

Centre staff keen to give back

Volunteers are from Flaxmere, and want to help others live better

Ruth Wong

The Hastings suburb of Flaxmere that was built in the early 1970s to cater for the city's expanding population.

It is now a flourishing suburb with over 11,000 residents, according to the last census, and continues to grow in population and resources to support and strengthen a thriving community.

The Flaxmere Village Centre is in the heart of the suburb, boasting a New World supermarket, a bottle store, post office, chemist, bakery, laundromat, dairy, secondhand store, several food takeaway shops including sushi, Indian, Chinese, pizza, fish and chips and more.

In the vicinity, behind and around the Village Centre, there is a Four Square, a petrol station, an internet café, an automotive garage, a Work & Income office, a library, the police station, a public bar, a skate bowl, waterworld indoor pools, community tennis and basketball courts.

Swansea village is across the road, and there is, of course, our famous Flaxmere Park, nationally recognised for being the country's most active park of the year, with its modern, gated playground and splash pad and free-to-use community BBQ. Right in the middle of all of this is the Flaxmere Community Centre.

The centre is capably managed by Anahera McClutchie and her dynamic staff, most of whom live in the Flaxmere community and represent many different nationalities, which makes it really easy to communicate with the whānau who come to the centre.



Some of the team at the Community Centre. From left, Awhi Kenrick, Cilla Tuala-Fata, Matrix Stempa, Claudia Carson and Tivaini Fomai, at their first team meeting.

Photo / Supplied

My goal is for the centre to be a hub, a place where whānau can come to learn or gain more knowledge about healthy living and how to become more active.

Anahera McClutchie

"My goal is for the centre to be a hub, a place where whānau can come to learn or gain more knowledge about healthy living and how to become more active.

"A place where whānau feel safe, a place to upskill or gain a career, a place for kids to enjoy different activities, and a place that feels like home," says.

The Community Centre is an initiative of the Hastings District Council.

The activities offered are outcomes to needs that came out of the community plan.

"Our goal is to achieve these

goals through the delivery of our programmes - our gym classes and boot camps, youth events and activities.

"To help us with our efforts, we liaise and network with agencies and organisations such as Pursuit, Te Marama, and Sport Hawke's Bay to keep these services going for this community", McClutchie says.

Last year, she contacted 'Nourish for Nil' - to supply surplus kai to Flaxmere residents. The food is delivered to the centre and redistributed to anyone who comes to the centre on a Saturday morning. It's free and

it's yummy. Volunteers sometimes help McClutchie and her team. These and other initiatives are all part of supporting the community.

"We have a wonderful team of experts who are gym assistants, personal trainers, youth leaders, employment directors, basketball trainers, cooking and budgeting enthusiasts, and kaiiaki who look after our environment and do regular welfare checks in our community to ensure everyone is safe and well."

"I feel very blessed to work with such motivating people", McClutchie says.

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Role chance to give back by helping people

A profile of wahine doing great things in our community – Anahera McClutchie

Ko wai koe?

Ko Anahera Te Whaiti – McClutchie toku ingoa.

No hea koe?

No waimarama ahau.

Tell us about your family?

My dad is from Te Araroa and Hicks Bay (Ngati Porou) and my mum is Ngati Kahungunu and Ngai Tuhoë. We currently live in Hastings and I have one older sister.

Do you have someone who influenced you? Why?

Sharen Te Whaiti (my mum) and Olivia Kupa (my aunty), they've always been there throughout my whole life supporting and believing in me more than I believed in myself.

Who are your heroes in your life?

Robyn Kershaw – Horua.

What's the best advice they gave you?

To dream big, aim high and work hard. To always remember that there are other people who have less than us, so be strong. Life is short, live

life to the fullest, make every day count and be grateful.

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

I manage the Flaxmere Community Centre where we provide our community with recreational, social, educational and employment opportunities through quality programmes and services.

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

I studied recreation and sport because I've always had a passion for it. I was offered an opportunity to apply for the gym assistant role here at the centre and my career grew since then.

What do you like most about what you do?

I get to work in the community and meet a lot of people, this is an opportunity for me to give back to the people by helping them through their journey by offering the services we have at the centre.



Anahera McClutchie is a martial arts black belt. Photo / Supplied

What's the things you don't like about what you do?

We can't always help everyone, there's some things we just can't help our people with, but we certainly try as much as we can to steer them into the right direction where others may be able to help.

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

Be strong for someone you

care about fight through cancer.

What's your favourite thing to do?

Travel.

What's your favourite sport?

Martial arts and waka ama.

What's your favourite colour?

Purple.

What's your favourite kai?

Icecream.

A little bit more about Anahera

Anahera grew up in Camberley where she still resides today. She loves her community and has always been nourished by her own community whānau. She attended local primary and intermediate schools and graduated from Hastings Girls High School in 2011. She found her way to EIT Hawke's Bay where she studied toward a diploma in Recreation and Sport and later she completed a bachelors degree. An opportunity for mahi took her to Sport Hawke's Bay where she developed her aspiration to work in the community to help others with their health and wellbeing. In 2015 Anahera applied for a job at the Flaxmere Community Centre where she worked for a short time before being appointed as the centre manager.

As well as being the Flaxmere Community centre manager, Anahera is a disciplined martial arts black belt. At an early age she started learning martial arts at Kupa International Martial Arts managed by her uncle Tom Kupa. Disciplined in her effort, she got her black belt status at 16 years of age. Anahera has entered three world tournaments and at her last event held in 2017 at Liverpool, Sydney, Australia, she won the world championship title 'Belt for Traditional Weapons'.

"Anahera is really humble but she can be aggressive when she needs to be. She's a perfectionist," says uncle Tom, martial arts expert. Today Anahera still holds the world champion title and until Covid-19 takes a nap, she will continue to hold the title.

Anahera has a real drive to supporting people to be their best self. She says that growing up she was fortunate to be surrounded by positive role models, and it feels good being able to give back to others. Anahera is the Flaxmere Community Centre manager and loves her mahi.

– Ruth Wong

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Pursuit born to help others transition

Ruth Wong

Ko wai koe? No hea koe?

Ko Whanganui-a-tara te Maunga
Ko Waingongoro te Awa
Ko Ngāti ati Kurukuru te Hapu
Ko Waimārama te Marae
Ko Takitimu te Waka
Ko Ngāti Kahungunu te Iwi
Ko Terry McGarva raua ko Selena Gillies ōku mātua
Ko Moira McGarva-Ratapu toku ingoa

Ko Anaru Ratapu toku tāne
Tokowhā āku tamariki No Waimārama ahau

Tell us about your family?

I was born and raised in Hastings. I have 11 siblings, we are a blended family. I am the third eldest. For the most part I have happy memories of my childhood but there were very dark times as well. Our mum made sure to raise us on the marae out in Waimarama as children. My father was a good provider who has worked hard all of his life and has spent over 30 years at the freezing works with early morning starts and still works there today. He also had many talents, he fought from the Putanga gym under Selwyn Jones in Hastings and won the NZ title in his weight division. He was very arty and enjoyed making things with his hands. My mother raised us in Camberley as a single mother after my parents separated when I was 7 years old. Our home was not flash but always looked nice and clean.

Profiling Moira McGarva Ratapu – Kahungunu Women in Business



Moira and Anaru Ratapu with their family. Photo / Supplied

When our parents separated things turned for the worst. Our cupboards were empty, but the fridge was full of alcohol. We would walk home from Raureka school during the week and there would be parties or strangers at our house. Eggs, noodles and boil up became our staple diet. I have nothing but respect and admiration for my parents but this was my experience from my perspective.

Growing up in the hood we became streetwise. Our limited options were driven from poverty and necessity. But all the kids in our neighbourhood knew each other and we had each other's backs. My childhood taught me how to be resilient, to be resourceful, to have gratitude and the power of a big family and being a team, I learnt that teamwork makes the dream work!

Do you have someone who influenced you? Why?

Yes my grandparents inspired me as they both were entrepreneurs. My maternal grandfather Charles Gillies started a business harvesting vegetables and then became a sharing contractor in Waimarama. I never met him but I have heard many stories of him taking in street kids and giving them shearing jobs. My paternal grandmother Upokoina Hellyer opened the first Cook Island speaking early childcare centre in Hawke's Bay. My nana has

been gone for over 30 years. Both of my grandparents were community people who loved giving of their time and talents to the people of Hastings. They were both great influences in the community and would always put other people first!

Who are your heroes in your life?

Jesus Christ is the ultimate Alpha and Omega! I would be nothing without Him! My life is blessed because of Him and I have no hesitation admitting that! I also learn a lot from other business owners in Hawke's Bay. We are so lucky to have many good examples in the Bay.

What's the best advice they gave you?

Put people first! (the money will come later).

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

I am the founding director of Pursuit Limited. We have been operating since October 2017. We suit jobseekers for employment, preparing CVs, cover letters and providing pre employment support. I started Pursuit with the help of a small committee.

We started off small with basically no money but big dreams. Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga allowed me to lease a small room for a cheap price and I would work eight

hours for myself and 32 hours as a social worker, until I got my first contract from MSD then I was able to leave my fulltime job.

This later grew over time, exchanging better services for more money.

I have been working for myself for the past two years and have five staff. We are currently advertising for two more to join our team. I feel privileged to not only to help whānau get employed but I am creating employment too.

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

My background is in social work, I did a Bachelor in Applied Social Science at EIT, Napier, and then went to Taiwhenua o Heretaunga for almost nine years to work as a social worker.

However, I found that I would get frustrated because I wanted to help people more but was restricted by my scope. I noticed a trend that when my clients would become employed they would no longer need my services. So I figured out that I could make more impact to focus on getting my clients into employment.

I was also a divorced single mother at the age of 24 years because of domestic violence. I know how hard it is to survive

on a benefit.

I remember being helped to get into employment after having my first child, it wasn't easy! I went back to work when my first born was 6 months old.

This job was not my dream job but my confidence returned I started to believe in myself again. Employment services then became my focus and Pursuit was born to help others transition just like I did!

What do you like most about what you do?

Helping people!!

What's the things you don't like about what you do?

It doesn't happen very often but rude clients.

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

A 90km bike ride for Iron Maori with no training lol. It was a long ride and I have never prayed so hard in my life hahaha. Amateur mistake. I have been put off long distance ever since lol.

What's your favourite thing to do?

Spend time with my family, traveling, dancing, listening to audible books and helping people!

What's your favourite sport?

Crossfit when I'm fit lol.

What's your favourite colour?

Black it goes with everything and it makes you slimmer lol

What's your favourite kai?

Vietnamese and Asian kai i'ts soooo fresh and tasty!!

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PURSUIT



The Nannies focuses on current issues from a traditional knowledge base.

Photo / Supplied

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Research Scholarship Recipients 2020

All the generations working together

'The Nannies' is a narrative started during national lockdown 2020. Based on a pair of lively elderly cousins who live next-door to each other, the Nannies explores current issues from a traditional knowledge base.

Nanny 81 and Nanny 75 returned to our village this evening tired and happy. They spent Waitangi weekend out of the district celebrating a milestone birthday of Nanny 81's baby son.

Nanny 81's cat is excited to see her, thinking it will get another meal tonight. Cat meows its karanga while Nanny 81 makes her way up the footpath into the house. Nanny 81 spies the leftover cat-biscuits in the bowl, then eyes her feline suspiciously. "Humbug," she mutters and makes her way to her couch, turns the volume up on the television as high as it will go, takes up a pen and recommences her word-finder she abandoned three days ago. Cat is left to karanga to itself.

It doesn't take long for Nanny 75 to appear from next-door, after taking her car home and unloading her luggage. A five-minute explanation takes place of how unloading the car occurred. Cuppa-tea time. Listening, like travelling, is a thirsty business.

While we inform each other of happenings over the past three days, stories pop up on the television. One features an articulate and passionate

I'm getting too old to keep hearing this same old waiata.

young man – who is kind on the eyes, points out Nanny 81 as she glances from page to screen. It is a familiar story of the younger generation being stifled by the older.

"Aue," protests Nanny 75, "not this old story again!" "He aha?" questions Nanny 81, not looking up from her word-finder.

"Te hoha hoki o te korero nei," declares Nanny 75. "I'm getting too old to keep hearing this same old waiata."

"You are old," whispers Nanny 81 with a slight grin.

Nanny 75 glares, sighs and then launches into her topic. "You remember! We talked about this at our wānanga at the marae. We old ones encourage the young ones, like our tipuna on our Takitimu waka. You know, the Tamateas."

Nanny 81 glances up from her word-finder. "Tamatea-

Nui, Tamatea-Roa, Tamatea-Arikinui," she proclaims, finishing her cousin's sentence as she so often does.

"Ae, ka tika," confirms Nanny 75. The grandfather, his son and grandson, all travelled to Aotearoa together on our holy waka... and who was the captain? The mokopuna!

"That's all right," concurs Nanny 81. She waves her pen at me and says "What's that flash phrase?"

"Intergenerational Succession Synergy," I respond.

"Yeah," continues Nanny 75, liking the words yet uncomfortable with them. "And what do we hear now? All that humbug about having to wait until your elders are dead before you can do anything. That doesn't make any sense."

"No dollars or cents," confirms Nanny 81. "Everyone working together for everyone."

"Exactly," declares Nanny 75. "It was tika for our old people in the then, it is tika for us in the now."

Silence all round. The cat has disappeared. Time for another cuppa.

To be continued...

It's not just about basketball say family

National Māori Basketball Tournament about whakapapa and reuniting each year

Ruth Wong

Mum Cilla, dad Rikki, son Karybe and daughter Rikki-Lee are no strangers to basketball. It runs through their veins like bloodlines of whakapapa, and so it was with the last National Māori Basketball Tournament held in Rotorua.

In a sponsorship report from Karybe, they sent a photo that was quite neat to see.

While dad played for the Kahungunu ki Heretaunga Masters team which brought home the gold, Karybe played for the Kahungunu ki Ahuriri U19s men's and Rikki-Lee played for the Rakaipaaka U17s women's teams.

This goes to show how important whakapapa really is. It's not always about winning or stacking teams, it is about sharing the love and meeting up with the cuzzies.

Mum Cilla is the manager for both the Heretaunga

Masters and the Ahuriri U19s teams while dad Rikki coaches his children's teams.

"It was a very busy but rewarding week supporting different lines of our whakapapa," says Cilla.

"Karybe injured himself in the semifinals but played in a lot of pain in the finals against our whānau team from Ngāti Toa."

The intense final went into overtime.

The golden basket rule meant that whoever scored the first basket was the winner.

Ngāti Toa had possession, missed the shot but went to the free throw line, missed both shots but got the rebound and scored to win the final. Pulses raced during this final, but hearts jumped for joy as whakapapa links were reunited.

"It's not just about basketball," says Rikki,

"It's about whakapapa and reuniting each year, which means a lot to us."



Rikki-Lee, Rikki and Karybe Te Kira.
Photo / Supplied

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Hastings putting on a show of colour

Hanui Lawrence

Many years ago at high school I remember a student giving her speech as a finalist in a competition.

Her topic was *Our Town*, based on an American play. I don't remember the content too well except that it had everyone spellbound.

While listening to the radio early one morning, the song *Where have all the flowers gone?* came on. This is one of my favourite songs. I couldn't help but connect these two items together – Hastings the most beautiful city in New Zealand with the vibrancy of the flower beds around our town.

The roundabouts in our town are stunning with different shades of reds, emanating from the geraniums. Other areas throughout our town are lovely shades of yellow marigolds and shrubbery everywhere.

The hanging baskets of colourfulimpatiens through the main street Heretaunga and of course the parks around the outer areas with lots of beds of colourful flowers full of fragrance and beauty. *Our Town*, I could write a play about it called *Hastings our Heavenly City*.

Our recipe for this month is

again from the humble kamokamo. Before fruiting, the vibrant yellow and orange flowers are stunning.

Our recipe for Kamokamo Bake**Ingredients**

- Select a large still green kamokamo (we have these at Aunty's Garden)
- 500 grams chicken nibbles or other meat as desired or don't use meat if you desire.
- One onion, ½ cup sliced beans, ½ cup of peas, one big diced carrot, half a red capsicum diced, dash of mixed herbs, one onion chopped finely, squirts of soya sauce
- Oil for frying

Method

- Cut the top off the kamokamo and remove all the seeds. Place onto an oven dish and bake for 20 minutes. Add a dash of salt and pepper and put aside.
- Make your filling by stirfrying your chicken/meat and vegetables, adding other flavouring of your choice.
- Tip the stirfried food into the gutted kamokamo and put back into the oven for another 20 minutes.
- When serving, cut whole kamokamo into six pieces or in even portions.

Enjoy your cooking.



Kamokamo bake is a simple but delicious dish.

Photo / Supplied

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Rhandell with her whānau from left, Peyton, Rhandell, Jorian, little Mahia, and in front, Moetu. Photo / Supplied

Thinking of early childhood teaching?

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Ruth Wong

My decision to study through Te Rito Maioha was because it's recognised as bicultural.

Rhandell Sharrock

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Mother of three, 32-year-old, Rhandell Sharrock is the new lecturer Māori who oversees the Mātauranga Māori paper for those doing the Bachelor of Teaching (ECE) at Te Rito Maioha.

She's certainly no stranger to the programme because she

ways of doing things. "It's about researching and learning how to best support our young people to learn and have the absolute best start in life with the best kind of education," says Rhandell, "but with that, we need to be ready to challenge the norm and make the necessary changes to see that progression and positive growth. I'm curious to know if ECE kaiako are equipped with the skills and an in-depth knowledge of Te Ao Māori to support a Tamaiti Māori transitioning from an ECE setting to Rumaki, Kura Kaupapa."

also studied through Te Rito Maioha graduating with her Bachelor of Teaching (ECE). "My decision to study through Te Rito Maioha was because it's recognised as bicultural and teaches about Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Te reo Māori me ona tikanga, Māori culture and it's relevance in teaching our bicultural children," says Rhandell.

Rhandell is also completing her Masters in Education this year while working fulltime.

Her research will focus on a Rangahau Kaupapa Māori view point, which is about identifying and upholding Māori views, solutions and

i For those who are interested in pursuing a career in early childhood education, you should find out everything you need to know on their website www.ecnz.ac.nz. However, you can also view the Student Prospectus or talk to our friendly Student Services Team by calling **0800 244 532** or email studentservices@ecnz.ac.nz.

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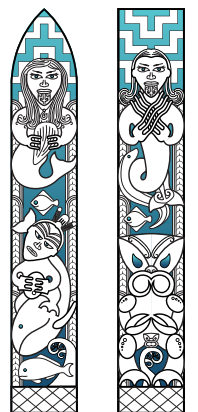
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A new interactive website for the programme with interviews, maps and monitoring information is coming soon: www.marineculturalhealth.co.nz



COUSINS

Three Cousins. Three Journeys. Woven Together Through Time.

Movie that is being released in Cinemas throughout the country on the 4th March 2021.

Separated by circumstances, yet bound together by blood. Orphaned Mata believes she has no whānau and lives out her lonely childhood in fear and bewilderment. Back home on the land, educated Makareta flees an arranged marriage to study law and begin the search for her missing cousin. She leaves behind cheeky yet dutiful Missy who takes on her role of kaitiaki (guardian) of the land. As the years pass, loss of the family land seems imminent and the women's promise to bring their stolen cousin home seems more unlikely than ever, until a chance encounter changes everything.

KAUMĀTUA AT THE MOVIES

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated is hosting a matinee for our Kaumātua at the Hastings Focal Cinema to watch COUSINS. This is an opportunity for Kaumātua to come together, meet, greet, eat, watch a movie, and return home on the same day. It's like a holiday programme for our elderly.

Buses will bring kaumātua into Hastings from Wairoa, Wairarapa, Tamaki-nui-a-Rua and Tamatea.

Seats are limited so you must register to come. This is a free opportunity.



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