



KEI PUTA TE WAIRAU



CONNECTING THROUGH OUR WHĀNAU WĀNANGA

Our recent wānanga at Rotoiti provided a valuable opportunity for our whānau to spend the weekend together learning about the significance of the area.

The weekend kicked off with a session led by Callum Sebulala (Mana), who introduced our whānau to the world of taonga puoro—traditional Māori instruments. Callum brought along a selection of instruments, each with its own unique history. He shared the stories and cultural importance of the taonga, before offering everyone the chance to play. It was a hands-on experience that allowed us to connect with the sounds of our tūpuna and immerse ourselves in the cultural practices that have been passed down through generations.

Another highlight of the wānanga was harvesting tuna from the lake, which gave us a valuable chance to connect with the environment and continue our ancestral

traditions. A big mihi to our cousin, Lee Mason, for taking us out on the boat and sharing his mātauranga with us.

The wānanga also featured a session with Waka Abel Tasman, where our rangatahi had the chance to paddle on the waka and explore the scenic shoreline of Rotoiti. It was a great experience connecting them with the environment.

With over 40 whānau members in attendance, the wānanga was a great success. The weekend provided valuable time to strengthen connections, share knowledge, and engage in cultural practices that are integral to our identity. We're already looking forward to the next opportunity to come together and continue this journey of learning and whanaungatanga.

Ngā mihi to everyone who participated and contributed to making this wānanga such a memorable occasion.

WELCOMING THE RETURN OF OUR TAONGA

As many of you will remember, Rangitāne has been involved in legal proceedings over the last two years, seeking to challenge a decision made by the Department of Conservation (DoC) regarding two whale jawbones that were buried on conservation land within our rohe.

These jawbones come from two sperm whales that washed ashore in 2009 and 2018. Rangitāne followed tikanga on both occasions, acknowledging the cultural significance of these taonga and our responsibilities as kaitiaki of the land and sea. It was agreed that DoC would hold the jawbones in safekeeping until Rangitāne and Ngāti Kuri/Ngāi Tahu reached a decision on their final allocation.

However, in early 2022, without consulting or informing Rangitāne, DoC removed the jawbones and transported them to Kaikōura, giving them to Ngāti Kuri/Ngāi Tahu. This action prompted Rangitāne to apply for a judicial review, as it undermined our mana and was a breach of the Crown's Treaty obligations to us.

The High Court ruled in our favour, recognising that Rangitāne's interests had not been properly considered and that the decision was unlawful. The judgment also reaffirmed that a tikanga-based process must be followed for any final decisions regarding the taonga.

Rangitāne and Ngāti Kuri have now reached a mutually respectful agreement, ensuring that both iwi will share the jawbones and the teeth in a way that acknowledges our respective rights.

On Friday 6 December, Rangitāne whānau gathered at Ūkaipō to welcome our taonga home to Wairau. It was a momentous and emotional occasion, representing a significant milestone for our people.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Trustees, General Manager, legal team, and all those who supported us throughout this journey, contributing countless hours of mahi to achieve this outcome.

While much work remains to uphold our rights and protect access to culturally significant sites across our rohe, this is a moment to celebrate and reflect on what we have achieved together.



2024: The jawbones and teeth from the 2009 Tohorā were finally returned to Rangitāne.



The 17-metre, 25-tonne young male sperm whale that was found washed up about 2km north of the Awatere River in 2009.



The sperm whale that was found washed up on Marfell's Beach in 2018.

RESTORING WAIRAU WETLANDS



Last year we shared that funding had been announced to support protection and monitoring of Te Pokohiwi-o-Kupe (Wairau Bar). The Department of Conservation committed \$276,200 to the Wairau Wetlands Cultural Values Mapping and Management Project, championed by Rangitāne o Wairau.

Through this work, we have commenced a project to develop a digital platform designed to spatially and visually record places of cultural and historical significance, specifically at Te Pokohiwi-o-Kupe, but also within and across our tribal rohe. The overall aim of this project is to preserve and protect Rangitāne mātauranga, while using this as a tool to support the restoration of Te Pokohiwi-o-Kupe and the Wairau Wetlands.

The platform consolidates data from a variety of sources, including our commercial arm, ArchSite, kaumātua, and additional data repositories. By gathering this information into one central hub, users will be able to overlay and explore our rohe through a cultural lens.

In addition to its cultural and historical purpose, the platform will also support

environmental management and monitoring by allowing photographs and observations to be logged over time, providing insight into the health of our whenua, and the effect of restoration efforts.

The platform already incorporates a wide range of valuable data, including: cultural sites of significance, Māori dug channels (such as Ōhine-anau-mate), fish traps, kumara pits, New Zealand Archaeological Association data, iNaturalist observation, LiDAR scans.

The project is now moving into its next phases:

Layer Configuration – Enabling users to refine or expand the information they view.

Visual Design – Crafting an accessible and user-friendly interface.

User Testing – Ensuring the platform meets the needs of our people.

The work of gathering and inputting data will remain ongoing, with further wānanga planned in the new year. This will be an opportunity for whānau to share their knowledge and contribute to the platform.

ROBBIE MCKINNEY



A big mihi to our Kaitohu Taiao, Robbie McKinney, on graduating from Te Wānanga o Raukawa with his Heke Kaitiakitanga Pūtaiao (Diploma in Environmental Management). Robbie is now continuing his journey, working towards his Poutuarongo Kaitiakitanga Pūtaiao (Bachelor in Environmental Management). Ka pai tō mahi, Robbie! We're excited to see your ongoing contributions to te taiao within our rohe. Tēnei te mihi nui ki a koe!

HOUSTON ROUSSEL



Houston Roussel, with coach Tony Macdonald, at the BBNZ South Island Regional Basketball Tournament. Thanks to the Pūtea Tautoko grant from Rangitāne, Houston was able to represent the Marlborough U14 A Boys team in Ashburton, finishing 7th in a great tournament.



Te Tapuwaetahi o Rangitāne Festival

Tuhia ēnei rā ki ā koutou rātaka!

24 - 27 OCTOBER 2025

More details including registrations & awards nominations to come.

Hosted in Wairau by Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau Trust

MĀORI RUGBY COACHING LEGENDS



Local Legends from left: Walter Waaka, Wayne Abbot (Rangitāne), and Bill Mathews received the Local Legends Award for their coaching contributions to Māori rugby in our community at the recent Te Pātaka o Wairau Māori Night Market.

IWI SAVINGS SCHEME LAUNCHED



Kaiwhakahaere Matua, Corey Hebbard pictured here with representatives from other iwi at our launch event held at the Suter Gallery in Whakatū.

It's finally here – we're excited to announce the launch of WhanauSaver!

WhanauSaver is your iwi savings scheme, developed in partnership with Superlife and Smartshares Limited. Designed to support your financial goals, it comes with a unique benefit: your iwi contributes directly to your account!

Here's why WhanauSaver is a game-changer for our people:

Iwi contributions: Contributions come from you and your iwi – a direct investment in your future.

No age limits: Register yourself, your tamariki, and even your mokopuna to start building a

financial foundation for your whānau today.

Flexible withdrawal options: Access your pūtea for retirement at 55, 10 years earlier than KiwiSaver!

Support for life's milestones: Use your savings for tertiary education, first home ownership, or other important goals.

To get started visit <https://dg0ep1a32vt.typeform.com/to/WyXyKJJW>.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the registration process, feel free to contact Te Atahia at pouuruora@kauruora.nz.

This is an incredible opportunity for Rangitāne whānau to invest in their future, now and for generations to come.

CALENDAR DATES

Tari Kirihimete Hours

Closed Friday 20 December 2024
Reopening Monday 6 January 2025

Poroiwi Education Grant

Closes 31 December 2024

Rangitāne General Scholarship

Closes 29 February 2025

Hui-ā-Tau (AGM 2025)

11am | 25 January 2025 | Ūkaipō

AGM Evening Hākari

6pm Saturday 27 January 2025
Marlborough Event Centre

Waitangi Day

6 February 2025

Te Ipukarea 2025

4-5 April 2025 | Whakatū

Kura Reo & Kura Ririki

14-17 April 2025 | Wairau

Kura Reo

14-17 Paengawhawa 2025

Registrations for Kura Reo
& Kura Ririki are open

To register visit our website.



Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau

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Open 9am-5pm Monday - Friday

