

One year on from 'Gabrielle'

Iwi leaders share their thoughts

February 14 marked one year since Cyclone Gabrielle lashed Hawke's Bay with gale-force winds and heavy rain, causing rivers to burst their banks, flooding homes and communities and leaving a devastating impact on the region.

A National State of Emergency was declared and was not lifted until a month later. Many people were affected as their homes, land, property, animals and businesses were destroyed by the cyclone. It was a day many will not forget, even if they want to.

This month, people have gathered at marae, churches, council buildings, homes, workplaces, schools, halls, hospitals, parks, on social media and in quiet places to commemorate one year since Gabrielle's visit. Within this article are a few comments from iwi leaders a year on.

Hori Reti: Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū Taiwhenua chairman, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated Board member

My thoughts are first and foremost with the families of our community that lost loved ones, their homes, farms and lands in the cyclone. We have all been impacted in some way by the cyclone and to see the community spirit shine through was one of the stand-out memories.

There are many heroes within our communities, people who just got out there to save lives, who gave their time to help, from knocking on the door to do welfare checks, delivering food, fuel and water supplies, to those who got in with shovels and machines. It all helped and was very appreciated, we thank you.

As we move past one year, we have families still displaced, rebuilding or relocating in some situations. It's still a long road ahead for some whānau and I just want to say to you to keep your head up, keep striving forward with your plans and remember it's okay to talk about the difficult challenges you may be faced with.

"Too often we underestimate the



power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around" - Leo Buscaglia, American motivational speaker

Nigel How: Wairoa Taiwhenua chairman, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated Board member

Life goes on the best we can. My Cyclone Gabrielle anniversary was spent tending to community roles based at one of my jobs with Wairoa Museum rather than attending the poignant, uplifting and wairua-charged events that our amazing Wairoa Cyclone Recovery Team organised for that day. The positive feedback on those events was heart-warming to hear. That day I also listened to much feedback on what was yet to be done and how hard life remains for many.

After work at our museum, I headed home to check on Nanny 84, who now has dementia. Nanny 84 had a good day playing solitaire in her home in front of her television, being checked twice daily by her dedicated NGO-provided caregivers.

Nanny 84 couldn't remember if she had eaten tea by the time I arrived. She had, but I served another meal anyway and it was after her first bite she realised her puku was full... bless. Nanny 78, her cousin and next-door neighbour, was at a tangihanga in the Bay. Life goes on as best we can.

Anniversaries serve as a reminder of many things. The Cyclone Gabrielle anniversary provides the opportunity to take stock of what we as a community have been through, how we managed in the aftermath, the scale of extra work that recovery has created and what remains to be done.

Homes remain broken, bereft of their families. The flood protection plan promised to be out in community consultation by the end of last year is delayed, leaving many in limbo. Services including Aged Care and Disability Support disappeared and have not returned, creating further pressures for numerous whānau. Those people and entities who continually serve our community with dedication have met new challenges and eyewatering workloads, on top of already busy commitments. Many of us continue to work through the trauma created.

The Rev Zhane Tāhau Whelan and kaumātua Joseph Te Rito bless the awa after Cyclone Gabrielle.

The pressure on whānau, community groups and our numerous support services remains immense. In remembering this, we remember that as a community we are strong and have each other. We remember that those working hard behind the scenes have everyone's wellbeing as a driver. The first year was hard for all of us. This second one will be no different. What remains the same is that we do this together, in manaakitanga.

Bayden Barber: Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated Board chairman

This was the greatest weather disaster to hit our generation and probably our parents' generation too, yet we've been able to witness some great things that have developed out of this disaster as well. The coming together of hapū and marae, the coming together of other iwi who came in to support this kaupapa. The coming together of community, councils and government to find a path forward. There's clearly still a lot of work to be done, and already there's been major changes, but through all the pouritanga/sadness, from a year ago to now, we've seen great things occur. The key message a year on remains the same Kotahitanga, Unity - all of us need to keep coming together. The past year has been a challenge and there will be more challenges to come. We need to come together as a wider community - everyone, working together for our future generations. The important message is clear: We stand together as one people, work together as one, and unite as one.

The Rev Zhane Tāhau Whelan

May aroha and the love of our creator rest upon us all as we remember the extreme weather events of Cyclone Gabrielle which devastated our communities but also saw great hope as we came together as a whānau, hapū and iwi to rebuild and rejuvenate our communities. May this love continue to abound. Key message - Be patient and understanding, love one another. And don't be afraid to say to your friends, family, neighbours and perfect strangers: I love you!

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Iwi, rohe make tourney a success

Sport and haka shine at Māori Basketball Association tournament



Ruth Wong

Te ao Māori once again answered the call of Te Arawa waka and the Māori Basketball Association with 407 teams and more than 4000 players and whānau supporters participating in the Māori Basketball national tournament held at Rotorua between January 22 and 27.

The competition is a huge logistical operation with tamariki (under 7) through to rangatahi (under 15) competing during the first half of the week, followed by taohi (under 17) through to koeke (50+) during the second half.

A total of 28 iwi and rohe around the motu were represented and it was

Not only did our iwi perform well on stage but we performed well on the court with more than 15 medals awarded

great to see our tamariki out there having fun and competing hard.

Mid-week all iwi were invited to perform waiata and haka at the pō whakangahau. This year was the first

time that a trophy had been put up for the best overall performance. The array of iwi uniforms, with well-rehearsed waiata and haka, was impressive.

Ngāti Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Rākaipaaka, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Heretaunga, Ahuriri and Tāmaki-nui-ā-Rua came together, performing a vigorous version of Kotiro Māori E, followed by Rākaipaaka and Ngā Nuhaka E, then the Ngāti Kahungunu whānau performed Kahungunu Kia Eke and Te Reo Parikārangaranga. The boys ended with E Mohe E haka and the entire group of more than 200 stole the show with an impassioned Tika Tonu haka as the finale.

This show of kotahitanga among

Whakaahua 1 Mixed Masters final, Kahungunu ki Heretaunga v Rākaipaaka.

our iwi worked in the eyes of the judges with the inaugural trophy awarded to all of our iwi for our joint performance. Ka mau te wehi!

Not only did our iwi perform well on stage but we performed well on the court with more than 15 medals awarded to Kahungunu, Rākaipaaka and Rongomaiwahine teams, with Ngāti Rākaipaaka winning third overall at the tournament. Ka rawe!

A big mihi to the organisers of each of our iwi teams as it is a major commitment and effort to pull everything off, but we keep going back and look forward to doing it all again next year.

The kapahaka trophy is currently on display at the Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated office.



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Helping rangatahi reach full potential

Programme offers young people leadership training

Toi Matarua is a rangatahi/ youth programme to help enable rangatahi to navigate their future by becoming leaders within their communities. It was established in 2011 as a "by rangatahi, for rangatahi" performing arts group to help understand mental health and suicide prevention.

The programme has now transformed into an emerging rangatahi-led research organisation that specialises in health and wellbeing, social and justice issues pertaining to Māori.

The founder of the organisation is 30-year-old Charlizza Matehe, who started the programme as a young woman in her teens. Charlizza is a living product of the by-rangatahi, for-rangatahi concept.

"I started this programme when I realised the need to tautoko/support my peers who were experiencing social and justice issues," Charlizza said.

"The greatest blessing of being a part of this journey is being able to see rangatahi believe in themselves and make changes in their lives to reach their full potential.

"I am blessed to be a part of the rangatahi and I am so proud of their efforts and desire to take up the opportunities to train and upskill to become better leaders within their circles."

Toi Matarua offers leadership training to help youth learn ways to be great examples to each other.

One of the programmes organised by Toi Matarua is Tū Tārake, which refers to a star that shines brightest in the night sky. This name is fitting because the focus of the programme encourages rangatahi to step up, be brave, and shine bright by becoming leaders in their homes, kura and communities. The programme is delivered through wānanga on the marae and provides meaningful mentorship and exposure to other kaupapa across Aotearoa.

A great deal of time is spent in the community holding events.

"Our rangatahi leaders host events for the wider community like our annual Kia Au, Ko Au Matariki Sunrise Rave," Charlizza said.

"We have two streams of rangatahi



kaumātua houses, mow their lawns, clean their whare, and help with their māra kai/vege gardens. Kaumātua can call on the MokoBoys at any time for assistance. This is both rewarding for the kaumātua and the rangatahi.

"Communicating is important to us, which is why Toi Matarua has employed our expert rangatahi communications team known as Pakaru Pānui to lead all of our online community engagement. We manage

continue my photography journey by telling stories through my pictures and showcasing the unseen things happening in our community."

If you are a young person based in Hawke's Bay or have a young

Pakaru Pānui kaimahi and rangatahi leader Amaiah King.

person in your whānau who you think might like to get involved in Toi Matarua, contact us by visiting www.toimatarua.com or email us at pakaruapanui@toimatarua.co.nz Catch you next month.

Joseph Curtis is a Pakaru Pānui kaimahi and rangatahi leader.



Being a part of this kaupapa I have been able to upskill as a leader, learn about other indigenous cultures, travel and even debut as a journalist.

Joseph Curtis

our TikTok, Instagram and we have our own website where you can read more about Toi Matarua and what we do. We are also lucky enough to have this monthly spot in the Tihei Kahungunu so we will be keeping you up to date with local rangatahi news, events, discussions etc over the year.

Joseph Curtis is one of the Pakaru Pānui kaimahi and rangatahi leaders.

"Being a part of this kaupapa I have been able to upskill as a leader, learn about other indigenous cultures, travel and even debut as a journalist. One of my dreams is to become a journalist so I was connected with a Māori radio broadcaster who did a mentoring programme with me. This year I will be interviewing people in our community doing amazing things," Joseph said.

Amaiah King is a Pakaru Pānui kaimahi and rangatahi leader alongside Joseph.

"Through Toi Matarua I have learned to be more organised, and have gained more confidence and new skills. This kaupapa has brought me many new opportunities such as travelling abroad to learn about different cultures, and I have built a passion for photography, which is something I now look to do in the future. This year I would like to

employment, MokoBoys and Pakaru Pānui. This means some of our rangatahi get to have a taste of work life while still in school and also make some pūtea/money along the way.

"The MokoBoys go over to

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AUNTY'S GARDEN

Garden evokes a great feeling of peace

Hanui Lawrence

I'm very much in love with people... he tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

I enjoyed the Opera Festival production of Romeo and Juliet at the recent Art Deco weekend as well as the concert on Friday night at the Sound Shell in Napier. It was simply amazing to see so many people decked out in costume and enjoying the activities of all that was happening.

The Kahungunu Waitangi Day family celebrations held at the Mitre 10 SportsPark brought an atmosphere of unity and love, moving forward together as one people and one nation.

The disasters of Cyclone Gabrielle one year ago were at the forefront, with celebrations remembering this tragic event taking place in the communities of all those affected.

Whatever is ahead of us is unpredictable and there are



Lasagne with help from Aunty's garden.

- 2 bottles of pasta Sauce
- 1 bunch cavolo nero (kale) leaves
- Salt and pepper
- Oil
- Lasagne sheets
- 2 cups grated cheese

Method

White sauce: In a small saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Whisk in flour, salt and pepper until smooth. Gradually whisk in milk. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until thickened, 1-2 minutes.

Meat sauce: In oil cook mince, add onion, then add the pasta sauce and kamokamo pickle. Season with salt and pepper and any other flavourings of your choice and set aside – this is your meat sauce. Blanch the kale leaves and set aside. Make white sauce and set aside.

In an oven dish smear the bottom with meat sauce to stop the lasagne squares from sliding around, add a layer of lasagne squares then layer the meat sauce, then leaves, then white sauce and repeat, ending with white sauce topped with cheese and slices of tomato.

Bake at 180C for 30-40 minutes.

hardships all around, mostly out of our control, yet we must try to stay on a level path and enjoy what time we have left in this life.

If you have time to visit Aunty's Garden, there is a great feeling of peace where you can sit and contemplate and just chill out. Although I have run out of lettuce and nurturing these delights to hurry up and mature as each variety of plant is planted, I watch the growth patterns and it amazes me how they

are doing so splendidly. The fruit trees, plums, peaches, and apples are loaded and very sweet.

So whānau, kia kaha, kia kaha, kia kaha, and despite the hardships enjoy life to the fullest.

LASAGNE

- Ingredients**
- 500g Beef Mince
 - 3-4 onions
 - 1/2 jar of kamokamo pickle

BOOK LAUNCH

Ngāti Khungunu is pleased to announce the launching of Aunty Hanui Lawrence's book, The Kūmara Vine, which has been dedicated to her 11 grandchildren, nine of whom will be at the garden when this great occasion takes place. Book launch, Saturday, March 9, 11am, at Aunty's Garden, Waipatu, Hastings. Books will be available for sale on the day, please bring cash.

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- Ngāti Kahungunu - Independent and Self Determined
- Ngāti Kahungunu - Healthy, Thriving and Sustainable Environment
- Ngāti Kahungunu - Making our Mark

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“To enhance the mana and well-being of Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi”

How can we help our precious kaumātua?

Kaumātua are facing some hard challenges in the current economic environment, writes **Ruth Wong**.



There have been some decisions made that have affected our kaumātua (elders) and created challenges that are affecting their livelihood, their independence and their health.

The rise in rent, the closure of Flaxmere New World supermarket, the loss of a loved one, the heartbreak of a wayward moko (grandchild), the feeling of neglect because of hearing issues and feeling left out of discussions, being put into an old people's home without consent, being bullied in their own home by kids who just don't respect you and your space, a phobia of modern technology and not being able to

learn new things. Some also have to deal with memory loss and relying on others to take them everywhere, trying to share their thoughts, but being rushed and forgetting what they wanted to say, the new morning pain in their back, the sudden feeling of sadness for no reason, having a meal and realising you are full because you forgot you've already eaten - the list goes on.

These are but a few issues that our kaumātua are faced with. They are real challenges that our kaumātua need help with.

What our kaumātua need is a

happy smile, a helping hand, a listening ear, wrap-around services, patience and support, respect and understanding, encouragement and friendship, the ability to help and feel needed, an opportunity to serve others and a lot of love.

During Waitangi Day, our team held a breakfast for our kaumātua in our Wānanga space. It was nice, but on the day we watched kaumātua holding hands to walk over obstacles, clinging to each other so as not to trip over.

Some walked from the furthest car park because our communication with the parking wardens hadn't

The Waiohiki kaumātua at the Heretaunga Taiwhenua Kaumātua Ball 2023.

quite got through properly at that early hour. We learned a lot in hindsight and the next time we have a kaumātua breakfast, we'll be much better in our planning.

Life is full of learning experiences both for our kaumātua and everyone in the family. Our kaumātua are our precious taonga. Kaumātua need help to deal with their daily challenges. How will you help? How will you react? What will you do differently to show you care for our elderly friends?

Don't add to the list of challenges that our kaumātua experience, but rather, be a helpful, happy friend.

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Te Herenga Waka o Aotearoa

Affordable accommodation for those in need

Ruth Wong

In 2023 the Kahungunu Whai Kainga Whai Oranga (WKWO) Housing team was established to manage the Kahungunu housing project with the aim of accelerating papakāinga developments and providing affordable housing to members of the iwi who needed them most.

The WKWO Project kaiwhakahaere/manager, Steve Gordon, was welcomed into the tari on the eve of Cyclone Gabrielle, and since then the WKWO Housing team has focused on multiple housing projects including finding affordable temporary housing or cabins for cyclone-affected whānau.

While searching for the best options, the Kahungunu Housing team came across Central Build Limited, a Taupō-based business that offers affordable temporary housing.

Husband and wife, Mike and Katee, are the directors of Central Build Limited, a family-owned business that offers affordable housing, including self-contained relocatable homes or cabins, ideal for emergency housing, relief housing, temporary housing, or a granny flat for growing or large families.

They have ambitious aspirations, aimed to make a positive impact on the current housing crisis in New Zealand. Their primary focus is to create homes that provide a safe and warm environment - a place that homeowners can proudly call their own.

With over 25 years' experience in the building trade, Mike and Katee enjoy the design process and the best part is bringing their ideas to life



Business helps with housing

through construction, largely made possible by an awesome team of tradies by their side.

Mike comes from humble beginnings in a small village called Taharoa situated at the southern end of the Kawhia harbour and has a passion for fishing, diving and the outdoors. Katee spent her younger years enjoying freedom on a dry stock farm in Mapiu in the King Country. Based in Taupō, alongside a fast-growing business, they are proud to be raising four young children.

"Mike has some of the best quality, design, service and affordable cabins

across Te Ika a Māui," Steve said.

"One thing that has stuck out for me is Mike's commitment to the kaupapa and his passion to assist flood-affected communities in need.

"We are really pleased with the work that Mike and Katee have done for us so far. We have procured over 60 cabins from Mike since September 2023 and plan to continue to work with Central Build Limited in the future as we continue to fulfil the aspirations of our Kahungunu housing strategy," Chrissie Hape, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated chief executive, said.

I met Mike and Katee when they

Mike, Katee, Chrissie Hape (iwi chief executive), and Steve Gordon (iwi housing manager)

visited our iwi office in December 2023. As they walked through the office, our staff clapped with gratitude for what they have done to help us, help our people. It brought tears to their eyes seeing the impact they had made to the community.

At the recent Kahungunu Waitangi Day celebrations held at the Mitre 10 Regional Sports Park in Hawke's Bay, the Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi housing team was able to display one of the cabins from Central Build Limited. Although these cabins are sought after initially to support cyclone-affected communities, a lot of non-affected whānau indicated much interest in the concept of purchasing the smaller, more affordable homes to assist with their current housing changes as families grow in size and teenagers require their own space, or parents move into the smaller cabin to allow their larger families to use the house. These are options being investigated in this ever-changing world.

Housing continues to be an important priority for Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated. To keep up with the needs of whānau, a housing survey is being prepared for whānau input and will be sent out via the Kahungunu Facebook page and through the Kahungunu Panui ki te iwi email network. If you are interested in contributing to the housing survey, please contact our iwi office and log your interest with Waiora: Toll free 0800 524 864 ext 0 or look out for it on social media. The information gathered in the housing survey will contribute to the research needed to ensure we proceed in the best direction to fulfil the housing aspirations of our iwi.

i If you are interested in finding out more about Central Build Limited, contact Mike and Katee by email mike@centralbuildlimited.com or see their website www.centralbuildlimited.com



Flaxmere Christian Fellowship
220 Flaxmere Avenue, Hastings
Main Sunday Meeting - 10:00AM

The Flaxmere Christian Fellowship is a local Church which has been operating since 1980. Situated on Flaxmere Avenue it draws people from around the Hastings and Napier area. This Pentecostal Church was birthed out of the Charismatic renewal of the late 1970's.

The main meeting is every Sunday morning starting 10:00. A Bible College also operates on Sunday evenings for those serious about advancing their knowledge of the Bible. Different groups run during the weekend which cater to youth ad adults. Children's Sunday school

classes run on a fortnightly basis during the Main Sunday service.

The Fellowship aims at reaching people with the Good News of Jesus Christ and the transformational power that message brings. It is

involved with different programs in the community to help bring this to pass. The Flaxmere Christian Fellowship is also a strong advocate for the Jewish People's right to exist as an independent and sovereign state on their historical ancient land in Israel.

Feel free to come and try us out!

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Four teams earn spot at Te Matatini

Hundreds of performers take part in Kahungunu Kapa Haka Regional Competition

The Kahungunu Kapa Haka Regional Competition took place on Saturday February 24 at the Dannevirke A&P Showgrounds with about 500 amazing and dedicated Kapa Haka performers who gave it their best shot on stage.

A total of 13 teams entered the competition, allowing for up to four Kahungunu teams to qualify to perform at the world's largest Kapa Haka Event - Te Matatini 2025.

Besides the event being an awesome gathering for Kapa Haka lovers, this is the very first time that the regionals have been hosted by Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-ā-Rua.

Local iwi leader Hayden Hape was pleased to have Kahungunu on his doorstep. The last Regionals was hosted by Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and the next one will be hosted in 2026, by Kahungunu ki Tamatea in Central Hawke's Bay.

The teams need to compete at this regional level to qualify for the Te Matatini event. There are strict rules for every part of the performance and judges have the difficult job of concentrating on each performance to be absolutely prudent in their decision making.

It was a fantastic day for everyone who attended. More than 5000 people gathered to support their favourite teams and Manaaki the Kaupapa in general. The hosts did a fabulous job in providing great Manaaki to all those who attended.



Te Rerenga Kōtuku will be on show in 2025.

of acknowledgements to all those participants.

We congratulate all of the teams for their hard work and commitment to this kaupapa. As far as the iwi is concerned, everyone is a winner and should be very proud of themselves.

This is a huge achievement and we wish the winning teams all the very best as they practice and prepare for the 2025 Te Matatini event. Ka Mau te Wehi!

The winning teams going through to compete at Te Matatini 2025 are the following ranked teams:

1. Te Rangiura o Wairarapa
2. Te Rerenga Kōtuku
3. Te Kapa Haka o Kahungunu
4. Te Kapa Haka o Ngāti Ranginui

Te Rangiura o Wairarapa put on a stellar show.

From the time you arrive to the time you left, you felt a great feeling. After a long day which started with

karakia at 8am and ending with the prizegiving just over 12 hours later, we were pleased to hear the presentation



Te Taiwhenua o
HERETAUNGA



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TE POUTAMA TAUTOKO

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