

**Panui ki te iwi**  
**Te tangi o te Bird!**

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Ruth Wong - Communications  
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I hea koe i te tangi a te riroriro? Where were you when the riroriro was singing?

It's the middle of autumn, Ngahuru. It's harvest and storage time for winter, spring, and summer. During spring, the horiroriro sings its early morning song urging for the ground preparation for planting new seeds of many varieties throughout the new growing season. It sings for you to tend and weed the cultivations. During harvest season, now, that is, if you turn up expecting food, the rhetorical question would be "I hea koe i te tangi a te riroriro?" or "where were you at planting and weeding time?"

Yesterday Mere and I delivered 30 or so poly bins of fish to Wairarapa and a couple to Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua, Dannevirke. On Friday, we caught a lot of gurnard and trevally, snapper and moki, flounder and sole, school shark, and mackerel. These were filleted and packed by Ed and Cissy on Saturday. Te Uira took some through to Wairoa. In Dannevirke, we were given cartons of mutton and a large bag of karengo. In Masterton, we were given wild pork and manuka honey. On the way home, we dropped the mutton into Waipukurau and the karengo into Hastings. That's the way it goes.

In Masterton, they had flour, rice, pumpkins, onions, carrots, cabbages, mince, wild pork, and now fish to distribute to the needy whānau. This was done by Paddy and Shar Mason and their whānau with Melissa Ihaka, the Wairarapa representative on our iwi Board.

In Dannevirke (brand new proud grandparents) Hayden, Stacey with their whānau, distributed everything above as well as venison sausages, chops, and freshly baked Vietnamese bread to the whānau. Tamatea hub is doing the same. Every week we get updates from each of the Taiwhenua, and everyone is pumping.

Today Mere and I were up at 4 am and are on board the St Jude trawling, hoping to put more fish on our whānau tables. Others will be picking fruit and vegetables, and I know some have gone hunting (with permission, of course) while others will be baking and divvying up ingredients.

Last night Mare Kupa SNR rang to thank us for his fresh fish. Similarly, Aunty Lil Stone the night before. And the thanks keeps coming in. Unexpected but nice!

So many of our whānau have heeded the tangi of the horiroriro and are putting food on the tables of other whānau caught short during the lockdown period and beyond. There's no winners or losers; we are all together in this global nightmare.

On Friday evening, Mere and I were summoned to Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga for a COVID swab. Dr. Kiri Bird gave us the 5 minute 'talking to,' while nurse Roger administered the swab first down the throat and then up the nostril to the back of the eye (I think). It was short, and

I got a little buzz. However, we all need to be tested, and I assure you it's painless and even a bit of fun even though I was a bit nervous at first. Test..test..test..

Be your own riroriro so that you can sing your own planting song for many more springs. Do it now! Dr. Kiri Bird is coming to your marae soon, and with a name like that we'll all be singing.

Tihei Mauri Ora!!

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*Ngāti Kahungunu is the third largest iwi with 35,000 registered members. Geographically the tribe has the second longest coastline in the country from Paritū in the North to Turakirae in the South. Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated maintains an independent position to provide research, advice and advocate for the interests, rights, values, beliefs and practices of Ngāti Kahungunu alongside our whānau and hapū. Our mission is to enhance the mana and well-being of Ngāti Kahungunu.*

