

Turoa Haronga: Life Member ANZASW

Past Work History



Pa Turoa has had a colourful and wonderful past work mahi, from owning and training racehorses enabling him to travel around New Zealand, freezing worker. He sustained an injury and choose another vocation as a Social Worker, and as a mature adult student through Massey University, Palmerston North, with Te Rau Puawai supports, which, he achieved his MA Degree, and post graduate studies. Pa Turoa was kaumatua for a number of agencies.

Pa Turoa worked with Buster Curson, working with Maori and Pakeha, travelling to many conferences, including ANZASW trainings.

Some of his enjoyable work included as a Social Worker for Maori Mental Health in the Manawaroa Mental Health Unit, Palmerston North and teams in Hawkes Bay. Pa Turoa especially enjoyed the values of kaupapa Maori, Maori models of practise, where his tupuna influenced upbringing, and Prof.Mason Durie had been a big influence for Pa Turoa through his working journey. During his later employment as a Kaumatua/Social Worker for many organisations over several years, he had a Stroke and then retired, Pa was then in his late 70s.

Niho Taniwha Process

This framework is specifically for Tangata Whenua Takawaenga and tangata whenua practitioners to adhere to tangata whenua kaupapa while attesting that the practice principles of ANZASW have been met. This is a legacy of the late John Bradley and developed and applied by Pa Turoa. Niho Taniwha is an icon at Waimarama and is also a legacy of the local iwi where Pa Turoa comes from.

National assessors trained through a series of wananga were specifically trained for this kaupapa.

Pa Turoa was nominated from a Hui held at Taumata o Te Ra, Halcombe Marae, Manawatu with development following on with this process Pa Turoa was the main Maori Assessor and one of the first assessors for Maori social workers, over the past years, he has trained many to provide this process, along with Maori social workers, opting for competency through this process. He has regularly participated in Panels in order to keep the process flowing, supporting the Maori Social Workers through this process for both the participants and colleagues.

Manawhenua Roopu

Pa has been an active member of Manawhenua Roopu for many years, firstly as member from the outset, Chairperson (Pa stepped in when no one else was available), Mentor and currently as Kaumatua, he has provided support as a pou whenua always wanting to be involved with the Roopu of the Manawenua rohe.

He has been unwell at times over recent years, however this has not stilled his passion and love for social work for Iwi and Roopu is always ongoing without hesitation, when his health has allowed this to happen.

Important People in his Life

Turoa acknowledges his social work journey had been from huge support of friends and colleagues including the late John Bradley, the late Kara Coombs and also working alongside colleagues supporting each other included Jackie Sayers, Buster Curson, Dawn Auburn, Sir Mason Durie, and many others.

Pa joined ANZASW as he was a keen advocate for the professional body and was conferred Life Membership in recognition of his contribution to ANZASW and Social Work for Maori and other cultures.



Merv Hancock, founding president and well-known Palmerston North personality, with life members left to right, Mary Nash, Turoa Haronga, Kara Coombs, Buster Curson and Jackie Sayers,
