

Ātea a Rangi

Doing the right thing

A contract/MOU exists between HBRC and Ātea a Rangi Trust which provides some clarity around responsibilities – especially in relation to health and safety – of paying visitors to the site. Advice from HBRC regarding commercial and educational tours outlines the need for consent to be sought from Ātea a Rangi Trust for commercial tours.

This would suggest, therefore, the need for tour operators taking paying visitors to the site to firstly be granted consent, and seek partnership – ultimately from Ātea a Rangi Trust.

We are all working towards a greater understanding of the importance of this site and the knowledge/mana/sacredness associated with it, and the expectations of mana whenua who are acknowledged guardians.

It is desirable to honour and preserve the gift of Ātea a Rangi to Hawke's Bay and ensure the site and its kōrero (narrative) is respected by our community to retain its integrity and mana. The Ātea Trust educators are the authorised people to share this narrative, so we ask that you please do not try to interpret your own version. We suggest you let your tourists read the signs and just walk around and take pictures. Or make contact with the Ātea Trust to deliver the kōrero.

It is advisable for tour operators to continue to forge a positive relationship of trust and understanding with mana whenua to ensure ease of access to the location/site.

The bottom line is that commercial tourism operators (this includes photos and media footage being used for commercial gain) are asked to seek permission/consent from the Ātea a Rangi Trust if taking commercial/paying guests to the site or including it in a tour.

It is recommended that cooperating tour companies could seek to give back to the Trust through koha (this may include support through the investment in native plants endemic to Hawke's Bay and/or the site, and potential assistance with planting days or contributing to education programmes for schools at the site).

Ātea Trust will support trusted tour businesses with the provision of an approved introductory narrative, as well as an introductory training session to assist with a greater understanding of pronunciation and observations of protocol.






Waitangi
REGIONAL PARK

ĀTEA A RANGI
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Commercial use & tourism

Please contact the Regional Council for approval to use this site: 06 835 9200 or 0800 108 838.

Parts of this Regional Park are wāhi tapu, sacred and of significance to Tāngata whenua and Europeans. Any of the following commercial activities require the consent of the Ātea a Rangi Educational Trust and the Regional Council.

- Filming
- Photography
- Drones
- Tours – either educational or tourism

For information on educational tours of the Ātea and surrounding area, visit atea.nz



HAWKES BAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI

0800 108 838 | hbrc.govt.nz

1. Narrative for drivers/guides that is approved as tour arrives.

Ātea a Rangi Star Compass

Ātea a Rangi is a celestial/star compass developed, primarily, as a training tool.

For many years this land was neglected and used as an illegal rubbish dumping site.

Ātea a Rangi was the idea of Te Matau-a-Māui Voyaging Trust who subsequently partnered with Hawke’s Bay Regional Council to deliver the project. In 2017, Ātea a Rangi was constructed as one of several elements in the Waitangi Estuary enhancement at Waitangi Regional Park. The actual site of the Ātea a Rangi has a much longer history spanning back to the first discoverers of Aotearoa.

The Ātea a Rangi Educational Trust (Ātea Trust) was established to design and complete the Ātea a Rangi - Star Compass at the Waitangi Regional Park, to deliver educational programmes, events and tours at the Ātea a Rangi, as well as other traditional Māori and environmental kaupapa.

Ātea a Rangi Educational Trust was then established to administer and maintain Ātea a Rangi under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Regional Council, who maintains the space on an ongoing basis for the community to enjoy.

It is a training tool used by celestial navigators who sail traditionally throughout the Pacific. The rising and setting points of the celestial bodies are memorised by using the carved Pou (Posts) and the Horizon. Training subject areas include:

- Traditional navigation, sailing and Pacific migrations
- Māori astronomy
- Kōrero o neherā - historic kōrero for the area
- Maara kai - traditional cultivated foods
- Rongoā Māori - medicinal use of plants

The Ātea reflects a resource used by the ancestors of Māori to navigate sailing waka (large double hulled canoe) throughout the Pacific Islands. An aim is to gather and pass on traditional knowledge within Aotearoa and Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa (the Great Connector of all Polynesia).

This area is also rich in local Maori and European history, and marks the first place in Hawke's Bay where Europeans and Māori lived together as a community.

Proceeds/donations from tours go to maintenance of the site and local school and community programmes.

The Ātea a Rangi Educational Trust operates the Ātea and Te Matau-a-Māui waka hourua. The Ātea Trust and its commitment to preserving and sharing the knowledge of waka hourua sailing voyaging and traditional celestial navigation. The Ātea and Te Matau-a-Māui waka hourua are incredible vessels for educational purposes, providing hands-on experiences that connect people with Māori and Pacific heritage.

The fact that all educators and crew are trained comprehensively in these areas speaks to the dedication of the trust to ensure the authenticity and quality of the educational tour experiences they offer. This kind of experiential learning, grounded in cultural practices and historical traditions, can have a profound impact on participants, fostering appreciation, understanding, and respect for Māori culture and its seafaring legacy.

2. Code of Conduct

1. Guides & drivers are respectfully requested to direct passengers to the interpretation panels provided so that they may absorb the information provided for themselves (rationale to be part of the narrative).
2. Pre-season training for drivers/guides will be provided for understanding of pronunciation.
3. Health & Safety briefing will be provided by Ātea a Rangi Trust to approved tour companies.
4. Tour companies will consider an annual (or per-visit) koha/donation to assist with the ongoing upkeep and improvements of the site (Ātea a Rangi is a Trust and relies on grants and donations for improvements such as plantings).
5. Tour companies may consider taking part in the Trust's planting day/s.

It is important that the interpretation of Ātea a Rangi is treated with respect in order to maintain its integrity and authenticity and to honour the gift to this region, its residents, and its manuhiri.

The information provided has been guided by kaitiaki, those people or kinship groups who carry an inherited duty of care to protect and preserve the knowledge and taonga. These kaitiaki have a responsibility to honour the knowledge and the site.

Think of this information like any other copyrighted work, in this case it is about cultural copyright.

What has been provided to the public through the interpretation panels has been openly shared with aroha, with warmth and love to benefit those seeking to share, showcase, and connect with Ātea a Rangi.

To honour that gift it is incumbent upon users to reciprocate that goodwill by also ensuring the integrity of the information is respected. They are not designed for selfish exploitation or paid commercial use.

That means they should only be used for the good of the region, they should not be altered in any way that changes the integrity of the story. You also need to recognise that whilst you might find more information or other versions of these stories online, that unless you can find assurance they are from here and from a credible source, and acknowledged kaitiaki, they can readily be newly 'invented' versions of the story that are inauthentic.

Being a good kaitiaki: care and protection of cultural narratives. The word 'tiaki' simply means to care and protect. A 'kaitiaki' is the person who cares and protects. We can all act like kaitiaki by extending those principles of care and protection into what we do, however in Te Ao Māori, the Māori World, Kaitiaki are more commonly specific people or kinship groups who carry that primary responsibility of care and protection above all others. In such cases Kaitiaki are usually people recognised as carrying that status based on their whakapapa, ancestral connections, or through being a recognised mātanga/expert. So whilst we can all act like 'a kaitiaki', we also need to recognise 'the kaitiaki' as deemed by whakapapa. In gathering and sharing cultural narratives it is incumbent upon us all to act like Kaitiaki and with Kaitiaki.

By the way, Google is not a recognised kaitiaki of cultural narratives, so just because you can access something through google does not replace the need for 'cultural due diligence' to ensure the cultural integrity and defensibility of the story or use of it.