



29th May 2026

Proposal:

Celebrating the Story of Tamatea Pokai Whenua through Cultural Art Panels in Central Taihape.

Dear Elected Representatives,

This proposal seeks Taihape Community Board support for the installation of a series of cultural art panels in the centre of Taihape that share the story of tupuna Tamatea Pokai Whenua, acknowledging the history of Mokai Patea. These panels would present artistic depictions and storytelling that reflect the identity, whakapapa and heritage of this whenua, creating a visible and lasting expression of local culture in the heart of our town.

Public cultural art creates an accessible way for tamariki, rangatahi, whānau, community members and visitors passing through to engage with our local history. They can help pass knowledge between generations and encourage pride in the stories of local tupuna, giving visibility to the history and narratives that belong to this place.

The art work would be illustrations from the book *Te Haerenga o Tamatea Pokai Whenua - The journey of Tamatea Pokai Whenua* a children's story that has been written by local kaumatua Rihari Steedman and Te Kāhui Ako o Mōkai Patea, illustrated by local, Waiari Macmillan. This story and illustrations are already well loved images and familiar to our young people.

These panels would strengthen local identity, promote pride and belonging, support cultural education, beautify the town centre, and offer visitors a deeper understanding of Taihape. This project would be a meaningful way to honour local heritage in a visible and lasting form.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the illustrations please feel free to contact.

Ngā mihi mahana,
Memory Lyon & Te Whaiwhaia Ritchie
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