



KEI PUTA TE WAIRAU



HE PŪKENGĀ WAI, HE PŪKENGĀ KŌRERO

Rangitāne o Wairau recently unveiled a new pou at Lake Rotoiti School, a site secured through the foresight and determination of those who negotiated our Settlement.

This pouwhenua stands in honour of Paraone Taituha, rangatira of the Ngāi Te Heiwi hapū of Rangitāne, an important tupuna across this area. A descendant of Kurahaupō, Paraone understood Rotoiti as a vital hub, a fulcrum of the inland mangatawhai trails that connected our people across Te Taihū. His people returned here to harvest kai, to seek refuge, and to maintain the enduring relationship between people and place.

Paraone was also a figure of the emerging colonial world. He was an early convert to Christianity, present at the Wairau Affray, a signatory to the 1856 Rangitāne Deed, and a member of the original Rangitāne Rūnanga, advocating for our people when Crown promises were broken. It is fitting that we recognise him here and through this pou.

The pou, designed by Keelan Walker, draws inspiration from harakeke as a visual expression of our whakapapa.

The front panels depict the waterways that flow from this landscape, while the back panels illustrate the trails and pathways that carried our tūpuna across the rohe. Standing here at Rotoiti, Paraone, mere in hand, continues to watch over the whenua and wai that sustained generations.

This project would not have been possible without the dedication of many people. Will Macdonald guided the project as manager, while Shannara MacDonald-Thwaites worked on the fabrication alongside the team at Gregory Engineering. Judith MacDonald, Peter Meihana, and Te Matahiapo Hynes supported the development of the kōrero, and Kiley Nepia led the morning blessing. We are grateful to Lake Rotoiti School for partnering with us and to Marama Davidson MP, who attended alongside whānau participating in our tuna wānanga.

This pou proudly stands as a reminder of our identity, resilience, and enduring connection to Rotoiti. A heartfelt mihi goes to our whānau for their strong turnout and support for this important kaupapa.

MANA TANGATA | OUR PEOPLE

KAUMĀTUA KIRIHIMETE CELEBRATION



Our kaumātua gathered in Tōtaranui for a special Kirihimete celebration, travelling across the sounds to Punaruawhiti (Endeavour Inlet). Our kaumātua spent the afternoon reflecting on the significance of this area for Rangitāne, and enjoyed a generous hākari of kaimoana and festive dishes, creating a warm and memorable end to the year. We look back on 2025 with gratitude and forward to 2026 with optimism and joy. Ngā mihi nui to all who joined us and contributed to a wonderful day. Meri Kirihimete ki ngā kaumātua o Rangitāne o Wairau.

ANNUAL ROTOITI TUNA WĀNANGA



Our whānau headed up to Rotoiti for our annual tuna wānanga, a chance to spend time together, reconnect, and learn the ways of our tūpuna.

This year we tried out our new Rangitāne Tuna and Macro-Invertebrate Index Monitoring resource. It's a tool that helps us understand the mauri of our waterways and gather data while we're out on the lake or river. It's still a work in progress, but that's the exciting part, we're shaping it together. In the new year we'll run another wānanga so whānau can share feedback, add ideas, and help grow the resource.

Aside from setting the hinaki, another highlight was a rongoā session in the ngahere with our whanaunga Josh Huntley. He showed us how to spot different types of rongoā and explained the uses behind each plant. It was a beautiful way to connect with the ngahere and learn about traditional healing practices firsthand.

For us as Rangitāne, the tuna wānanga is all about reconnecting with te taiao, passing knowledge on to the next generation, and reminding ourselves of the strength and mana we hold when we come together.



Congratulations to our whanaunga RaNae Niven, who has received a scholarship from Te Ao o Rongomaraeroa, the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Otago. RaNae's PhD research will explore how taonga uku (Māori clay) and earth pigments can support healing, reconciliation, and resilience, while revitalising mātauranga of uku as a pathway to peace and strengthening connections between spirituality, community, and the whenua. We wish RaNae every success as she embarks on this important research.

NAU MAI, HAERE MAI TIHA!



We are pleased to introduce our newest team member, Tiha Wilson, who has been appointed Kaikōkiri Tari (Office Coordinator) for Rangitāne o Wairau. In this role, Tiha will provide essential administration support to our rūnanga office, including receptionist duties, event support, organising hui, and offering general administrative support across our operations. She will be the friendly face welcoming manuhiri to our tari. We are proud to have another Rangitāne whānau member contributing at an organisational level.

Heeni Te Mete > Kumeroa Mason > Kevin Matangi > Nikora > Tiha

MANA MOTUHAKE | OUR GOVERNANCE CONNECTING ACROSS NATIONS: RANGITĀNE AT WIBF 2025



Rangitāne o Wairau Kaiwhakahaere Matua Corey Hebbard, Co-Chair Janis de Thierry, trustees Judith MacDonald and Keelan Walker are pictured here with keynote speaker Ernesto Sorelli.

At the end of October, alongside engagement events with our whānau living in Australia, several of our Trustees and our Kaiwhakahaere Matua represented Rangitāne o Wairau at the World Indigenous Business Forum (WIBF 2025) in Naarm (Melbourne). Hosted by the Kinaway Chamber of Commerce, this year's forum brought together Indigenous leaders, entrepreneurs, and community builders from more than a dozen nations. It was a space rich in kōrero, culture, and challenge, exploring how we can grow strong economies that remain grounded in who we are as Indigenous peoples.

The forum opened with a powerful Welcome to Country led by the Traditional Owners of Naarm, setting the tone for the days ahead. Across the three days, our delegation participated in sessions on Indigenous procurement and supplier diversity, climate and environmental resilience, economic sovereignty and social enterprise, and intergenerational wealth, wellbeing, and legacy. A clear theme emerged throughout the forum that true prosperity lies not only in profit, but in people, whakapapa, whenua, and collective wellbeing.

While in Naarm, our delegation was hosted by Yarra Valley Water to share insights and experiences on Indigenous approaches to water management. This kōrero was especially valuable given our focus on the Blenheim Sewage Treatment Plant and our ongoing efforts to ensure local infrastructure projects reflect kaitiakitanga and iwi values. We exchanged perspectives on how Indigenous knowledge can inform water planning and management in both Aotearoa and Australia, exploring parallels between our contexts.

The connection with Yarra Valley Water arose following our Kaiwhakahaere Matua, Corey Hebbard, sharing a panel session with Yarra Valley Water's Aboriginal Partnerships Manager, Nina Braid, at the Water New Zealand Conference in Ōtautahi. Nina reflected on the visit: "It was a great opportunity to learn from our Māori brothers and sisters and connect through our shared stories and through water. We are all stronger when we walk this journey together." In reciprocity, we were pleased to present two prints of the Wairau River to Yarra Valley Water.

TRUSTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Nominations for Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau Trust's 2026 trustee election resulted in three nominations for the three available vacancies: **Janis De Thierry, Calvin Hart, and Keelan Walker.** As the number of valid nominations did not exceed the number of vacancies, all three candidates are declared elected unopposed as Trustees of Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau Trust. We congratulate Janis, Calvin and Keelan and look forward to their continued contributions in guiding the Trust.

VOTING ON PROPOSED TRUST DEED CHANGES

Amendments to the Māori Fisheries Act 2004 require the Trust to update specific sections of its Trust Deed to maintain compliance. A voting process on the proposed changes will take place over December 2025 and January 2026.

Voter packs and information will be mailed to registered members aged 60 years and over, and to those without an email address on our database. All other members aged 18 to 59 will receive their voting packs and information via email. Voting will close at the Trust's AGM on Saturday 31 January 2026.

We encourage all members to review the proposed changes and participate in the vote to ensure the Trust continues to reflect the aspirations of Rangitāne o Wairau.

HUI-Ā-TAU
Rangitāne o Wairau AGM 2026



11am Saturday 31 January 2026
Ūkaipō, 1 Fell Street, Grovetown

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

MANA TANGATA | OUR PEOPLE RUGBY, MEDICINE, AND MĀORI ASPIRATIONS



Maia Joseph (second from right) turned her dream of representing Aotearoa at the Women's Rugby World Cup into reality, playing alongside some of the game's top talents.

After completing her third year of medical school at Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka, Maia Joseph (Rangitāne, Ngāti Rarua, Ngāti Maniopoto) took a break from her studies to pursue her dream of playing professional rugby. She recently returned from representing New Zealand at the Women's Rugby World Cup in England and is now preparing to resume her medical studies, balancing her passion for medicine with an outstanding sporting career.

Maia has always loved both rugby and medicine, describing the past few years as challenging yet rewarding. While stepping away from medical school to focus on rugby required sacrifices, she reflects fondly on juggling Otago Spirit commitments, Black Ferns camps, and rehabbing a knee after reconstruction surgery. She is motivated to continue her studies not only by her fascination with the human body but also by her desire to support Māori whānau who face inequities in the health system.

Born in Wellington and raised in Dunedin, Maia has deep connections to Blenheim and Port Underwood through her whakapapa. A talented halfback and skilled first five, she has played rugby from a young age, progressing through youth rugby, Columba College, the Otago Spirit, and then the Chiefs Super Rugby

squad, which opened the door to Black Ferns and Black Ferns Sevens selection. She is now signed with Matatū and holds a two-year Black Ferns contract.

At the Women's Rugby World Cup, Maia made a notable impact, including scoring a remarkable team try against Ireland that was later named the International Rugby Players Association Women's 15s Try of the Year. The Black Ferns advanced strongly in the tournament but were defeated by Canada in the semifinal, before beating France 42-26 to claim third place. Maia describes the tournament as an incredible experience, fulfilling a childhood dream, and cherishes the memories and lessons gained from competing at the highest level.

Reflecting on her journey, Maia acknowledges the crucial support of her whānau and community. She says their encouragement has been vital in helping her manage the pressures of elite sport and medical study, and that sharing her successes with them has made each achievement even more meaningful.

Kōrero by Brigham Riwai-Couch, Māori Communications Advisor at Ōtākou University (abridged).

CALENDAR DATES

Poroiwi Education Grant

Opens 1 November 2025
Closes 31 December 2025

Rangitāne General Scholarship

Opens 1 November 2025
Closes 28 February 2026

Tamariki Kirihihi

14 December 2025 Ūkaipō

AGM 2026 & Hākari

Saturday 31 January 2026
11am-2pm Ūkaipō
6pm Marlborough Events Centre

Matariki

10 July 2026 | Wairau

Te Kaiaotanga o Te Reo Māori

24-25 June 2026 | Whakatū

Te Ipukarea

20-21 November 2026 | Wairau

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