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Year ends with good progress

Voices of kaumātua, rangatahi, and whānau have guided priorities

> **Bayden Barber,** Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated

ngā tukemata o Kahungunu tēnei ka mihi atu ki a koutou huri noa i te motu.

Ka whakaarohia tonutia ko ō tātou mate huhua o te wiki, o te marama, o te tau, rātou te hunga kua riro ki Paerau, haere atu rā.

Tātou te hunga kua mahue mai ki muri tēnā tātou katoa.

We closed out a busy year with our Annual General Meeting and Iwi Day at Splash Planet on November 22.

Over 3000 whānau joined us on a beautiful, sunny day, the perfect setting for a whānau celebration.

At the AGM, we reflected on the year's achievements and shared our Kahungunu 2050 Strategy, built on five pou:

- Education Excellence
- Whānau WellbeingTaiao and Climate
- Resilience
- Cultural Strength
- Economic Independence This year has been one of resilience, unity, and progress for Ngāti Kahungunu.

We honoured those who have passed, welcomed new board members through our triennial elections, and acknowledged the service of those who stepped down.

Despite national challenges and legislative pressures, our iwi remained steadfast — strengthening governance, reaffirming our values, and ensuring accountability and transparency.

The voices of kaumātua, rangatahi, and whānau have



guided our priorities, placing wellbeing, cultural revitalisation, and collective strength at the heart of our journey.

We look forward to continuing the shift from Kāwanatanga to Rangatiratanga, demonstrated at the Kahungunu Health Authority Wānanga on 20 November and the Ōhanga ki te Ao Economic Summit led by Kuīni, Ngā wai hono i te Pō.

The mahi ahead is vast, but we cannot be deterred.

It is an exciting time to be

It is an exciting time to be Māori and Ngāti Kahungunulet's keep pressing forward!

Major achievements in housing, education, economic development, environmental Board members, Cordry Huata, Brian Ruawai-Hamilton and Anthony Tipene-

Mātua.

kaitiakitanga, and cultural initiatives reflect our commitment to whānau wellbeing and intergenerational prosperity. Strong financial performance and prudent investments allow us to reinvest in social and cultural outcomes.

The establishment of the Kahungunu Health Authority



Bayden Barber is chairman o Ngati Kahungunu Iwi.

It is an exciting time to be Māori and Ngāti
Kahungunu — let's keep pressing forward!

marks a new chapter in iwi-led health and wellbeing.

As we move forward, we call on our people to stay engaged and united, ensuring Ngāti Kahungunu thrives today and for generations to come – inspired by whakapapa, kaupapa Māori, and the aspirations of our mokopuna.

No reira, kia tau ngā manaakitanga ki a koutou me ngā mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hou.

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas with your whānau — we'll see you in the new year! Tīhei Kahungunu!

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

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Rua

FROM AUNTY'S GARDEN

Enjoy the true meaning of Christmas

Ignore all the trendy newsletters and pamphlets advertising

Aunty Hanui Lawrence

his will be my 79th Christmas. I don't remember my first one nor the fifth one, but from there on I remember many Christmases at our home, where Grandma Kuini always came with a bottle of cream, one pound of butter and a Māori bread.

She taught us that whenever we went somewhere, we must always take something.

Christmas dinner was always at noon with roast, vegetables, steamed pudding with threepences inside and lots of goodies.

We all had stockings (old socks) near our beds which were filled with an orange, an apple and lots of little things like pencils, combs, toothbrush, hairclips and lollies which we enjoyed.

Dad strictly held off present opening until after we had eaten which was an awful long wait, but this is how it was.

We would have prayers also, each of us had to say a prayer, I would glare at my oldest sister Mahina, not to pray too long. There were seven of us kids.

Then finally, the gift opening, was the best part. thoughts.

of us.

Most of all, is the beautiful

story of Mary, Joseph and the

baby Jesus - we can act it out

and heart felt treasures for all

Christmas. Ignore the trendy newsletters and pamphlets

advertising this and that for

Kahungunu, I wish you a

and eventful year from

and it's too costly.

Christmas – it's not necessary

To all our readers of Tihei

Merry Christmas and a Happy

This is the true meaning of

or have parts and role play.

This brings so many smiles

There should not be any hard times for any of us over Christmas, yet we see organisations seeking donations and gifts to supply or give to those who have nothing or receive nothing.

To me it's all out of proportion and if money is short or very little, then be resourceful and make something.

A card full of words of love, wrapped up, or something homemade.

So many things would



This month I helped a dear friend to prepare a Christmas meal for young Missionaries at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints.

The pictures show our famous Christmas spread full of love, pride and joy.

Recipe for this month is Potato and Kumara **Bake**

You need:

- 6 medium-large potatoes
- and 6 kumara peeled
- 2 red onions
- 1 red capsicum ■ 1 courgette

■ Lots of grated cheese ■ 500 grams cream and grated cheese on top.

Aunty Hanui helped a

Day-Saints.

friend prepare a Christmas meal for young Missionaries at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

- Method:
- Steam cook the potatoes and kumara then set aside
- Sauté onions and capsicum and put aside
- Sauté the courgette and put aside
- Sauté the bacon and ham ■ Slice and layer the potatoes
- and kumara in an oven dish then layer with onion mixture ■ Cover with the courgette,
- bacon and ham then smother withth grated cheese.
- Bake for 15-20 minutes on 180C or until golden brown.

Let's go to Church! Flaxmere Christian Fellowship 220 Flaxmere Avenue, Hastings Main Sunday Meeting - 10:00AM

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 Flaxmere

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 historial ancient land in Israel.

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

TĪHEI KAHUNGUNU

Flaxmere Fitness Studio opens its doors

'Fitness should be for all of us – close to home, affordable, and welcoming'

ast month Paharakeke welcomed a new fitness studio – a space created with aroha for our people, making quality fitness close to home and affordable for everyone.

The studio is led by Henry Heke, a familiar face in our community and a passionate advocate for wellbeing.

Many will know Henry from Crossfit879 at the Flaxmere Community Centre, where he's spent years building a strong whānau of members. Seeing the need for something bigger and better, Henry dreamed of a purpose-built facility that brings the same high standard you'd find in big city gyms—but right here in Flaxmere, at a price that works for our whānau.

In October this year, Henry took over the old Hastings District Council gym and gave it a full makeover.

The new space now boasts upgraded strength and cardio gear, functional training areas, consultation rooms, and soon 24-hour access in the new year

"My vision is simple, remove the barriers and make fitness achievable for everyone," Henry says.

"Fitness should be for all of us – close to home, affordable,

Fitness builds strength, but it also builds belonging.

Henry Heke

and welcoming.

"We've invested in topquality equipment, but kept the focus on Flaxmere. I want people to walk in and feel proud that this level of quality is here in our own neighbourhood.

"Most importantly, I want them to feel supported on their health journey."

The opening was a true community celebration, starting with an early karakia at 5am, followed by a shared breakfast and hourly workouts open to everyone. Special guest Aidan Te Waka — one of NZ's top CrossFit athletes and a proud Flaxmere local — joined the day.

Aidan was Henry's first student athlete and is now his business partner, showing the strength of community ties and commitment to havora

and commitment to hauora. Henry says, "Accessibility is at the heart of it all.



"Good health should never feel out of reach. If people have a place they can walk to, a place they can afford, and a place where they feel connected, their whole life can change. "Fitness builds strength, but it also builds belonging."

The new Flaxmere Fitness Studio is now open and ready to welcome you.

Keep an eye out for new programmes and community

initiatives coming soon because this is more than a gym, it's a space for whānau, for hauora, and for Flaxmere.

Now's a good time to set a new year's goal – find something that sticks in 2026.



The season of fresh beginnings is ahead

Reflection helps us appreciate how far we've come, our blessings

Ruth Wong, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi communications adviser

s the calendar turns and the countdown begins, the New Year arrives with a sense of renewal, hope, and anticipation.

It's more than just flipping a page, it's a chance to pause, reflect, and embrace the exciting opportunities that lie ahead

As someone who loves planning, our calendar is already buzzing with activity! Our events team is preparing for Waitangi Day, the Regional Kapa Haka Festival, and a whole range of celebrations as we mark 30 incredible years of Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated.

The end of the year is a natural time to look back on the journey so far. What have we learned? What milestones have we reached?

Reflection helps us appreciate how far we've come and guides us toward meaningful goals for the future. It helps us realise our blessings and think about Staying curious and adaptable will help us thrive.

those who we've lost, and those we have gained. It can be overwhelming, so take a moment to breathe, reflect, and think about how we can all do even better.

One of the best things about a new year is the fresh opportunities waiting for us. It's like a blank canvas, ready for new projects, bold ideas, and dreams that may have been on hold. Whether it's growing in your career, learning something new, or focusing on health and wellbeing, the possibilities are endless. What's on your list this year? What will help you grow? Be kind to yourself, set small, achievable goals that bring joy and fulfilment. Dust off that bucket list and start ticking things off!

Every year brings exciting changes, new technology, evolving lifestyles, and

cultural shifts. From breakthroughs in AI and sustainability to fresh ways of working and connecting, 2026 promises transformation. Don't think for one moment that you are not affected by this new stuff...because you are. Staying curious and adaptable will help us thrive. Last year was about striving and thriving well. How did you endure? Maybe this year is about finding easier ways to stay with it. "Find what sticks in 2026".

Amid all the planning and goal-setting, the New Year is also about connection, about relationships and shared moments. It's a time to celebrate with whānau and friends, strengthen bonds, and share positive vibes for the future. Progress is always sweeter when shared, hey and even stink times are better endured with shared. Don't think that you have to bear bad times alone.

The beauty of a new year lies in its promise, a chance to dream bigger, act bolder, and live with intention. As we step into 2026, let's carry forward the lessons of the past and embrace the opportunities ahead with confidence and joy. Ngā mihi o te tau hou! Happy New Year — from all of us here at Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated.



Ngati Kahungunu chairman Bayden Barber with the team from Kahu Scaffolding.

> Photo/HB Chamber of Commerce

Kahu Scaffolding wins

Ngāti Kahungunu was proud to sponsor the Outstanding Māori and Pasifika Business Award at the 2025 Hawke's Bay Business Awards, an event that recognises the innovation, resilience, and leadership that Māori and Pasifika enterprises bring to our region.

This year's winner, Kahu Scaffolding, exemplifies what it means to build a business grounded in kaupapa and driven by sheer determination. The judges were deeply impressed by the owners' total commitment to their enterprise – investing their own resources, energy, and passion, and taking personal risks that inspire confidence and admiration.

Guided by Māori values such manaakitanga and their Tuakana-Teina approach to mentoring, Kahu Scaffolding has grown more than a successful operation — it has become a source of community upliftment and

employee success. Their story reflects the power of strong Māori businesses to strengthen the wider economy, create quality employment, and contribute to a thriving, future-focused Hawke's Bay.

Ngāti Kahungunu also acknowledges Nikita Hook (Ngāti Kahungunu, nō Whakakī), founder and owner of Pēpi Eats, who took home the highly coveted People's Choice Award sponsored by Napier City Council. Pēpi Eats is known for its beautifully designed, high-quality lunch boxes and drink bottles inspired by Te Ao Māori, a business that blends creativity with purpose to support whānau and tamariki across Aotearoa.

We congratulate these outstanding businesses – and all Māori pakihi – and encourage our communities to show their support by backing and buying from them.



TĪHEI KAHUNGUNI

Popular Fiesta of Lights festival returns

Enjoy Hawke's Bay's brightest celebration

astings' most cherished summer tradition is back! The Fiesta of Lights will illuminate the Tomoana Showgrounds from Saturday, December 13 to Sunday, January 4, including Christmas Day and New Year's Eve, offering families and visitors an unforgettable experience filled with wonder and joy.

For over two decades, Fiesta of Lights has been more than an event — it's a cultural touchstone for Hawke's Bay families. Generations have grown up with its magic.

One visitor recalls starting a tradition at age 5, attending every year with her grandmother until she was 20. Even after moving away, she returned with her partner to relive those treasured memories – a testament to the event's enduring appeal.

This year's fiesta promises 60 dazzling light displays along a clockwise trail, all locally crafted. From romantic kissing deer to playful colourchanging light pools, and the ever-popular mini train ride carrying 18 passengers, every step is a new discovery. The spectacle includes 350,000 fairy lights, switched on nightly during an interactive



countdown ceremony that delights crowds of all ages.

Tickets are just \$7 per person, with children under three free. No discounts apply. Purchase at the gate or online at www.fiestaoflights.co.nz.

Fiesta of Lights now proudly carries Meta's blue

check mark on Facebook awarded for being a highprofile, trusted community

This badge ensures updates and announcements come from us, protecting visitors from impersonators.

Organised by the Public

The Fiesta of Lights will illuminate the Tomoana Showgrounds. Dreams Charitable Trust since 1999, Fiesta of Lights is consistently voted the region's most popular holiday attraction. It's more than lights—it's laughter, connection, and the joy of shared experiences. Whether you're a first-time visitor or continuing a family

tradition, this year's fiesta promises memories that will last a lifetime.

Don't miss Hawke's Bay's brightest celebration. Gather your loved ones and step into a world of light, magic, and community spirit at the Fiesta of Lights.



Whānau Ora

Whānau Ora is a culturally based and whānau-centred approach to wellbeing focused on whānau as a whole. Our Kaiārahi (navigators) are here to support your whānau every step of the way. We're dedicated to helping you as the decision-makers who set and achieve their goals by using your unique strengths and abilities. Together, we'll build a brighter future, empowering each member to reach their full potential. We are to support whānau to realise their confidence, mana and belief in self, family and community.

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TĪHEI KAHUNGUNL



Docuseries shares migration journeys

Real stories honouring familes, their traditions and cultures

kama'ara is the name of a nine-part social media docuseries lovingly produced by Nevertheless Trust in collaboration with Roshysportfolio.

The series premiered in Hastings last month, and shares the migration journeys of three Pasifika families across three generations, the Kavana, Fameitau, and Tuimaseve whānau, as they moved from their homes in the Cook Islands, Samoa and Tonga, to Hawke's Bay, New Zealand. The word Akama'ara means "to remember" in Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Airani (Cook Islands Māori), and remembering is at the heart of this project.

A Celebration of Language and Legacy Funded through the Pacific Media Network (PMN) and the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' Moana Reo initiative, Akama'ara was one of 16 projects chosen from 247 funding applications.

The fund was designed to nurture ideas that embrace Pacific languages across diverse platforms, helping young Pacific creatives grow their skills and confidence while expressing their unique voices.

For Nevertheless Trust cofounders Shaqaila Uelese and Maia Wati-Cooper, the opportunity was very personal.

"We wanted to honour the families we grew up alongside – real people whose stories deserved to be heard," said Shaqaila.

Shaqaila hails from the Tuimaseve aiga and was pleased to show her own grandfather Asovale Tuimaseve, along with her mum and aunty who were raised in Te Matau-ā-Māui where their mum has whakapapa links through Ngāti Kahungunu ki Heretaunga.

"We engaged my very talented sister, Roshan Uelese, to do the full recording for this docuseries," shared Shaqaila. "She herself featured as a second-generation migrant, after first encouraging one of her cousins to take up the opportunity."

Maia added: "This project was about families being able to share their stories of migration to Aotearoa, and how they've carried forward traditions of language and knowledge.

"It was our way of contributing to a thriving community we ourselves grew up in."

Voices Across Generations

The series weaves together multi-generational interviews,

capturing both first and second-generation migrants. Their körero touches on challenges such as language suppression, as well as the joy of finding belonging in New Zealand.

A Premiere Filled with Heart

The premiere of Akama'ara was held at Ciniverse Theatre in Hastings, where family, friends, iwi leaders, and community members gathered.

Guests enjoyed popcorn, ice cream, and drinks as they listened to stories that brought laughter, tears, and deep reflection.

Chrissie Hape described the evening as: "An amazing night, and quite moving hearing the stories of whānau we have known for years. I felt honoured to be asked to attend."

The project has since been praised as a "meaningful storytelling moment" – one that blended music, food, and heartfelt honesty.

Stories That Heal and Inspire

Families who shared their journeys expressed gratitude for how their stories were portrayed.

Roshan Uelese was commended for her skill in bringing everything together with beauty and care.

Kura Kavana shared: "I didn't realise how much I was affected by my coming here to New Zealand, until I heard myself telling the story, and then hearing my daughter share her feelings."

Gratitude and Legacy

Akama'ara was made possible thanks to the Moana Reo Fund, supported by PMN and the Ministry for Pacific Peoples.

It stands as a testament to the power of storytelling, language, and community, reminding us all to cherish the journeys that shape who we are. Akama'ara went live last Sunday on Pacific Media Network, and can be viewed at www.akamaara.com.



Join in our Waitangi Day celebrations

Celebrate shared history and embrace diversity

> gāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc proudly announces the 27th annual Waitangi Day Family Celebrations, commemorating the historic signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi between Ngāti Kahungunu and the Crown.

This free, family-friendly event is a vibrant celebration of unity, culture, and community, and will take place at Waikoko Gardens, Tomoana Showgrounds – a venue chosen for its spacious grounds, shady trees, and easy access for Hastings residents.

The event has outgrown previous venues, attracting crowds of more than 15,000 people from across Hawke's Bay and beyond.

With ample parking and plenty of green space, Waikoko Gardens offers the perfect setting for a day of learning, entertainment, and whānau fun.

"Ngāti Kahungunu never ceded sovereignty. Te Tiriti is our foundation – it's about partnership, respect, and unity. Let's honour that together," said Bayden Barber, chairman of Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc.

A moving powhiri, national anthem, and addresses from iwi, civic, and community



leaders mark 186 years since the Treaty's signing.

Engaging speakers explore the Treaty's relevance today from education and social wellbeing to environmental and economic impacts.

Enjoy performances from Māori, Pacific, Asian, and European artists, showcasing the rich diversity of Aotearoa.

The theme: "Tatou Tatou -Come Together" is a call for

unity and shared pride in our nationhood.

The day features free Mahons Amusement Rides (10am-3pm): Hurricanes, Pirate Ship, Swing Tugboat, and more!

Over 50 vendors will offer global cuisine, crafts, clothing, and local services. There will also be cooling zones: Mist curtains and outdoor screens for comfort.

Waitangi Day celebrations will be held at Waikoko Gardens, Tomoana Showgrounds, in February.

From soulful kapa haka to Cook Islands drumming and contemporary bands, the stage will feature acts like Manaia's Acoustic Jams, Taikura Kaumātua Kapa Haka, and local favorite Tu Ahuriri, alongside multicultural groups and the Hawke's Bay Soul Choir.

Join us this Waitangi Day at Waikoko Gardens, Tomoana Showgrounds, Hastings.

Celebrate our shared history, embrace our diversity, and stand together for a future built on the spirit of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Nau mai, haere mai – all are welcome!

■ Waitangi Day Family Celebrations - Hawke's Bay

Date: Friday, February 6, 2026 Location: Waikoko Gardens, Tomoana Showgrounds, Hastings



Recipe brought to you by Hanui Lawrence, Aunty's Garden Waipatu

Avocado and Pumpkin Salad

Ingredients

A lovely bunch of fresh spinach leaves (do not wash)

1 Avocado (sliced)

2 Tomatoes (finely sliced)

1/4 of a pumpkin (skinned and chunky cut)

1 handful of pecan nuts (chopped or whole)

1 small red onion (thinly sliced) - optional

Cooking oil

Salt or Pepper

Method:

Prepare all of your vegetables

Pan roast the pumpkin - sauté cook in a shallow pan over mediumhigh heat with a small amount of oil, cooking the pieces in a single layer until they are deeply golden and tender.

Layer all the ingredients as pictured

Sprinkle with an oily dressing (similar to ceaser but more liquidy) It is very delicious! ENJOY





