

Komiti Taoka Tuku Iho

Managing the use of taoka species in Otago

The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 defines certain species (including birds, plants and marine mammals) as being taonga to Ngāi Tahu, and recognises the special association Ngāi Tahu has with these species.

The Act gives Ngāi Tahu certain roles alongside the Department of Conservation/Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) in developing strategies and plans to manage taonga species.

The Act also exempts Ngāi Tahu Whānui from needing a permit to hold dead specimens protected under the Wildlife Act 1953, which includes nearly all native birds. This means that Ngāi Tahu Whānui can hold these birds while using them for traditional uses, and also hold korowai and other taonga that incorporate protected species.

Rūnanga*, Otago Museum and DOC have teamed up in Otago to store and allocate dead birds for traditional purposes.

Birds handed in to DOC or the museum are stored in the museum's

freezer. When Ngāi Tahu Whānui want to access these birds for traditional use, they fill out an application form that goes to the Komiti Taoka Tuku Iho. This komiti is made up of rūnanga representatives, assisted by a person from DOC, Otago Museum, Dunedin City Council, and an independent advisor.

This system ensures that taonga are available to be used and that their use is appropriate. People who apply but have limited experience in using the taonga can be teamed up with more experienced people who can provide guidance.



Korowai
Robin Hill

* Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou



Photo: Craig Wilson

How to apply

Application forms are available from the DOC website – just put ‘cultural materials’ into the search bar at www.doc.govt.nz and you’ll find it.

Not in/from Otago?

Your local DOC office or rūnanga may have access to some materials so talk to them first.

If you do apply to the komiti for material in Otago Museum’s freezer, be aware that local artists or those who whakapapa to Otago may be given preference.

Not Ngāi Tahu?

You will need a permit under the Wildlife Act. Talk to your local DOC office in the first instance.



Te Atakura korowai

M. Walsh, P. Smith, J. Smith, R. Brodie

‘The korowai was made by the first group of Puketeraki weavers under the guidance of Kath Brown. It was named Atakura referring to the dawn signifying our first step to bringing back our weaving culture to Puketeraki.’

Words from Phyllis Smith,
Kati Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki

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