

# TE PĀNUI RŪNAKA

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF KĀI TAHU NEWS, VIEWS AND EVENTS

KAIKŌURA RŪNANGA | TE RŪNANGA O NGĀTI WAEWAE | TE RŪNANGA O MAKAAWHIO | TE NGĀI TŪĀHURIRI RŪNANGA  
TE HAPŪ O NGĀTI WHEKE | TE TAUMUTU RŪNANGA | TE RŪNANGA O KOUKOURARATA | WAIREWA RŪNANGA  
ŌNUKU RŪNANGA | TE RŪNANGA O AROWHENUA | TE RŪNANGA O WAIHAO | TE RŪNANGA O MOERAKI | KĀTI HUIRAPA RŪNAKA KI PUKETERAKI  
TE RŪNANGA O ŌTĀKOU | HOKONUI RŪNANGA | WAIHŌPAI RŪNAKA | ŌRAKA APARIMA RŪNAKA | AWARUA RŪNANGA



# KĀI TAHU NAMES OF THE MONTH

*Te Pānui Rūnaka* will be using what we know to be the Kāi Tahu names for the months of the year on the front of our publication. This change reflects our ongoing commitment to uphold and celebrate Kāi Tahu reo, mātauraka, and identity.

The names of the months in te reo Māori vary across iwi and the Kāi Tahu dialect carries unique expressions that connect deeply to our whenua, our seasonal rhythms and our stories. By using these kupu, we honour the richness of our reo and the distinctiveness of our takiwā.

## Ngā Marama o te Tau – Kāi Tahu Month Names

Gregorian Month	Kāi Tahu Name	Gregorian Month	Kāi Tahu Name
January	Iwa	July	Toru
February	Kahuru	August	Whā
March	Kahuru-kai-paeka	September	Rima
April	Kai-te-haere	October	Ono
May	Mātahi-ā-te-tau	November	Whitu
June	Maruaroa	December	Waru

# CALL FOR COVER ART SUBMISSIONS

Kia ora e te whānau, if you would like your artwork to be featured on the cover of *Te Pānui Rūnaka*, please submit it via email to: [tpr@ngaitahu.iwi.nz](mailto:tpr@ngaitahu.iwi.nz)

## Whale tail

nā John te Wani (Kāi Tahu – Kaikōura)

I am the moko of Raymond and Ripeka Clayton (ne Kaikōura) and the second eldest son of Garry and Jacqui Te Wani.

The story behind *Whale Tail* is an homage to my Mum Jacqui Te Wani and my Uncle Luke (Clayton) because these people have been apart of my artwork journey.

The first layer represents Kaikōura and the beauty surrounding it and the stories on Maori heritage, Takahanga Marae and Whale Watch.

The second layer represents more in depth look into the stories and the hardship that the Kāti Kurī whānau had to overcome, eg how and why Takahanga Marae

came to be where it is today.

The third layer represents a lesser known story: For this story is handed from generation to generation, for they are the true knowledge on why Kaikōura is shaped the way it is today and why Whales are drawn there.

In the center the figure head represents Manaia, who is the guardian of all the stories.



The Whale Tail itself: People have always been astonished by these beautiful creatures and the stories they hold. It doesn't matter what technology exists, the true stories on these magnificent creatures will never be completely told.

The black spot represents exactly that, as some things should always be kept in the dark.



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# Nā te Kaiwhakahaere



**Taki Haruru ki Te Pewhairangi,  
taku manawa ki te kāika,  
Ko te Tiriti e tuitui nei i a tātau,  
pupuritia tō Mana Motuhake  
rakatirataka ki te ao.**

**Takihia kā mate huhua  
ko riro atu ki te pō.  
Kai kā huia kaimanawa o tēnā pā, o tēnā kāika,  
kia au te moe, moe mai rā.**

**Hoki mai ki a tātau,  
te pou pou kōrero o rātau mā.  
I rakona te hā o te motu i Waitangi,  
te karaka kia ū ki te Kotahitaka o kā iwi o te motu  
I Te Waipounamu ka rakona anō te ihi o te iwi,  
kotahi te kaupapa, ko te mana o Te Tiriti o Waitangi.  
E rere nei ko kā mihi.  
Kai taku iwi, tēnā koutou.**

I'm writing this foreword at the tail end of a busy week that took me to Paihia for the National Iwi Chairs Forum (NICF), hosted by the Te Tai Tokerau iwi collective, Te Kahu o Taonui, and which culminated in Waitangi commemorations — both at Waitangi and, for me, back home in the Waitaki.

Waitangi Day was different this year. Instead of hosting a Kāi Tahu event in the takiwā, Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou led a Kāi Tahu ope to the Treaty Grounds at Waitangi as a deliberate expression of kotahitaka. Heading into an election year, and in the wake of the legislative

and policy changes — and the accompanying political rhetoric — of the past term of Government, it was a dignified gesture and one I was pleased to support.

Given how charged our national politics has become on Treaty matters in recent years, it's easy to slip into narrow interpretations of Te Tiriti that are shaped entirely by the political debates of the moment and by unexamined assumptions about its nature, intent, and effect. Fortunately, we have enough historians in the tribe to ensure I can't get away with that as Kaiwhakahaere.

Thanks to Tā Tipene, the phrase “the elevated decency of Normanby's instructions to Hobson” is etched into my brain. And thanks to Professor Michael Stevens, I understand that this “elevated decency” refers to a humanitarian current in 19th-century British politics that influenced colonial policy and made the idea of a treaty with indigenous people a possibility in 1840. In that context, simply having a treaty is significant. Things could have been a lot worse. Give or take a decade of political movement and we might not have had one at all.

True as that may be, it is hard to swallow considering what our ancestors were confronting by the end of the century — landlessness, poverty, and severe social and political marginalisation. At one point, Ngāi Tahu had become all but invisible in our takiwā. However, this was not a consequence of Te Tiriti per se, but of a failure to uphold the “elevated decency” the Treaty was intended to embody.

Te Kerēme was, among other things, an attempt to bring that standard to bear on the Crown’s conduct toward Kāi Tahu. This was made harder by the fact that, historically, influential elements of New Zealand’s political class insisted that Te Tiriti — and the “elevated decency” it represents — had no relevance to Kāi Tahu or our relationship with the Crown.

Tā Tipene reminded me recently that one of the main reasons we began hosting annual Ngāi Tahu Waitangi Day commemorations in our takiwā was to permanently bury that idea and ensure that the signatures of our ancestors who signed the Treaty at Ōnuku, Ōtākou, and Ruapuke Island are honoured, mō ake tonu atu.

Te Tiriti arose out of transnational forces informed by a humanitarian current in British politics. And as much as certain people and groups might have wanted — and continue to want — to escape the weight of those forces, the current of “elevated decency” continues to flow through our politics, even if at times it feels more like a slow trickle. This was evident to me during the week in Waitangi. It reinforced for me that beneath all the political fanfare and rhetoric, Te Tiriti remains firmly established as the true and rightful origin story of the New Zealand nation.

Nevertheless, we cannot afford to take a backward step. As Tā Tipene has reminded us at many a Waitangi Day over the years: “history is not a linear process.” The fact that the status of Te Tiriti has been recovered and a Settlement agreement signed is not a permanent guarantee against regressions in our political culture.

Closing in on 30 years post-settlement, it is natural to be focused on building and utilising our post-settlement tribal infrastructure to pursue economic and social development for our people and the needs of today.

However, when we commemorate Waitangi Day, it is worth pausing to remember that these opportunities are built on top of a carefully constructed foundation — a foundation that makes the statement “We are Ngāi Tahu” intelligible, to ourselves, to the wider world, and to our Treaty partner.

This foundation has an undeniable political element, and the status of Te Tiriti in our country is an important pou within that foundation. Without it, our assertion of rangatiratanga in our takiwā is incapable of being practised and implemented in the modern world.

This leads me to a final Waitangi reflection: Te Iwi Māori cannot be content with simply scolding the Crown for its failure to live up to the promise of Te Tiriti, or with merely responding to the political debates of the day. As iwi, as hapū, as rūnaka, we have a responsibility to breathe life into Treaty politics in our nation and in our communities by grappling with the hard issues and articulating a principled path forward into the future — built on the foundation we have inherited from our ancestors.

It is an enduring, intergenerational responsibility, and each of us has a part to play in carrying it forward on behalf of the tribe.

Nō reira, e haere tou ana kā mihi ki kā huāka nō Ōtākou mō tā rātau ārahi i tō tātau waka ki Waitangi.

Ā tērā tau hoki atu ai tātau ki runga o Te Rau Aroha ki Awarua.

**Justin Tipa**

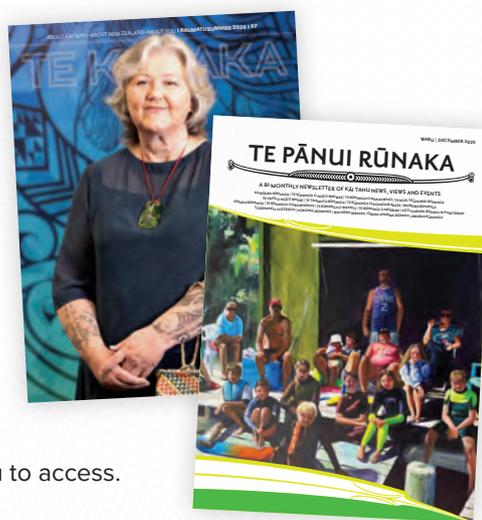
Kaiwhakahaere, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

## PUBLICATIONS DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

From **September** onwards, we’re updating how we distribute *Te Pānui Rūnaka* (TPR) and *TE KARAKA* (TK). Printed copies will continue to be posted to subscribers **aged 60 and over**.

All other subscribers will now receive their editions digitally and can access them online.

Rūnaka offices will continue to receive hard copies for all whānau to access.

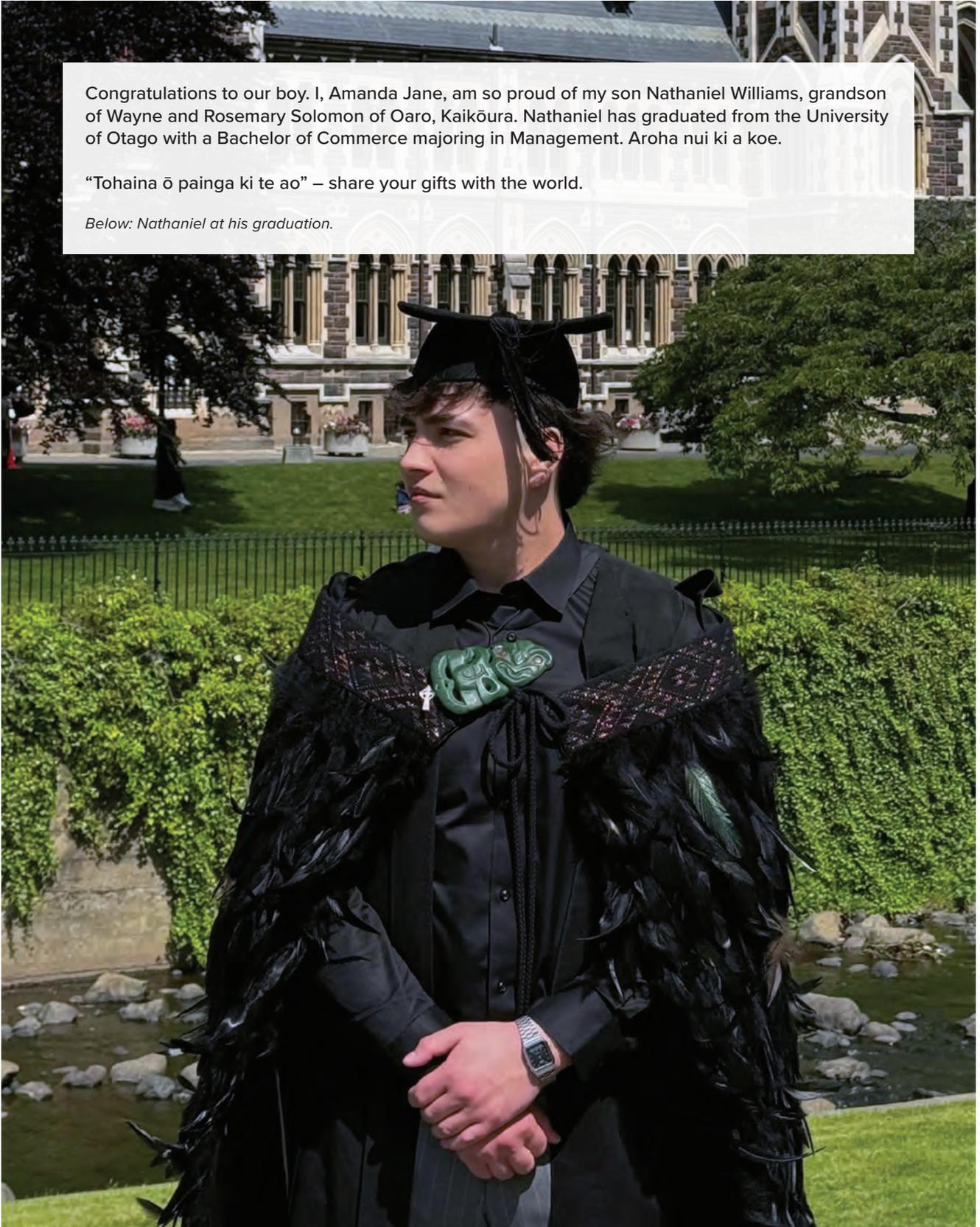


# Kaikōura Rūnanga

Congratulations to our boy. I, Amanda Jane, am so proud of my son Nathaniel Williams, grandson of Wayne and Rosemary Solomon of Oaro, Kaikōura. Nathaniel has graduated from the University of Otago with a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Management. Aroha nui ki a koe.

“Tohaina ō painga ki te ao” – share your gifts with the world.

*Below: Nathaniel at his graduation.*



# Te Hapū o Ngāti Waewae

A big mihi to everyone celebrating their birthdays in the months below! If your birthday isn't listed, please reach out to the office and we'll make sure to add you to the list.

## January

Katrina Lang, Adrian Tainui, Troy Tauwhare, Rikihana Hutana, Ashlee Wickett, Josh Tamainu, Aaron Tauwhare, Summer Lilley, Rauhine Coakley, Charlie Downs, Liam Mulholland, Ella Duff, Violet Curtis, Paul Tūhuru.

## February

Ursula Tainui, Aleigha Ngaamo, Tihou Messenger-Weepu, Ruihi Tumahai, Justice Tainui, Toa Makapelu, Naomi Jones, Derek Tainui, Tuari Tainui, Mitchell Currie, Nellie Jane Robinson, Toko Lang, Sophie Tenbethy, Ella Robinson, Mia Robinson, Aroha Meihana, Ema Weepu, Ihaka Weepu, Shardey Harris, Lynette Sollis, Cheyenne Briese, Ryan Briese.

## Ngāti Waewae, Bathurst Resources Ltd and Wet'suwet'en Cultural Exchange

In November 2025, representatives of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae; Francois Tumahai (Chairman), Hamiria Ngaamo (Deputy Chair), Te Rua Mason (Cultural Advisor) and Aleigha Ngaamo (Chair of the Ngāti Waewae Rangatahi Komiti), recently travelled to Canada alongside Bathurst Resources Ltd to meet with the Wet'suwet'en First Nation.

The purpose of this visit was to share the experience of Ngāti Waewae as mana whenua working in partnership with Bathurst on Te Tai Poutini (the West Coast of New Zealand's South Island) and to offer insight into how cultural protection, environmental management and long-term planning can be upheld within mining relationships.

Bathurst is currently engaging with the Wet'suwet'en regarding a proposed mining project on their lands. Importantly, Bathurst has committed that they will not proceed without the consent of the Wet'suwet'en, despite having the legal ability to do so. This approach shows their commitment to Indigenous partnership and transparency.





This exchange strengthened connections between the Indigenous nations and reaffirmed a shared commitment to ensuring that Indigenous consent and cultural integrity remain central in all relationships with industry.

**What Ngāti Waewae Shared with the Wet’suwet’en**

The Ngāti Waewae delegation shared in conversations around:

- how Cultural Impact Assessments and environmental monitoring guide decision-making
- the importance of iwi involvement in every stage of mining activity
- the practical realities, benefits and challenges of the relationship between Ngāti Waewae and Bathurst
- how tikanga (cultural values) and mana whenua responsibilities are upheld



This guidance was provided to support the Wet’suwet’en as they determine their own pathway. The decision rests fully with them.

Ngāti Waewae was honoured to support another Indigenous nation navigating similar responsibilities, protecting land, waters and cultural integrity while engaging with industry on their own terms.



## Stewardship land announcement

Ngāti Waewae are proud to acknowledge today's announcement at Arahura Marae confirming decisions on the reclassification of stewardship land across Te Tai Poutini. This outcome reflects the strength and persistence of Poutini Ngāi Tahu in ensuring mana whenua rights and responsibilities were recognised.

The creation of the 181,000ha Tarahanga e Toru Historic Reserve is a major achievement, formally recognising our ara tawhito, mahinga kai, nohoanga, pā sites and wāhi pakanga that connect Ngāti Waewae across the landscape. The protection of Kotorepi, Kaiata and Kōhuamaru as Historic Reserves further affirms the cultural significance of these places.



Ngāti Waewae acknowledge the tireless mahi of our rangatira and representatives who stood firm for our people and our whenua. This announcement shows what is possible when the Crown is held to account and Te Tiriti is respected.



## Arahura Paa Picnic 2026

Ngā mihi nui to everyone who came along to celebrate with us today! It was a beautiful day filled with reunions and reconnections with whānau from near and far.

E pupuhi nei te hau o mihi to all those who put in the mahi behind the scenes, our hāngī crew, our ringawera and everyone who lent a hand in any way.

Ka mau te wehi e te whānau, until next time!

Waitaiki kei ruka, Poutini kei raro!



## Achievements

### Tower Local Hero Medallists Davida Simpson & Francois Tumahai

Congratulations to Davida Simpson and Francois Tumahai for being named in the 2025 Tower Local Hero Medallists.

Davida is recognised for her dedicated mahi supporting whānau through Te Hono o Ngā Waka, a kaupapa she co-founded to provide social, health, and education support across Te Tai o Poutini.

Francois is acknowledged for his strong leadership within Ngāti Waewae and the West Coast, guiding major cultural and economic projects including Arahura Marae and the Pounamu Pathway.

Both continue to make an incredible impact in our communities.



### NYC Marathon | Dane Tumahai

Running the New York Marathon was an unforgettable experience — one that pushed me physically and mentally in all the best ways. I travelled over with Marathon Tours NZ, a tour group made up of 80 Kiwis from across Aotearoa, all buzzing with excitement to take part in a marathon that would go on to break the record for the largest marathon in the world with 59,226 finishers.

Preparation was everything, a solid four-month training block, running five times a week and completing a half marathon each Sunday in the month of October leading up to race day. Even with all that training, I don't think anything really prepares you for the sheer energy of New York come race day — the noise, the crowds, and the non-stop support are unlike anything I've ever experienced. It's absolutely wild, and it carries you through every borough and over every bridge.

What made it even more special was having my whānau there. My parents flew all the way from New Zealand. My aunty, uncle and four cousins travelled from the UK, and my sister made the journey from Saudi Arabia. Knowing they were somewhere in that massive crowd meant everything.

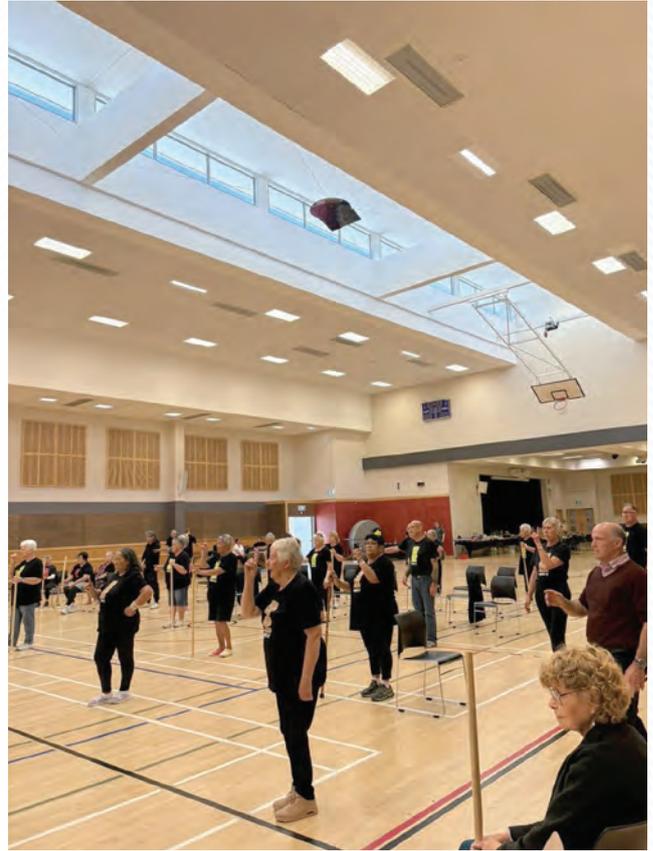
It's a crazy, electrifying, once-in-a-lifetime experience — one I'll never forget, and one I'd recommend to anyone regardless of your ability, pace, or age.



### Taurite Tū

Earlier this month, some of our kaumātua travelled over to Ōtautahi to attend the regional Taurite Tū training. Taurite Tū is a leg strengthening & balance exercise class that Elly & Aroha have been running for 3 years every Thursday at Arahura Marae.

The training our kaumatua attended was to learn the new program which is being implemented into their classes. The kaumātua had a great time and can't wait to bring the new program back to Arahura!



### Rūnanga Hui 2026

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae warmly invites you to our Rūnanga Hui for 2026. Join us for kai at 12:00pm, with hui to follow at 12:30pm.

Rūnanga Dates as follows:

- 8th March
- 14th June
- 13th September
- 13th December

For catering and environmental purposes, we kindly ask that you RSVP with your name if you plan to attend the kai and hui.



### Rūnanga Business

If you have any Rūnanga business queries, including Whakapapa Registration forms, please contact our Rūnanga Administrator: Aleigha – [Aleigha.Ngaamo@ngaitahu.iwi.nz](mailto:Aleigha.Ngaamo@ngaitahu.iwi.nz) or **027 755 6451**.

If you have any Marae bookings or queries, please contact our Marae Manager: Miriama – [events@ngatiwaewae.org.nz](mailto:events@ngatiwaewae.org.nz) or **027 755 6451**.

### Keep in the Loop

You can keep in the loop with our upcoming wānanga and events by:

- Joining the Poutini Ngāi Tahu and Arahura Rūnanga pages on Facebook
- Registering at: [www.ngatiwaewae.org.nz](http://www.ngatiwaewae.org.nz) for access to our whānau portal with resources, updates and upcoming events
- Providing your email address and/or phone number to Aleigha for Rūnanga Comms.

# Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio

Kia ora e te whānau,

As the new year begins, whānau across our takiwā have continued to come together — strengthening reo and tikanga, caring for our taonga, supporting our rangatahi, and upholding the collective mahi that sustains our marae and community. Here is a snapshot of kaupapa from across the summer period.



## 21st Anniversary Celebrations – Te Tauraka Waka ā Māui Marae

In the week leading up to 23–25 January, whānau gathered at Te Tauraka Waka ā Māui Marae to prepare for the 21st anniversary of our marae. Throughout the week, whānau worked side by side cleaning, organising, and supporting manaakitanga. Many helpers contributed their time, skills, and aroha, including those who prepared hāngī and provided kai for whānau across the week.

Tamanuiterā radiated across Te Tai o Poutini as we welcomed home more than 160 whānau, who travelled from across Aotearoa to be part of this milestone celebration. The weekend was filled with reconnection, kōrero tuku iho, and admiration for our beautiful whenua. For some, it marked a return home after many years; for others, it was their first time stepping onto their tūrangawaewae.

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Whānau were welcomed home through Ara Taki o te Aroha, a traditional mau rākau led pathway grounded in aroha and reconnection to whenua and whakapapa, followed by a whakatau to formally receive whānau onto the marae. This was a deeply significant moment for Kāti Māhaki, offering a way to reflect on the past and honour it again on the 21st anniversary of the marae's opening.

The kaupapa was shaped by the voices of whānau, who expressed a desire for connection and reconnection with the rohe. This guided the programme, leading whānau on a journey to the Makaawhio awa, alongside workshops exploring connections to whenua, whakapapa, rerenga wairua, and to one another.

Kōrero in the whareniui, visits to significant sites including the awa and old pā locations, and a celebration evening at Bruce Bay Hall brought generations together. The weekend concluded with shared mahi, reflections, and karakia whakamutunga.

Ngā mihi nui ki ngā ringa raupā katoa i tautoko i tēnei kaupapa nui.



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### **Marae Kaupapa – Reo Wānanga**

In December, Levi Robinson led a reo wānanga at the marae, bringing whānau together to strengthen te reo Māori through kōrero, shared learning, and immersion in a marae based environment.

The wānanga provided a supportive space for participants of all ages to build confidence, reconnect with reo in context, and engage with mātauranga tuku iho. Ngā mihi nui ki a Levi me te hunga tautoko i tēnei kaupapa reo.

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### **Protecting Our Taonga – Pounamu Recovery**

Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio worked closely with Police following the discovery of stolen pounamu in Dunedin, resulting in the seizure of 820kg of unlawfully obtained pounamu and the arrest of one individual.

This outcome reflects the importance of strong collaboration to protect pounamu as a taonga, not a commodity. We acknowledge the mahi of Police and all those involved in ensuring this taonga was recovered and safeguarded.

Makaawhio remains committed to upholding tikanga, supporting enforcement efforts, and protecting pounamu for future generations.

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### **Taiao and Conservation Kaupapa**

During December, whānau welcomed kiwi pukupuku chicks through a visit connected to ongoing conservation efforts in the region. This kaupapa highlights the continued collaboration between DOC and Makaawhio in protecting taonga species and supporting biodiversity across our rohe.



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### **Urupā Tekoteko – Papakēri**

Thirty five years after its original carving, the tekoteko at Papakēri Urupā has recently been tidied and cared for. This mahi ensures the taonga continues to stand with dignity and mana, reflecting our ongoing responsibility to care for places of significance and honour our tūpuna.



## Rangatahi Sport – Waka Te Tasman

Over the summer period, Takina Waka Ama Club proudly took 13 rangatahi to Kaiteriteri to compete in Waka Te Tasman, an exciting opportunity for many of our rangatahi to race on open water for the first time.

The trip was made possible through the support of Hayley Smith, Te Hono o Ngā Waka, Makaawhio, and whānau, whose awhi ensured our paddlers could travel, compete, and fully experience the event.

Our rangatahi achieved excellent results:

- Under 13 Novice Mixed Team — 1st place (5km)
- J16 Girls Team — 1st place (5km)
- Mixed Novice Team — 3rd place (10km)

Each paddler demonstrated determination, teamwork, and pride throughout the weekend.



## Ngā Mate | Ka Mate

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of two respected members of our whānau and community.

### Thelma Eggeling

We acknowledge the passing of Thelma Eggeling in her 79th year. Thelma was a much loved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunty, and friend, cherished by her whānau and all who knew her. She will be remembered for her warmth, generosity, and the care she showed to others throughout her life. Our thoughts and aroha are with her husband Roger, her whānau, and all those mourning her loss.

### Thomas Andrew Rochford

We also acknowledge the passing of our beloved kaumātua, Thomas Andrew Rochford, in his 96th year. One of the last kaumātua born and raised in South Westland, Thomas was a man of the land and a constant presence on the banks of the Jacobs (Makaawhio) River.

He will be remembered as a musician, gold miner, whitebaiter, farmer, horseman, and above all, as a devoted family man and respected elder within his hapū and community.

He rā whatiwhati kō kei muri,  
He moe mārie kei mua  
E taku piki kōtuku  
Kia tau, kia au, kia āio te moe

He manawa ora,  
He manawa tahi,  
He manawa toa ia, te Kīngi  
o te Whānau Rochford.



To the whānau pani of Thelma and Thomas, we extend our deepest condolences. May you be surrounded by care, strength, and aroha at this difficult time.

Ngā mihi maioha to all whānau, kaumātua, rangatahi, partners, and supporters who continue to give their time, energy, and aroha to the wellbeing of our marae, taonga, and takiwā.

# Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga

## Kaumātua Christmas Party

Our Ngāi Tūāhuriri Kaumātua had their annual Christmas party at the Papanui club. They shared kai, had many laughs and enjoyed the entertainment from the amazing Ukelele group. We would like to wish our beautiful Kaumātua a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.



## First Kaumātua Lunch of 2026

Our beautiful Taua and Poua of Ngāi Tūāhuriri organised their first kaumātua lunch of the year. Last Friday, they visited The Better Half Kitchen & Bar in Leithfield, where they enjoyed some yummy kai, great company, and plenty of laughs together.



## Te Kaha Visit 2025

Some of our Ngāi Tūāhuriri Kaumātua had the pleasure to do a tour around the new stadium at Te Kaha last year. They were amazed by the detail in the stadium and how it connects to our people of Ngāi Tūāhuriri. They look forward to when it opens in April 2026.



## Te Whānau Tirikatene Whakapapa Hui – 4 to 8 January 2026



*Standing: Amarlia Morehu, Hinemarie Bailey, Amanda Puha Tirikatene, Eruera Tirikatene, Ilona Tirikatene Groeneweg, Ria Brodie & Maria (mokos of Leah Flutey), Nukuroa Tirikatene Nash, Julie Anne (nee Treggerthen), Evie Davies, Tini Tirikatene Nash, Linkon Newson, Stuart Kneebone, Mataara Newson, Nikau Puha Tirikatene, Ryan Dcruz, Wiremu Puha Tirikatene, Maia Jay Solomon Tirikatene, Atahua Solomon Tirikatene, Brendan Hart, Lyriq Solimon Tirikatene, Creed Solomon Hart.*

*Seated (chairs): Maia Tirikatene, Diane Treggerthen, Gael Tirikatene Nash, Jack Newson, Tiri Bailey, Charles Bailey.*

*Seated: Carlia Love, Te Aariki McQuillan Puha Tirikatene, Hinatai Puha Tirikatene, Anika Tirikatene, Taikura Puha Tirikatene, Niklaus Solomon Tirikatene, Waitaha Puha Tirikatene, Teaniwa Nelson, Oka Te Uira Puha Tirikatene, Taleigha McQuillan.*

*Photographer: Heidi Tirikatene Nash.*



Tēnei te whānau Tirikatene e whakamihi ana i te nohotahi ki te poho o tō tātou hapū, ki te marae o Tuahiwi. Ko tō tātou wharenuī a Maahunui te Tuarua e tū nei hei whare manaaki i te whānau.

Descendants of Eruera Tihema Te Aika Tirikatene (Tregarthen) and Ruti Matekino Tirikatene (Solomon) gathered at Tuahiwi Marae. We remembered those who had passed, welcomed the new, and celebrated an 84th birthday.

We were privileged to be joined by our kaumātua Jack Newson, the Manahi siblings – Kahurangi (Cudlow) and Pilot – as well as Diane Tregarthen (wife of Arapata Tregarthen).



Kaiapoi Pā.

Right: A history lesson shared by cousins and a subsequent haerenga to Kaiapoi Pā. Our second haerenga took us to the ancient Te Kohanga/Kura Tawhiti/Castle Hill.



NEXT TIRIKATENE WHĀNAU HUI:  
EASTER 2028

# Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke

## Upcoming Events

### Kapa Haka at Rāpaki

Pūpuhi ana kā hau o te kāika, kia hokia ki tō mauka.

Kia purea ai koe e Hine Hauone, karaka mai ko kā mahi a Hine Rehia, a Tānerore.

Uhi, wero, tau mai te mauri.

Tēnā koutou katoa,  
Monthly Kapa Haka practices have officially begun at Rāpaki Marae. Our focus is on whanaungatanga, kaupapa marae and keeping the home fires burning. If you have not had a jam onstage in a while, now is your chance.

Here are some upcoming dates for Kapa Haka practices:

- Fri 6 to Sun 8 Mar, Noho at Rāpaki Marae

### 2026 Paepae Wānaka Dates

Carrying on from our 2025 paepae wānaka, we have a series of wānaka planned for early 2026. Please save the following dates. Details of the kaupapa for each wānaka will follow.

- 5 to 8pm  
Friday 17 April
- 5 to 8pm  
Friday 24 April
- 5pm Friday 16 May  
to 7pm Saturday  
17 May

## Hinemoana ki Whakaraupō

The waka hourua *Hinemoana* has returned to Whakaraupō moana to share the wisdom of celestial navigation and teach the skills of sailing to more people in Te Wai Pounamu. She is in the care of Flying Geese Trust with support from Te Toki Voyaging Trust, and will be a channel for Wayfinding programmes developed by Faumuina Felolini Maria Tafuna'i with Hoturoa Barclay Kerr.



*Hinemoana.*

## Recent Events

### Rāpaki Rangatahi Noho 2026

We had another successful noho with rangatahi aged 13 to 16 years participating in the annual Rāpaki Rangatahi Noho. A major focus is on connecting to whakapapa, whenua and everything in between. A massive mihi to our whānau and kaiawhina across the week.



*Rāpaki Rangatahi Noho 2026.*



*Waka Noho participants on Whakaraupō.*

### **Waka Noho**

A waka ama noho took place at Rāpaki at the end of January for time together in the marae and on the moana. Tamariki, pakeke, rangatahi and a kaumātua combined for an introduction to waka ama kaupapa with workshops, steering and paddling on Whakaraupō. Led by Tainui and Craig Pauling with support from Te Waka Pounamu Outrigger Club (especially Elisabeth Lalahi) and helped by good summer weather, the time was a mauri boost for all.

It is hoped this kaupapa will continue to grow as a pathway for the hau ora of the people and the affirmation of our connection to the moana. A new waka gear shed has been set up for hoe and life jackets thanks to Kahu Piripi and Herewini and Dave Banks. Acknowledgements to Sport Canterbury for the funding that enabled this event and to all involved. He waka eke noa.

### **Whānau Stories**

#### **He Pānui Whakamānawa – Harriet Couch (née Clouston)**

The extended whānau of the late Rev Moke Couch gathered at Rāpaki to honour the life of Harriet Couch (née Clouston). Mother of six and grandmother to many, Harriet raised her children in Rāpaki and Ōtautahi before the family later moved to the North Island for Moke’s ministry training with the Methodist Church.

Whānau travelled from around the motu, Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada to share whakapapa and view the taonga within the many family photo albums. Mariata Laffey (née Couch) shared memories of her sister in law

Harriet and the important role she played in preserving whānau whakapapa. A skilled typist, Harriet compiled the whakapapa of many whānau who entrusted their knowledge to her beloved mother in law Hinerua Riwai Couch.

The Couch whānau acknowledge pūtea received from the Ngāi Tahu Fund which helped make this special weekend possible.



*Moke and Harriet Couch whānau at Rāpaki.*

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### Evan Couch

When I came to Aotearoa from Canada, I had no idea what I would learn about my culture. I knew I was Ngāi Tahu and Ngāti Wheke, but I never knew what that meant. In the past two weeks I have been thrown into the deep end and my expectations have been blown through the roof. I am not exaggerating.

It started with Robert Tikao's tangi. I never met Robert nor anyone else at the tangi prior to it. By the end of it they truly felt like close friends and family. I have never felt the shift from deep grief to unconditional love, community and positivity so quickly. They were so proactive about welcoming me even though it was their tangi.



*Evan Couch with Puawai Hutana McDowell (left) and George Vedder (right).*

I volunteered at the Rangatahi Noho starting a day after the tangi. I contributed my part to the marae and learned so much. If you have a rangatahi or tamariki who has an opportunity to go to a noho, take it. They were not allowed to have phones which was major. They went from standard teenagers glued to Snapchat and TikTok, not talking to each other, to having an amazing community connection and appreciating Rāpaki and their background. It felt like one big family with the marae being the home.

I had the chance to be part of the waka ama noho as well. I have a paddling background which helped me pick it up quickly. It felt primal to paddle the waka knowing it was our ancestors' mode of transportation. Nobody held back from sharing their skills to help me and everyone else progress.

The common theme with all these wonderful experiences is the raw community and love everyone has for each other. People disagree, argue and have different opinions, which is human. But above that we are one big whānau who cares for one another and welcomes those who do not know much about our heritage but want to learn.

I am so grateful for everything I have experienced. Thank you to my Ngāi Tahu whānau for being so charitable and hospitable. So much love for all of you.

*Evan Couch*

## Te Taumutu Rūnanga



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### NZ Warriors Contract for Hemiata Tongia

Hemiata Tongia is a rising young rugby league talent from Aitutaki Togia (Ngati Moki, Ngati Hamoa) and Temetiu Togia (Ngati Hamoa). He is the taua of Annette Taefu and papa of Robert Taefu, and a descendant of the Marsh whānau.

A powerful and fast edge backrower, Hemiata signed a 3 year contract with the NZ Warriors in early 2026 after dominating youth tournaments with the Sydenham Swans and Canterbury Bulls. His talent shone on the national stage and earned him selection in the NZRL Under 16s Tournament Team of the Tournament in 2025.



*Hemiata Tongia.*

### **Kaumātua Christmas Lunch**

We wrapped up the 2025 year with a wonderful Kaumātua Christmas lunch alongside our cousins from Koukourarata, Wairewa and Rāpaki. The hall was full of good company and Kirihimete cheer, with everyone enjoying delicious kai, karaoke sing alongs and battling it out with Hanakoko's very competitive game of Bingo.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and a big mihi to Tania Nutira from Ngāi Tahu Archives, who helped source the beautiful photos we were able to share throughout the day. It is a privilege to create memories together.



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## Waka Ama NZ Nationals

The 2026 Waka Ama Sprint Nationals were held at Karāpiro at the end of January 2026, marking the biggest event in the competition's history.

With more than 4500 paddlers competing, this year's Nationals became not only the largest Waka Ama event but also one of the biggest sporting gatherings in Aotearoa.

Among the competitors was one of our Taumutu whānau members, Craig Pauling, representing Te Waka Pounamu Outrigger Canoe Club, based at Naval Point in Whakaraupō, Lyttelton. Craig shared how immensely proud he is of his team, his club and region. Once again they represented with strength and determination and made it onto the podium at the Waka Ama Nationals.



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## Taumutu Cooks

The Taumutu Cooks kaupapa, now in its second year, commenced at the end of January with an enjoyable gathering at Te Pā o Moki for a dozen keen cooks. For some, it was their first visit to Te Pā o Moki. For others, their first time in the wharekai of Moki. For a few, it was a welcome return to very familiar surroundings.

Karakia and whanaungatanga were followed by pūkenga tao kai Auntie Fi, who led us through her menu of fried bread, bacon hock soup and burnt butter steamed pudding. Much butter was sacrificed to each batch of bread as it cooled enough to touch, while the talents of each cook surfaced over three hours of great banter, delicious kai and enjoyable company.

We are grateful to Whaea Sally for her stewardship of our youngest cooks and for sharing the whakapapa of Te Pā o Moki and its evolution from a community hall into a multi functional marae.

The purpose of this kaupapa is to provide whānau with an opportunity to connect with the marae through a shared interest in manaakitanga and kai.



### Stay Connected

E pānuī is circulated bi monthly, and other important communications are sent to whānau via our whānau emailing list. If you would like to be added to the list, please email us at [Taumutu@ngaitahu.iwi.nz](mailto:Taumutu@ngaitahu.iwi.nz)

# Wairewa Rūnanga

## The 2026 Waka AWairewa TPR Submission – February 2026

Ngā mihi o te tau hou pākehā. We hope you were able to enjoy a restful festive break, spend time with whānau and ease gently into 2026.

We have hit the ground running this year, supporting and planning a range of kaupapa focused on connection, wellbeing and caring for our taiao. From mahinga kai and planting initiatives, to weaving wānanga, reconnection opportunities, hauora kaupapa and more in the works, our mahi continues to centre whānau and strengthen our connections to each other and our whenua.

If you are keen to get involved or stay up to date with what is happening, we encourage you to sign up to our monthly e pānui, *Te Pūkāea*, where we share updates, opportunities and pānui for whānau.

## Kaumātua Ora

A kaupapa that focuses on supporting the wellbeing, connection and mana of our kaumātua. Through social catch ups, outings and kaupapa designed with and for kaumātua, we aim to create spaces to connect, share kōrero and enjoy time together.

If you are a Wairewa kaumātua aged 60+, keep an eye out for upcoming activities shared in our monthly e pānui, or join our Kaumātua Facebook group to stay up to date.



Ngāi Tahu Archives visit.

## Pūtea Manaaki

We offer grants designed to support whānau wellbeing. These grants help whānau with areas such as education and kaumātua health, providing practical support to help reduce barriers and uplift whānau.

All information, including eligibility criteria and application forms, can be found in the Whānau Space on our website, or by emailing [Wairewa.grants@ngaitahu.iwi.nz](mailto:Wairewa.grants@ngaitahu.iwi.nz).

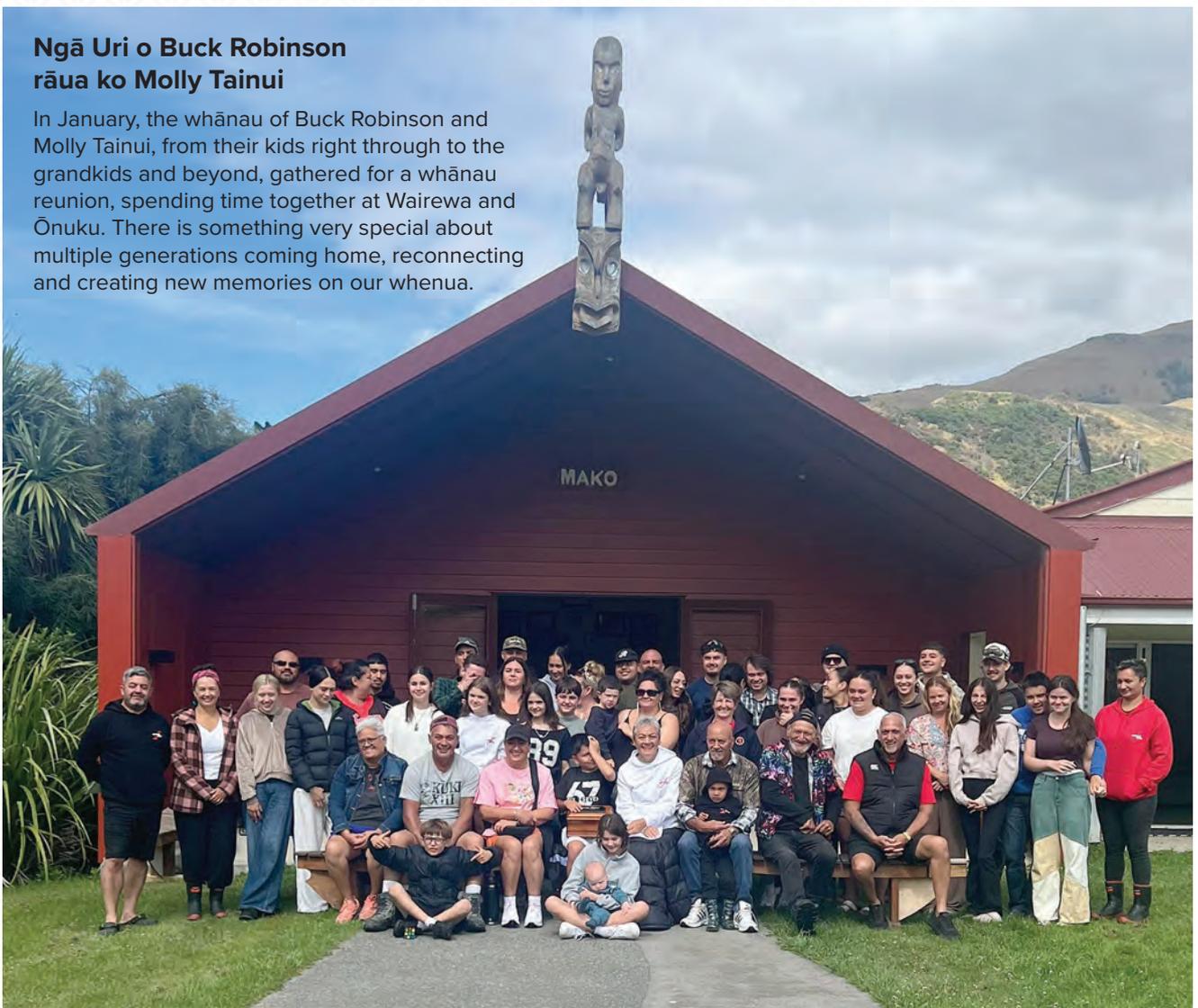


Fitness and massage at the tari.

Top: Pōua Gary Robinson at a planting session with Tautoru Mautai.

## Ngā Uri o Buck Robison rāua ko Molly Tainui

In January, the whānau of Buck Robison and Molly Tainui, from their kids right through to the grandkids and beyond, gathered for a whānau reunion, spending time together at Wairewa and Ōnuku. There is something very special about multiple generations coming home, reconnecting and creating new memories on our whenua.



### Whakapā Mai

0800 WAIREWA (924 7392)

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Email [Wairewa.comms@ngaitahu.iwi.nz](mailto:Wairewa.comms@ngaitahu.iwi.nz)  
to sign up to our monthly newsletter.

Like and follow us on Facebook to keep  
up-to-date with Wairewa:

[Facebook.com/Wairewa](https://www.facebook.com/Wairewa)



Scan the QR code to  
take you to the Wairewa  
FB page.

# Ōnuku Rūnanga

Te Ake – He Waka, he inoa he ara hou.  
 Beautiful morning at Wainui for the launch of  
 Akaroa Salmon’s new waka – Te Ake.  
 Mō tātou ā mō kā uri ā muri ake nei.



L-R: Kenny Brown, (to be advised), Bruce Rhodes, TeOne Tainui, Keela Atkinson Cranwell, Dominee Morgan, Rulon Nutira, Phil Mauger and Ana Gray.

## Anahera Watson-Comer

I would love to take a moment to acknowledge my daughter Anahera.



She received a distinction in Te Reo Māori for Year 10 – quite an accomplishment and she even surprised herself.

We haven't had an achievement like this before and I hope she keeps going.

Ngā mihi, Careesa

## Wyatt Wiremu Lesley Tainui

Born 29 November 2025.

Son of Josh Te Puhire Tainui and Kasey Bircham.  
 First moko of Donna Tainui. First mokomoko of Wiremu and Kyra Tainui.

Baby and parents all doing well.



Josh, Wiremu and Donna Tainui with Wyatt.

## Miriam Robinson

Congratulations to Miriam Robinson (Ōnuku and Wairewa) daughter of Nige and Liz Robinson, granddaughter of Buck and Molly Robinson and Gillian and Franz Kney. Miriam has been given the honour of Head Girl at Avonside Girls' High School for 2026.





### Robinson whānau reunion

Ngā uri o Mairehe Rahera Tainui rāua ko Buck Robinson. We stayed at both Wairewa and Ōnuku and had a great time filled with aroha, manaaki and lots of laughs.



### Te Mai Ruru

As proud grandparents, we are thrilled to see our moko take this exciting step by joining the Navy Cadets. We are looking forward to watching him grow through the opportunities ahead and hearing all about the skills, friendships, and future this journey will open up for him.  
*Right: Te Mai Ruru.*



# Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua

## Arowhenua Marae Fundraising Committee

We are excited to share our ongoing fundraising efforts following the success of our 2024 Haeranga. During that event, we had the privilege of taking 48 whānau members of all ages to Awarua, Waihopai and Rakiura. Building on that experience, we are now inspired to raise funds to take 36 whānau members on an incredible adventure to Te Anau, Milford and Doubtful Sound over three days at the end of 2026. Across the Generations #2.

In November 2025, we had the opportunity to participate in Hui a Tau held at Waihao with two stalls. One featured raffles, while the other offered delicious kai in retort pouches. While we are still in the process of selling all the raffle tickets, we are committed to making the draws happen. Therefore, both raffles will be drawn on Tuesday, 31 March, regardless of ticket sales. We appreciate your support in making these experiences possible for our whānau.

You can help us raise funds by purchasing tickets for either raffle:

- Crusaders, signed, framed 2022 Rugby Jersey, \$5.00 per ticket
- Half Kākahu by Nicole Solomon, \$10.00 per ticket

Below: 2022 Crusaders Rugby Jersey.



Felicity McMillan (on the right) and her daughter Irihapeti are actively engaged in selling raffle tickets at the Hui a Tau.



Payment can be made by emailing [pamelamanning@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pamelamanning@xtra.co.nz) or by calling 021 232 6791. In your email, please include the following information: the amount you are depositing, the raffle you are entering, the number of tickets you wish to purchase and your phone number. Once the funds have cleared, you will receive your raffle numbers for the jersey or a screenshot of the raffle ticket for the kākahu.

Bank details on next page, also a photograph of the Half Kākahu by Nicole Solomon.

Bank details are as follows:

ANZ

Arowhenua Marae Fundraising Committee

01 0815 0176031 01

Ref: Name/Initial

Particulars: Jersey or Kākahu

Look out for more fundraising events coming up in 2026.

27 June, Mid Winter Quiz and Auction Evening at the Marae  
Matariki Hāngī at the Marae, TBA

The Fundraising Committee sincerely thanks all whānau for your unwavering support of our kaupapa, which fuels our collective journey towards a brighter future.

*Below: By Nicole Solomon, inspired by Tupu ā Raki, the star associated with food from the skies (birds and berries). This new favourite, with the subtle iridescence and texture of the peacock feathers, lifts the design and reminiscence of the beautiful tūi.*



# Te Rūnanga o Waihao

Kia ora e te whānau,

Hui ā Tau 2025. Ma te kotahitanga e whai kaha ai tātau. In unity, we have strength.

Hui ā Tau 2025 was proudly hosted by Te Rūnanga o Waihao at Waihao Marae on 21–22 Whiringa ā Rangi 2025.



*Traffic management keeping an eye on events.*

Over two days of Hui ā Tau, we hosted over 600 whanaunga from across Te Waipounamu, Te Ika a Māui, Australia, England and the USA.

We were blessed with fine weather on Friday, for the formal pōhiri to TRONT, our Representatives and whānau. Saturday started off wet. Thankfully, out came the sun and the iwi came to tautoko. Tā Tipene O'Regan arrived on Saturday, and we were proud to host him and Kāi Tahu whānui.

Over 27 stalls were on site, showcasing our Kāi Tahu, Taonga, Raranga and Tā Moko artists, and Hauora, Taiao, Whakapapa and Whairawa.

We are very proud of the Working Komiti, TROW, Waihao Hapū, whānau and kaimahi, and TRONT kaimahi.



*Tuia i te muka tangata, e Moeraki, e Arowhenua, e Koukourarata. He taonga rongonui te aroha ki te tangata.*

Ka Pū te Ruha, Ka Hao te Rangatahi, when the old net is cast aside, the new net goes fishing. Te Hinaki Whakatipu Rangatahi Wānanga.

Waihao hosted our rangatahi, kaiako and whānau on 14 Kohitātea 2026.

*Top: Saturday in the marquee nui.*

*Above: Whare kai to capacity.*

*Left: Tā Tipene O'Regan, tēnā koe e te rangatira, e te matua, tō tātou whakawhirinakitanga. Taking time out to visit the rūnanga stalls.*

*Right: Pat Tipa, admiring ngā tuna.*



We were pleased to support this kaupapa led by Tiana Mihaere and Tiaki Coates with pakeke. This year's wānanga was based at Moeraki, with rangatahi from Waihao and Moeraki attending. The kaupapa helps to build self confidence, a sense of belonging and reconnecting rangatahi to whenua, whānau and our braided awatapu, Waitaki.

Before the pōhiri at Waihao, Tiana and Tiaki organised a visit to Puna Tarakao, where Ranger Pat Tipa provided kōrero about its cultural significance to Waihao. As an important mahinga kai, a carved pā and school of learning, Kura Matakitati, was still active in 1918.

Rangatahi learnt and saw firsthand how tuna are caught, the different species and migratory patterns. Because of Pat's mahinga kai knowledge and mātauranga Māori, what was a one hour wānanga extended to nearly three hours. Great mahi, Matua Pat.



*Te reka hoki o te kai.*

*Left: Our whaea, the Reverend Wendy Heath, blesses the kai for our manuhiri.*

## Whānau Hui at Waihao 2026 Dates and Kaupapa

Hui start at 10:30am and finish at 1pm for kai. We will send out e pānui reminders two weeks before each hui, with Teams links to attend online.

Month, Theme, Purpose:

- 19 April  
100 Year Vision: Discussion of rūnanga master plan. Marae Trustees annual report. Draft budget presented for whānau input.
- 21 June  
Local Plan: Marae Komiti annual report. Spatial plan for marae and wider area. Final budget approved with whānau endorsement.
- 15 August  
Implementation: How to implement the master and spatial plans. Taiao kaupapa annual report, including ranger programme.
- 18 October  
AGM: Annual report, elections, statutory reporting.
- 6 December  
Whānau Christmas Hui: Celebration, whānau engagement, optional hui if required.



*Birds eye view of Waihao Marae.*

# Te Rūnanga o Moeraki

## Aunty Pam Hey

Ka tuhi ki te raki he kanapu kai ruka  
Karue te whenua  
Karue te whenua me he tai tuki e  
He tohu o te mate  
He tohu o te mate  
Auē hā  
Auē hā  
Tērā te pōkēao kua tau ki ruka o Poutaiki  
Hukahuka ana te tai o Āraiteuru  
ki te pā o Moeraki  
Ko te tewe e muri nei te taki nei, te auē nei

At the beginning of 2026 Moeraki farewelled one of our taua of Moeraki, Aunty Pam Hey. A treasured mother and taua, she will be remembered for her deep love for her whānau. She held a special place in the hearts of many and will be dearly missed across our wider Moeraki whānau.



## Cultural Mapping Wānaka

In the latter half of last year TRoM held a mapping wānaka facilitated by Takerei Norton focused on mapping more traditional place names throughout the Moeraki takiwā and Peninsula, reviving names, stories and connections to our whenua that will be shared on Kā Huru Manu.

*Takerei Norton facilitating wānaka with Moeraki whānau.*



## Christmas at the Pā

Moeraki whānau came together for our annual Christmas at the Pā event, for a relaxing day of whanaungataka, to continue the development of our Te Reo Strategy and to eat kai superbly cooked for us by the team at the Moeraki Boulders Restaurant and Café.

*Right: Moeraki whānau gather in the whareniui at Moeraki Marae.*



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## Mōkihi Waiora Clinics

Te Hā o Maru Health is offering a free Mōkihi Waiora drop in clinic in Moeraki for all ages. The team combines Rokoā healing with nurse led care to provide health checks, screening, education, advocacy and navigation in a familiar, whānau centred setting. The kaimahi, Anjelica Matapo, Lavinia Moemate Reihana and Marianne Te Tau work together to support your hauora as close to home as possible.

All whānau are welcome. Clinics run from 10.00am to 3.30pm on the listed dates. The team look forward to walking alongside you on your waiora journey.

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## TRoM Office Staff Christmas Break Up

To conclude the 2025 calendar year, TRoM office staff attended lunch at Del Mar Restaurant where we reflected on the year that had been and celebrated the work achieved throughout the year. Following this, we went to visit the Waitaki Event Centre, currently under construction.



TRoM staff at Del Mar.

Below: TRoM staff at the Waitaki Event Centre.



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## Moeraki whānau lay a female orca to rest

Over the Christmas holidays we received news that a dead female orca off the coast of Ōamaru had been spotted. The orca was eventually brought to whānau in Moeraki for burial. Findings showed that the orca passed away from maternal mortality.





### Aunty Koa Mantell Celebrates Turning 80

Aunty Koa Mantell recently celebrated her 80th birthday with her closest friends and whānau, at Aunty Marcia's house in Christchurch. It has been reported that it was a terrific day to celebrate such an important Moeraki taua.



# Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki

## Tamariki Holiday Programme

Nā Nikki Crossan



In Hānuere 2026, Kāti Huirapa ran a three day Tamariki Holiday Programme at Puketeraki Marae. We were lucky to have our hapū from Western Australia, Te Ika a Māui, Tāmakimakaurau, Taranaki, Pōneke, Blenheim, Ōtautahi and locally.

Tamanuiterā didn't feature much for us on the Araiteuru, however our whakaaro were with the tākata in Te Ika a Māui facing flooding and landslips. This kept us grounded and, as you do in Te Tai Toka, put your kamupūtu on and carry on.

We swam in te awa o Waikouaiti and went eeling in the pō not far from Hikaroroa.



Brave tamariki taking on te awa o Waikouaiti.  
Photo credit Rachel Ruckstuhl.



Ricky holds the eel out for the tamariki, their faces lit with curiosity.

A visit to the new facility at the Warrington Lifesaving Surf Club where we learnt about beach safety at the new Warrington Surf Lifesaving Club, collected tuaki from Waiputai, went swimming in the East Otago High School pool whilst Rakinui continued to rain. We paid a visit to John Rangī Ellison Wharenuī whilst Puketapu looked upon us. We had a hīkoi around Huriawa and kōrero of Te Wera, Taoka and Kahukura, mahi whai (string kemu), waiata, haka and watched and participated with our taoka pūoro collection.



Tamariki practising with taoka pūoro.

the pahu in his mouth. We learnt of his whānau carved in the whakairo on the wharenuī. Even though Hikaroroa was hiding amongst the clouds, he appeared on the last day.

I hope our mokopuna can take with them the memory of their significant tohu. We may not remember names but remember, Hikaroroa is like a guardian looking upon you when you arrive in your takiwā. Remember the flow of the Waikouaiti and the Waiputai through your fingers and the feeling of standing on that puke where the urupā is amongst our tīpuna, feeling the wairua of our pepeha in front of you.

Huriawa Karamea – The clay from Huriawa  
Huirapa Kōkōwai – Preserves our ancestral house  
He kura huna ko karo – Will our knowledge be lost?  
Kāhore ia, kāhore ia – Never, never

We ate kiwi kai, smoked eel, tuaki, smoked hāpuka, rēwana, boil up with pork bones and all the other kiwi tucker favourites, spag bolognaise, venison sausages, crumbed chicken, chocolate self sauce pudding and a birthday keke big enough for Karitāne.

Through our time connecting with whānau, making memories and relationships, we explored our whakapapa. We visited our whare karakia, Hui Te Rakiora. We heard kōrero of the old days, our tīpuna in the urupā heard the laughter of their uri. We looked out to our pepeha, to Hikaroroa our ancestor from the Araiteuru waka, to the awa Waikouaiti flowing to Huriawa, Te Pā a Te Wera, out to Te Tai o Araiteuru, to our marae below, Puketeraki.

Tamariki learnt about Huirapa and



Smoked kai moana.

## Karitāne Māori Tours

Nā Amy Parata

Karitāne Māori Tours continued throughout the Christmas break. It was a joy to welcome whānau returning from afar, to reconnect over shared memories and to guide them through the places and stories that shape our community. Thank you to everyone who joined us. Your presence made the season special.

We also had a three generation farming family from Hungary join us. Although the language barrier was slightly tricky, they were taken by the beauty of our coastline and appreciated the way Māori are connected to their land, something they could recognise as farmers.

We are creating a self guided audio cycle tour of Karitāne. Follow a scenic route, listen to local stories and historical insights and learn about the people and places that shaped our rohe. The tour will be app based so you can listen as you ride. More details and the launch date will be announced shortly.



*Tau Pomare and Kane Holmes guiding the waka on te awa o Waikouaiti with visiting tamariki. Photo credit Jen Lucas.*

# Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou

Tēnā koutou katoa

Nei rā kā mihi o te wā nei, arā ko tēnei te wā e piri ai a Hineraumati ki tana makau a Tamanuiterā, nā reira, ko te tūmanako kua pai haere a koutou nei wā whakatā.

E aku rau rakatira nei rā ka kaupapa o te wā mai Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou.

## Edward Ellison Graduated with an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree at Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka

We wish to acknowledge and pay tribute to Edward Ellison for his many years of service and leadership, and for the significant contributions he has made to strengthening relationships between mana whenua and the University.



His mahi has helped advance meaningful iwi engagement and ensure Māori perspectives are embedded across key kaupapa.

Edward has played an important role in initiatives such as supporting early Māori pre graduation ceremonies, contributing to the development of the Treaty of Waitangi Komiti, and more recently the rebranding of Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka and the Mana to Mana agreement. We thank Edward for his dedication, humility and enduring commitment to kaupapa that benefit our people and future generations.

**Edward Ellison was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree at Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka on 6 December 2025.**

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## Tia Taiaroa Graduated with a Heke Reo Diploma from Te Wānanga o Raukawa, Ōtaki

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate Tia Taiaroa on the successful completion of her Heke Reo Diploma from Te Wānanga o Raukawa, Ōtaki. This is a significant milestone and reflects her commitment to te reo Māori and lifelong learning. Ka mau te wehi, we are so proud of you Tia Taiaroa.



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## Rakatahi ki Puketeraki Māurakau

Our last Te Whare Tu Taua Wānaka for the year was held at Puketeraki Marae. The kaupapa involved 45 ākoka over three days immersed in the school of Te Whare Tu Taua mau rākau. Ākoka got to learn local pūrakau, history and hīkoi around Huriawa Pā. Waka hourua and various other activities both on and off the marae.

Massive mihi to all ākoka and kaimahi involved, especially our Puketeraki whānau. Aha ko taku iti, he iti mata. Although maybe small, we are sharper than obsidian.



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## Ōtākou and Puketeraki Mokī Te Wera Cup Christmas Party

Our annual Mokī Te Wera Cup Christmas Party took off on 30 November 2025 and was a huge success, with around 90 whānau gathering at Te Rauone Beach to celebrate the year that was. The day was filled with laughter, friendly competition and great company, with games including flip cup, a shoot out and a crowd favourite, tug of war.

Ōtākou were lucky enough to bring the Mokī Te Wera Cup home this year, making the day even more special. We are already looking forward to doing it all again this year with our whanauka at Puketeraki.

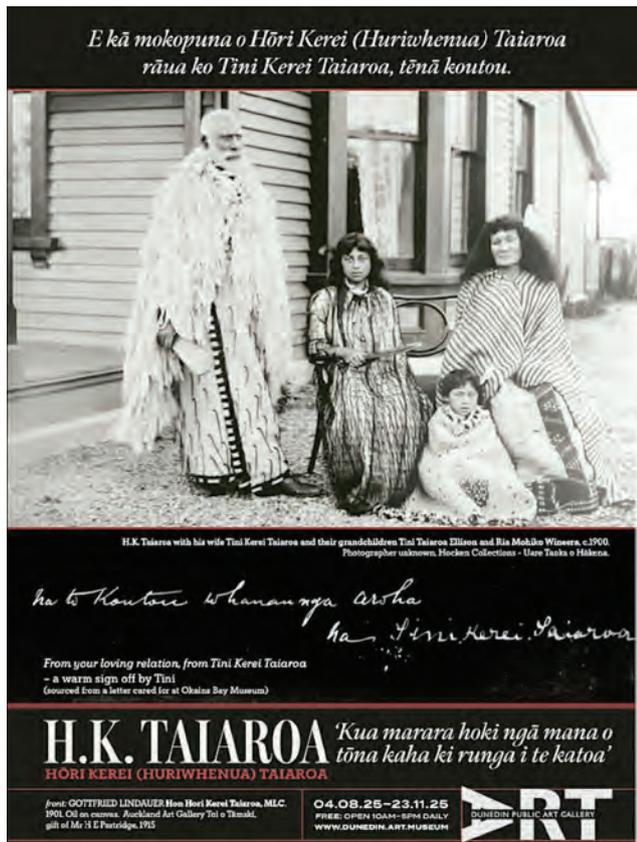


## H.K. Taiaoroa Exhibition Closing

This exhibition celebrates and explores the life and enduring legacy of Kāi Tahu raketira H.K. (Huriwhenua) Taiaoroa through kōrero, taoka tuku iho and contemporary art. Opening on 4 August, it marked 120 years since the passing of H.K. Taiaoroa. This whakaaturaka created a unique space for whānau and the wider community to learn about, reflect on and honour his life's work, and to consider how his vision and leadership continue to endure for the benefit of future generations.

Titled H.K. Taiaoroa: "Kua marara hoki ngā mana o tōna kaha ki runga i te katoa", the exhibition takes its name from a quote found in H.K. Taiaoroa's personal writings. The phrase can be interpreted as, "His authority and strength are dispersed to all." It was chosen as a powerful reminder that the mana and kaha of H.K. Taiaoroa's leadership continue to uplift and inspire, and that his influence is shared collectively among his people.

The exhibition was developed in collaboration with Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou and the Riki Te Mairaki Ellison Taiaoroa Whānau Trust. Its success was a testament to the dedication and care of Michelle Taiaoroa and Megan Pōtiki, alongside the many talented artists whose contributions brought the kaupapa to life.



Closing on 23 November at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery, the Hōri Kerei Taiaoroa Exhibition marked the end of its physical journey. However, H.K. Taiaoroa's vision, values and legacy continue to live on through his uri and iwi, guiding and strengthening generations to come.

## WAI Alpine Lakes Forum

Edward Ellison and Tumai Cassidy both delivered kōrero on the protection and future of our alpine lakes and freshwater systems at the WAI Alpine Lakes Forum. Tumai spoke on Recognising the Value of Freshwater: Weaving Knowledge Systems Together, including the significance of tuna as taoka and indicators of freshwater health.

Edward shared kōrero on mātauraka Māori and the need to reshape, rebuild, reintroduce and reincorporate its elements so it remains relevant and responsive in the world we are living in today. Together, their contributions reflected deep whakapapa connections to wai and our ongoing responsibility as kaitiaki for present and future generations.



Above: Tumai Cassidy.  
Photo credit WAI Wānaka  
(waiwanaka.nz /  
IG: @waiwanaka).  
Right: Edward Ellison.

Feel free to browse our Facebook page and our Ōtākou Rūnaka website. Information to register as a hapū member or to book the marae for functions can be done online. Bookings are subject to any health and safety restrictions in place at the time, including if a tangi becomes apparent which takes precedence.

<http://www.otakourunaka.co.nz/#home-image>

Email: [office@tro.org.nz](mailto:office@tro.org.nz)

Phone: 03 478 0352

Kā mihi o te wā o Raumati ki a koutou katoa.  
Nā, Kahana

# Hokonui Rūnanga

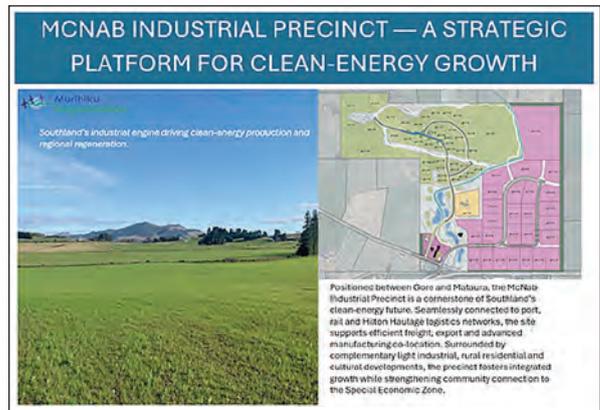
## Industrial Growth for Eastern Southland



It was a great start to the year, with the Regional Infrastructure Fund approving a \$3.1 million loan to support the development of a new industrial subdivision near Gore, helping to unlock much needed industrial land for the region. The project is being delivered through a partnership between Hokonui Rūnanga and Robertson Transport, reflecting a shared commitment to enabling sustainable regional growth.

This investment will support local employment, provide space for businesses to establish and expand, and strengthen the economic foundations of Eastern Southland.

By increasing the availability of serviced industrial land, the development helps remove a key barrier to growth and creates opportunities for long term economic resilience.



The project also delivers broader social benefits for the community, contributing to regional wellbeing and future focused infrastructure that supports both current and future generations. This milestone represents another strong step forward in building a resilient, thriving regional economy for Murihiku.



## Kapa Haka Hui – Hokonui Rūnanga

It was awesome to see such a great turnout at our recent kapa haka hui at Hokonui Rūnanga. Huge mihi to everyone who was able to join us, and to the whānau who came along to tautoko the kaupapa, your support is greatly appreciated.

The kōrero, the kai and the wairua were on point, and it was great to reconnect as a haka whānau. We are looking forward to our next noho in the coming month, where more of our kapa whānau will be able to join us.



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The Matura Māori Club was established many years ago through the vision of our kuia, kaumātua and whānau, who brought our people together through kapa haka.

We continue to acknowledge that foundation as we work towards carrying this kaupapa forward for future generations.

Kia kaha, kia manawanui, kia mau ki te aroha o te mahi tahi.



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## NZFSS Conference Update: Sharing Our Kaupapa Māori Led Kanakana Research



We had the opportunity to share an overview of our kanakana (piharau) research at the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society conference. Kanakana is a taonga species that has declined significantly across Aotearoa, and this kaupapa focuses on exploring ways to support its recovery.

Led by Taonga Research, Hokonui Rūnanga, this mahi brings together mātauranga Māori and science to develop tikanga led monitoring and care approaches. The kaupapa also draws on learnings from Indigenous led conservation initiatives overseas, adapted to the Murihiku context.

This work supports the protection and revitalisation of kanakana and contributes to wider freshwater restoration efforts grounded in Indigenous leadership and collaboration.



## KIA TŪ Programme – Celebrating Our Graduates

We recently celebrated the achievements of our most recent Kia Tū cohort. Thirteen students successfully completed their microcredential, marking an important step in finding life direction and building pathways toward future employment. Throughout the programme, taura engaged with a range of regional workplaces, including Naylor Love Construction, Invercargill Licensing Trust, Niagara, Mannaki Whitebait and Fonterra, alongside hands on learning at the SIT trades workshops.

We are incredibly proud of the confidence, growth and commitment shown by this group, including those who challenged themselves to speak at graduation. Some graduates are continuing their studies at SIT in 2026, while others are moving into employment across a range of industries.

Kia Tū will continue in 2026, with four cohorts scheduled across the year:

- 10 February to 2 April
- 21 April to 12 June
- 21 July to 11 September
- 13 October to 4 December

If you or someone you know would like to host a site visit, support the programme or take part in a future cohort, please get in touch.

Contact: Abby – [adminkiatu@hokonuirunanga.org.nz](mailto:adminkiatu@hokonuirunanga.org.nz)



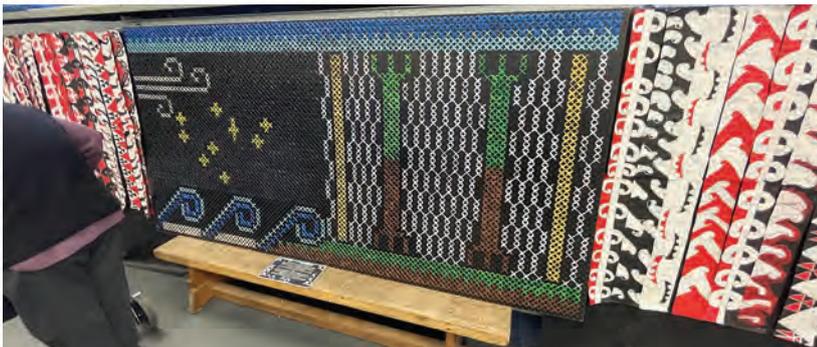
## Waihōpai Rūnaka

### Kaumātua Visit to Waverley Park Kura

Our kaumātua were invited along to see the Waverley Park School art show. It was a display of all the wonderful work they have completed throughout the year and featured a lot of artwork composed from the mahi they have learnt from Te Pōhā.



Above, below, right: Waverley Park School art show.



Our kaumātua enjoyed looking at all the different narratives displayed and we had a few tamariki talk them through their artwork. They then finished the trip with a lovely morning tea and some ātaahua waiata from the kura.



*Tamariki sharing their kōrero.*

*Waiata from the kura; top: Kaumātua enjoying the artwork.*

## Rūnaka Kirihimete

On 14 December, Waihōpai Rūnaka held its whānau Kirihimete. We had delicious kai and the tamariki enjoyed a waterslide, outdoor games and a bouncy castle. It was a great chance for all our whānau to come together and celebrate the end of another busy year.

*Right: Whānau Kirihimete celebrations.*



We then had Hana Kōkō visit and hand out presents to the tamariki, followed by a lollie scramble to finish off the celebrations. Thank you to all whānau who came along to celebrate.

### Kaumātua Kirihimete

Our last marae booking for the year was our Kaumātua Kirihimete. We had around 20 kaumātua come along to celebrate. They enjoyed a lovely cooked dinner followed by a secret santa. It was an amazing way to finish off the year.



Hana Kōkō handing out presents; Kirihimete whānau fun.



### Kaumātua Haereka

Our kaumātua went out on a haereka to Gore and Mandeville on Tuesday 2 December. Their first stop was Matura Marae where the whānau treated them to morning tea.



Visit to the Tupa ā nuku pou.



Kaumātua visiting Matura Marae.

They followed this up with a visit to the Tupa ā nuku pou in Mandeville and finished off the day at the RSA.

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## ILT Foundation / Hato Hone St John Invercargill

On 20 January, Hato Hone St John Invercargill proudly gifted Murihiku Marae a brand new defibrillator, strengthening the safety and wellbeing of our whānau and community.

Kā mihi nui ki te ILT Foundation for their generous funding and ongoing support in making this possible for our marae.

*Below: Hato Hone St John gifting a new defibrillator.*



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## Kaumātua Making Poi

Every Tuesday our kaumātua come together at Murihiku Marae, and on 18 November they participated in making poi. They then learnt poi actions and waiata with the support of Rūnaka and Active Southland kaimahi.

Look at their amazing mahi. Ka mau te wehi.



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## Murihiku Māori Tours

On 29 January, our Rūnaka whānau were invited to be the first guests of Murihiku Māori Tours, led by Keri Milne Ihimaera and David Ihimaera. They are showcasing Māori history and stories of Murihiku on their tours. We cannot wait for these tours to be opened up to the public.

*Below: First Murihiku Māori Tours experience.*



# Ōraka-Aparima Rūnaka

## He mihi nui ki a Riki Dallas

After more than 11 years of dedicated service, our Rūnaka General Manager Riki Dallas is heading into retirement.

Whānau celebrated with Riki at Takutai o te Titi in January, where he was presented a specially designed artwork by Marcus Thompson, who is not only a Rūnaka member but has a connection with the Dallas whānau.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Riki for his tireless mahi, his patience, his wisdom and the mana he has brought to our organisation.

We wish Riki all the very best for the next chapter, travelling and more time with Lorraine and whānau.



Rūnaka Chair Tracey Wright Tawha with Riki Dallas at his retirement afternoon tea.

## Kāhui Kaumātua Visit to Tūhura

Nā Shona Fordyce

A group of kāhui kaumātua had a fabulous outing on 26 November visiting Tūhura Otago Museum. We had booked a time with Gerard and Tāne, but Gerard was unwell so Rachel joined Tāne and they gave us a fantastic and educational afternoon.



They had taonga to show us from Aparima, Tihaka, Monkey Island, Pāhia,

Orepuki and Rarotoka. Both were a delight to work with and their care of the taonga was fantastic. Their knowledge was a treat for us.

They are happy to work with groups as long as you book a time with them. Then they do not waste time getting items out and ready for viewing. A history time for all.

We were all blown away with the range of treasures we were shown. I was pleased to have booked in advance as items were put on display and their knowledge was greatly appreciated. They do welcome whānau and both Tāne and Rachel were excellent.



From left, Shona Fordyce, Tāne Tamati, Rangimaria Suddaby, Stuart Ogilvie, Phil and Joan Fluerty.

Left: Kāhui kaumātua visiting Tūhura.

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## Cultural Materials Processing Wānanga

Whānau from Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka, Kaitiaki Rōpū ki Murihiku and Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) kaimahi gathered on 26 Whiringa ā Rangi at the DOC Invercargill Workshop for a wānanga to process cultural materials.

He mihi nui ki a Whaea Muriel Johnstone rāua ko te whānau Bull, who attended the wānanga and so generously shared their mātauranga with DOC kaimahi from across Murihiku. Several new staff members were also present and were eager to learn about the cultural use of our taonga species.



Their enthusiasm and energy supported those kaimahi who, understandably, felt mamae during the processing due to their long service with kākāpō and takahē recovery, many having spent years, even decades, caring for these critically endangered manu. For some, it was an emotional experience to see manu they had personally cared for being processed, including Hoki, a kākāpō hatched in 1992 and the first to be partially reared in captivity.

Throughout the day, DOC staff learned from whānau about the tikanga of processing materials for cultural use, the importance of giving these taonga a second life using their huruhuru in raranga and other toi Māori, and the enduring mana they continue to hold even in death.

Species worked with on the day included kākā, kiwi, kererū, kea, kākāpō, takahē, weka, ruru, tūi, koekoeā, kāhu, tīeke and pūkeko.

All materials processed during the wānanga will be added to the Cultural Materials Inventory for future raranga and kaupapa as determined by Kaitiaki Rōpū ki Murihiku.

If you have any pātai or would like to apply for cultural materials, please contact:

### Estelle Pera Leask

Tumu Kaupapa Atawhai

[estelle.pera-leask@tami.maori.nz](mailto:estelle.pera-leask@tami.maori.nz)



Shaye Barrett.



Muriel Johnstone.



Renee Bull.

---

## Corinne Wanders Graduation

Corinne recently graduated with a diploma in Te Reo Māori, having completed the Heke Poutuarongo Reo full immersion course at Te Wānanga o Raukawa. She is excited to be heading back for year two and her goal is to become a teacher. She appreciates support from her hapū and iwi, especially Karina Davis Marsden and kaumātua Shona Fordyce.

Right: Corinne Wanders with her husband Elliot (Ngāti Porou) and tamariki Ivah Karaka and Marli Jade Riri Wanders.



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## Christmas BBQ

It was great to see so many whānau at Takutai o te Titi for our annual Christmas BBQ.



Christmas celebrations at Takutai o te Titi; top right: Amanda Bull with Waipuna a rangi Whale; above: Riki and Lorraine Dallas.

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## Fiordland Research Adventure

As part of our involvement in the Fiordland Marine Carbon Sink Research Programme, two of our members, Colin Scobie and Mollie Spencer, had the opportunity to join a research trip into Fiordland. Below is an account of the trip from Colin:

You know it's going to be an interesting week when your "ride" to work is a boat across Lake Manapōuri and your colleagues include a team of keen Otago University scientists armed with mud grabs, boomers, and enough gadgets to make NASA blush.

### "Day 1 – Off to the Sounds"

Picked up in Te Anau, I joined eight university attendees and our fearless leader, Professor Chris Moy from Otago's Geology Department. After a quick bus trip to Manapōuri, we hopped aboard the midday RealNZ boat and cruised across to West Arm—home of the famous underground power station and the gateway to Doubtful Sound.



Colin Scobie with Professor Chris Moy, University of Otago.

The bus was relieved of its cargo of scientific gear and everything was hauled aboard the Otago University research vessel "Polaris II". By 7 pm we were nosing into Bligh Sound via a gentle 2–3 m swell out on the Tasman. Once inside the fiord, the water calmed, the scenery towered, and spirits rose. Dinner—lasagne—and bunks called us to bed around 11 pm.

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### “Day 2 – Mud, Sound Waves & Science”

Breakfast consisted of last night’s leftovers (no one complained), and then it was straight to work. The team prepared a multi-receiver system to collect sound waves from the “Boomer” device—imagine a polite underwater thunderclap every two seconds. At 4 knots we towed it from the head of Bligh Sound all the way back to the mouth, mapping the layers of sediment atop the ancient fiord bedrock.

Then came sea-floor sampling, ably run by Georgee. From 130 metres down, 30 grabs of seabed were collected—sand out near the mouth, turning to mud as we worked inland. The highly technical “two-finger test” allowed early classification: sand, sandy mud, muddy sand, mud, and the always exciting category of plant bits, broken shells and the odd polychaete worm.

After a long day, we packed up and headed for George Sound—rolling over a 3 m swell, but rewarded with calm waters by 9:30 pm. Chicken-and-rice wraps for dinner and everyone was horizontal shortly after.

### “Day 3 – Weather Turns to Custard”

Sheltered behind a small island in George Sound, we woke to the expected wind and rain—enough to cancel the day’s research plans. So we did what stranded scientists do best: laptops out, photos downloaded, weather apps refreshed every 10 minutes, books read, naps taken.

A burst of culinary creativity broke out. Apple-cinnamon something-or-other was produced, Georgee whipped up Lumsden Edmonds scones, and an early roast beef dinner rounded out the day.

A bonus delicacy: four fresh mussels growing on the rope we tied up to—my dessert before we broke out the birthday cake for Greer’s 42nd. The sound echoed with our slightly off-key singing.

### “Day 4 – Testing the Waters (Literally)”

Morning check-in: “Jack, how are you feeling?” Thankfully, the single mussel he’d eaten had caused no drama.

Winds eased but not enough for major sampling missions. We managed one mud sample, plus several water samples using the McLean sampler and the dinghy for a closer run near a waterfall. Meanwhile the CDT (Conductivity-Depth-Temperature) device got its moment to shine as we gathered more data.

With conditions improving, we cruised out of George Sound and into Caswell Sound. Here the mud grab plunged to 320 m, followed by a core sampler that dropped 413.6 m to collect a metre of ancient mud—future gold for university labs. Dinner: a delicious Indian feast.

### “Day 5 – Crabs, Profiles & Back to Doubtful”

A crisp, clear Fiordland morning greeted us—midges included. Another mud sample brought up a couple of lively crabs and plenty of shells. Then came the boomer run from the head of Caswell Sound out to the mouth. The 24-sensor system (processed later at Otago) revealed a striking profile of the fiord floor. Even the quick onboard calculation matched our depth sounder—always satisfying.

We rounded back to Doubtful Sound, where the CDT device stubbornly refused to fire its canisters, and tied up at Deep Cove for the night. A stroll with Bill Dickson past Helena Falls rounded out the day.

### “Day 6 – Homeward Bound”

A calm Thursday morning saw us packing for the 10 am bus over Wilmot Pass. Then a 50-minute RealNZ ferry trip returned us across Lake Manapōuri to civilisation—showers, phone signal, and the strange feeling of standing on land that doesn’t gently sway.



## Pānui

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### Puharakekenui MR892

**Puharakekenui MR892** property development plan submissions.

The Trustees are calling for submissions from beneficiaries of the trust.

**Submission close Sunday March 29th 2026**

- For further information on the plan please email [ben.teaika@yahoo.com](mailto:ben.teaika@yahoo.com)

# Taurahere Groups

## Ngāi Tahu ki Tauranga Moana

We had a lovely turnout of whānau for our Christmas lunch at the end of last year. We gathered at Pilot Bay at the Mount on a hot, muggy afternoon, perfect weather for the tamariki to cool off in the water. The area was busy with people, adding to the summer festive atmosphere. Everyone took the opportunity to catch up with those they had not seen in a while and to fill their tummies with delicious Christmas kai.



Whakawhanaungatanga at the beach. Derrin and Phil at the table, and Ross and Julie sitting, all enjoying lunch.



Standing left to right, Rerenoa Pini, Cherish Pini in front of their uncle Tuhikohirangi Pini, Felicity and Dean, Janine Walker, Simone, Derrin Richards (back), Moira Lomas, Glennis Pini, Kereru Pini (back), Ross Hemera, Julie Hemera, Phil Ozanne (back), Charmaine Pini, Tiana James Rawiri, with Losalina Ioane and Levon James Rawiri. Front row kneeling, Nicki James, Isla Bennett, Bayi James, Kylene James, Nichola Edwards.

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**Whai Rawa** NGĀI TAHU

# TE KOPA ORA

Ngāi Tahu Grants Portal

## Ngāi Tahu Fund

Registered Ngāi Tahu Whānau and organisations can apply for project funding that strengthens cultural capacity.

Applications are now open and close 31 March 2026.

## Mazgetta Scholarship

The Mazgetta Scholarship is here to help our Ngāi Tahu whānau and other Māori in their career development in the fishing and or seafood industry.

Applications are now open and close 1 April 2026

## Kā Pūtea Scholarship

For students enrolled in their second or subsequent year of NZQA-recognised tertiary study, or an approved international equivalent. The scholarships support higher learning and strengthen connections with Ngāi Tahutanga.

Applications are now open and close 1 April 2026

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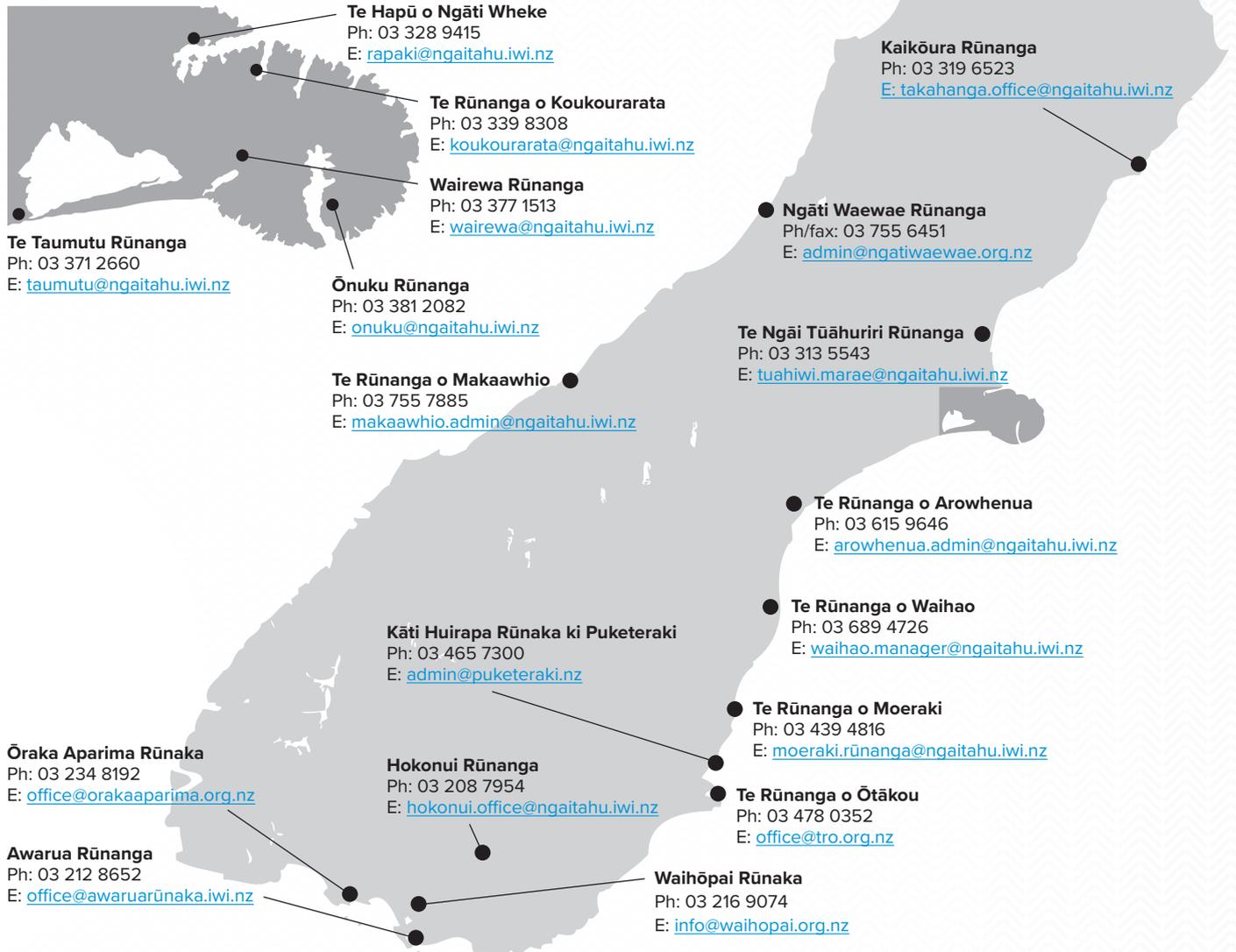
# Te Rūnanga o NGĀI TAHU

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**Ngāi Tahu ki Wairarapa**  
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# Whakaahua Tīpuna/Whānau

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*This photograph was taken at the Hui Rakatahi held at Arowhenua in 1998 and is from the Ngāi Tahu Archive – Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu collection. The only person identified so far is Kaharoa Manihera at the very back on the left.*

*If you can identify anyone in this image, please contact Robyn Walsh in the Ngāi Tahu Archives unit on 0800 Kāi Tahu (0800 524 8248), I would love to hear from you.*