

Toimata Foundation – a holistic and intergenerational approach

[Toimata Foundation](#) is a charitable trust working with founding partner [Te Mauri Tau](#) for over two decades to bring about a healthier, peaceful, more equitable world through learning and action. Together with a large network of over 100 partners, they offer two nationwide programmes, [Te Aho Tū Roa](#) and [Enviroschools](#). These programmes build community capability to take action that is locally relevant and culturally grounded.

From the outset Toimata focused on the following as crucial to components to co-creating wide-scale change:

- **Building a network of high-trust relationships** because the complex environmental, social, cultural and economic challenges of this time call for a collaborative and integrated response. The Toimata network now includes central and local government, iwi/hapū, kindergarten associations, community organisations, corporate partners, and philanthropic organisations. Maintaining these partnerships over time has been enabled by long-serving staff.
- **Being grounded in Māori knowledge, wisdoms and perspectives** as they provide holistic and practical solutions to the challenges and opportunities in our country.
- **Facilitation support and ongoing professional development for participants by highly-skilled and experienced teams nationwide**, carrying a comprehensive suite of Toimata resources in Te Reo Māori and English, because resources combined with people on the ground have much more impact.
- **An emphasis on bringing people together and growing a puna matāuranga, pool of knowledge** so that participants can share ideas, successes, learnings and feel connected to wider movement of change makers.
- **A process-based approach utilising two tools** – the *Enviroschools Action Learning Cycle* and *Te Aho Tū Roa Pūnaha Akoako* - to provide a framework the participants can apply to their local context. This approach involves understanding the past, creating a vision, exploring possibilities, taking meaningful action and reflecting on what has changed.
- **Empowering action-learning that celebrates the perspectives and aspirations of tamariki and rangatahi** as part of an intergenerational approach where children and young people are supported by adults to take action that is meaningful to them.

In more recent years Toimata has seen the following as increasingly important:

- **Responding constructively and positively** to challenging environmental and social disruptions. Focusing on aroha, manaaki and connection to the taiao to support the wellbeing of all participants.
- **Maintaining a holistic viewpoint with a focus on root causes and root solutions** as essential to fundamental change and actions that produce interconnected outcomes.

The result is large nationwide network creating a wide range of outcomes that are all part of transition needed in our country including: community resilience and inter-connectedness, ecosystem restoration, food security and kai sovereignty, authentic treaty partnerships, looking after freshwater, moving towards zero waste, weaving Māori wisdoms and knowledge, fostering nature-based livelihoods and a circular economy, nature connection for wellbeing, active transport options, and more.

View stories about the work of Toimata [here](#) and [here](#), as well as specific stories from [Enviroschools](#) and [Te Aho Tū Roa](#).