

## Heretaunga take home gold

### Underdogs succeed at Māori Basketball Tournament

Ruth Wong

**O**n January 26-30 thousands of whānau participated in the 2021 National Māori Basketball Tournament held at the Rotorua Energy Events Centre. Teams ranging from Under 9 years to the Masters 45+ age group converged, ready to take home the gold. With Covid lurking around, organisers were unsure as to whether they would get teams in for the tournament, however participants say it was one of the biggest turnouts ever.

From community, regional and international participation, basketball has always been a favourite sport for our Māori whānau.

In 2013 Māori Basketball New Zealand was created to provide greater opportunities for Māori growth as players, officiators, coaches, spectators, supporters and whānau.

Each year whānau come in their droves to represent their iwi at the National Māori Basketball Tournament. It's not just about basketball. There's a lot of laughter, kapa haka, waiata, and strengthening of whakapapa ties that brings that feeling of unity, but it is a competition folks, and everyone wants to take home the gold.

Ngāti Kahungunu ki Heretaunga mixed Masters/Pakeke were in the unfamiliar position of going into the 2021 National Māori Basketball tournament as the underdog.

The winner of four gold medals in the past five years had failed to make the finals last year so there was a determination to get back to



Gold medallists Ngāti Kahungunu ki Heretaunga mixed Masters team from top left: Dustine Saddler, Tzar Smiler, Albie Ellis, Jackie Smiler, Tuehu Harris, Rikki Te Kira, Cilla Te Kira, Bottom left: Cheleme AhKiong, Cr Bayden Barber, Raana Walker and Learna Karena.

the winner's podium, however it was always going to be a big challenge as the competition has increased each year.

There was however, a feeling of confidence with local Hastings District councillor Bayden Barber being available to play this year having missed last year's tournament and also welcoming in ex Hawke's Bay representative Cheleme AhKiong into the team along with the experience of veteran Jackie Smiler.

These adding to the local legends of Raana Walker, Tzar Smiler, Riki Te Kira, Albie Ellis, Learna Karena, Tuehu Harris and Dustine Saddler there was a feeling that the team could at least return to the finals.

The first game was against last year's champions Ngāti Rākaipaaka. Having their

toughest competition up first would be a good test to gauge how well the team would go.

There was a sense of urgency from the tip off with both teams putting their bodies on the line with a number of hard fouls, however in the end Heretaunga used its defence to smother the dangerous Rākaipaaka shooters, ending the game with a comfortable win.

There were rumours that reinforcements were coming for Rākaipaaka which would make things interesting for a possible rematch later in the tournament.

The next game was against Ngāpuhi. This was a "grind it out" type of game with Ngāpuhi holding the early lead with some hot shooting from the three point line.

Heretaunga slowly got back

Hauraki.

Hauraki who qualified second in the other pool had lots of size and height but again could not keep up with the pace and shooting of the Heretaunga team.

In the third quarter the lead soon ballooned, allowing the bench to get some good minutes. On the other semifinal, Rākaipaaka comfortably dispatched of Ngāti Kōata leading to a much anticipated rematch for the final.

Ngāti Rākaipaaka were playing good basketball and came into the final with a lot of momentum.

They had some dangerous shooters so the focus of the Heretaunga team was to shut them down as much as possible while getting our own shooters open looks at the basket.

The game was an arm wrestle with Heretaunga taking the early lead but Rākaipaaka hitting back in the second quarter to take the lead into half time. Like the first game there was no quarter given, leading to a physical game and some hard fouls.

The third quarter was a close affair with nothing between the two teams. The fourth quarter proved the turning point of the game with Heretaunga getting to the free throw line and a timely three-pointer by Tzar Smiler meant Heretaunga held a two point lead with under 30 seconds to go.

Rākaipaaka had the ball and went for the game winner, but again Heretaunga's defence proved the difference, holding on for the 42-40 win.

Ngāti Kahungunu ki Heretaunga were elated with the win, especially going into tournament as the dark horse underdog.

"E mihi ana ki te haukāinga a Te Arawa waka, nā rātou tēnei kaupapa i whakahaere, nā rātou anō ngā waka hūhua o te motu i raupī i raro i te hākinakina poitūkohu."

Each year whānau come in their droves to represent their iwi at the National Māori Basketball Tournament.

into the game by getting to the free throw line and getting good minutes from the bench.

Heretaunga managed to edge out Ngāpuhi for the victory.

The next game was against Ngāti Tuwharetoa, who also started strong but didn't have the legs to keep up with Heretaunga's pace, leading to an easy win.

Going undefeated in pool play meant a semifinal matchup with Ngāti Maru-

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AUNTY'S GARDEN

# Take time to enjoy the beauty around us

Hanui Lawrence

**D**uring this past month we have lost two women who have returned home to our maker. One whose husband preceded her, and the other leaving her treasured partner to join her at a later date.

Each in their own sphere, these diligent and intelligent women left behind their families who loved and

mourned at the same time. Death comes to us all. Perhaps at an appointed time or perhaps too soon. Depending on age or circumstance, some would say it's a tragedy or ask, how come? To me, death is just another phase in our lives which we will all succumb to, something inevitable that will come sooner or later, nonetheless it is a sad occasion.

How blessed are we in New Zealand with this Covid hovering around, yet so far we have had so few deaths compared to the rest of the world, I feel very grateful as I continue to go about life on a daily basis, whether it's shopping in the supermarket, planting the garden, eating in a restaurant, playing with the kids in the park, seeing the delights of Splash Planet, attending a garden wedding or worshipping each Sunday at church, I feel grateful for life and good health.

Recently however I did find myself in hospital and have had to take a break and assess things. While in hospital I reflected on my blessings. I watched everyone coming and going in ED and a lovely lady asked me if I was all right. I realised she was a volunteer and I recognised her as an ex-school teacher in our community. I couldn't help but think about how lovely it is that these kind people are



Hanui Lawrence making her Stuffed Zu-kamo.



Stuffed zu-kamo.

volunteering their time to serve in our community.

Our garden is splendid and very beautiful with lots of vegetables growing and flourishing and

complementing each other in their family masses. There is much to be grateful for when you take the time to sit and think about life and the beauty that surrounds us.

**STUFFED ZU-KAMO**  
Zu-kamo is a mix between an zucchini and a kamo kamo. You can use marrow if you don't have a zu-kamo. This vegetable relies on the complementary flavours of other food groups because it's very bland, but together with the blessings that flow from the other ingredients, it's quite delicious.

**Ingredients**  
One large zu-kamo  
Olive oil, onion & garlic (as much as you like)  
Salt and pepper & your favourite spices to taste  
Grated cheese of your choice (as much as you like)  
500 gram mince  
(Optional) For vegetarian mix, use pasta salad (as much as you like)  
Cooked/roasted potatoes/kumara/capsicum/  
Anything you like

**Method**  
Obtain your zu-kamo or marrow. Wash and cut in half long ways and scoop out the seeds. In a pan, cook chopped onion till clear and add mince and cook to your desired taste adding spices to flavour. Let it cool for 10 minutes spoon into the zu-kamo.

Cut your roasted vegetables to desired bite sizes and place over mince. Cover with grated cheese. Bake in the oven for 25-30 minutes at 180C.

**Let's go to Church!**

**Flaxmere Christian Fellowship**  
220 Flaxmere Avenue, Hastings  
Main Sunday Meeting - 10:30 AM

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 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.

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Ngāi Tahu and Ngāti Kahungunu both of the Tākitimu waka have joined forces.

## HeadXXX

### Ngahiwi Tomoana

Two powerful iwi Ngāi Tahu and Ngāti Kahungunu both of the Tākitimu waka have joined forces in legal proceedings against the Crown.

Ngāti Kahungunu, the country's third largest iwi, is working with Ngāi Tahu to have the tribe's rangatiratanga recognised over freshwater, including the Heretaunga Aquifer and the Mohaka River, two unique bodies of water in the North Island.

Ngāti Kahungunu, like Ngāi Tahu, has seen the traditional waterways and water bodies



Ngahiwi Tomoana.

in its rohe degraded over time through government inaction, over allocation, and lack of environmental protections, including the 2016 Havelock North waterborne disease

outbreak, which Ngāti Kahungunu warned against prior to the event.

We have also been working with National Iwi Chairs Forum to determine Māori rights and interests in freshwater over the last 12 years which successive government have avoided.

We have also made representation to the Waitangi Tribunal to no avail. We have come to the conclusion that these issues can only be addressed through direct engagement between the Crown and the iwi whose freshwater are most affected by years of neglect

# Kaumātua made iwi board member

**Ruth Wong**

**K**aumātua Haami Hilton has been a member of the Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated (NKII) Board for the past 23 years since 1997, alongside the longest serving iwi chair, Ngahiwi Tomoana.

Haami first joined as a representative of Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga through his affiliation with Kahuranaki Marae and in 2005 he was elected onto the board as the kaumātua coming into the position by one vote ahead of kaumātua William Blake. The other kaumātua standing at the time were Hiro Hamilton and Noreen Taylor.

In a recent interview with Haami and devoted wife Edina Hilton, the two reflected on many good times, changes, challenges and victories, and memories of the many past board members who have now passed on – Digger Karauria, Tipu Tareha, Sophie Keefe, Noreen Taylor, Linette Rautahi, Paora Ropiha, Christine Teariki, Rill Meihana, Albie Walker and Kahu Pene to name a few. The memories brought back some really good moments in time. The loss of

*I love getting out and being a part of the kaupapa, it keeps me going.*

Haami Hilton

our Taumata Rose Pere, Piri Sciascia and Tama Huata.

"People have been, and people have gone," says Haami, "but the kaupapa carries on with those who still here."

Haami, who will turn 80 this year shared his gratitude for the many years of learning and experience with the iwi. As he reminisced, he recalled some major events that he's been a part of including the Foreshore and Seabed Hiko of 2004, the Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Fisheries Settlement in 2006, the inaugural Takitimu Festivals in 2008 and 2011, Te Matatini in 2017 and much more.

"It's been a great journey and every day new and exciting things pop up," said Haami. "I love getting out and being a part of the kaupapa, it keeps me going."



Haami and Edna Hilton.

With great admiration Haami shared how grateful he is for his wife Edina. He said, "Wherever I go, she goes, and it makes the journey better."

Last year during Covid level 4 lockdown Haami was

admitted to hospital with a serious illness due to blood poisoning. He was in for a good three months which was tough because while he was in hospital, Edina couldn't go and see him. The couple were

delighted when Haami finally came home. Nowadays, they are taking things one day at a time. Outings and visits are a little shorter and they are taking care of themselves a lot more.



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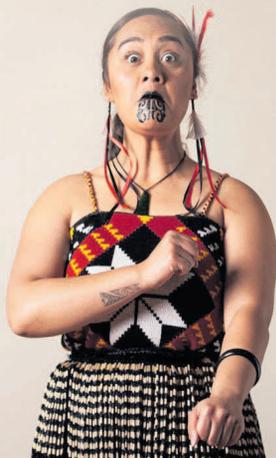
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# Little voices add to office over holidays

Moving into back to school time – who is more excited, the kids or parents?

Ruth Wong

**D**uring the school holidays parents and grandparents were creative with their work shifts, planning activities, organising the house to fit the extra bodies. No doubt, dads took advantage of the additional sets of hands to start on the to-do list of little jobs around the house while mum worked around everyone's boredom or over excitement by creating little games.

Family and friends would have invited themselves over to share quality time together. Whether you were visiting family and making connections or just chilling out doing nothing, hopefully you enjoyed a good break.

Six weeks has gone by fast, and it's already time to go back to school. Time to get back into your little routine, into bed early, up early, out of the house by 7.45am, etc. I'm not sure who is more excited, the kids or the parents?

During the past few weeks as some parents have returned to work, the sound of little people in our office has been nice.

Little Manu playing with his siblings Tamas and Mia. Quiet and not so quiet voices talking, teasing and laughing around their dad's office space, then

During the past few weeks as some parents have returned to work, the sound of little people in our office has been nice.

next minute, a little cry too.

Six-year-old Mauru and his inquisitive questions to his dad about his dad's work, and who, why and when, and why again, and then this random question, "Papa, he aha te kupu Māori chicken nugget?" then back to "Why do I have to be here Dad? This is boring," he says. Next thing Dad is reciting moteatea to Mauru trying to make him tired, but instead, everyone else in the office is yawning (haha) including dad.

Then there's the cool teenager popping in to see if dad's at work to ask for a big favour for her and her friends to go for a swim at his place. Oh and not to forget the phone call from nan to her son, "Son, your niece needs to talk to



NKII event manager (Koro) Te Rangi Huata, baby Te Rangi-Turoa Rameka Pohatu with mum Niheri Pohatu.

you", and on the other end of the phone is 5-year-old Peyton seeking advice from Uncle Kerrin about coping through her day. And last but not least, 10-week-old baby Te Rangi-Turoa Rameka Pohatu, who came in with his mummy Nihera to see Koro Te Rangi at his workplace about the cleaning up of Fiesta of Lights.

So you see, it has been lovely in the tari, listening to the pitter patter of little feet while schools been out. No doubt parents started preparing early to get children ready for school, buying new or refreshed uniforms, psyching up the brand new school starters, and preparing for a new year ahead. Morning routines start up again, everyone up early, organising drop offs, pick ups, plans for after school and soon enough we will all be into the swing of things again.

Whatever you do whānau, give your children the best start for this new year. Positive Parenting make happy families. Remember to give your children tell them how proud you are of them.



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# Lockdown leads to change in career

**F**or Jennifer Gale (Ngāi Tahu), last year's lockdown has been a blessing in disguise. The 30-year-old EIT student took the times of upheaval as a chance to reinvent her career – and hop on a dream project.

Jennifer grew up on her parents' farm in Eskdale. Once finished high school, she moved to Dunedin to study for a Bachelor in Management, followed by a postgraduate diploma in tourism that she finished in 2013. While her partner was completing his degree, Jennifer worked as a chef.

The couple then moved to Wellington where Jennifer started a career at Immigration New Zealand and quickly climbed the ladder to become a business analyst. After almost five years of living in the capital, the couple landed jobs in Hawke's Bay and moved back to Jennifer's old stomping ground in Eskdale. The pandemic however, rocked Jennifer's working life. Her stressful job as a labour inspector affected her health, and Jennifer felt that it was time for a change.

EIT's Certificate in Horticulture (Level 3) had just been made fees-free as part of the Government's Covid-19 recovery initiative. Learning the fundamentals of horticulture, plant science and naming, pest and disease, soils and gardening skills, was exactly what Jennifer was looking for.



"My granddad was a keen gardener. He grew his own tobacco, beans, and tomatoes. I used to spend a lot of time gardening with him and had never really lost touch."

Jennifer says the hands-on learning at EIT was very different from what she had done at uni. Most of all, the programme was well connected with the needs of industry and followed best practice guidelines.

"We also built such a great relationship with the tutors. They are extremely

knowledgeable and supportive. Our tutor Claire took us out to her orchard to teach us how to graft apple trees, and even gave us some plants to grow at home."

Encouraged by her new skills, Jennifer started to propagate and grow plants.

"It's awesome that everything just thrives in Hawke's Bay, but I also have to keep on top of this bounty."

She launched a pop-up plant shop, sells duck eggs, and started to preserve fruit gathered from her fruit trees.

Lockdown was also an opportunity to realise their long-term project to do up a 1960s Bedford bus and turn it into a quirky, tiny house.

"Over the last years, we were moving from one place to the next, so we were forced to live with as little as possible anyway," she says. "I don't own any more books, I thinned out my closet and reduced the kitchen equipment, but we are still in the process of downsizing."

In 2020, Jennifer won the Rose Society Award for

**Jennifer Gale has discovered a whole new career pathway.**

My granddad was a keen gardener. He grew his own tobacco, beans, and tomatoes. I used to spend a lot of time gardening with him and had never really lost touch.

academic excellence, commitment, and leadership. "I had no idea that my tutors had nominated me. It came as a total surprise."

Jennifer is now continuing her studies with EIT's Diploma in Environmental Management and the Certificate in Apiculture. A big part of the farm is covered by mānuka, and Jennifer can't wait to set up some hives. Jennifer also wants to restore the native vegetation and has collected many seeds and seedlings to get started.

"Over the years, I've become quite an environmentalist, and I really picture myself working in this field, maybe for regional council or DoC," she says.



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# Board planning session looks to future

Ruth Wong

**O**n January 28 and 29 the Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated (NKII) Board held a strategic planning meeting in Masterton.

They reflected on the past, assessed the current environment and discussed forward plans. The two-day meeting was capably hosted by the Kahungunu ki Wairarapa representative on the iwi board, Melissa Ihaka and facilitated by senior adviser Taash Romana.

Discussions included learnings from Covid-19 level 4 lockdown and looking at ways of improving the way we support our people going forward. Last year Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated underwent an extraordinary operation to ensure its membership and their communities were reached, informed and cared for. This operation multiplied across the Kahungunu rohe from Masterton to Wairoa and at times outside the Kahungunu rohe. There was an overwhelming distribution of fruit, vegetables, cleaning supplies, bread, fish, meat, and easter eggs.

The six taiwhenua or districts became communication and food hubs, creating their own frameworks and strengthening networks to support whānau. Māori organisations showed government agencies how to



help New Zealand by using our existing networks and natural forms of support. It was fantastic to see how enabling people can strengthen, unite and confirm positive outcomes for the iwi.

Discussions confirmed that in the next 12 months, the Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated Board will look to empower their Taiwhenua and Taurahere constituents to become stronger hubs and

continue to determine solutions for their people no matter what issues they may be faced with, whether it be another Covid-19 level 4 lockdown, emergency housing solutions, providing health services and operating networks so they are prepared and ready to take over government support systems again as highly needed.

The outcome over a five year term is that more whānau

will be supported, people will be assured protection. Taiwhenua will lead the way, Services for Māori will be run by Māori, children and families will be healthy and well and live in a clean, dry warm home.

The relatively newly appointed Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Board members hosted a board to board dinner which was attended by former Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated Board member,

**Pictured from top left: Reon Kerr, Michele Rangi, Hori Reti, Brian Ruawai-Hamilton, Hera Edwards, Michelle Ferris, Kristina Perry, Nigel How, Melissa Ihaka, Andrea Flood, Makere Beattie, Jenishavorne Waipuka and Waiora Rogers.**

92-year-old Nelson Rangi. Board members were delighted to see Nelson. The following day they shouted all of the iwi membership to a swim and barbecue at the Trust House Recreational Centre.

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Te Wānanga o Aotearoa

# Work continues to see Korongata Marae rebuilt

**Ruth Wong**

**K**orongata Marae is one of 90 marae in the Kahungunu boundary and is situated in a rural settlement in Hawke's Bay called Bridge Pa, about 10km inland from Hastings.

The Korongata Marae trustees are pleased to share some of the positive things happening at the marae. The information is publicly shared on our Facebook and website pages and may help other marae committees who are going through similar situations. We invite other marae to share as well.

In July 2018 during a private whānau stay, an incident took place that involved an injury and complaint which included lack of lighting, uneven crazy paving surface and the steep stairs. The marae committee engaged contractors to fix the problems to ensure safety for future use of the marae. At the time there were 12 bookings in our calendar. During a viewing of the marae, the building advisers were astonished at the structural issues of the marae and gave advice. Marae trustees accepted a report and recommendation to close the

marae until these issues were sorted.

Our whareniui has been closed since July 28, 2018. Since then, other reports have been sourced and it was agreed by the trustees and through an online whānau ballot that the marae be rebuilt. It's been a long journey, but things are slowly progressing. At the first whānau hui held on November 7, 2020, it was agreed that we shore up Nukanoa for short term use for tangihanga only until a redevelopment plan is in place regarding the whole complex, including the Nukanoa whareniui. Whānau were pleased with this news.

There are so many opportunities for support to all marae at the moment including: Oranga Marae funding (which is a combined Te Puni Kōkiri and Department of Internal Affairs), Te Puni Kōkiri who offer Governance Training, Papakainga Housing information, Digital Marae, Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) – accessed through Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga who also provide health and kaumatua services, whānau sponsorship, annual marae koha \$7000 and resources,

and represent us on several kaupapa including environment and other kaupapa, Hastings District Council Marae Development Fund, Hawke's Bay District Health Board (Healthy Whānau initiatives), Sport Hawke's Bay (Marae Fit), EIT Hawke's Bay (Marae Cookery Courses), Heretaunga Tamatea Settlement Trust (Settlement money \$100k and \$1 million), and Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated.

Korongata Marae has accessed all of these opportunities and we continue to build our network and do whatever it takes to strengthen our whānau, hapū and marae. Recently we received our \$1m through the Heretaunga Tamatea Settlement Trust which has been put into two

term deposits of \$500k each, that will mature at staggering times. Although the settlement money is non taxable, the interest is income and becomes taxable, so we are responsible for paying Residential Withholding Tax on the interest. An IRD adviser is coming to our next meeting to inform us of our obligations.

Korongata Marae has also received PGF funding accessed through Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga, for work on our marae, roadway, wharekai and ablution block.

We are also in the process of reviewing our charter.

At their last meeting trustees were urged by their fellow Matauranga trustee leaders, to read up on governance training, Māori reservations regulations 1994,

obligations of a trustee and so forth.

We have a fairly new trustees who were elected at last year's AGM. Since then, the marae and trustee committees have merged; trustees are leading a cleaning month each in the next 12 month calendared year; a marae whānau activity will be held every quarter with regular whānau hui; and the 10 trustees were appointed to two of the five strategic areas to keep the momentum of the strategy and vision alive. Weedeaters, waterblasters, washing walls, cleaning gutters, clearing out rubbish, gardening, everything you can think of took place.

**Ruth Wong** is Korongata Marae Secretary



**Picture taken on Saturday, January 30 – in front of our wharekai 'Matariki' – Korongata Marae whānau working bee.**

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against  
COVID-19

New Zealand Government

# MAKE SUMMER UNSTOPPABLE



✓  
Scan QR  
codes  
and turn on  
Bluetooth tracing.

✓  
Stay home if  
you're sick  
and get tested.

✓  
Wash your  
hands  
Wash often. Use soap.  
20 seconds. Then dry.

## FREE Mana Wāhine Breast and Cervical Screening Day

For Māori and Pacific  
women aged 45 to 70  
who have never had a  
mammogram or are overdue.

Saturday 13th February 2021, 10:30am to 2pm

TRG Imaging at Royston Hospital, Southland Road, Hastings. Transport available.

Call 0800 729 729 to book now or show up on the day.



# BE A KAITIAKI FOR YOUR WHĀNAU AND WHAKAPAPA

Immunise to protect  
your whānau  
against measles

PROTECT  
AGAINST  
MEASLES  
org.nz