

Tihei KAHUNGUNU

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi
INCORPORATED



Members of
Kahungunu
Health
Authority
Wānanga.

Reclaiming rangatiratanga

Inaugural Kahungunu Health Authority Wānanga meets

On Thursday last week Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated hosted the inaugural Kahungunu Health Authority Wānanga, an energising and affirming gathering that marked a pivotal moment in the iwi's journey toward reclaiming tino rangatiratanga over Māori health.

Following the formal announcement of the Kahungunu Health Authority in September 2025, this wānanga brought together

Māori health providers, doctors, healers, community workers, and whānau to kōrero, connect, and co-design a future where Māori values, leadership, and aspirations shape wellbeing across the rohe.

"We are embarking on a transformative journey," said NKII chairman Bayden Barber. "This is about a strong vision for Ngāti Kahungunu, improving access to affordable healthcare, strengthening mahi tahi, and building a system designed by us, for us, grounded in our kawa and tikanga."

The wānanga affirmed the need to shift from a Kāwanatanga space to one of Rangatiratanga, where Māori-led governance and cultural integrity are central. A working

group will now be formed to develop a detailed scoping report, with progress to be shared at Hauora Wānanga #2 in 2026.

Former chairman Ngahiwi Tomoana reminded attendees of the healing power of waiata and the importance of language in honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

"It's good to see all the old faces and new fresh faces – this is how we move into the next generation."

Lady Tureiti Moxon of Te Kōhāo Health issued a powerful call to action: "To take control of a health system, we must first take care of our own health. Alcohol, drugs, vaping – these are killing our people. We must be part of the answer."

Riki Niania, CEO of Te Rau

Ora, emphasised long-term commitment and collective momentum: "We will get further faster together. Yesterday we hadn't started, but today we have. That deserves a mihi."

Dr Te Aro Moxon reinforced the importance of Māori health leadership and cultural safety.

"Kei a tātau te rongoā. We must hold fast to our dreams of Māori autonomy in health delivery. Cultural competence and safety are essential to high-quality care."

Online Q & A and polling platforms Slido and Padlet, a suggestion board, priorities board, and panels dedicated to capturing whānau voices brought in much for the iwi to consider going forward on this great venture of a health

authority. The afternoon panels included Te Rangi Huata and Pam McCullough who shared their personal experiences with the health system that made health providers in the room think about how they can improve their services.

This wānanga is the first of many. It signals a bold, united step forward, where Kahungunu leads with mana, vision, and constant commitment to whānau wellbeing.

"We look forward to following up with the working group and inviting our Māori Service Providers to be part of our strategy going forward," Barber said.

MC for the day, Dr Jeremy Tātēre MacLeod, kept the wānanga moving well o.

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


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Healing from within – a call to action on ulcers

Use every tool, both Western and Māori, that restores our people

Last Thursday, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated hosted a wānanga to explore the potential of establishing a Kahungunu Health Authority, an initiative aimed at strengthening and improving the current health system.

As part of the wānanga, a panel of whānau members shared their lived experiences. Among them was Te Rangi Huata, who generously offered his reflections and has given permission for excerpts of his kōrero to be shared with the wider public in this edition of Tihei Kahungunu.

After nine months of pain and 14 ulcers, I discovered the power of holistic care – Western and Māori. Now I'm urging our iwi to fund treatments that save lives and honour our whakapapa.

For nine relentless months,

I endured the agony of 14 intravenous ulcers on my left leg, pain so sharp it felt like a thousand paper cuts every day. There's no quick fix. Leg ulcers heal when they heal, and for some in our community, that can mean decades of suffering.

Mine began with an innocent scratch at night. Infection followed, worsened by dirty fingernails. If I knew then what I know now, I wouldn't be sharing this today.

This condition, caused by poor circulation and swelling, is alarmingly common in Hawke's Bay.

Older Māori men are 6.5 times more likely to develop ulcers than European men; Māori women, five times. Pasifika rates are even higher by 20 and 19 times. These numbers demand urgent attention.

My late sister Manu Vercoe suffered too. A simple knock at Waipatu Marae led to infection and lifelong pain. We

cannot ignore this.

Through lived experience, research and kōrero with health professionals, I've learned healing must be holistic and self-driven. My plan:

- Act fast: Intensive treatment in the first month is critical.
- Nutrition: Vitamins heal from the inside. Sugar is the enemy.
- Compression therapy: Coban bandaging turned my leg into a second heart.
- Rest and elevation: Essential for circulation.
- Hyperbaric oxygen

therapy: Six weeks at Nga Puna Waioranga – Te Kōhao Health in Hamilton changed everything.

■ Karakia, mirimiri, rongoā: Traditional healing accelerated recovery by 50%. The wairua at Nga Puna Waioranga is real.

The biggest healer of all? Yourself. Don't wait. Don't rely solely on clinicians because they're often just one step ahead. Learn, act, advocate, and keep your fingernails clean.

So what do I want from this kōrero? Action. I call on our Kahungunu Post-Settlement

As part of the wānanga, a panel of whānau members shared their lived experiences, including Te Rangi Huata.

Treaty Groups to fund health initiatives:

■ Hyperbaric oxygen therapy for members with ulcers and related illnesses.

■ Karakia, mirimiri, rongoā as standard care in all Kahungunu health centres.

Let's honour our whakapapa by investing in healing that reflects who we are. Equity means access to every tool, both Western and Māori, that restores our people to health. We have the means to pay for it ourselves. It is our life. And we only have one – one life. Help us save lives! Tihei Kahungunu.



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**KAHUNGUNU
2050**

Celebration of language, legacy, leadership

Toitū Te Reo Festival attracts hundreds

Earlier this month, Hastings hosted the second annual Toitū Te Reo Festival at the Toitū Functions and Events Centre, drawing hundreds of passionate reo advocates from across Aotearoa.

The three-day event was a vibrant celebration of te reo Māori, filled with kōrero, waiata, and powerful personal journeys that inspired and uplifted.

Hastings Mayor Wendy Schollum opened the festival, reaffirming the Hastings District Council's commitment to becoming a te Reo Māori city by 2040.

Through the Heretaunga Ararau Te Reo Māori Action Plan, the council is integrating te reo into signage and public communications, setting a bold example for language revitalisation.

Festival founder Dr Jeremy Tātē MacLeod acknowledged the challenges faced in organising this year's event, including economic pressures and shifting public sentiment.

"Government rhetoric will always impact attitudes toward our language," he said, "but we carry on forging our way forward."

Despite these hurdles, the turnout was overwhelming, proving the enduring strength

We were not handed our reo. We had to fight for it.

Moana Maniapoto,
Musician and activist

of the reo movement.

Among the highlights were the Pūmotomoto presentations, where speakers shared their reo journeys.

Broadcaster Mike McRoberts spoke candidly about imposter syndrome and his path to reclaiming his Māori identity.

From growing up in Christchurch with little exposure to reo or tikanga, to receiving his tā moko and delivering his first whai kōrero at Putahi Marae, McRoberts reminded attendees that "te reo is not a second language for Māori – it's our language."

Musician and activist Moana Maniapoto delivered a stirring kōrero on resilience and cultural reclamation.

She reflected on her global travels, the influence of Māori visionaries, and the power of music as a tool for activism.

"We were not handed our reo," she said.



"We had to fight for it."

Her message to artists was clear: the kaupapa and the reo are the true stars.

In a major announcement, MacLeod revealed that Toitū Te Reo will transition into a charitable trust to ensure its financial sustainability.

Ruth Wong, Rowena Batt, Chrissie Hape, Danielle Keil, Nicosia Webster and Daveen Kupa.

A board of five inaugural trustees, Aperahama Edwards, Karepa Wall, Pānia Papa, Dr Hana O'Regan, and Dr Jeremy Tātē MacLeod, will guide the festival's future.

Supported by sponsors including Te Mātāwai, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated,

and Kauwaka, the trust model will open new funding streams and ease pressure on partners.

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated congratulated the organisers for another successful and inspiring event, affirming that the legacy of te reo Māori is in good hands.

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The Fiesta of Lights returns to Tomoana Showgrounds with raptors this year.

Dinosaurs feature in Fiesta of Lights

Meet the baby dinosaurs at Fiesta of Lights!

They blink growl, and steal the show – don't miss these adorable raptors in Waikoko Gardens.

Get ready to be dazzled! The Fiesta of Lights returns to Tomoana Showgrounds for its 27th anniversary, transforming summer nights into a glowing wonderland from December 13 to January 4, 2026, 9pm-11pm.

This beloved event, started as a millennium project by brothers Te Rangī and Tama Huata, has become a Hawke's

Bay tradition, attracting thousands every year. Stroll along a one-kilometre trail of over 50 spectacular light displays, crafted by talented local artists. From fairy tales and vibrant animals to enchanting Christmas scenes and Māori cultural themes, these luminous creations will captivate all ages. Many installations are interactive – perfect for play and exploration!

New this year:
Baby Dinosaur Puppets: Watch them blink, growl, and learn about raptors with park

rangers in Waikoko Gardens. There will be foam parties every weekend for ages 5+, so bring a towel and a change of clothes!

Food & Fun: Enjoy Kiwi favourites like hot dogs and chips from Gala Caters, sweet treats from Fiesta of Treats, and refreshing real fruit slushies at The Slush Shack located at the front gate.

New Year's Eve Special: Celebrate under the stars with a spectacular fireworks show, live band, and bouncy castles – bigger and better than ever! Tickets are just \$7 per

person (kids under 3 free). Organised by the Public Dreams Charitable Trust, the fiesta supports arts training and jobs for all ages, thanks to generous sponsors and community partners.

Where: Tomoana Showgrounds, Gate 3 Kenilworth Rd, Hastings
When: December 13 to January 4, 2026, 9pm-11pm. More information at fiestaoflights.co.nz. Don't miss Hawke's Bay's most magical summer tradition. Bring your whānau and friends for an unforgettable night!

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AUNTY'S GARDEN



Watermelon is an unlikely but delicious addition to many meals.

Watermelon a delicious 'flavour-up'

Try adding cubed watermelon with your next meal

Aunty Hanui Lawrence

Marty and Linda are regular volunteers at Aunty's Garden, always willing to give service.

They both enjoy vegetables and vegetable-based dishes, along with sourdough breads, adding all sorts of flavours to their meals.

The word "up" entered my head – like hurry up, get up, shut up, two-up, keep up, look up – and then the thought

leaped out at me: Flavour-up!

My "boil-ups" with pork meat, pūhā, rocket, and dandelion leaves have made an impression on many who love them. The only 'flavour-up' I use is red onions and salt.

I still have a lot to learn about flavours, and don't we all?

Just like the lovely recipes you find in *Hawke's Bay Today's* Weekend Page, or in cookbooks and magazines.

At Aunty's Garden, there are plenty of flavour-ups to

add to your cooking.

The picture featured with this article was our Sunday lunch, shared recently with a few invited guests.

One of them brought a bowl of cubed watermelon, which reminded me of our mother – she loved to eat melon with her meat. And as you can see, it looks and tastes great!

Try it with roast pork, peas, mashed potatoes, pumpkin, and a tossed lettuce salad. Enjoy!

Cushla Tangaere-Manuel

MP for Ikaroa-Rāwhiti

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Authorised by Cushla Tangaere-Manuel MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Stars shine at Waiata Māori Music Awards

Purcell-Mainini named Best Māori Female Solo Artist

The 18th annual Waiata Māori Music Awards lit up Hastings' Toi Toi Arts & Events Centre this month with a celebration of Māori musical excellence, honouring both rising talents and legendary contributors to the industry.

Hawke's Bay's own Makayla Purcell-Mainini, fresh off opening for Six60's Grassroots tour, was crowned Best Māori Female Solo Artist, while Invercargill's Haami Tuari, of the beloved Tuari Brothers, took home Best Māori Male Solo Artist.

The Tuari Brothers also clinched Best Māori Group, continuing their whānau's winning streak.

Auckland reggae ensemble Corrella, last year's Best Māori Group, returned to the spotlight with wins for Best Māori Urban Roots Reggae Album and Best Pop Album by a Māori Artist for their LP *Skeletons*.

Hip-hop artist Tipene, also from Hawke's Bay, was recognised for his powerful fourth album *Heritage Trail 2 – The Partnership*, featuring Troy Kingi, Jordyn with a Why, and political voices Hana-Rāwhiti Maipi-Clarke and Rawiri Waititi. His music video

Tū, featuring Hone Harawira and footage from the Toitū Te Tiriti hikoi, won Best Music Video by a Māori Artist.

Palmerston North-born TAWAZ secured Best Song by a Māori Artist and Radio Airplay Song of the Year (te reo Māori), while Ōpōtiki's Hori Shaw won Radio Airplay Song of the Year by a Māori Artist.

The Emerging Artist Over 25 award was shared by Shane Walker, Ngatainui Ratu, and Rawhitiroa.

The evening also paid

tribute to two icons of Māori music. The late producer Wyn Anania received the Te Tohu o te Ahumahi Pūoro – Iconic Contribution to Music Industry Award, recognising his decades-long commitment to uplifting Māori voices and preserving te reo Māori through production and mentorship.

Acclaimed singer and composer Toni Huata was honoured with the Mauriora o te ao Pūoro Māori Lifetime Achievement Award.

Active since the late 1990s, Huata's groundbreaking collaborations with Charles Te Ahukaramū Royal, George Nepia III, Warren Maxwell, and others have shaped the landscape of Māori language music and performance. Her theatrical flair and dedication to cultural storytelling have inspired generations.

The awards, held in collaboration with the Toitū Te Reo and Ngāti Kahungunu Rūnanga Arts and Culture Board Haka Symposium,

offered a vibrant showcase of Māori artistry, affirming the strength, diversity, and legacy of te ao pūoro Māori.

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated has been a proud sponsor the Waiata Māori Music Awards (WMMA's) since it was brought to Kahungunu ki Heretaunga to host. We are extremely proud to host this national event in our rohe and congratulate the Waiata Māori Music Awards director Ellison Huata and her team for executing a fabulous event.



Hawke's Bay's own Makayla Purcell-Mainini was crowned Best Māori Female Solo Artist.



Whānau Ora

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Chrissie Hape joins board of Māhutonga

Agency tasked with supporting Māori and Pacific communities

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated chief executive Chrissie Hape has joined the board of Māhutonga, a newly established Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency tasked with supporting Māori and Pacific communities across the eastern and southern North Island.

Māhutonga is one of four new agencies created earlier this year as part of the most significant reform of Whānau Ora since its inception by Dame Tariana Turia in 2010. The changes stem from a government-led procurement process through Te Puni Kōkiri, aiming to refresh the commissioning model and improve transparency and outcomes.

Launched by Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Māhutonga takes its name from the Southern Cross constellation, symbolising guidance and aspiration. Chairman Te Pūoho Kātene explains, "Māhutonga tells us

to keep our eyes up 'to be aspirational' and to let whānau set the horizon."

Before Māhutonga's establishment, the region's commissioning role was held by Te Pou Matakana, later known as the Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency. Māhutonga now leads a new era of kaupapa Māori-driven support, grounded in manaakitanga (care), kotahitanga (unity), and tino rangatiratanga (self-determination).

Ngāti Toa CEO Helmut Modlik sees Māhutonga as a transformative opportunity to shift from top-down service delivery to community-led solutions.

He believes technology and tikanga can work together to create enduring change, and that the agency's ultimate goal is to empower whānau to lead their own development, making the agency itself unnecessary over time.

"Māhutonga is about long-

term empowerment, not short-term fixes," Modlik says. "We're focused on transparency, reconnecting with providers, and inviting others to collaborate for better outcomes."

Under the leadership of Chrissie Hape, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated continues to champion whānau wellbeing with clarity and conviction.

In her 11 years with the iwi, Chrissie has guided the iwi into

Chrissie Hape has joined the Board of Māhutonga, a newly established Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency.

a new era of strategic influence, securing its role as a commissioning agency for Oranga Tamariki through the newly formed Te Ara Matua Programme. This milestone affirms Ngāti Kahungunu's commitment to Māori-led solutions, placing whānau aspirations and whakapapa at the heart of care.

Te Ara Matua is more than a programme, it's a pathway shaped by iwi values, designed to uplift tamariki, rangatahi

and their wider whānau with dignity, strength and aroha.

"I am very humbled to be appointed to He Mahutonga Investment Board on behalf of region 2," said Chrissie Hape.

"With Chrissie Hape now on the Māhutonga Board, I feel that she is well positioned to amplify iwi-led initiatives and ensure whānau voices shape the future of Whānau Ora," said Bayden Barber, chairman of Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated.



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

Young swimmer Aryah making waves

13-year-old is making a real splash at swimming competitions

Ruth Wong

Aryah Davies, a rising Māori/Pasifika athlete and proud member of the Sundevils Swimming Club, is making a splash in Hawke's Bay's competitive swimming scene.

At just 13 years old, Aryah trains six times a week and is on track to qualify for the 2026 National Age Group Swimming Championships (NAGS) – a goal that requires shaving up to 11 seconds off her targeted strokes.

"Aryah has become a cornerstone of our Junior programme," says coach Willy Benson. "Her technical development, leadership, and underwater kicking ability give her real X-factor. She's well positioned to lead not just within the club, but across the province."

Aryah's favourite routines include collecting eggs on the family farm and spending time with Marley, the family dog. Her go-to treat? Whittaker's chocolate, especially Peanut Butter, Caramel, or Nutella flavours.

Since relocating from Kirikiriroa in 2022, Aryah has



Aryah Davies is making waves in competitive swimming.

embraced Hawke's Bay life and continues to excel in backstroke events locally and regionally.

Her commitment and work ethic reflect the values instilled by her parents, Penita and Duayne Davies, both respected health professionals, martial arts champions, and long-time advocates for whānau wellbeing.

Penita Davies, a former Kyokushin Karate world champion and national coach, now serves at Te Tāhū Hauora – Health Quality & Safety Commission, championing equity and culturally grounded healthcare.

Duayne Davies, a sixth dan Kyokushin master and deputy chair of Korongata Marae, has mentored hundreds of tamariki and rangatahi

through their family-run dojo.

Aryah's leadership extends beyond the pool. She regularly supports Korongata Marae through whānau cleaning days and wānanga, and recently participated in the inaugural Kahungunu Marae Ironmāori event alongside her parents.

"We are incredibly proud of Aryah," says Traci Tuimaseve, chairman of the Korongata Marae Trustees. "She's a young ambassador for health, wellbeing, and dedication, and a role model for our whānau."

Aryah's journey is one to watch. With her talent, discipline, and community roots, she's poised to become a standout figure in Aotearoa's sporting future.

Aryah's coach Willy Benson said she has "real X-factor".



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**Our office will be closed on
Thursday 18 December
and will re-open on
Monday 5 January 2026**