

Tihei KAHUNGUNU

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi
INCORPORATED

Ahuriri home to waka

New facility honours our rich seagoing traditions

Ruth Wong

A newly completed pontoon is the first purpose-built facility in Aotearoa, designed specifically for waka hourua and now provides a permanent home for Te Matau a Māui, the 22m traditional voyaging waka proudly owned by Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated.

The waka is operated by the Ātea a Rangi Educational Trust, whose dedication to traditional navigation has inspired thousands of people throughout Aotearoa and beyond.

Many Kahungunu whānau may not realise that Te Matau a Māui is an iwi taonga belonging to all of Ngāti Kahungunu. While Ātea a Rangi has become synonymous with the waka through its education programmes and voyages, ownership remains with Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated. Together, the partnership has ensured the traditions of our ancestors continue to flourish while creating opportunities for future generations to learn the ancient art of whakaterere waka – navigating by the stars, winds, currents and ocean swells.

The blessing of Te Herenga Waka Hourua marks much more than the opening of a new marine facility. It creates a place where tamariki, rangatahi, whānau and visitors can gather to learn, connect and experience the mātauranga of our tūpuna. The pontoon also strengthens Ahuriri as a destination for traditional voyaging, welcoming waka hourua from throughout Aotearoa and the Pacific while celebrating the



The newly blessed pontoon in Ahuriri.

rich maritime heritage of Ngāti Kahungunu.

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated chairman Bayden Barber said the occasion is one the iwi can celebrate with pride.

"Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated is immensely proud of the work Piripi Smith and the team at Ātea a Rangi Educational Trust continue to lead. Their foresight, passion and commitment to advancing the art of whakaterere waka ensures our traditional navigation knowledge is not only preserved but continues to grow.

"Through wānanga, they have created a living learning environment where mātauranga is shared in the way our tūpuna intended, through experience, observation and practice. Every journey, every lesson and every person who steps aboard Te Matau a Māui helps keep this kaupapa alive for the generations who follow.

They have created a living learning environment where mātauranga is shared in the way our tūpuna intended.

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi's Bayden Barber

"As the owners of Te Matau a Māui, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated is honoured to see our iwi taonga being used in this way.

"The waka belongs to our people, and through the outstanding leadership of Ātea a Rangi, it continues to connect our whānau with the traditions, values and navigational excellence that have defined our ancestors for centuries."

Plans are already under way for the next stage of the development with the creation of a Wharewaka, expanding opportunities for edu-

cation, community events and cultural exchange.

It is a vision that will continue to strengthen Ahuriri as a centre for traditional voyaging and provide a place where the knowledge of our ancestors can continue to be shared.

For Ngāti Kahungunu, Te Matau a Māui represents much more than a waka.

It is a living symbol of who we are as a people – our resilience, our connection to Tangaroa, our mastery of the oceans and our commitment to passing on the knowledge of our tūpuna.

As Kahungunu, we can all stand proudly knowing that this remarkable waka belongs to our iwi, and through the dedication of Piripi Smith, Ātea a Rangi Educational Trust and the many supporters who continue to nurture this kaupapa, Te Matau a Māui will inspire many more generations to come.

Paddlers grow on exchange

Ruth Wong

Te Rau Oranga o Ngāti Kahungunu Waka Ama Club has returned home from an extraordinary cultural and sporting exchange to New Caledonia, where 18 Kahungunu rangatahi and six adults proudly represented Ngāti Kahungunu through waka ama, culture and whakawhanaungatanga.

Proudly supported by Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated, the 10-day haerenga marked the beginning of what organisers hope will become a regular exchange between Te Rau Oranga and the Mont-dore Sud Va'a Club, strengthening relationships across Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa.

The exchange was made possible through the Simutoga whānau, whose Wallis and Futuna heritage and long-standing connection with Te Rau Oranga opened the door to an experience that extended well beyond waka ama.

Throughout the journey, the group immersed themselves in the everyday lives of their hosts. Rangatahi stayed with local families, attended classes alongside students at Collège de Plum, harvested taro, prepared kai for an umu, participated in cultural ceremonies and performances, and gained a deeper understanding of the history, customs and identity of the people of New Caledonia.

The trip also included visits to the New Zealand Consulate, Parliament and local city council, paddling expeditions to nearby islands, participation in the Bastille Day lantern parade, and racing in the Ti'a Toa Regatta, where Te Rau Oranga competed across multiple waka divisions and celebrated

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"Tātou te Iwi o Ngāti Kahungunu,
kia awhina tia tātou katoa o te
Iwi o Ngāti Kahungunu"

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Food tastes so much better when it's been grown at home

Aunty's Garden has its own book

Aunty Hanui Lawrence

There are many people who are passionate about growing good organic food, whether for themselves or to sell at local farmers' markets, such as our weekly market at the Tōmoana Showgrounds.

For more than 20 years, Aunty's Garden has produced an abundance of fresh fruit and vegetables for the many people who have come to gather and enjoy its produce.

I recently attended an organic gardening hui in Rotorua and was amazed to see so many young people, from their 30s through to their 50s and beyond, participating, sharing, demonstrating, and teaching their passion for growing food this way.

Why not add another passion to your life? Grow your own organic food.

Good-tasting, fresh, healthy food is so much better than what can be purchased at the local supermarket.

I, too, am passionate about growing fresh food, especially kūmara. With the hot, dry weather we are expecting this coming summer, plant some! I propagate my own kūmara and will have some tips available for anyone who would like to grow these beauties.

In my book, *The Kūmara*



Vine, I share a little of my history of growing food, stories of my family, anecdotes from people I have worked with, my travels to various hui, garden collections, and a selection of recipes to enjoy.

It took quite a while to put the book together, with lots of encouragement from Tahuri Whenua, the garden collective that I belong to. With their support, I was able to write the book and eventually have it printed by the printery at Massey University. It also

includes guidelines from some of the workshops that have been held at Aunty's Garden, along with photographs of the māra.

If you would like to purchase a copy of the book, you can do so by emailing TahuriWhenua@gmail.com.

Being passionate is something we can all relate to. Whatever it is that we love to do, we do it with enthusiasm, commitment and joy. Those are the things that make life rewarding and worth sharing

Aunty Hanui Lawrence's book *The Kūmara Vine* celebrates organic gardening, whānau stories and the rewards of growing your own kai.

with others.

Many people, young and old, married or single, regularly attend the gym to keep fit and exercise on rowing machines and other equipment.

Why not add another passion to your life? Grow your own organic food. The exercise you get in the garden is just an added bonus, and the rewards are magnificent. There is nothing quite like the joy of harvesting food you've grown with your own hands.

Waka ama become a tool to connect common cultures

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two overall placings.

Club organisers Julie and JT Tangaere have been part of waka ama for more than 15 years, and said the exchange was about far more than racing.

"Waka ama was the reason we travelled, but the real purpose was to create an opportunity for our rangatahi to experience another culture, build relationships and recognise that, although we come from different islands, we share many of the same values around whānau, respect, service and identity," they said.

"Watching our young people step confidently into another community, embrace new experiences and proudly represent Kahungunu was incredibly rewarding. They

came home with a greater appreciation of who they are, where they come from, and the importance of carrying themselves with humility wherever they go."

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated is proud to support opportunities that strengthen the confidence, leadership and cultural identity of our rangatahi. Experiences like this reinforce the importance of whakawhānauanga and remind our young people that our connections extend far beyond Aotearoa, reaching across the Pacific to communities who share similar histories, values and aspirations.

Julie and JT said none of the journey would have been possible without the commitment of the club community.

"This haerenga belonged to everyone. Our parents,



whānau, volunteers and supporters worked tirelessly to help get our rangatahi there. We are incredibly grateful to

our sponsors, Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated and Premier Autos Ltd, for believing in our

Carrying the mana of Kahungunu across the Pacific, Te Rau Oranga o Ngāti Kahungunu Waka Ama Club represented Aotearoa with pride during a cultural exchange and regatta in New Caledonia.

vision and investing in our young people."

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated congratulates Te Rau Oranga o Ngāti Kahungunu Waka Ama Club on creating an opportunity that celebrates waka ama and the enduring connections between the peoples of Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa.

Through experiences like these, our rangatahi continue to carry the mana of Kahungunu with pride.



Kahungunu Talent Shines in Get Your Leg Over

As Whakaata Māori's Get Your Leg Over reaches its halfway point, Ngāti Kahungunu is celebrating the strong representation of Kahungunu personalities embracing the challenge of working with hōiho.

The series follows well-known Māori as they step outside their comfort zones to

learn horsemanship, highlighting trust, resilience and connection. Viewers have already enjoyed episodes featuring Pairama Wright and Māhinarangi Lawrence, with rugby brothers Shiray and Gillies Kākā appearing this week. Still to come are Rezin Barber and kapa haka leader Pere Wihongi.

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated Chairman Bayden Barber says hōiho have long been woven into Kahungunu identity. "Our people have always had a special relationship with hōiho. This series reflects that beautifully while encouraging a new generation to reconnect with an important part of our culture."

Get Your Leg Over screens Wednesdays at 7.00pm on Whakaata Māori and streams anytime on MĀORI+.

Te Ara Toiroa: choosing our pathways

Iwi making decisions that work for us all

Ruth Wong

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated's Health and Wellbeing Unit, Te Ara Toiora, continues to grow as a powerful force for positive change, leading a new way of working that puts whānau, hapū and iwi at the centre of decision-making.

Over the past year, the team has made significant progress in strengthening strategic partnerships, developing iwi-led commissioning, advancing justice and family harm initiatives, and building the systems needed to ensure Kahungunu communities can shape solutions that work for them.

Director of Te Ara Toiora, Melissa White, said the work is about creating lasting change that reflects the aspirations of Ngāti Kahungunu.

"For too long, decisions about our people have often been made from outside our communities. Te Ara Toiora is helping shift that thinking by building systems where iwi have a greater voice in how services are designed, invested in and delivered.

"Ultimately, we want decisions to be made closer to our whānau because our communities know what works

best for our people."

At the heart of this transformation is Te Ara Matua, the framework guiding Ngāti Kahungunu's journey towards iwi-led commissioning. The programme focuses on strengthening local leadership, supporting providers, refining governance, and ensuring investment decisions are driven by outcomes for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau, rather than simply meeting contractual obligations.

The unit has also continued to strengthen relationships with government agencies including Oranga Tamariki, the Ministry of Justice and Ara Poutama Aotearoa, ensuring Ngāti Kahungunu remains at the table, to influence future investment, policy and system design.

Across the rohe, Te Ara Toiora is also leading practical initiatives that directly support whānau. These include extending Te Kura, developing the enhanced Multi-Agency Response System to improve coordinated responses for whānau experiencing family harm, progressing Te Ao Mārama within the justice system, expanding Whakamāui Tangata - Whānau as First Responders, and supporting E Tū Whānau initiatives that strengthen community leadership and violence prevention.



White said every programme shares the vision of Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated, to enhance the mana and wellbeing of Ngāti Kahungunu.

"Whether we're working in

family wellbeing, justice, prevention or strategic partnerships, the focus is always the same – strengthening our whānau. We know better outcomes happen when services are connected.

Te Kura kaimahi Nicosia Webster and Patrick Hape work through multi-agency response protocols, ensuring a coordinated and effective approach to supporting whānau.

culturally grounded and designed with our communities rather than for them."

Alongside programme delivery, Te Ara Toiora has invested heavily in workforce development, privacy, governance, data management and organisational capability to prepare Ngāti Kahungunu for its future role as an iwi-led commissioning agency. This work ensures the organisation is well placed to take on greater responsibility for investment planning, accountability and system leadership.

"We're building the foundations now so future generations inherit systems that reflect Kahungunu values, empower our communities and deliver better outcomes for our tamariki, rangatahi and whānau. That's the legacy Te Ara Toiora is working towards every day."

As Te Ara Toiora continues to evolve, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated remains committed to creating sustainable, iwi-led solutions that place whānau aspirations, kaupapa Māori values and local leadership at the heart of every decision.

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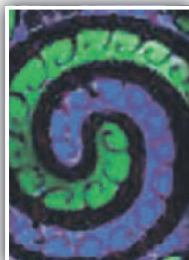
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Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi
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Ngāti Kahungunu extends its
heartfelt thanks to Te
Taiwhenua o Heretaunga for
delivering an outstanding
Kaumātua Ball. It was
wonderful to see kāumātua
from throughout the
Kahungunu rohe gathered
together.
Mauri Ora! Tihei Kahungunu!



Te Taiwhenua o
HERETAUNGA



Ono

Hawke's Bay Today

TIHEI KAHUNGUNU

Wai – and what is around it – is fundamental

We are guardians of our natural resources

Ruth Wong

When our tipuna spoke of wai, they weren't simply talking about water. They were speaking about life itself. Every stream, aquifer, spring and river carries the mauri of our whenua and the wellbeing of our people. Today, that responsibility continues through the work of Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated's Taiao Directorate, who advocate for the protection of our natural environment.

One of the biggest environmental issues facing our rohe is the management of the Heretaunga Plains Aquifer. Recent groundwater analysis has revealed that water use across the TANK catchment has fallen significantly since 2020. Historical groundwater pumping ranged between 72 and 91 million cubic metres each year, while recent annual use has reduced to between 37 and 58 million cubic metres. The findings suggest a com-

bination of changing weather patterns, stronger water management policies, improved metering and consent conditions are all contributing to reduced groundwater use.

These findings are particularly important because they support long-held concerns raised by Ngāti Kahungunu during Environment Court proceedings that the Heretaunga aquifer has been over-allocated.

Improved metering data now aligns more closely with evidence previously presented by NKII, strengthening calls for decisions to be based on accurate scientific data. While progress has been made through mediation, the question of over-allocation remains unresolved and continues to be a priority.

But water is only one part of the bigger picture.

Across the rohe, the Taiao team continues to advocate for stronger environmental protections. Recent submissions have opposed weakening conservation laws,



called for greater recognition of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and argued that the protection of the mauri of te taiao must remain at the centre of environmental decision-making. They have also challenged changes to fisheries legislation, promoted higher wastewater treatment standards to better protect mahinga kai, and continued advocating for healthier rivers, oceans and coastal environments.

Closer to home, whānau are also being invited to become active kaitiaki. Monitoring wānanga are being held with hapū at Mangaroa and

Ngaio and Shade at Puapua Te Matau a Maui, Cape Kidnappers where they were doing alkalinity sampling for acidification research.

Korongata as part of the Paritū Karewarewa Taiao Hub, helping communities collect environmental data and better understand the health of their waterways. Research is also under way into river management, groundwater resilience, marine ecosystems and customary fisheries to ensure mātauranga Māori and western science work alongside one another.

For whānau, these issues might seem technical, but they affect us every day. The quality of our drinking water, the health of our awa, our ability to gather kaimoana, and the

future of our farming and food production all depend on how well we care for our natural resources.

Kaitiakitanga is not just the responsibility of scientists, councils or iwi leaders. It belongs to all of us. By staying informed, supporting restoration projects, participating in environmental initiatives, and understanding challenges facing our waterways, every whānau member has a role to play.

When we protect our wai, we are protecting our whakapapa, mokopuna, and the future of Ngāti Kahungunu.



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 and 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!

Flaxmere Christian Fellowship - 220 Flaxmere Avenue, Hastings

Main Sunday Meeting 10.00am - Phone 06 879 5588

Email: flaxmerechristianfellowship@hotmail.com Web: www.flaxmerechristianfellowship.com



Pictured at the Civic Youth Awards, guest speaker Te Kahukura Boynton, also known as Māori Millionaire (right) pictured with award recipient Tamia Ngawhika.

Matariki Ball puts rangatahi at heart of the celebration

Event made sure all were included and connected

Tamia Ngawhika, aged 17

On Friday, June 26, Toi Matarua hosted its second annual Tū Tārake Matariki Ball at The Old Church in Napier, bringing together rangatahi, kaumātua and the wider community for an evening of celebration, connection and recognition.

The ball was created to give rangatahi a chance to celebrate Matariki alongside their kaumātua and community. With the increasing cost of attending school balls, the event also provided many rangatahi with their very first formal experience.

The evening was completely rangatahi-led. Guests were welcomed by performances from two talented young wāhine, while the Pakaru Pānui team kept the energy high as MCs throughout the night. Tū Tārake also performed a contemporary haka, inspired by Hiwa-i-te-rangi, the wishing star of the Matariki star cluster.

One of the night's highlights was hearing from guest

speaker Te Kahukura Boynton, also known as Māori Millionaire. For many rangatahi, hearing from someone close to their own age, who grew up in the same region and has gone on to become one of Aotearoa's leading speakers, an author and entrepreneur, made her message even more powerful. Her story showed rangatahi that success is possible while staying grounded in who they are and where they come from.

This year's ball was also held in partnership with Te Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui ā Orotū, who launched the inaugural Ahuriri Rangatahi Civic Awards.

The awards were created to recognise the incredible contributions rangatahi are already making across the community. From leadership and service to creating positive change, the awards celebrated young people whose hard mahi often happens behind the scenes.

Seeing rangatahi recognised in front of their whānau, peers and community was

inspiring for the next generation.

The award recipients of each category were:

- Te Aumangea (Resilience) – Te Koha Burton, aged 16
- Manaakitanga Mai (Service) – Tamia Ngawhika, 17
- Kāhui Kaumātua (Whakapono & Aroha) – Cypris Brown-Te Ngahue, 16
- Te Manu Taiko (Unity) – Gracyn Moana-Poi, 16
- Te Reo Kia Rere (Mana Reo) – Paul Watson, 23

Following the awards, guests enjoyed a delicious kai before spending the rest of the evening connecting across generations. Rangatahi and kaumātua shared stories, conversations and mātauranga, creating a space where relationships could grow naturally and everyone felt a sense of belonging. The evening finished on the dance floor with DJ Reg, bringing everyone together to celebrate.

With a successful year complete, there is already excitement about how the Tū Tārake Matariki Ball will continue to grow in the years ahead.

Departing health leader brought her values to role

When Irihāpeti Mahuika arrived in Hawke's Bay, she brought with her a deep commitment to whānau wellbeing, health equity, and values-based leadership. As the first Māori woman to lead Health Hawke's Bay, the region's Primary Health Organisation, she quickly became a respected and influential voice within the primary health sector.

Originally from Waitaha, Canterbury, and of Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māhaki ki Te Tai Poutini and Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō descent, Irihāpeti stepped into the chief executive role during a period of significant change for primary healthcare. Drawing on her extensive experience as Pegasus Health's Director of Hauora Māori and Equity, she brought a strong focus on improving health outcomes for whānau and reducing inequities across the system.

What set Irihāpeti apart was her ability to turn organisational values into everyday action. Under her leadership, Health Hawke's Bay's values of Whakamana, Aroha, Kotahitanga and Auaha were more than words. They became visible in the way relationships were built, decisions were made, and communities were engaged. She fostered collaboration, encouraged innovation, and ensured com-



Irihāpeti Mahuika

What set Irihāpeti apart was her ability to turn organisational values into everyday action.

passion remained at the heart of the organisation's work.

A passionate advocate for hauora Māori, Irihāpeti consistently championed approaches that placed whānau at the centre of

healthcare. She believed strong relationships and genuine partnership were essential to achieving better health outcomes and worked tirelessly to strengthen connections across primary care, community organisations, and Māori health providers. Her authentic leadership style earned the respect of colleagues and stakeholders.

Irihāpeti's appointment represented an important milestone for Māori leadership in primary healthcare. She demonstrated that culturally grounded leadership belongs at every decision-making table, paving the way for future generations of Māori health leaders. Her influence extended well beyond Hawke's Bay, contributing to national conversations around equity, kaupapa Māori approaches, and the future of primary care.

As Irihāpeti returns home to Canterbury to be closer to whānau, Hawke's Bay farewells more than a chief executive. It farewells a leader who led with humility, courage and heart. Her legacy will be seen in the stronger relationships she built, the people she inspired, and the values she embodied. Irihāpeti Mahuika is a leader who not only broke new ground but inspired others to follow.

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi INCORPORATED

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