



Kei Puta te Wairau

Haratua (May) 2026

Iwi pānui, events & information



Anzac Day

At dawn, on ANZAC Day in Waitohi/Picton, we stood together in remembrance. Supported by whānau present, Kereana Norton laid a wreath on behalf of Rangitāne o Wairau at the cenotaph as part of the main ANZAC Service.

Following the main service, our whānau gathered again on the foreshore at the pou whenua dedicated to the 28th Māori Battalion. Whānau were called on by kaikaranga from Te Ātiawa.

We remember all of our servicemen and women - those of the 28th Māori Battalion, those who have served across generations, and especially those who are our own whānau. Their service and sacrifice sit at the heart of who we are, carried forward through whakapapa and memory.

At the pou, wreaths were laid and names were read. Corey Hebbard laid a wreath on behalf of Rangitāne o Wairau, and shared kōrero of his great-grandfather, Nugget McDonald - a reminder of the personal stories that sit behind every name, and the enduring impact of service across generations.

Our thanks to Paora Mackie and Uncle Ron Riwaka for leading our proceedings with karakia and the call of the pūtātara, setting the tone for a moving ceremony, amidst the cool, misty and beautiful Waitohi morning.

We also acknowledge Rachel Hāte and Teish O'Connell from Te Ātiawa for leading the morning events and holding space for whānau to come together and acknowledge the occasion.

We acknowledge Will Macdonald for his reading of the names of our 28th Māori Battalion soldiers, whose names are inscribed on the pou - a moment that grounded us all, hearing the names of those who have served.

We also acknowledge Liz McElhinney for laying a wreath in Blenheim, and Uncle Lawrence McDonald for his work behind the scenes in helping bring these moments together.

Today was about remembrance, but also about connection - between iwi, between generations, and between the past and the present.

Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou.

Whale Trail Opening Marks a Significant Milestone for Marlborough

On 24 April, we were proud to attend the opening of the Waitohi-Para (Tuamarino) section of the Whale Trail - a significant milestone for Marlborough.

This section sits close to the site of the Wairau Affray (17 June 1843), a place of deep historical significance for our rohe. It's a reminder that while we build for the future, we also walk alongside the past.

This project has seen us work closely with The Whale Trail Trust and our iwi partners - Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Toa, and Ngāti Rārua. These relationships matter, and they've been central to shaping a trail that reflects the stories and identity of this place.

On behalf of Rangitāne, Will Macdonald supported as kaikorakia, and Dr Peter Meihana spoke to the significance of the area for iwi - grounding the morning in both history and meaning.

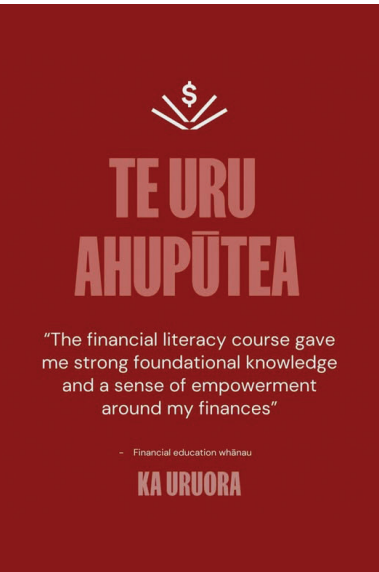


It was also great to see those who have carried this kaupapa recognised. Vicky Nalder honoured for her contribution, the Burkhart whānau acknowledged for their ongoing support, and strong words shared by Gerald Hope on behalf of Council.

Luke van Velthooven, well known to many of our whānau through his involvement in the Kurahaupō settlement, spoke as Chair of the Trail Trust - acknowledging the significance of opening this section from Waitohi through to Tuamarino.

This will be an amazing trail - connecting communities, landscapes, and stories right across our region.

A proud day, and a great example of what can be achieved when we work together.



Ka Uruora - Te Uru Ahupūtea

Ka Uruora - Te Uru Ahupūtea is an iwi led kaupapa (established by Ngāti Tama, Rangitāne, Te Ātiawa, and Ngāti Rārua) focused on financial education, supporting whānau to build confidence with pūtea and plan for their future. Through practical wānanga, whānau learn about budgeting, saving, and preparing for home ownership in a supportive, whānau centred way.

Completing Te Uru Ahupūtea is the first step toward Ka Uruora housing pathways, including opportunities connected to the Waikārapī Development in Wairau. This kaupapa helps whānau become whare ready, so when housing opportunities arise, they are better prepared to take the next step toward a warm, secure kāinga and long term wellbeing.

If you've been thinking about your future or your whānau's aspirations, this is a great place to start. Even if you're not looking at a housing pathway right now, Te Uru Ahupūtea offers valuable financial education - helping with budgeting, learning how to manage money well, and building skills that support long term wellbeing. It's a practical first step that can benefit you and your whānau now and into the future.

If you are interested follow this link: kauruora.nz/sorted-kainga-ora

Pōwhiri for the Governor General

On 25 March Rangitāne, alongside Ngā Iwi e Waru o Te Taihū, welcomed Her Excellency Dame Cindy onto Whakatū Marae with a beautiful pōwhiri to open her time in Nelson.

We acknowledge and thank our kaumātua and kuia for their leadership and manaakitanga in supporting this welcome, and for upholding the tikanga and kawa of Whakatū Marae. We also acknowledge the haukāinga and rangatahi who made the day run so smoothly.



The pōwhiri marked the beginning of Her Excellency's visit to the region, where she spent time with local communities, organisations and places that reflect the strength, care and contribution of our people.

Ngā mihi nui to all involved in welcoming Dame Cindy to Te Taihū.

Rangatahi Wānanga

Our recent Rangatahi Wānanga gave rangatahi the opportunity to travel through Wairau and Tōtaranui on a journey of learning, connection, and cultural discovery.



A highlight of the wānanga was the opportunity to learn from Auntie Judith MacDonald, who shared kōrero at Waikutakuta (Robin Hood Bay). Her insights enriched rangatahi understanding of our unique Rangitāne hītori and the deep connections between people, place, and iwi history. The wānanga was filled with meaningful

whakawhanaungatanga, learning, and shared kai. We are immensely proud of the way our rangatahi continue to engage with their stories, whenua, and whakapapa. Seeing the next generation actively connect with and uphold our culture strengthens our confidence in the future and the ongoing stewardship of our taonga.

Te Kura Whakapakari

Te Kura Whakapakari was delivered as a kaupapa designed to support Rangitāne uri, whānau and hāpori, who are beginning their te reo Māori journey. The kura ran over four days and focused on building confidence through the learning of new vocabulary and sentence structures, supporting the everyday use of te reo and encouraging its use within homes. Participants strengthened their understanding through practical learning opportunities that supported both language development and connection. As part of the kura, tauira learnt a waiata-ā-ringa and enjoyed time around delicious kai, contributing to a positive and supportive learning environment. Ngā mihi nui to our pouako, Te Matahiapo Hynes, Daedae de Thierry and Irihapeti Lucas, for their dedication and mātauranga throughout the kura. Their support played a key role in creating an engaging, welcoming, and enriching experience for all who took part.



Waikarāpi First Houses Blessed

March marked the blessing of the first three homes at Waikarāpi - an incredible milestone for us, and for the many whānau who will soon call this place home. Seeing these first homes completed - and knowing they will be lived in by Te Taihū whānau - is something we're incredibly proud of. Waikarāpi is a 94-lot development, with many more homes already under construction. These first homes are just the beginning. This kaupapa has always been about more than building houses.

It's about restoring pathways to whenua, strengthening whānau, and creating spaces where our people can stand, grow, and belong. To everyone who has contributed to this journey - ngā mihi nui ki a koutou. This has taken vision, resilience, and a shared belief that we can do things differently for the benefit of our people. This is what it looks like when kaupapa becomes reality.



MBC First XV Gifted Taonga to Launch 2026 Season

On 29 April, the MBC First XV marked a special occasion as Rangitāne o Wairau (kaitiaki iwi of Marlborough Boys' College) gifted the team a Tewhatewha to launch the 2026 season.

The taonga was formally presented by trustee Keelan Walker and iwi member Kiley Nepia, reflecting a deep connection to Te Riu o Wairau.

The tinana is carved from kānuka, the rapa from whale bone, and the puhipuhi combines toroā and kārearea feathers – symbols of strength, vision, and unity. Keelan shared the kōrero of Te Hau, one of Rangitāne's oldest tūpuna, whose presence remains in the whenua and the maunga now known as Te Hau (The Ned).

The notches on the rapa acknowledge whakapapa and an unbroken ahi kā, referencing the first fires lit at Wairau Bar. They also represent the six key

waterways of the region: Waiau Toa (Clarence), Awatere, Waihopai, Ōpāoa, Wairau, and Te Hoiere (Pelorus) – each reflecting sustenance, knowledge, and life.

The taonga has been named “Te Kārearea a Hau”, a name that aligns strongly with both the kura (whose reo Māori ingoa is Te Rei Puta o Te Hau) and the First XV identity as the Kārearea. The team was encouraged to carry it with pride – as a unifying force and a reminder of who they represent wherever they travel.

Ngā mihi nui to Arpo Deer and Keelan Walker (carvers), and Shanell Kelly (weaver), with thanks to Kiley Nepia for the naming and cultural guidance. We also acknowledge Emma (Kārearea Falcon Trust) and Paora Mackie (Te Papa Atawhai / DOC) for their support in sourcing the feathers.

Wherever this team travels, they carry the mana of Wairau with them.

Kaumātua Whānau Reo

The Kaumātua Whānau Reo Rōpū meets weekly, on Wednesday, at Tuamātene Marae from 10.00am–12.00pm, followed by kai o te rānui. This rōpū continues to welcome kaumātua who would like to join the journey.

This space has been created to uplift te reo Māori among our kaumātua, strengthen connections, and support

reo learning in ways that reflect tikanga, manaakitanga, and kotahitanga. Sessions are facilitated by Te Matahiapo Hynes (our Pou Ahurea).

Kaumātua who wish to participate are warmly invited to attend and are kindly asked to RSVP by emailing tematahiapo.hynes@rangitane.org.nz



Rātaka Calendar dates

Kaumātua Whānau Reo
Weekly, Wednesdays ki Tuamātene
10am – 12pm

*Tuna Wānanga ki
Tuamātene Marae*
Wednesday 13 May, 6pm

*Takahi Whenua Foraging
Wānanga*
Saturday 16 May

*From Species to Taonga:
Reconnecting with Te
Pokohiwi ki Ūkaipō*
Thursday 21 May, 6pm

*Te Kaiaotanga o Te Reo ki
Whakatū*
Wednesday 24 and Thursday
25 June

Whānau Initiatives Fund Opens
Friday 10 July

Matariki Annual Gathering
Friday 10 July

Te Ipukarea
Friday 20 and Saturday
21 November

Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau

(03) 578 6180
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Level 5, Rangitāne House
2 Main Street, Blenheim 7201
PO Box 883, Blenheim 7240
9am–5pm Monday – Friday

Rangitāne o Wairau