



Kei Puta te Wairau

Poutū-te-rangi (March) 2026

Iwi pānui, events & information



Caption????

Hui-ā-Tau AGM 2026

On January 30, 2026, nearly 70 whānau members gathered at Tuamātene Marae to begin the Hui-ā-Tau weekend with kawē mate. The atmosphere was filled with warmth as whānau arrived to acknowledge those who have passed, to return their kawē mate and to ensure that their memory be woven into the fabric of Rangitāne o Wairau.

The weekend continued with the Hui-ā-Tau at Ūkaipō on January 31. The Hui-ā-Tau provided a space for whānau to reconnect, reflect on our shared successes over the past year, and look ahead with collective purpose. The day was filled with kōrero, laughter, and renewed commitment to the future of our iwi.

The Hui-ā-Tau progressed, with the delivery of reports, achievements, and the opportunity for whānau voices to be heard. Discussions centered on our shared progress and the work ahead, reinforcing the importance of collective action.

A special moment during the Hui-ā-Tau was the acknowledgment of Aunty Diane Taylor for her decade of dedicated service to the Whakapapa Committee.

Her unwavering commitment has ensured the integrity and strength of our whakapapa processes. Whānau joined in expressing gratitude for the impact Aunty Diane has made in connecting generations and preserving our stories and rich tapestry of whakapapa.

This year, there was no Trustee election as the incumbents stood unopposed, reflecting a high degree of trust and confidence in our iwi leadership. However, a special resolution vote was held for important deed amendments made necessary by changes to the Māori Fisheries Act. The resolution was carried with strong support.

The Hui-ā-Tau culminated in an evening hākari, with over 200 members gathering to celebrate. The atmosphere was alive with laughter and the joy of being together. During the evening, the new iwi brand was launched, marking an exciting new chapter for Rangitāne o Wairau. The brand embodies our identity, aspirations, and unity as we move forward together.

We look forward to another busy and successful year ahead.





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.



Caption

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



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.

Reappointment of Co-Chairs for Rangitāne o Wairau

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 whOn Friday 20 February, the Trust confirmed the reappointment of Janis de Thierry and Calvin Hart as Co-Chairs of Rangitāne o Wairau.

Rangitāne continues to move forward — strengthening our cultural foundations, standing firm in environmental matters, building influence in the right places, and backing initiatives that support our whānau. Leadership matters in that space, and we acknowledge the work they continue to put in

Connecting Across Nations: Rangitāne at WIBF 2025

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).



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.

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.

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 Wairua AGM 2026

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

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.



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.

Rugby, Medicine, and Māori Aspirations

After completing her third year of medical school at Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka, Maia Joseph (Rāngitāne, 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

Poroiri Education Grant

Opens 1 November 2025
Closes 31 December 2025

Rangitāne General Scholarship

Opens 1 November 2025
Closes 28 February 2026

Tamariki Kiribimete

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

Key dates

Nominations open: 22 October
Nominations close: 24 November
Voting opens: 11 December
Postal & online voting close:
30 January
AGM Day: 31 January

Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau

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9am-5pm Monday - Friday

Rangitāne o Wairau