stencils, and rubbing boards.

Te Aho Mutunga Kore at 2025 Pasifika Festival

Te Aho Mutunga Kore joined Auckland Museum's stall at the Pasifika Festival in early March. We wooed festival-goers with textile activities like star weaving and ribbon lei-making which guests were able to wear and take home. We were thrilled with the number of tamariki wearing ribbon lei bracelets by the end of the festival!

Our colleagues from Learning and Public Programmes ran badge making and coconut shaving activations, where participants could enjoy refreshing coconut milk after their labour. The stalls were decorated with ribbon lei from our previous wānanga, and colourful prints from our Britomart exhibition depicting community members photographed with taonga they selected from the museum's collection.



Māori weaving ropu visit

We were thrilled to welcome back a Māori weaving ropu from West Auckland, who have come in three times since their kaiako attended our Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori drop in in 2023. They requested to see kahu kurī and kaitaka, some of the earliest momo (types) of kākahu in the collection. Several of this group of six hadn't been to the museum before, so visiting behind the scenes to view their taonga was a special opportunity.

Upon viewing taonga that they whakapapa directly to, a few video called their whanau to show them, and planned to come back with them in person. Two of the weavers were captivated by a very early technique of fur attachments, creatively planning to incorporate this into the design of their current kākahu using (shedded!) modern dog fur.

Te Rā Symposium

Te Aho Mutunga Kore also played a key role in the two-day symposium on Te Rā (Māori sail) held at the Museum in mid-March. The team helped to host a special makers day where 30 weavers and researchers discussed many of the topics raised at the Symposium and were treated to a behind the scenes look at our collections in detail.



In the next update you can look forward to the launch of our [2025 Pacific Language Week programme](#). In the meantime, follow us on Instagram at [@teahomutungakore](#) for more photos, videos and updates.

Ngā mihi mahana!

Te Aho Mutunga Kore



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