

Pānui ki te iwi

The 'Kahungunu Wave' kicks in to combat the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

March Edition – 2020

What is the Kahungunu Wave?

The Kahungunu wave is the raising of the eyebrows in greeting, in affirmation, in exasperation, or in seduction. The nickname for Ngāti Kahungunu descendants over the past 200 years was Ngā Tukemata o Kahungunu, meaning the bushy eyebrows of Kahungunu. In his time Kahungunu was renowned for traveling alone throughout the country while others travelled in groups of warriors. Such was his charisma. Everywhere he went, he would help build and strengthen communities as he revealed his hardworking ethics by gathering food, building houses, constructing and designing Pa. The symbol of his multi marriages, (some say 8, some say 13) was the raising of his eyebrows to attract or enact a romantic liaison. This raising of the eyebrows is what we refer to as the 'Kahungunu Wave'. Everytime he did raise his eyebrows or did the 'Kahungunu Wave', a new hapū was formed.

In our history and tradition the 'Kahungunu Wave' was as common but more often used than the hongī. In this pandemic 'Coronavirus' atmosphere, we are urging all Ngāti Kahungunu to revert to our tikanga, the 'Kahungunu Wave' – Ngā Tukemata o Kahungunu.

It is alright not to hongī, it is alright not to kiss, it is alright not to hug, it is alright to put a Rahui around yourself and around your whānau and friends.

A Rahui is a protective measure for a place, for things and for people. Kawa and tikanga are often a reason to dutifully follow custom and tradition currently practiced on the marae and other places. However tikanga demands that we do what's tika or what's right for any occasion. For example it may be Kawa to have all your pōhiri outside, but if its pouring with rain, it is tika to have your pōhiri inside.

There's the mexican wave and this is the 'Kahungunu Wave'. Dont be naive, do the 'Kahungunu Wave'.

Ngāti Kahungunu – Strong, vibrant, healthy whānau, hapū. The Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated mission is to enhance the mana and well being of Ngāti Kahungunu.

TE MIHI Ā-TUKEMATA

