



KEI PUTA TE WAIRAU



# WAIRAU WELCOMES THE RETURN OF TE TAPUWAETAHI O RANGITĀNE

Around 300 whānau from Rangitāne across Aotearoa gathered in Wairau for Te Tapuwaetahi o Rangitāne, a three-day festival held over Labour Weekend.

Hosted by Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau, the event brought together whānau from Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua, Wairarapa, Manawatū and Wairau to reconnect, celebrate, and enjoy time together.

This year marked the long-awaited return of the festival to Wairau after more than a decade. The weekend began with a pōwhiri at Ōmaka Marae, where manuhiri were welcomed with karanga, waiata and kōrero, setting the tone for the days ahead. It was a moment that reflected the enduring strength of Rangitāne whakapapa and the significance of gathering once more in Wairau.

The weekend featured sports, cultural activities, and opportunities for whanaungatanga throughout the three days. Rangitāne o Wairau were proud to be named the overall winners of the hākinakina, taking home the Rangitāne Sports Trophy. The competition was keenly contested, with friendly rivalry between the different Rangitāne rohe. The victory was a special moment for our Wairau whānau, reflecting teamwork,

determination, and manaakitanga both on and off the courts.

Corey Hebbard, Kaiwhakahaere Matua, said the festival was a time to rekindle old relationships and create new ones for the next generation.

“It’s about coming together, reconnecting with each other and with the places and people that shape who we are.”

A highlight of the weekend was seeing tamariki and rangatahi fully involved — from sports to manaakitanga, their enthusiasm and pride in our iwi was a powerful reminder that Rangitāne’s future is strong, vibrant, and grounded in whakapapa.

Many whānau commented on the special atmosphere that filled Omaka Marae and the surrounding spaces throughout the weekend. The event provided not only time for celebration, but also reflection on the journeys that have brought Rangitāne together across generations. As the festival closed, there was a shared sense of pride and anticipation for the next Te Tapuwaetahi o Rangitāne.

## CELEBRATING RANGITĀNE EXCELLENCE AT THE TŪ MAI RĀ AWARDS 2025



**Oriana Paewai, Rangitāne o Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua, receives the Rangitāne Leadership Award from Rangitāne o Wairau Trustee Judith MacDonald at the Tū Mai Rā Awards evening**

The Marlborough Events Centre came alive with pride, aroha, and celebration as we gathered for the prestigious Tū Mai Rā Awards Dinner — a night dedicated to honouring the outstanding achievements and contributions of our Rangitāne whānau.

We extend our warmest congratulations to our award recipients, whose mahi, passion, and leadership continue to uplift and inspire our iwi. Each honouree embodies the strength, resilience, and mana of Rangitāne.

### **Rangitāne Rangatahi Leadership Award:**

**Jolie Sarginson** (*Rangitāne o Wairau*)

Jolie has been a dedicated youth representative with Environment Canterbury Regional Council, championing youth voices in governance, conservation, and te ao Māori. She's studying youth work and sustainability, driven by her upbringing, passions, and mahi — all of which shape her role as a powerful advocate and role model.

### **Services and Contributions to Rangitāne**

**Iwi: Teriaki Tamaesse** (*Rangitāne o Tāmaki-nui-ā-Rua*)

Teriaki has grown as a reo Māori leader under the mentorship of Hakoro Manahi. Through hosting regular and ongoing reo Māori classes for whānau, hapū, iwi, and hapori, Teriaki strengthens language revitalisation and builds spaces for learning, connection, and cultural pride.

### **Rangitāne Sports Excellence & Achievements: Hoani Ifopo-Togia**

(*Rangitāne o Wairau*)

Hoani is an exceptional young athlete whose discipline, leadership, and humility shine both on and off the court. At just 17, he balances school with intense basketball commitments and has earned national and international recognition — including All-Star honours at the Basketball Without Borders Asia camp and MVP in Canterbury's U23 league. He is also a Junior Tall Blacks squad member and Rams training squad selectee, Hoani's success is grounded in his strong cultural identity and the support of his whānau and iwi.

### **Contribution to Arts: Tawaroa Kawana**

(*Rangitāne o Wairarapa*)

Tawaroa is a talented musician and performer with a growing legacy in Aotearoa's music scene. From impressing Rachel Hunter on New Zealand's Got Talent at 17, to performing with Maimoa and Stan Walker, his work spans original waiata, Māori song translations, and soundtracks like Mihi mai rā for Moana. He's helped produce the Rangitāne o Wairau Waiata and represent Aotearoa at the Indigenous Songwriters Conference in Africa.

### **Rangitāne Leadership Award: Oriana**

**Paewai** (*Rangitāne o Tāmaki-nui-ā-Rua*)

Oriana has been a selfless leader and unwavering supporter of Rangitāne kaupapa over many years. Quietly passionate and

always seeking the best for whānau katoa, her impact is felt in the strength and unity she helps foster. The person who nominated Oriana spoke with humility, a reflection of the deep respect she inspires in those around her.

### **Rangitāne Kaitiaki o te Taiao: Amber Craig** (*Rangitāne o Wairarapa*)

Amber is a tireless advocate for the protection of wai and te taiao across the Wairarapa. Through submissions, research, and collaboration with iwi and policy makers, she champions mātauranga Māori solutions and upholds the mana of Rangitāne o Wairarapa. Amber designed the Te Ia Wairua, Hura Whenua, and Mātauranga a Hapū frameworks — empowering whānau voices in environmental decision-making. Her work reflects a deep commitment to restoring balance between people and place, and she continues to lead with vision, integrity, and aroha.

### **Outstanding Rangitāne Business:**

**Earl Paewai** (*Rangitāne o Tāmaki-nui-ā-Rua*)

Earl Paewai is a pioneer in livestock ultrasound scanning, founding Paewai Scanning Services when the practice was still new. With the support of his wife, he's built a nationwide client base across Te Ika a Māui and Te Waipounamu. Earl is also a skilled farrier, serving farmers and equestrian events around the motu. Known for his initiative, he's custom-built equipment and rebranded to Livestock Ultrasound Scanning, keeping his service high-quality and reliable. Earl now shares his knowledge with his daughter Tesni, ensuring the legacy continues.

### **Contribution to Māori Education:**

**Te Matahiapo Hynes** (*Rangitāne o Wairau*)

Te Matahiapo has, voluntarily and off his own back, led an incredible programme of work to revitalise te reo Māori at Tuamātene Marae and in Wairau. His leadership reflects the heart of Rangitāne o Wairau's aspirations, strengthening cultural identity, nurturing our language, and ensuring te reo Māori remains a living taonga within our whānau, hapū, and iwi. Through his generosity and dedication, he has embodied the principle of ahi kā — keeping the home fires burning through education, connection, and shared purpose. His selfless commitment has created spaces for our people to wānanga, kōrero, waiata, and learn together, continuing the intergenerational transmission of mātauranga that is vital to our iwi's wellbeing and cultural strength.

# WAIKĀRAPI - STEPS TOWARD WHĀNAU HOMEOWNERSHIP



Rangitāne whānau and trustees gathered for the Whatu Mauri ceremony, marking the beginning of the Waikārapī housing development in Blenheim.

Momentum continues to build at Waikārapī, with a strong number of whānau expressing genuine interest in the new housing opportunities. The development has sparked enthusiasm across the community, reflecting a shared aspiration for secure, affordable home ownership in Te Taihu.

Registrations for the Ka Uruora Te Uru Ahupūtea education programme, have also seen a notable increase. This surge highlights the commitment of whānau to prepare financially and confidently for their housing journey. Several whānau are already progressing through the next stages to secure their homes — a promising sign that the vision of Waikārapī is becoming a reality for many.

This development represents more than just housing; it's about building futures and strengthening our whānau.

## TE TAIHU IWI TRIBUTE AT KORONEIHANA



Iwi from across the country gathered to pay tribute to Te Arikini Kuini Ngā Wai hono i te pō at Koroneihana in September. The occasion marked a significant moment of unity and respect, with iwi, dignitaries, and leaders standing together to acknowledge her leadership.

An ope from Te Taihu including Rangitāne o Wairau representatives arrived at Tūrangawaewae Marae bearing the kauae parāoa (whale jawbone) gifted to Te Arikini during her first official visit to the top of the South Island in May. The jawbone and its 48 niho (teeth) were presented on behalf of the eight iwi of Te Taihu. It came from a sperm whale that washed ashore on Rabbit Island in 2016, symbolising the deep connection between the iwi, the whenua, and the Kīngitanga.

## RANGITĀNE HOST RMLA TAI AO HUI

Rangitāne proudly hosted the RMLA Taiao Kaitiaki Hui at Ūkaipō in September, bringing together whānau, practitioners, planners, lawyers, and local representatives to kōrero about protecting te taiao and amplifying Māori voices in environmental decision-making.

Corey Hebbard MC'd the event, linking discussions on the Blenheim Sewage Treatment Plant consent and the Water Services Bill to our role as kaitiaki of Te Pokohiwi-o-Kupe. Presentations included Dr Peter Meihana on the history of the Wairau Bar, and keynote addresses from Judge Sheena Tepania and Ailsa Cane. A reform panel explored Government environmental changes and iwi involvement, while Will Macdonald highlighted our partnership with Astrolabe Urban Winery, which hosted the haukai to close the day.

The hui reinforced Rangitāne o Wairau's commitment to tikanga and mātauranga Māori, protecting lands and waters, and building a resilient future.

# MANA AHUREA | OUR CULTURE

## CELEBRATING 55 YEARS OF KAPA HAKA



Te Taihū Kapa Haka Inc. marked its 55th Anniversary with a gathering of kaihaka spanning five decades. The event celebrated the group's legacy, values, and collective journey. As part of the occasion, two long-serving members—Priscilla Paul and Jane du Feu—were honoured as Life Members for their enduring contributions. Four new Life Members were also welcomed: Tania Alesana, Wayne Hippolite, Janis de Thierry, and Tom Alesana. The anniversary highlighted the strength and continuity of kapa haka in Te Taihū. Photo: Erica Sinclair

## WHAKAWĀTEA: CLEARING THE SPACE



Rangitāne o Wairau marked the beginning of construction on The Alfred Hotel with a whakawātea led by Kiley Nepia and supported by trustee Dr. Peter Meihana and Rangitāne whānau. The ceremonial blessing acknowledged the whenua and honoured those who came before, clearing the space for the new build.

The six-storey, 126-room development is taking shape on the site of the former Marlborough Club, located on Russell Terrace overlooking the Taylor River. Archaeological oversight is being led by Heritage New Zealand's Kirsty Sykes, ensuring the history of this whenua is respected and preserved.

## CALENDAR DATES

### Poroiwi Education Grant

Opens 1 November 2025

Closes 31 December 2025

### Rangitāne General Scholarship

Opens 1 November 2025

Closes 28 February 2026

### Trustee Nominations Close

24 November 2025

### Kaumātua Kirihimete

6 December 2025

### Tamariki Kirihimete

14 December 2025

### AGM 2026

11am Ūkaipō

Saturday 31 January 2026

### AGM Hākari

6pm Marlborough Events Centre

Saturday 31 January 2026

## HUI-Ā-TAU

Rangitāne o Wairau AGM 2026



11am Saturday 31 January 2026

Ūkaipō, 1 Fell Street, Grovetown

### AGM Hākari

6pm Marlborough Events Centre

Tickets available on Eventbrite

## 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

