

## Church unveils an historical marker

Bishop speaks about values taught at M.A.C

Ruth Wong

**T**he Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints operated the Māori Agricultural College as a boarding school for young men from 1913-1931.

On its campus of 266 acres (107ha), students received training in agriculture, construction, and religious and academic subjects.

On February 3, 1931, the major Hawke's Bay earthquake damaged buildings at the M.A.C, forcing the school to close.

However, the legacy continues in the families and communities influenced by those who worked, served, and learned there.

Recently, around 200 people gathered, including local community whānau, dignitaries and supporters from around the country. Presenters spoke of this magnificent school and what it stood for.

Current M.A.C Sports Association president, Bishop Anthony Morley, spoke about the values that were taught at the school.

"The students were taught to acknowledge God and act in faith and to live clean and wholesome lives," he said.

Church official, Elder Ian Ardern, spoke further about the historical leadership that strengthened the character of the men who carried the church through the war years. "When all of the missionaries were sent home after the attack on Pearl Harbour, M.A.C students were sought after and became the leadership of the church in New Zealand," he said.

"This is the hub of the church, the blessed spot where the Lord put some magnificent



people," he said.

The oldest living M.A.C Sports Association Club members, Owen Purcell and Tiemi Whaanga, both now in their late 80s, attended the commemoration with their beautiful wives Tiria and Hoki.

Tiemi was a M.A.C Sports Association president for many years and continues to support M.A.C Sports when he can.

Owen's father, Melila Purcell was a student at the college between 1924-1928. Owen recalls the stories his father told him about the college after the earthquake.

"My dad was working at the freezing works when the 1931 earthquake happened. The

When all of the missionaries were sent home after the attack on Pearl Harbour, M.A.C students were sought after and became the leadership of the church in New Zealand

Elder Ian Ardern

**Local members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Cr Bayden Barber, Farley Keenan, Justin Edwards and Anthony Morley.**

whole community worked together to clean up. My dad managed to get a few parts of the college to build a little two-man bach at Ruahapia marae, which fell apart when Owen and his brother Sole tried to pull it from where it was erected to their family homestead down the road."

After a few laughs, Owen said, "These are the kinds of memories that came back to me from Saturday's event."

Old songs from the area were sung by a combined Hastings and Flaxmere Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Choir and students of Bridge Pa School, many of whom are descendants of men who attended M.A.C between 1913-1931.

**M.A.C Marker situated at the front of Bridge Pa School.**



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# Kapa haka performance unites us all

Ruth Wong

**N**ovember 16-23 was a busy time for schools in Hawke's Bay.

Primary children from schools throughout the region took part in a week-long cluster of kapa haka events hosted by Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Kahungunu ki Heretaunga.

Last year, the kura hosted an inter-marae kapa haka event called Hakanuia.

Impressed with the layout of the one-day event, Ngāti Kahungunu iwi event manager Te Rangi Huata encouraged organisers to host it again and cluster it with other events to make good use of the equipment and facilities hired for the event.

This is exactly what was done and it was a great success with the following competitions held over the week, each day focusing on specific age groups:

- Ngāti Kahungunu Primary Schools Festival;
- Tama Tūrangā (Primary Schools Regional Competition);
- Hakanuia (inter-marae)
- Mokotini (inter-kohanga reo)

Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Kahungunu ki Heretaunga were only too pleased to host these events at the kura, however each event had its own organising committees which worked hard behind the scenes to ensure everything ran smoothly.



Kapa haka is a powerful and dynamic learning experience which allows students to express themselves creatively.

It has been proven that Māori performing arts brings together people of all ages, all backgrounds, all beliefs, for Māori and non-Māori alike.

One of the highlights of the Primary Schools Kapa Haka Festival was the increasing participation from mainstream schools. It was heart-warming to see how kapa haka is valued in our mainstream schools, with the standard improving each year.

The Tama Tūrangā, Primary and Intermediate regional kapa haka competition held towards the

This festival provides a platform to bring together all our marae, to bring together people of all ages to perform on the stage as one.

end of the week was a show of excellence and like Te Matatini (the national kapa haka competition for adults), these school teams boosted the eligible teams that would go through to nationals next year.

This competition enabled three Hawke's Bay teams to take part at the national competitions in Nelson in 2021.

We congratulate the winning teams, in first place, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Kahungunu ki Heretaunga, in second place, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Wānanga Whare Tapere o Takitimu and in third place, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Ara Hou.

**Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Kahungunu ki Heretaunga.**

The kaupapa of Hakanuia begins and ends with whānau and connections.

This is the second year this festival has been running and organisers envisage making this an annual event.

This festival provides a platform to bring together all our marae, to bring together people of all ages to perform on the stage as one.

Concluding all the kapa haka festivals was Mokotini, a concept established to acknowledge all kohanga reo.

Our mokopuna are at the heart of this festival. It also provides kura with the opportunity to work closely with kohanga reo as children progress into kura kaupapa.

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## AUNTY'S GARDEN

### Appreciating Bay's bounty

Hanui Lawrence

**T**here is a Māori proverb or whakatauaiki that says Kāore te kumara e kōrero ana mo tōna ake reka – the kumara does not brag about its own sweetness.

This is more about humility and humbleness.

We taste the kumara for ourselves and it portrays its own beauty and sweetness.

Our kumara plants (tipu) are just great and plentiful right now.

We have so many plants with nowhere to plant these treasures.

I want to plough up the paddock next to the garden and put these plants in the ground!

Then I tell myself, "Don't be stupid, the work is beyond you now". Oh how I wish!

So come on folks, turn over your backyards and plant these beauties.

Come to me and I will gladly give the plants to you!!

My friend Joella came and got 100 of these plants.

She told me that the 100 she got last year presented her with 108kg.

Her Pastor Mark was so amazed at what his backyard yielded that it made him so appreciative of the good earth we have here in Hawke's Bay, so



they've decided to plant more.

The big rain was great for the gardens and the farmers too.

But not so for Napier in the areas that were flooded.

We did have several days warning of the coming rains.

You would have thought the local city councils could have

checked to see if the drains were clear of debris, etc.

It was quite devastating for those who were flooded out.

It was good to see the community rally around to help out and I know it was most appreciated by those affected.

The flowering broccoli that we planted is producing prolifically so my recipe for this month is a Broccoli Salad with lovely yellow flower twist.

#### Recipe

##### Ingredients

- 1 cup of shredded chicken (cooked)
- A handful of flowering broccoli
- 1 medium carrot
- 2-3 leaves of celery
- 2 spring onions
- ¼ cup of grated cheese
- ½ cup of yoghurt (natural)
- Mayonnaise or salad dressing (your choice)

##### Method

Finely cut the broccoli. Grate the carrot. Finely cut the celery and spring onions. Cut up the shredded chicken. Add the cheese. Toss all the ingredients in a bowl. Add the mayo and yoghurt and mix to your desired texture. It is really delicious and healthy too. Enjoy!

**Hanui Lawrence with her Broccoli Salad.**



# Breaking down the barriers for marae

Ruth Wong

**M**eihana Watson is the new Te Puni Kōkiri adviser for Oranga Marae.

The programme provides funding to support the physical and cultural revitalisation of marae as centres of Māori identity and learning.

It has been available since 2018.

Meihana's role is to help marae understand and apply for the Oranga Marae fund.

He is no stranger to Marae business and has been the chairman of the Omaha Marae Trustees for the past 11 years.

He says before taking on this new role, he himself was not interested in all the paperwork involved in the application process, but now he knows the process inside out, he wants to break down any barriers for other marae representatives who may have misunderstood the process.

Te Puni Kōkiri holds six weekly rotational workshops in Heretaunga, Tamatea, Tāmaki Nui-a-Rua and Wairarapa, to help marae representatives with the Oranga Marae application process.

If you are interested, contact the Te Puni Kōkiri office and speak with Meihana. Ring toll free 0800 875 447.

## Who is Meihana Watson

Born and raised in



Heretaunga, Meihana Watson is a leader in his community.

He has always been involved with his marae, hapū and wider community.

Meihana has been the Chairman of the Omaha Marae

Trustees since 2009.

He is also the chairman of a newly developed collective of hapū called Ngāti Hinemanu, Ngai Te Upokoiri me ōna Piringa Hapū Authority' which represents

the collective voice of the communities of Omaha, Te Awhina and Runanga.

He was one of the first students to attend Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Ara Hou in Napier, and went on to

## Pepeha

Ko Kahurānaki te mauanga  
Ko Ngaruroro te awa  
Ko Takitimu te waka  
Ko Omaha te marae  
Ko Ngāti Hinemanu, ko Ngai te Upokoiri ngā hapū  
Ko Ngāti Kahungunu te iwi  
Ko Meihana Watson tōku ingoa.

graduate from EIT Hawke's Bay with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Māori.

He is passionate about audio visual and technical systems.

As a young man, he worked for Radio Kahungunu where he could use both his reo and his love for sound and technology.

A stint at Radio New Zealand, then back to Radio Kahungunu, he decided he wanted to become a teacher and in 2009 he began his studies towards a Diploma in Secondary Teaching.

In that same year he was shoulder tapped to work for the Heretaunga Tamatea Hapū Claimant group and finished there this year to move into a new pathway.

Meihana is keen to support marae to realise their aspirations through the Oranga Marae funding.

He has two beautiful children Te Amokura Watson aged 15 and Paul Watson aged 17.

Meihana says that his motivation for his involvement in his marae and community is to pave a better future for his children.

Meihana Watson

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# New manager 'happy to be home'

**J**ulie Tangaere was recently appointed to a new role as regional manager, Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children, East Coast, allowing her to return home to Hawke's Bay after 12 years in Wellington.

Born and raised in Hawke's Bay, she attended St Joseph's Māori Girls' College in Napier where she developed leadership skills under the direction of teachers such as Dame Georgina Kingi, who continues to teach and guide future leaders at the school.

Tangaere holds a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) and Graduate Diploma in Public Sector Management (with distinction) from Massey University and has worked for several years in the public sector in senior management roles that include: regional director, Te Hauāuru, Treaty settlements at the Office for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti; chief registrar and national director of the Māori Land Court, Ministry of Justice; Director of the Waitangi Tribunal and regional director and registrar of the Māori Land Courts Takitimu (Hawke's Bay/ Wairarapa), Tairāwhiti (Gisborne/East Coast) and Te Waipounamu (South Island) districts.

Her wealth of networks and experience will be well applied in her new role.

She continues to be involved in her marae/hapū. Tangaere and husband John Tangaere (JT) are committed



to reo, tikanga, health and wellbeing.

The couple are passionate about kapa haka, Ironmāori and waka ama.

"When I'm not working, I enjoy whānau time, doing

waka ama and prior to Covid-19, JT and I also liked to travel," she said.

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated chairman Ngahiwi Tomoana is delighted to have Tangaere in this role.

**Oranga Tamariki chief executive Grainne Moss, East Coast regional manager Julie Tangaere and deputy chief executive Alison McDonald.**

## Julie Tangaere

● **Hapu:** Ngāti Mahuika, Ngāi Te Upokoiri, Ngāti Hinemanu

● **Marae:** Runanga, Omaha

● **Iwi:** Ngāti Kahungunu

"We've always wanted someone who was marae-based with tikanga who can nurture and set up the vibrations into government departments in this role, rather than government telling us what to do.

"We are very proud of Julie and wish her all the best and will support her in this new and challenging position," says Tomoana.

"I'm happy to be home," Tangaere said. "Working at Oranga Tamariki gives me a unique opportunity to be here at home helping to shape and influence the direction of our work that continues to be a high priority both for our whānau and communities in the Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa and the East Coast regions."

**Buzzing after a great Rangatahi Project wananga at Pukemokimoki Marae left: Piripi Ropitini (Nuhaka), Eastern & Central Community Trust chair, Shelly Mitchell-Jenkins, Wiremu Rupapere (Wairarapa), Eastern & Central Community Trust general manager, Jonathan Bell, Molly Fuauli (Levin), Jy Henare-Casford (Eketahuna).**



## Youngsters invited to have a say

Eastern & Central Community Trust is working with rangatahi and community organisations to develop an action plan to guide their funding to young people aged 10-24 years over the next five years.

As part of their planning, they invited youth development organisations to get in touch and become involved.

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated board member Melissa Ihaka attended this first wānanga, held last month at Napier's Pukemokimoki Marae.

She met young people who shared their aspirations for rangatahi growth.

This hui was the first of many and was all about whakawhaungatanga and building relationships.

Eastern & Central Community Trust general manager Jonathan Bell said forming a rangatahi group allows young people to be heard, and to provide input into where they think that funding for youth oriented projects should be spent.

"The Trust has funding for youth-led projects and it makes sense that rangatahi should be given the opportunity to provide direction on how the fund is disseminated," Bell says. "Eventually we will formalise

the rangatahi group but at the moment it's about connecting and building relationships."

The Action Planning group comprises 21 rangatahi aged between 17 and 24 years old from Te Tairāwhiti, Wairoa, Ahuriri, Heretaunga, Taranui, Wairarapa, and Manawātū Horowhenua.

"It's about advocating for and supporting rangatahi voices in our communities," says Ihaka.

Eastern & Central Community Trust facilitators Emma Haxton and Te Rehia Lake Perez are planning the next hui where more concepts will be shared and discussed. Ka mau te wehi.

## Whānau play ball, back Kahungunu sports day

**Ruth Wong**

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated celebrated its 15th AGM Pā Sports held at Splash Planet in Hastings on Saturday November 28.

More than 72 marae sports teams registered on the iwi website [www.kahungunu.iwi.nz](http://www.kahungunu.iwi.nz) and included kiddies' sports, touch, netball, volleyball, Ki O Rahi, 3 on 3 basketball, euchre for kaumātua and of course, tug of war.

Covid-19 slowed down plans for the year, but once event manager Te Rangi Huata got the all-clear for Splash Planet, plans were in place to ensure a great family event for our iwi members.

All-day superpasses were sold to registered iwi

members for a heavily subsidised cost of \$5 that included a free fish and chip lunch from the Kahungunu-owned Takitimu Seafoods.

Each year, the organisation gets hyped up as plans take place for this Kahungunu whānau reunion.

Eight bus-loads of whānau drove in to Kahungunu ki Heretaunga from Wairoa, Wairarapa, Tamaki Nui A Rua, and Central Hawke's Bay.

Babies, teenagers, mums and dads and the elderly, enjoyed relaxing at the nation's biggest water theme park.

It was nice to see kaumātua enjoying their fish and chip lunch while eyeing up their seat at the euchre table.



**Whānau enjoying the beautiful day.**



# Learning te reo turned my life around

**F**or Pairama Wright studying wasn't just about gaining knowledge and qualifications, it was also about reinventing himself and finding a purpose.

Of Ngāi Tahu, Ngā Ruahine, Swiss and Irish decent, Pairama grew up as an army child and moved all over New Zealand. Māori culture and language played a prominent role in his family's life, his great-grandmother was a fluent te reo speaker and Pairama went to Māori immersion schools.

At age 13, when his parents separated, he moved with his mother to Napier and became steadily more alienated from his Māori roots. "It was as if I was scared and ashamed of this part of me, and I had no desire to speak te reo or engage with the Māori part of my family."

It was only when his dad moved back from Australia with Pairama's half-sister, who was brought up very traditionally, that he rekindled his interest in reconnecting with Māoridom.

"I was studying music at EIT when my dad, who was enrolled at Te Ūranga Waka, encouraged me to do a certificate in te reo Māori and learn the language. My tutor, Tash, was fantastic and I transformed from a rebellious human being to a better person. I achieved a sense of belonging. It totally turned my life around."

From this first level 2



certificate Pairama staircased to his Bachelor in Arts (Māori), followed by this year's Honours. In 2021 Pairama is doing the Master in Professional Practice, delving into research of Māori

language revitalisation.

From next year, Pairama is teaching on EIT's NZ Certificate in te reo me ngā Tikanga (level 4) and will put his heart and soul into it. "I guess teaching is my way of

supporting and promoting the revitalisation of our language." He strongly advocates for teaching Māori language, culture and history in school. "In school, history was my favourite subject and we

**Pairama Wright rolled up his sleeves to become a fluent te reo Māori speaker.**

I transformed from a rebellious human being to a better person. I achieved a sense of belonging. It totally turned my life around.

learned about the black power movement in the US but unfortunately nothing about the NZ land wars or the Treaty of Waitangi. I'm really happy that times have changed and children grow up seeing the whole picture."

Last year, Pairama accepted the role of cultural advisor (kaiārahi tikanga) for the Musical Theatre New Zealand. He is eager to promote a shift towards Ao Māori and a change of cultural perception. He also introduced a new Musical Theatre award that recognises culture, diversity and inclusion.

His long-term goal is to create Māori language resources for all learner levels. "Realistically, it will be another 30 to 50 years before I can consider myself a Māori language champion," he quips, "but I'm getting there."

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## MĀORI STUDIES

**Piki ake, kake ake i te toi huarewa, te ara o Tāwhaki, i piki ai ki runga.**  
The need to learn and speak the Māori language is greater than ever before.

Māori language is vital to New Zealand, and our identity. As Māori language becomes more widely used through kōhanga reo, primary schools and Kura Kaupapa Māori, parents are becoming more aware of the importance of keeping up with their children's knowledge of te reo Māori.

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# Vulnerability is the new strength

**Ruth Wong** puts some questions to community and business learders. This week it is Theresa O'Brien, Business Woman, Entreprenuer, He Wāhine Toal

## Ko wai koe?

Ko Theresa O'Brien toku ingoa. Also known as TC O'Brien.  
He uri au o Ngāti Porou, Tuhoe me Ngāti Rārua.

## No hea koe?

Ki te taha o toku Mareikura, no Anaura Bay me Ruatoki ahau. Ki te taha o taku whatukura, no Motueka ahau, Wairau Pa. Engari e tipu ake au ki Ngāti Kahungunu ki Ahuriri. E noho ana au ki Ōmaranui.

## Tell us about your family?

I am a mother of two sons. Tyson (19) and Elijah (9). I also have a daughter Anahera o Te Rangi and husband Patrick who have both passed away. Moe mai ra oku tau. I have a big wider whanau who are super amazing and supportive spread throughout the motu from Whangarei to Kaiapoi.

## Do you have someone who influenced you? Why?

My late husband Pat was a big influence in my life. He was a living example that we can be greater than our circumstances and have the power to create a better life for ourselves and future generations if we truly want it. I learnt a lot from him but the biggest lesson I took was to focus on the positives. See the good in every situation, because after every dark night, comes the light of day.

## Who are your heroes in your life?

My heroes are my children. As much as they make me hoha, their world view is very different to mine at times. They see most situations with less clutter and more freedom which keeps me grounded and reminds me of what is important.

But at times, I have had to be my own hero too. I have had to dig deep in the moments when I wanted to give up. I have to tell myself "Theresa, you have got this", when I have been overwhelmed with self-doubt and fear. I have to push myself outside my comfort zone in order to grow as a wāhine, as a mother, as a business owner, as a servant of our people. Sometimes we need to be the hero of our own story.

## What's the best advice they gave you?

My oldest son often tells me ... 'Have a laugh Mum' especially when he's getting told off haha. A very good strategy of his when he is in trouble. He reminds me not to take life too seriously. I love that we as Māori often use humour and laughing as a form of rongoa. Nothing like a natural dose of endorphins to make you feel good and happy.

## Tell us a little about your role and what your organisation does?

I wear many hats in the community and own a number of my own businesses. I am the company director of Angel Promotions Ltd which is an event and project management company specialising in community development.

During Covid lockdown I created a second business with a friend, Tipu Ake Tonu Ltd. This company is geared towards achieving whānau prosperity through Māori economic success. Supporting Māori businesses and entrepreneurs using indigenous enterprise models.

I am honoured to chair the Te Aka Kaipākihi o Te Matau a Māui Māori Business Network. Recently restored to support the growing numbers of Māori Business owners and entrepreneurs in the region. In addition, I offer governance expertise as board member of HB Chamber of Commerce, Te Matau a Māui Māori Health Trust and Anahera o Te Rangi Charitable Trust.

Earlier this year I also founded Te Oranga Pūmanawa; a unique rangatahi employment and leadership pipeline in Hawkes Bay underpinned by Te Ao Māori frameworks. This kaupapa now employs five staff and is doing some amazing mahi in the heart of Maraenui.

Despite my various roles, ultimately, I class myself as a humble servant of our people.

## How did you get here? Why did you choose this as a career?

I choose to create my own businesses so my earning potential and how I decide to work cannot be capped or limited. By



Theresa O'Brien

doing this I opened myself up to whole new realm of possibilities.

It got to where I am today due to three main factors; hard work, mindset and sacrifice.

I have worked hard in all areas of my life. In building my career, in owning my homes and other assets, in growing my sense of self, in seeking and grasping opportunities, in not waiting for things to happen but rather making things happen to achieve my vision.

It required me to develop a champion mindset over the years so I could be bold, courageous, resilient, optimistic and not afraid to take risks knowing that at times I may fail.

But none of these came without sacrifice. Most people see the tip of an iceberg, the part that sits above the water, but not many see the what sits below. All the late nights, the tears, the fatigue, the loneliness, the harsh failures along the way. I have had many sacrifices in my journey so far and no doubt there will more to come.

## What do you like most about what you do?

I absolutely LOVE what I do! I love Māori business and entrepreneurship. I love disruptive leadership. The ability to be innovative, think differently, take risks and always challenge the status quo. That is where we see change and growth for future generations.

I also love seeing others thrive and reach their goals through connecting with my mahi. Be it in business, employment, self development, relationships, whanau, community ... whatever it may.

## What don't you like about what you do?

It's a lonely road when you are trying to pave the way for others. You have to be willing to take some big hits and bear the brunt in order to make the pathway for our people easier to navigate.

Although these aspects are not nice to experience at times, I am grateful for them and use these tough moments to build

resilience and appreciation.

## What's the most challenging thing you've done in your life?

The most challenging thing I've done is share my raw and authentic state of vulnerability to others, particularly as I grieved the loss of a loved one.

I had to unlearn certain ways of thinking and viewing vulnerability. To realise that even though people may look to you for strength, guidance, leadership and inspiration, it is okay for you to need these things too; that is okay for you to experience moments of weakness and ask for help.

I have adopted a new whakaaro "Vulnerability is the new Strength". A korero I think many wāhine need to hear as we often put our own vulnerability secondary to other things.

## What's your favourite thing to do?

My favourite thing is to do is to create innovative solutions which enable our people to move forward and stand strong in their mana. So I'm basically doing my favourite thing most days through my businesses. I am also an introvert by nature, so enjoy hiding away at home most weekends. Spending time with my sons and those closest to me.

## What's your favourite sport?

Definitely boxing, kickboxing and MMA. I used to own a combat gym business and have been lucky enough to have fought several times in the ring. It gave me an insight into the depths of what fighters go through to succeed in the ring and in life.

Again it come back down to – Hard work, champion mindset, sacrifice.

## What's your favourite colour?

Whero ... for sure. Love red.

## What's your favourite kai?

I am a lover of Thai cuisine and fresh fruit and veges.

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 10:30. A Bible College also operates on Sunday evenings for those serious about advancing their knowledge of the Bible. Different groups run during the week and these 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.

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# Looking after each other in tough times

**T**e Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui ā Orotū is the mandated Iwi Authority for Ahuriri Napier.

Their mission is to help the people of Te Whanganui ā Orotū to grow, sustain and build prosperous, healthy and strong whānau, hapū and marae.

Over the past 18 months, CEO Tania Eden has been working alongside the board to restructure and form new and positive relationships in the community to help support their mission, to grow, sustain and build prosperous, healthy and strong whānau, hapū and marae within Te Whanganui ā Orotū.

Recently, as part of their annual meeting, they opened their new premises at 17e Mahia St, Ahuriri. At the moment they have a Te Whanga Research unit in the office, led by board members working with two students from Victoria and Otago Universities who are completing their Masters degrees in Financial Economics and Indigenous Studies. Last week a "Wāhine Ora" programme was launched that will help wāhine through a progression plan that will lead to sustainable employment. A good working relationship with Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga has formed to assist whānau into apprenticeships and training opportunities that will support the new Marae Renovation Programmes recently funded



by the Provincial Growth Fund.

This month, Te Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui ā Orotū led the community response team with Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Napier City Council, Māori providers and community groups and trusts to be able to support and assist

families affected by the flood. Food supplies were donated by Watties, Simply Squeezed, Good Time Foods, PaknSave, Quality Bakers and New World. Community groups continue to provide support to these families who have had to start from scratch to build healthy dry homes.

Board chairman Hori Reti said: "It's important that we look after each other, especially during these uncertain times."

"Since Covid-19 our community network structure has been in place and we need to be prepared at all times to support our community."

## On board

The Te Whanganui ā Orotū Board is made up of marae representatives as follows:

1. Timikara Marae: Kirk Leonard
2. Moteo Hamuera Marae: Peter Eden
3. Waiohiki Marae: Chad Tareha
4. Te Haroto Marae: Janice Kahukiwa
5. Petane Marae: Rose Hiiha
6. Kohupatiki Marae: Api Robin (Deputy Chair)
7. Tangoio Marae: Hori Reti (Chair) Marewa King (Alternate)
8. Wharerangi Marae: Tipene Cottrell

## The Operations Team

- Chief executive: Tania Eden
- Programme manager: Awhina Hungahunga
- Environmental analyst: Royal Hepi
- Researcher: Keely Rickards
- Administrator: Annette Purves

"I feel aroha for our people who have been affected by the flooding and grateful for all those who have supported in any way."

Te Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui ā Orotū is one of six (6) Taiwhenua established and convened for the purpose of representing Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi in the rohe of Te Whanganui ā Orotū. Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated is a mandated Iwi Organisation/Authority. Ngāti Kahungunu is the third largest iwi. Geographically the tribe has the second longest coastline in the country from Paritū in the north to Turakirae in the south. Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated maintains an independent position to provide research, advice and advocate for the interests, rights, values, beliefs and practices of Ngāti Kahungunu alongside whānau and hapū.

**Te  
Taiwhenua o  
Te  
Whanganui ā  
Orotū**

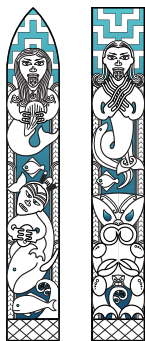
## TE HERENGA WAKA<sup>o</sup> O AHURIRI

### Marine Cultural Health Programme

A partnership between mana whenua hapū and Napier Port to ensure the cultural and ecological health of the Ahuriri marine environment is protected.

At the core of this exciting and innovative monitoring programme are two Pou – Mana Tangata and Mana Moana. Surveys and extensive monitoring will provide a greater understanding of the health of these two Pou.

A new interactive website for the programme with interviews, maps and monitoring information is coming soon: [www.marineculturalhealth.co.nz](http://www.marineculturalhealth.co.nz)



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