



The Māori Battalion is a source of great pride and inspiration and we see the battalion's achievements as a testament to the strength, courage, and determination of our people, and we are proud of the way that our ancestors served our country with distinction and honour.

Haami Hiltton, Ngāti Kahungunu iwi kaumātua.

The O'Keefe whānau paying respect in memory of their Pāpa at a special dawn ceremony held at Te Aranga Marae, Flaxmere, on April 25, 2008.

Anzac Day – so we pay tribute

Ngāti Kahungunu made great contributions to Māori Battalion

Ruth Wong

Anzac Day is an important commemorative occasion for the people of Ngāti Kahungunu, who have a strong historical connection to the Anzac story as we remember our loved ones gone before.

Anzac Day is a day of remembrance that is celebrated annually on April 25. It marks the anniversary of

the landing of Australian and New Zealand troops at Gallipoli in Turkey during World War I.

Although the campaign was ultimately unsuccessful, the Anzacs showed extraordinary courage, loyalty, and self-sacrifice in the face of great adversity and their bravery has become a defining moment in the history of Australia and New Zealand.

For the people of Ngāti Kahungunu, Anzac Day has a special

significance. Many of their ancestors fought in both World War I and World War II, and they are proud of the contribution their forefathers made.

The stories of their courage and sacrifice have been passed down through the generations, and Anzac Day is an important opportunity for them to honour their ancestors and pay tribute to their memory.

One of the most significant events for Ngāti Kahungunu in the Anzac story was the involvement of the Māori Battalion in World War II.

The 28th Māori Battalion was made up of Māori soldiers from all over New Zealand, including a significant number from Ngāti

Kahungunu. The battalion saw action in North Africa and Italy, and their bravery and determination earned them a reputation as one of the most effective fighting units in the entire Allied army.

"The Māori Battalion is a source of great pride and inspiration and we see the battalion's achievements as a testament to the strength, courage, and determination of our people, and we are proud of the way that our ancestors served our country with distinction and honour," said Haami Hiltton, Ngāti Kahungunu iwi kaumātua. Anzac Day is celebrated in many different ways in Kahungunu. There will be dawn services and

parades in towns and cities throughout the region, and many people wear poppies and other symbols of remembrance. In addition, there are special whānau events and ceremonies that are held at marae and in Māori communities throughout the region, where people come together to remember their ancestors and pay tribute to their memory.

Anzac Day is an important occasion for all New Zealanders. "They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old, age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them – Lest We Forget."

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Keep breathing it's going to be okay

There's support for those affected by cyclone damage

Ruth Wong

Cyclone Gabrielle recently made landfall, leaving behind a trail of destruction and devastation.

While the physical damage caused by the cyclone is evident, the psychological impact on individuals and communities is equally significant.

Coping with the aftermath of a natural disaster can be challenging, and it is essential to provide psychosocial support to help people cope and recover.

Psychosocial support refers to the provision of emotional and psychological assistance to individuals and communities affected by a disaster. It aims to reduce psychological distress, promote coping, and improve overall wellbeing.

Here are some ways in which we can provide psychosocial support to help our community cope with the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle:

1. Provide emotional support: Emotional support can help individuals process their emotions and feelings. Encourage people to express their feelings and validate their experiences. Let them know that it is normal to feel overwhelmed, anxious, or sad in the aftermath of a disaster. Listen to their stories and provide a safe space for them to share their experiences.

2. Promote self-care: Self-care is critical during times of stress and adversity. Encourage individuals to take care of themselves by eating nutritious food, getting enough rest,



Providing ongoing psychosocial support can help individuals and communities cope and recover from the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle.

and engaging in physical activity. Encourage them to engage in activities that they enjoy and that make them feel good.

3. Connect people with resources: Connect people with resources that

can help them cope and recover. This can include mental health professionals, support groups, and community services. Ensure that people know how to access these resources and provide them with the necessary information and contacts.

4. Foster social support: Social support can help individuals feel less isolated and alone. Encourage individuals to connect with friends, family, and their community. Help them identify people in their support network who can provide emotional and practical assistance.

5. Encourage resilience: Resilience is the ability to bounce back from adversity. Encourage individuals to focus on their strengths and to identify positive aspects of their experience. Help them develop coping strategies that can help them manage stress and adversity.

It is important to remember that

the psychological impact of a natural disaster can last for months or even years. Providing ongoing psychosocial support can help individuals and communities cope and recover from the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle.

In conclusion, Cyclone Gabrielle has left a significant impact on our community, and providing psychosocial support is crucial to help individuals and communities cope with the aftermath of the disaster.

By providing emotional support, promoting self-care, connecting people with resources, fostering social support, and encouraging resilience, we can help our community stay well mentally and recover from the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle.

First and foremost – keep breathing, it's going to be okay. Keep it in perspective – talk to someone.

Māori agencies attend Psychological First Aid Course to learn how to listen to and support whānau affected by emergencies and traumatic events.

Photo / Ruth Wong



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OPINION

Hopeful community needs our help

Residents eager to get back home after cyclone

Ruth Wong

Waiohiki is a small rural community located south of Taradale, in Hawke's Bay.

Along with its neighbouring communities, it was hit hard by Cyclone Gabrielle, which swept through in the early hours of Tuesday, February 14, causing widespread damage and displacing many residents from their homes, with no time to think of anything but escaping fast.

Since then the people of Waiohiki have been struggling to survive, with many forced to live without the comfort of their homes.

"I woke up and the water was already up to my knees," Roy Pewhairangi said.

In a plea for help, the Waiohiki resident invited Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated staff to come to view the problems they face in order to inform our iwi board of the difficulties they are experiencing with the lack of council response.

I drove through Waiohiki with Roy and his nephew Tainui, to see the real state of the community and how things were eight weeks on.

The cyclone brought with it strong winds and heavy rain, which caused severe flooding and landslides in many parts of the community. The Tūtaekuri River, which runs through the heart of the community, overflowed its banks, causing extensive damage to homes and infrastructure. Many families were forced to evacuate their homes, and some lost everything they owned.

"At Waiohiki Marae about 80 per cent of our homes are uninhabitable due to severe flood damage displacing most of our hapū as refugees in temporary accommodation throughout Napier and Hastings," Roy said.

There are 92 residential homes in Waiohiki, 70 are inhabitable. Around 20 whānau members are still living at Waipatu. Roy and his nephew live in temporary housing in Napier.

In the aftermath of the cyclone, the community came together to support one another. Volunteers from



Eight weeks on, rubbish and silt is still piled high at Waiohiki, a small rural community located south of Taradale.

Photos / Ruth Wong

across the country worked tirelessly to clear debris and repair damaged infrastructure.

The Tihei Mauri Ora Emergency Response team and Hawke's Bay Civil Defence provided emergency relief supplies such as food and water. Waiohiki Marae was the immediate place of safety for many of the residents. Most of the whānau were trucked to Waipatu Marae, where some still reside.

"During the first three weeks after the flood we were grateful that many volunteers came to help us, after that the whānau used their own resources to remove silt and debris, waiting for insurance and EQC claims to be finalised – if you were insured. Some whānau don't have resources to get this mahi done. Despite our efforts, many people are still struggling to get back on their feet and feel helpless. We need help," Roy said.

One of the biggest challenges facing the people of Waiohiki is the time it is taking to get back into their homes. Many homes were destroyed or severely damaged in the cyclone, and those that remain standing are uninhabitable due to flood damage or other issues. As a result, many families have been forced to live in temporary accommodation while they wait for their homes to be repaired or rebuilt.

It is obvious the whānau want to return to normality and at least be able to clean up their front and back yard to get a cabin or caravan onto their land, so they can be close by to work on their properties while maintaining their jobs to survive and provide for their families.

Living in temporary accommodation can be challenging, particularly for families with young children or elderly relatives.

The cramped living conditions, lack of privacy, and limited access to basic amenities such as running water and electricity can take

a toll on people's mental and physical health.

Many families are also struggling to keep up with their rent or mortgage payments, which has added to their financial stress.

Despite these challenges, the people of Waiohiki have shown incredible resilience and strength in the face of adversity.

They are to be commended for their efforts to maintain their dignity during such hard times. The community needs support and resources to rebuild their homes and their lives.

While the road to recovery may be long and challenging, the people of Waiohiki remain hopeful and determined.

But like a nightmare, when they return to their homes, they are re-traumatised by the state of their properties.

There are great leaders in the community seeing things through. A locality plan looks ahead to a 10-year strategy for recovery, and if the stars align the future looks good.

If anything, I hope that this article brings new hope for the people of Waiohiki – this beautiful community that sits south of Taradale where the grass seems a lot greener.

Ruth Wong is Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc communications officer



Evidence of Cyclone Gabrielle's damage is evident on the way to Waiohiki.



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AUNTY'S GARDEN

Thousands of little lanterns bring delights

20th anniversary of gardens

Hanui Lawrence

This year I grew a whole bunch of Cape gooseberries that are very bushy now and ready to be eaten.

There are thousands of little lantern shapes with a yellow berry inside. These berries are very tangy and melt in your mouth when eaten.

The gourds I've planted have also grown productively except the shapes of these gourds are long and look like a green shoe horn.

Asian and Indian people from our community have come to the māra/garden, and cook these gourds in their stir-fry dishes, adding their different spices to enhance the flavour. They've tried to teach me how to cook them, but I have them very bland.

This season marks our 20th anniversary of growing vegetables and fruit at Aunty's Garden at Waipatu. It has been of service to many people with cheap and tasty vegetables an adventure in a way as the pathways meander around the māra kai.

Now well into autumn, we're readying for winter planting of cabbages, broccoli and cauliflower.

This month's recipe

● **Cape Gooseberry Crumble**

- 2 cups of Cape gooseberries
- 1 cup of sliced mango (1 can)
- 1 cup of sliced peaches (1 can)
- 4 Tbsp sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 100g butter

Put the goosberries into a pot with 2 Tbsp of sugar and bring to a simmer until soft.

Turn off the heat, add the peaches and mango and mix then put into an oven dish.

In a bowl put in flour, butter, sugar and rub in the butter with your fingers until nice and crumbly.

Cover the fruit mixture with the crumble and bake at 180 for 30-35 minutes.

Our kumara harvest has been a disappointment with not enough sun but we're grateful to have some for next season's plants.

This year is going to be tough cost-wise as vegetables are just so expensive but we will get through it together.



Hanui Lawrence in her garden with some Cape gooseberries.

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- Ngāti Kahungunu - Healthy and Vibrant Whānau
- Ngāti Kahungunu - Economically Strong
- Ngāti Kahungunu - Informed and Participating Citizens in the World
- Ngāti Kahungunu - Independent and Self Determined
- Ngāti Kahungunu - Healthy, Thriving and Sustainable Environment
- Ngāti Kahungunu - Making our Mark

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“To enhance the mana and well-being of Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi”

Aunty and garden help out whānau



Aunty Hanui on April 17, doing her favourite thing in the garden, weeding. Aunty Hanui says weeding is nurturing the plant and helping it to flourish and grow.

Love for gardening, fresh produce and her community

Ruth Wong

Waipatu Marae, located in the sunny region of Hawke's Bay, has a special garden maintained by Hanui Lawrence, affectionately known as Aunty.

Aunty's Garden is a beautiful and thriving space that provides fresh produce for the marae's whānau and the wider community.

Hanui has been tending to this garden for over two decades and has become an important part of the marae's culture and heritage.

She grew up in Hawke's Bay and has always had a love for gardening. She inherited this love from her mother, who was also a keen gardener.

When she came up with the idea to plant a garden next to Waipatu Marae, Hanui saw the potential for a thriving garden that could provide fresh produce for the Waipatu whānau. The idea grew from her wonderful imagination into sketches on a piece of paper into this wonderful landscape of pathways like an artist's design when seen from a birdseye view.

With the support of the marae's trustees, Hanui began to work on the garden. With the help of the community and interested persons, her whānau and friends, she started by clearing the overgrown weeds and using her piece of paper, her team carved out the whenua with limestone pathways curving around like kōru designs.

She then prepared the soil for planting and started to plant a range



Waipatu Marae.

she was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Māori and horticulture.

The award acknowledged her tireless work in promoting traditional gardening practices and her contribution to the wellbeing of the whānau of Waipatu Marae.

Aunty's Garden has featured in the Tihei Kahungunu insert of *Hawke's Bay Today* since June 2015. Through the years Aunty Hanui has shared over 100 recipes and stories, cooking hints, ideas and ways to make exciting dishes using vegetables and fruits from Aunty's Garden. Numerous fans follow her articles and greet her in the streets in admiration for what she does.

Aunty's Garden is 20 years old and Aunty Hanui is 20 years older, almost hitting 80 years young. She's a testament to the power of community and the importance of preserving traditional knowledge and practices. Hanui's dedication to the garden has created a space that provides fresh produce, educates younger generations, and inspires others in the community.

A great number of vegetables are donated to Nourish for Nil to give out to whānau and nothing is ever wasted, however, those who are able are welcome to come to the māra kai to pick your own vegetables for a kind or generous koha to help support Aunty and her whānau to keep the garden flourishing.

Aunty Hanui acknowledges the many individuals, groups, organisations, church groups, māma groups, and local businesses for all of the contributions and kind donations.



**TE HERENGA WAKA
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WEAVING TE AO MĀORI AT NAPIER PORT

Te Kāhui o Te Herenga Ahuriri (the Napier Port Kāhui) is a group of people committed to promoting Te Ao Māori throughout our business. Led by Pou Tikanga Te Kaha Hawaikirangi, the Kāhui has a strong, committed membership and drives Te Ao Māori and tikanga at Napier Port.

Kāhui members will be working to support a number of Te Ao Māori initiatives this year including:

- Te reo lessons offered throughout our business for interested employees. Our first group of learners started their weekly Level 1 classes recently, with a second round of classes set for later this year.
- In July, Matariki celebrations for port whānau, learning about Matariki in the Ātea A Rangi Educational Trust's stardome at the Waitangi Regional Park.
- In September, celebration of Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori (Māori language week), with te reo calendars, te reo labelling in break rooms, and posters of karakia in meeting rooms

We also work closely with local iwi and hapū on projects benefitting the local marine environment, and value their important perspective.

Despite Gabrielle, Omahu's spirit alive

Te Kewena White is dedicated and responding to challenges

Ruth Wong

Dedicated educator Te Kewena White knew he was up for a challenge when he applied for the principal's position at Omahu Primary School in October 2022. He followed three former principals who had moved in and out of the position that year. So, in the fourth term of that year he focused on building trusting relationships to allow for positive interaction and learning.

Te Kewena hails from Rongomaiahine, Ngāi Tūhoe and Ngāti Kahungunu. Born in Wairoa and raised in Taita, Lower Hutt, Te Kewena grew up with a passion for learning and a desire to make a difference in his community.

He recalls as a 16-year-old boy at college being asked by a professor of Māori language, Pou Temara and his late wife Hema, to teach the class, so he did, and he liked it.

"From this point onwards, I knew that teaching is what I

wanted to do," Te Kewena said. Te Kewena was keen to earn money and his first job was with the Department of Education in its office.

He saved and travelled overseas, appreciating the diverse culture of the world, before studying and graduating with a Diploma Tohu Māoritanga from Victoria University, a Degree in Bilingual Teaching Primary at the Wellington Teachers' Training College, and later on he studied toward a Masters degree at Te Wānanga Raukawa where he graduated with honour.

Te Kewena placed first in a competition at the Auckland University where he was challenged to summarise his full thesis into a 3 minute speech and has strived to keep things straight to the point ever since.

With more than 20 years of experience in education, Te Kewena has earned a reputation for his innovative teaching methods and his commitment to the success of his students.

After completing his education, Te Kewena began his teaching career in the early 2000s, working in various schools across New Zealand including Waikaremoana School as principal, Wairoa College, and his old stamping ground, Taita Central School where he was

deputy principal. He recalls being able to connect with all of the children because he went to that same school with all of their grandparents, so they dare not pull the wool over his eyes.

"If any of the children tried to play up, I'd tell them, I know your grandparents and they'd soon behave themselves," he said grinning.

Te Kewena's father passed away when he was 13. He grew up with my mum and her side of the family.

"My mum is now in her 91st year.

"Thanks to the district health board I was able to visit and check up on her during the school holidays."

He gained valuable experience and developed his own unique teaching style, using his life experience to emphasise the importance of student-centred learning.

"I get to know the children and understand their background and their learning interests," he said.

"I encourage each child to make their dreams a reality and aim high.

"Believe that every child has the potential to succeed.

"I tell the children that when you think high and you work hard, you get there.



"My job is to educate, encourage and ensure that each student at Omahu School is given the support and guidance they need to reach their full potential."

Due to Cyclone Gabrielle and the damaged school buildings, the children were welcomed by Irongate School in Flaxmere to continue their schooling there.

"The teachers and children at Irongate School have been absolutely wonderful and have made our Omahu children and the staff feel very welcomed," he said.

"I feel very comfortable here because there are quite a few

Samoan children as well, and I can also speak Samoan. I tell all of the children not to be shy and to be proud of their culture and not to be afraid to speak our reo.

"My heart is with the small rural schools like Omahu School, because I see great potential for the children if given the opportunity to try.

"When I saw the Omahu School principal position I was immediately interested and I applied."

Te Kewena has no regrets about his move to Kahungunu ki Heretaunga because he feels that he can help the school to thrive



Te Kewena White is principal of Omahu School.

and grow, while also living closer to his mother who lives in Waikaremoana. Omahu School will be 125 years old in 2024. Not even Cyclone Gabrielle can deter this educator from his love for teaching.

Te Kewena says that he and his staff are in good spirits as a school. "I have wonderful teachers and staff who are dedicated, four of whom are te reo Māori speakers and we have a lovely feeling within our staff. If anything, the cyclone has brought us closer as a school and I believe that the Omahu community has also bonded together for a common

cause of recovery". Omahu School has received thousands of dollars from other schools around New Zealand reaching out to help.

The Ministry of Education has been very supportive as well as businesses and friends who have helped. The workload has tripled, but for a great cause.

The children were encouraged to write stories about their feelings about Cyclone Gabrielle to help them to work through the trauma that they experienced as residents of Omahu when the floods arrived.

"One child was angry because

her pets died, another child describes the water coming in every second and how pleased they were to see the helicopter arrive to rescue them."

The children made thank you cards to send to all of the groups and people who have helped them since the Cyclone.

From a Māori perspective, how do we thank the nation? You compose a song!

Te Kewena has composed a song to thank the nation for its support.

"The song describes the elements – the wind, rain, lightning the thunder, the

Ngauroro river bursting and leaving us in despair, then turning to thank the nation to thank them for their help."

Without giving out too much more, a number of experts have been called upon to help with making this song go viral.

"I want to show the nation that Omahu School is alive and moving."

"This song will help the students to think big and build up their courage to dream big, aim high, follow their dreams achieve their goals."

Soon an open invite will come at a good pace.

Te Kewena and the school have been informed by the Ministry of Education that the Omahu School and the Omahu Kohanga Reo will be moving to a joint space at Flaxmere College in term 4. This request came from the Omahu community leads and shows the strength and unity of a community when we work together.

"As the principal of Omahu School I'm taking my role seriously.

"I have dreams and great aspirations for the children and the school so it prospers into the future and beyond its 125-year celebration next year. I am honoured to be leading the school as the principal with the help of everyone surrounding me, the wonderful staff, the parents and families of our tamariki, and everyone reading this article.

"I'm keen to see these kids dream big."

I want to show the nation that Omahu School is alive and moving.

Te Kewena White

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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 ad 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!

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AUNTY'S GARDEN CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



*Pictures of Aunty Hanui's
helpers when the pictures
were taken during the
Christmas Holidays -
December 2010,
Te Rauhina, Mahina, Taanga
& Kereama Lawrence*

