



KEI PUTA TE WAIRAU



## PIONEERING ROLE IN INDIGENOUS PEACE STUDIES

Rangitāne whānau gathered in Ōtepoti in January, to celebrate and support Dr Liana MacDonald as she was welcomed into her new role at Te Ao o Rongomaraeroa – National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies.

Liana, a member of multiple iwi, including Ngāti Kuia, Rangitāne o Wairau, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, Ngāti Tama, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Kāi Tahu, and Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, is the first-ever Chair in Māori, Mori, and Indigenous Peace Studies.

This role will see Liana leading the Centre’s efforts in engaging with Indigenous peace practices while promoting bicultural approaches within Aotearoa. Her leadership will strengthen the Centre’s commitment to nurturing indigenous knowledge, history, and justice, aligning closely with Rangitāne values and the kaupapa of Te Tiriti-led institutions.

Liana’s appointment is a testament to her exceptional academic expertise, as well as the richness of her whakapapa and lived experiences. It marks a significant step forward in shaping the future of Indigenous peace and reconciliation dialogues. Rangitāne o Wairau is incredibly proud to witness one of our own stepping into this role, shaping vital conversations that will resonate for generations to come.

Rangitāne whānau acknowledge Liana’s achievement and the legacy she is beginning to build. Her leadership will make a lasting impact on the field of peace studies, and the community eagerly anticipates the contributions she will continue to make in this pivotal space.

Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui e te whanaunga! Rangitāne whānau looks forward to the profound influence Liana will have in her new role, advancing the kaupapa of peace, conflict resolution, and reconciliation. Pioneering Role in Indigenous Peace Studies.

## MANA TANGATA | OUR PEOPLE

# RECOGNITION FOR IWI CONTRIBUTIONS



It was truly special to witness so many of our whānau coming together at our Hui-ā-Tau and hākari to celebrate our iwi's achievements, share stories, and create lasting memories.

One of the highlights of the event was recognising Uncle Lawrence MacDonald for his remarkable contributions to our iwi and the wider community. Uncle Lawrence's legacy spans across many areas, including attending dawn blessings, representation on the 28th Māori Battalion komiti, his mahi at Ōtamawaho urupa, his involvement in Te Taihū rugby, and his ongoing dedication to our people to name a few. His unwavering commitment and efforts have left a profound impact, and it was truly special to honour him.

## BOARD RE-ELECTS CO-CHAIRS



**Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau Trust met and confirmed our leadership for the year ahead. The Trust has reaffirmed the leadership of our existing co-chairs, re-electing Janis de Thierry and Calvin Hart for a further year.**

**Congratulations to Janis and Calvin on their reappointment! We look forward to another busy year ahead under their guidance, alongside the entire Trust Board team: Wirihana de Thierry, Haysley MacDonald, Judith MacDonald, Peter Meihana, and Keelan Walker.**

## RANGITĀNE CONTINUE EXPLORING TAONGA OF THE WAIRAU BAR

Rangitāne o Wairau, in partnership with Te Papa and Ōtakou Whakaihu Waka (University of Otago), is furthering its research into the taonga of Te Pokohiwi-o-Kupe (Wairau Bar), one of the most significant archaeological sites in Aotearoa. This project, supported by the Marsden Fund, aims to deepen our understanding of the taonga linked to this wahi tapu, and the histories they carry.

Using advanced scientific methods, including ZooMS sampling, researchers are extracting microscopic residues from taonga to uncover vital information about the diets, environments, and materials early Māori engaged with. This project has been actively progressing over the past year, with Trustees Dr Peter Meihana and Keelan Walker, alongside Dr Amber Aranui and Dr Monica Tromp, travelling to museums and universities to collect and analyse these invaluable samples.

Dr Meihana emphasises the importance of understanding the relationship between Māori and marine mammals, an enduring connection that enriches Māori identity.

He explains, "This project builds on the work from the 2009 repatriation efforts, continuing to explore our tūpuna's relationship with whales and dolphins."

Adding another layer, indigenous filmmaker Keelan Walker is documenting the research process to share the story of Wairau Bar with iwi and a global audience. The next phase of the project will take the team to Harvard University, where they will collaborate with leading researchers to analyse the collected samples. This journey will also provide an opportunity to exchange knowledge with Indigenous scholars and present Māori perspectives on the research.

This kaupapa is an ongoing journey of cultural and historical exploration. We encourage you to walk alongside us as we continue to explore the stories of our ancestors and reaffirm the deep connections that shape our identity.

Stay tuned for more updates, and join us as we explore our connections with ika moana through the stories of our taonga.



**Keelan Walker and Dr. Peter Meihana with Wairau Bar taonga held at the Canterbury Museum**



## SACRED UKU

We hosted our first Wānanga Uku this month, where whānau came together to shape uku (clay) into traditional Māori forms like taonga pūoro. The response was incredible. RaNae Niven, our talented whanaunga and uku artist, guided this wānanga with her expertise, blending tradition with her unique Māori expression. This is just the beginning of our Toi Māori journey for 2025. Led by Keelan Walker, we have six more wānanga planned this year, covering kākahu weaving, carving, and more. From left: Arena Mason, John Panther, Kieran Laugesen, Jess Hill, Marama Beattie, Raramai Nicklin, Keelan Walker, RaNae Niven and Rata Andrell.

## PŪTEA TAUTOKO | GRANTS & SPONSORSHIP

### HENARE SIBLINGS SHINE AT 2025 MĀORI GOLF NATIONALS

The Henare siblings, Cordell, Devon, and Miller, have made their mark at the 2025 New Zealand Māori Golf Nationals, thanks to the Rangitāne Pūtea Tautoko grant. Held at the Centennial Golf Club in Taupō from 6 - 10 January, this prestigious event showcased the exceptional talent and determination of these young golfers.

Cordell Henare, at just 16 years old, competed in the Open Men's division. He finished 4th equal in the 36-hole Strokeplay, securing 5th place among the top 16 players and qualifying for the Matchplay rounds. Despite an initial setback, Cordell's resilience shone through as he triumphed in his next three

matches, ultimately winning the NZ Māori Champion title in the Flight Division. His dedication and skill are truly commendable.

Devon Henare, aged 14, participated in the Open Women's division. She finished 9th in the 36-hole Strokeplay, earning her a spot in the top 16 players for the Matchplay rounds. Devon's competitive spirit was evident as she secured a strong victory in her first match. Although her journey ended in the quarterfinals, her determination and performance were inspiring.

The youngest of the trio, Miller Henare, at just 12 years old, competed in the Rangatahi Girls' 72-hole Strokeplay division. Miller's impressive performance saw her place second overall in Gross (84, 83, 82, 79) and first in Nett (73, 72, 71, 70). Her potential and promise as a young golfer are undeniable.

The Rangitāne Pūtea Tautoko grant played a crucial role in enabling these talented siblings to compete at the national level. The support from their whānau and iwi has fostered a sense of pride, determination, and community spirit. Competing at such a high level has inspired the Henare siblings to continue striving for excellence.

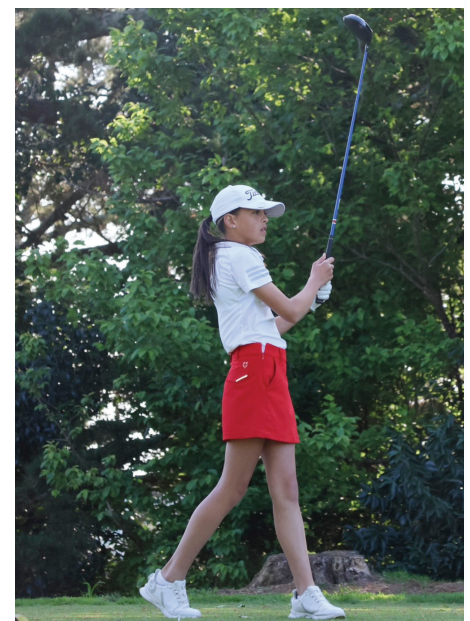
This opportunity has been invaluable, allowing them to learn from some of the country's top players and experience growth both on and off the golf course.



Cordell Henare



Devon Henare



Miller Henare

LIKE THE MULTITUDE OF STARS IN THE SKY, SO GREAT IS RANGITĀNE ON THE EARTH

## MANA TANGATA | OUR PEOPLE

# HONOURING MACDONALD WHĀNAU LEGACY



The rūnanga was honoured to support the whānau of Uncle Jimmy and Aunty Jocelyn MacDonald with their return home and their burial at the Picton Cemetery. The weekend also incorporated the unveiling of a new headstone for Teera (Sarah) and Hohua (Peter) MacDonald who was well documented as leading the fight for Rangitāne rights and interests in Wairau during his lifetime. The headstone also acknowledges their two sons Manihera (John) MacDonald and Whakaawe (Charles) MacDonald, who tragically lost their lives in World War I. It was an uplifting occasion, bringing whānau together from across the motu and around the globe. For many, it was their first time returning home to Wairau. The rūnanga and our whānau were humbled to be part of this special occasion of thanks and remembrance.

## MANA TAHUA | OUR ECONOMY

# WAIRAU HOUSING DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



Our Directors, Trustees, and management team visited the Wairau Housing development site to see the progress firsthand. With site clearing nearing completion, we're another step closer to delivering 94 homes in partnership with Hāpai Housing. Exciting times ahead as we prepare for civil construction to kick off in the next few months!

Pictured from left: Calvin Hart (Co-chair), Corey Hebberd (Kaiwhakahaere Matua), Rogier Eradus (Koau), Leighton Evans (Company Director), Leigh MacDonald (Company Chair), and Dr. Peter Meihana (Trustee).

## CALENDAR DATES

### Tuamātene Paepae Wānanga

2 March | Tuamātene Marae

### Hui-ā-Iwi

8 March | Ūkaipō

### Sacred Uku Wānanga

16 March | Wairau

### Wānanga Ahurea ki Horowhenua

21-23 March | Kererū Marae

### Kaumātua Cooking Day

25 March | Ūkaipō

### Te Ipukarea 2025

4-5 April | Whakatū

### Kura Reo / Kura Ririki

14-17 April | Wairau

### Easter Weekend

18-21 April

### Whānau First Aid Training

24 April | Ūkaipō

### ANZAC Day

25 April

### Whānau First Aid Refresher

28 April | Ūkaipō

### Wānanga Ahurea ki Tāmaki-Makaurau

2-4 May | Kiwanas Lodge, Huia



## Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau

Level 5, Rangitāne House  
2 Main Street, Blenheim 7201  
Phone 03 578 6180

PO Box 883 Blenheim 7240

Email [admin@rangitane.org.nz](mailto:admin@rangitane.org.nz)  
Open 9am-5pm Monday - Friday

