

Tihei KAHUNGUNU

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi
INCORPORATED

Looking to Kahungunu 2050

OPINION NKII has given 30 years of strength, service and mana motuhake, writes **Ruth Wong**

This year, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated marks 30 years.

The organisation was established in its current form on December 9, 1996.

Thirty years is an important milestone – a time to reflect on where we have come from, acknowledge those who have contributed along the way, and look ahead to where we want Ngāti Kahungunu to be in the future.

Over three decades, NKII has worked across many areas affecting our people, including iwi representation, whānau wellbeing, education, culture, economic development, te taiao and advocacy. Governments have changed, communities have changed and the aspirations of our whānau have continued to evolve, but our responsibility remains – to represent Ngāti Kahungunu and support the aspirations of our people.

Last Thursday, more than 900 whānau gathered at Toitū – Hawke's Bay Arts & Events Centre for Toitū Kahungunu – 30 Years of Strength, Service and Mana Motuhake.

As part of the celebration, we acknowledged 30 special recipients nominated for their years of service and contribution to Ngāti Kahungunu. They represented the many leaders, kaumātua, cultural practitioners, educators, advocates, nannies, volunteers and community champions who have strengthened our iwi, hapū, marae and



One of the 30 recipients Kathy Mihaere (seated centre) with Kahungunu ki Tamaki-nui-a-Rua leaders Stacey and Hayden Hape, with Kathy's moko Jarna Mihaere-Karaitiana.

whānau.

The evening was also a time to remember those no longer with us. Over the past year, we have farewelled many treasured members of our Ngāti Kahungunu whānau.

There was particular sadness in acknowledging Johnny Nepe Apatu, one of our 30 recipients, who passed away just days before the celebration. Johnny gave decades of service through whānau, hapū

Thirty years has given us a foundation. Our responsibility now is to build upon it.

and iwi leadership, mau rākau, tikanga Māori, rangatahi development and community advocacy.

Although Johnny could not stand alongside his fellow recipients, his place among the 30 remained, and his contribution and legacy were honoured.

E te rangatira, moe mai rā. Haere atu rā ki ō tātou tīpuna.

While we celebrated 30 years, our attention also turns towards Kahungunu 2050 and the generations who will follow us.

Our vision, "Ki te whaiao, ki te ao mārama – the continuous pursuit of excellence," remains central to that future.

Thirty years has given us a foundation. Our responsibility now is to build upon it – ensuring Ngāti Kahungunu continues to have a strong voice and clear direction, with our whānau, hapū and marae at the heart of the journey towards Kahungunu 2050.

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

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Look after people, look after one!

Aunty Hanui Lawrence
OPINION

Spring is here, and already the first month is nearly gone! There are more sunshine hours, new growth is well underway, and everything seems to be coming back to life.

Even the quails are back. As I was discing the paddock the other day, there they were, prancing around on the freshly turned ground. It brought a big smile to my face. They're ground nesters and great little helpers when it comes to keeping the bugs at bay. It's those simple sights that remind you just how lovely this time of year can be.

There is plenty happening around our twin cities too, and it's wonderful to see.

Another Blossom Parade has come and gone, bringing families out to enjoy the festivities and everything our community has to offer. Around the same time, we've had arts and literary events, the Māori Music Awards, kapa haka, classical music featuring talented local youth, Art Deco's Nuit Blanche and so much more. There really is something for everyone. But amongst all the

celebration, there has also been sadness. We have farewelled family and friends who have left us for better pastures. Their absence reminds us to appreciate the people around us and make the most of the time we have together.

And now daylight saving is almost here. Whether you love it or loathe it, the clocks went forward again yesterday. That means longer evenings, more time for outdoor activities, whānau lingering together a little longer, and extra daylight for trips to the beach, something the kids certainly love!

Then, of course, there's politics. Oh my gosh, who am I going to vote for?!

Sometimes it can all feel a little confusing, and you wonder what lies ahead for our country. Who knows? But one thing I do know is that people matter - all people matter.

Beyond politics, power, money and big business are ordinary New Zealanders simply trying to live good lives and look after their families.

For me, some things are pretty simple: food on our tables, jobs for our people, good healthcare, warm homes and opportunities for our young and old.

Look after the people, look after one!

Tamia Ngawhika, 17

Politics. It's one of those topics that can feel confusing, complicated and sometimes a little overwhelming - especially when everyone seems to have a different opinion.

But with elections approaching and political conversations happening all around us, we at Pakaru Pānui decided it was time to find out more for ourselves.

Pakaru Pānui is a rangatahi-led social media team based in Napier, and through our podcast we've launched a new series exploring politics from a young person's perspective.

We wanted to understand what politics actually is, how our political system works and, most importantly, why any of it should matter to rangatahi.

Instead of pretending we already knew the answers, we decided to ask the questions.

We started by talking with councillors and political commentators who helped us understand some of the basics on how decisions are made, who makes them and how our political system works.

We then took our questions directly to representatives from four political parties - Te Pāti Māori, the Green Party, the

Rangatahi on politics



Listen, ask, learn, then make an informed decision.

Labour Party and the National Party.

We asked about what their parties stand for, the values behind their policies and what they want to achieve for rangatahi and the future of Aotearoa.

Our journey has even taken us beyond Aotearoa. We spoke with members of the Cook Islands Youth Parliament and explored some of the connections between our Parliament and our Pacific neighbours.

One of the biggest things we have learnt is that politics isn't just about politicians sitting in Parliament.

The decisions being made can affect things that are very real to us - our education, whether our

whānau can afford a home, access to healthcare, jobs and opportunities, our environment and what kind of future we will inherit.

That's why rangatahi voices matter.

Our kaupapa isn't about telling anyone who to vote for or what they should believe. It is about creating a space where young people can ask questions, hear different perspectives and have the confidence to form their own views. And we're still learning too.

You don't have to understand everything about politics before you join the conversation. You don't have to know every policy, every politician or how everything in

Parliament works.

Sometimes becoming informed starts with one simple thing - asking a question.

We hope Pakaru Pānui encourages more rangatahi to be curious, get informed, use their voices and take an interest in the decisions shaping our whānau, our communities and our future.

So, if politics leaves you scratching your head, you're not sure where you stand, or you simply want to hear what different people and political parties have to say, come and join us.

Listen. Ask questions. Learn. Then make up your own mind.

Check out the Pakaru Pānui podcast on social media.



featuring talented local youth, Art Deco's Nuit Blanche and so much more. There really is something for everyone. But amongst all the

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Māhinaora opens its doors

A community vision realised in Takapau

Crystal Edwards

More than 20 years after a handful of determined locals set out to improve access to healthcare in Central Hawke's Bay, the Takapau community gathered to celebrate the opening of its new health facility, proudly named Māhinaora.

The occasion earlier in September marked a significant milestone for the clinic, which began as a humble community health service driven by a vision to ensure local whānau could access quality healthcare close to home. Among those reflecting on that journey was original board member and co-founding visionary Lila Coppens, affectionately known throughout the district as Mrs Coppens.

Speaking to a large crowd of supporters, Mrs Coppens recalled the early days when a small group of committed residents worked tirelessly to establish a health service for the community. She acknowledged the many volunteers, staff, funders and local families whose collective efforts had transformed that vision into the modern health facility standing today. Health Hawke's Bay Chairman Kevin Snee



highlighted the strength of community connection, telling attendees that "the unity of a community is better than any drug", a message that resonated strongly throughout the day.

The gifting of the clinic's name, Māhinaora, developed through a collective effort involving Tamatea elders Brian Morris, Dr Rodger Maaka, and Steven Heperi-Smith. Behind the clinic stands a line of significant hills: Whatanui, a tra-

ditional food storage place; Pōkaka, named for the medicinal tree associated with rongoā; Puke Tōtara, where tōtara once provided valuable resources;

Te Rangitapuawhata, home to the historic pā, Te Pā Horehore, and the sacred peak known as Te Toi a Uru; and Puera, a prominent landmark and source of aruhe. Together these places are reflected in the whakatauki, "Ko Puera ki

Kaimahi stand outside their new whare Māhinaora in Takapau.

runga, ko Whatuma ki raro."

The narrative also reaches to Ruruwhango, regarded as a physical connection between the living and those who have passed on. Upon this hill lies Māhinaata, where the imagery of moonbeams, mähina, and the morning light, ata, inspired the elders in creating the name Māhinaora – a name symbolising wellbeing, hope, and light for generations.

With its new facility now

open, Takapau Health Centre is welcoming new patient enrolments. Priority will be given to people currently without a GP and to residents of Central Hawke's Bay, ensuring local whānau have greater access to primary healthcare services close to home. Community members seeking to enrol are encouraged to contact the clinic and become part of the next chapter in the Māhinaora story.

**ME MANAAKI
TĒTAHI I TĒTAHI**

**KIA ATAWHAI
BE KIND**

Smile, Say Hello,
Check on Someone



**KIA TŪHONO
STAY CONNECTED**

Ring a friend.
Sit with your whānau



**KIA TAU
TAKE A MOMENT**

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New training aims to streamline support and safety plans across Ngāti Kahungunu

Ruth Wong

When whānau are experiencing serious family violence, navigating multiple agencies and services can be overwhelming at an already difficult time. The challenge is not only ensuring people are safe, but ensuring they receive the right support at the right time without having to navigate complex systems alone.

Ngāti Kahungunu is working alongside local providers, community organisations and government agencies to strengthen the way support is provided to whānau experiencing high-risk family violence. The aim is simple: to create a more connected response where agencies work together, communicate effectively, and keep whānau at the centre of every decision.

As part of this mahi, the iwi recently partnered with the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention to deliver training on the High-Risk Protocol. The protocol provides a framework for agencies to work together when there is a significant risk of serious harm, helping ensure responses are coordinated, timely and focused on the needs of whānau.

A key principle of the ap-



Family violence training to support providers or wellbeing services.

proach is that responsibility sits with the system, not with whānau. Rather than expecting people to tell their story repeatedly or move between multiple services on their own, agencies work together to coordinate support, develop safety plans, and ensure whānau remain connected to the help they need. Participants in the training reflected on the importance of strengthening relationships between agencies and creating greater clarity about how organisations can support one another to achieve better out-

comes for whānau.

While the training marked an important milestone, it is only the beginning of the work.

Melissa White, Director Te Ara Toiora, says the role of iwi is not to lead every response, but to help create the conditions for a strong collective response across the rohe.

"Sometimes the most effective leadership is leading from behind. Our role is to strengthen the capability of others, connect partners, and support a collective response that keeps whānau at the

centre. When communities and agencies move together, we create better pathways to safety and wellbeing for our people."

The next stage of the kaupapa brings partners together to shape how the protocol will operate locally, ensuring the approach reflects the needs, strengths and aspirations of communities across Kahungunu.

This work recognises that family violence cannot be addressed by any one organisation acting alone. Meaningful

change happens when agencies, providers and communities work together, share responsibility, and remain focused on what matters most: the safety, wellbeing and future of whānau.

For Ngāti Kahungunu, this kaupapa is ultimately about creating a system that responds with compassion, co-ordination and accountability, where whānau voice is heard, support is accessible, and people are empowered to move towards greater safety, healing and wellbeing.

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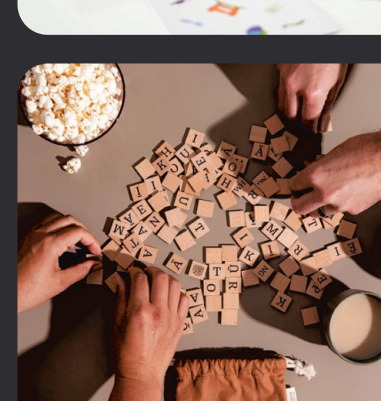
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Rangatahi breaking ground in trades

Wairoa teen wins trade scholarship

Kelly Brown
EIT Communications

Eighteen-year-old Wairoa local Manaia Hall is breaking new ground as the inaugural recipient of the Pan Pac Engineering Scholarship.

He uri nō Tūhoe, Ngāti Manawa, Ngāti Pūkenga ki Manaia me Ngāti Kahungunu, Manaia is studying a pre-electrical course at EIT as she works towards becoming a qualified electrician.

Earlier this month, Manaia received the scholarship surrounded by whānau, supporters and representatives from EIT, Pan Pac and the Otātara Trust.

Otātara Trust Chair Geraldine Travers, who presented Manaia with the scholarship, described the young wahine as exactly the kind of groundbreaker they had hoped to support.

"We were particularly keen that the inaugural recipient would be a bit of a groundbreaker. Manaia has broken ground wherever she has been."

Manaia's journey is already impressive. Educated through Māori immersion, she is bilingual, has experience as an actor, and travels from her home in Wairoa each week to

attend her studies at EIT.

For Manaia, however, applying for the scholarship was also about helping her whānau.

She first heard about the opportunity through an email and, with encouragement from her mum and sister, decided to give it a go. Although she wasn't confident she would be successful, she spent two weeks working on her application because she knew the financial support could make a real difference.

"I wanted to try my hardest for my mum, so she's not struggling with the money side of things."

Manaia has also earned the respect of her tutors, fellow students and the team from Te Ara o Tākitimu - Māori and Pasifika Trades Training - through her positive attitude, professionalism and willingness to contribute.

EIT Work Broker Claire Hodson said Manaia was already helping to create a pathway for other wahine considering careers in the trades.

"As a wahine in trades, she is helping to pave the way for others and serves as an excellent role model for fellow Te Ara o Tākitimu ākonga."

Manaia is one of only four wahine in her class, and that gender gap is part of what motivated her to pursue an



EIT CEO Lucy Laitinen (left), scholarship recipient Manaia Hall, Pan Pac Managing Director Tony Clifford, Otātara Trust Chair Geraldine Travers.

electrical career.

"I was really hoping this year that I would have a lot of girls my age, or just girls in the class. That's another reason why I wanted to do this too, because I heard trades in general don't have many girls."

The inaugural Pan Pac Engineering Scholarship builds on the long-standing relationship between Pan Pac and EIT and provides financial support for students pursuing careers in the trades.

Pan Pac Managing Director

Tony Clifford acknowledged the work of company secretary Dennis Hall and Otātara Trust scholarship panel chair Anne Hiha in developing the scholarship.

"It's fabulous to see the fruits of those relationships," he said.

For Manaia, the scholarship is another step towards a future she is already determined to build.

Her goal is to begin on the industrial side of the electrical industry before expanding her skills into domestic and commercial work.

mercial work.

"This course has really been helping me with the theory side of things. I'm committed."

Electrical Programme Coordinator and Tutor Steve Houliston said the scholarship was thoroughly deserved and recognised not only what Manaia had already achieved, but her future potential within the industry.

At just 18, Manaia is showing other rangatahi – particularly young wahine – that there is a place for them in the trades.



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Ono

Hawke's Bay Today

TIHEI KAHUNGUNU

From Te Uranga waka to the open ocean

Te reo Māori guides his Pacific voyage

Kelly Brown
EIT Communications

Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe, me he maunga teitei.

At just 23, Xenon Messenger is already thinking about what he will leave for the next generation.

The Ngāti Whātua taurira, young pāpā and first te reo Māori speaker in his whānau in four generations has taken his learning from the classroom to the open ocean as a crew member aboard Te Matau-a-Māui for Te Hokinga.

For Xenon, the journey began with te reo.

After starting his studies in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, he went looking for somewhere he could take his reo further and immerse himself more deeply in te ao Māori.

That search brought him to Te Ūranga Waka at EIT in Te Matau-a-Māui, where he is now completing the final year of his Level 7 te reo Māori studies.

What appealed to Xenon was the opportunity to learn beyond language, with study encompassing areas such as whakairo, Māori history and belief systems.

Then came another opportunity to learn - this time at sea.

With no previous sailing ex-

perience, Xenon knew earning a place aboard Te Matau-a-Māui would require commitment. He began preparing 18 months before the voyage, learning knots, handling sails, waka manoeuvres and undertaking extensive safety training.

"I knew if I wanted to do it, I needed to work hard, because you're not just going to be put on the waka and potentially put other people at risk."

Life aboard the waka brought a completely different learning environment.

Crew worked four-hour watches around the clock and relied on traditional knowledge and observation of the natural environment. Phones and watches were surrendered, taking away many of the things people rely on in everyday life.

For Xenon, it also opened another world of language.

"It's a different language on the waka. You hear kupu you wouldn't hear in daily conversation."

Te Hokinga has taken Xenon across the Pacific to Samoa and Fiji, reconnecting with ancestral pathways and creating opportunities to exchange kōrero tuku iho and mātauranga with Pacific communities.

"Part of the amazing thing about learning this knowledge,



and the point of this journey, is bringing these traditional names and stories back home so we can share them with our people."

But perhaps the most important people Xenon hopes to share that knowledge with are his own tamariki.

He is already pāpā to a two-

year-old tama, with another pēpi on the way.

"I'd love to be able to pass the knowledge on to my kids."

Xenon is due to graduate at the end of 2026 and plans to undertake postgraduate teacher training.

For a young man who began his journey wanting to

Xenon Messenger stands beside Te Matau-a-Māui waka in Ahuriri.

reclaim te reo Māori for his whānau, the horizon continues to widen.

And now, the knowledge he sought for himself is becoming something he can carry home for those who come after him. Kia haumaruru te haere, Xenon.

Haere pai, hoki pai.

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Reconnecting the ocean pathways

Crew continue training on Pacific route

Ruth Wong

The Hokinga is more than a voyage across Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa. It is a journey of reconnection with ancestral pathways, Pacific whanaunga and the traditional knowledge that once carried our tūpuna across the world's largest ocean.

In August, the Ngāti Kahungunu waka hourua Te Matau-a-Māui departed Ahuriri on an extraordinary 3200-nautical-mile journey from Aotearoa to Samoa, onward to Fiji and eventually home again. Samoa marked the completion of the first 1600 nautical miles - but the voyage is far from over.

The kaupapa has three important strands: graduating the next generation of traditional navigators; providing rangatahi and emerging crew with genuine open-ocean experience; and reconnecting with Pacific peoples, islands and cultural histories associated with the ancestral origins of the waka that became Takitimu.

Led by master navigator Piripi Smith, alongside trainee navigators Te Kaha Hawaikirangi and Te Pō Mārie Hawaikirangi-Willison, the crew are putting generations of mātauranga into practice.

Traditional wayfinding draws upon the stars, swells, currents, birds and environmental signs to find a path-way across the ocean.

Former iwi leader, Ngahiwi Tomoana and wife Mere, travelled to Samoa, with support from Ngāti Kahungunu and Te Wānanga Whare Tapere o Takitimu, to support the arrival and departure of Te Matau-a-Māui at Poutasi village.

Ngahiwi described almost 40 voyaging whānau standing on Poutasi beach, watching a sail "as thin as an eyelash" emerge on the horizon after 16 days at sea.

As the waka was guided through the reef by local fishers, cheers and karanga rang out.

Tamariki eagerly called, "Kia tere mai Papaaa!", before the sailors were finally reunited with their whānau.

The Samoa visit has also strengthened an important relationship with Poutasi village leader Chief Tuatagaloa Joe Annandale (Papa Joe), who met with and helped manaaki the Aotearoa crew. It is a living example of the kaupapa behind Te Hokinga - reconnecting with Pacific communities, sharing knowledge and strengthening relationships across Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa. The voyage speci-



fically seeks to renew these connections through cultural exchange and collaboration with Pacific voyaging communities.

For Ngahiwi, seeing Te Matau-a-Māui arrive carried special meaning. He and Mere were part of the early advocacy for Ngāti Kahungunu to acquire its own voyaging

waka after Sir Hekenukumai Busby encouraged the iwi to return voyaging to the Kahungunu and Takitimu agenda.

Now that dream is carrying another generation.

From Samoa, Te Matau-a-Māui continues to Fiji before undertaking the final 1,000-nautical-mile passage

Ngahiwi Tomoana and wife Mere with Poutasi aiga, including Poutasi Chief Tuatagaloa Joe Annandale.

home to Aotearoa. Along the way, the crew will continue navigating, learning, sharing kōrero and strengthening the ocean relationships that have connected our peoples for centuries.

Kua whakatinana te moemoeā - the voyaging dream is being realised.

Haumi e, hui e, tāiki e!



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.

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Hundreds expected at Mahi Tahī Wellbeing Expo featuring Dave Letele

Hundreds of people are expected to attend Mahi Tahī, a mental health and wellbeing expo featuring former boxer and motivational speaker Dave Letele, who will headline the event.

Organised by Whatever It Takes Trust, the expo, to be held on 10 October [AT1] at Napier's War Memorial Centre, will bring together health, housing, addiction and wellbeing providers under the same roof.

Chief executive Sam Aberahama said the name of the expo, Mahi Tahī, was chosen because it means working together as one, and reflects the kaupapa behind the event.

"Sustainable change happens when we work together. The expo is about strengthening how we support whānau wellbeing, particularly in mental health, addiction and housing stability.

The event will feature practical workshops led by experts, including sessions on gut and hormonal health, navigating housing challenges and managing distress.

Mr Aberahama said these workshops will empower whānau with knowledge while also building collaboration across the sector.

"People will be able to hear directly from specialists, ask questions, and connect with support groups in a safe, welcoming environment. It's about breaking down barriers and making help easier to reach."

Whatever It Takes Trust specialises in helping support people to wellness who have severe mental health issues and addiction.

Entry to the expo and to hear from Dave Letele will be free to all who attend. Register for the speakers and workshops to secure your spot, walk-ins are available only if there is space. You can do that (see QR code below) or go to www.witservices.co.nz



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Mahi Tahī Expo - Workshop
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Chief Executive Sam Aberahama

Mahi Tahī is about togetherness in action – bringing communities, partners, and whānau together because lasting wellbeing is built collectively, not alone.

