

Te Ara Tipuna

Walking in the footsteps of our Ancestor

The Raukūmara Range is more than a landscape – it is a living ancestor, a geography that holds the spiritual, cultural, and historical identity of Te Whānau-a-Apanui and Ngāti Porou. For over 800 years our people have traversed these mountains, carrying stories, waiata, and whakapapa woven into each ridge, river, and valley. The ngahere is not separate from us – it is us.

Through the Te Ara Tīpuna trial, both iwi have returned to walk the ancient pathways of our tipuna, reconnecting with the sacred heart of the Raukūmara. This journey is more than a physical crossing – it is a wānanga of the spirit, reaffirming the collective responsibility of our restoration work in the cultural and spiritual dimensions that science alone cannot measure.

The trial represents the healing of relationships: with the whenua, with each other as iwi, and with the living systems that sustain us from mountain to sea. By retracing ancestral routes, our people experience first-hand the enduring significance of this geography – a place that strengthens identity, builds resilience, and inspires intergenerational commitment to the regeneration of the Raukūmara.

E tangi ana te manawa ki Te Ara Tīpuna, e hono tonu ana a Raukūmara ki āna uri whakatipu, hei aho tuku iho e kore e motu.

Our hearts pay homage to Te Ara Tīpuna, for Raukūmara remains ever bound to her descendants, an unbroken thread passed from generation to generation.





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The Raukūmara is more than a forest — it is our ancestor.

Walking Te Ara Tīpuna is to follow in the footsteps of those who came before, to feel the spirit of the land binding us together. From mountain to sea, the Raukūmara carries the hearts, minds, and wairua of our people – calling us to restore, to protect, and to heal.

Tui Warmenhoven,
Governor,
Raukūmara Pae Maunga