

Kei Puta te Wairau

Mahuru (September) 2026

Iwi pānui, events & information



Te Waka a Māui Stands at Woodbourne

A new pou whenua, Te Waka a Māui, now stands proudly at the Tancred Crescent roundabout in Woodbourne, at the entrance to Marlborough's airport.

Rangitāne o Wairau were proud to have joined with our whanaunga for the dawn blessing and unveiling recently.

Standing at 8 metres tall at the entrance to Wairau, the pou whenua draws on the form of a waka turned skyward. Crafted from corten steel, it is a contemporary expression of our ancient stories - acknowledging the navigators, explorers and tūpuna who crossed Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa and whose descendants remain connected to this whenua today.

The name Te Waka a Māui references the traditions of our ancestor Māui, who stood on Arapaoa Island when he fished up Te Ika a Māui from the depths of the ocean. Here in Te Taihu o Te Waka a Māui (the prow of Māui's canoe), the pou stands as a marker of memory, identity and belonging.





Te Waka a Māui

(continued)

While traditional waka carried our ancestors across the seas, this waka stands upright, reaching towards the heavens. It honours those who came before us, grounds us in the present, and reminds us that although the world changes, our stories endure.

The pou was delivered as a collaborative project involving Rangitāne o Wairau, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa and NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi. It also recognises the role of Kurahaupō iwi in enabling the Woodbourne safety improvements through the land exchange that made this project possible.

The pou provides a strong and visible expression of mana whenua, whakapapa and connection to place. A huge mihi to everyone involved in bringing this kaupapa to life, including Fayne Robinson, Art Fetiche, NZTA Waka Kotahi, and all those who contributed their time, expertise and passion along the way.

Though the waka may rest, the journey continues.

Mana motuhake | Our governance

Changes at the Board Table

In September, we acknowledge the service of Leigh MacDonald and Haysley MacDonald, welcome Leighton Evans as Board Chair, and introduce new Directors and Trust Representatives to help carry our commercial kaupapa forward.

As of 31 August 2026, Leigh MacDonald and Haysley MacDonald finished their terms as Directors of Rangitāne Holdings Limited and Rangitāne Investments Limited, after nine years of service to our iwi.

Leigh also served as Board Chair from 2019, helping guide RHL/RIL through an important period of growth and change. To Leigh and Haysley, ngā mihi nui ki a kōrua for your leadership, service and commitment to our whānau and the aspirations of Rangitāne.

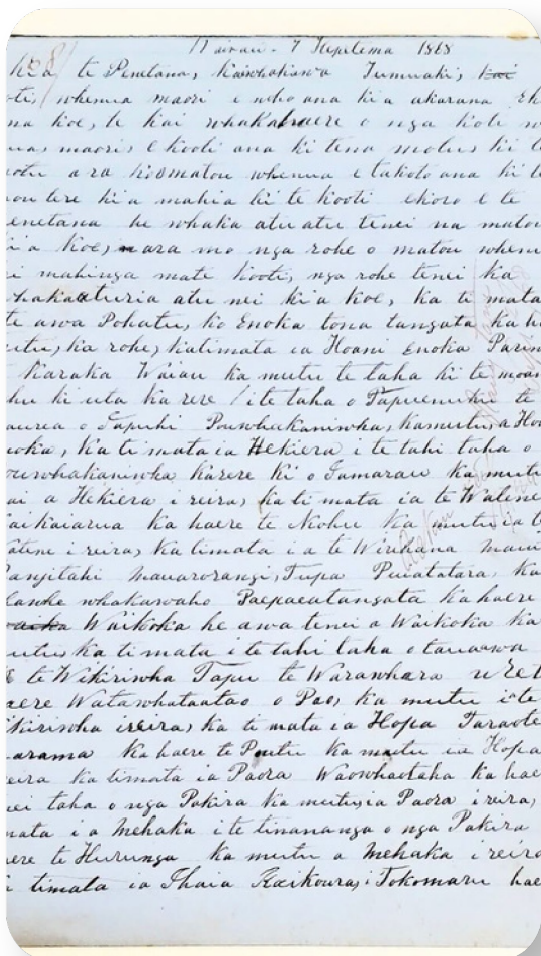
We are pleased to welcome Leighton Evans as our new Board Chair. Leighton has served as a Director since 2022 and brings strong executive, investment and governance experience.

From 1 September, we also welcome Jhonte McFadyen-MacDonald (Rangitāne o Wairau) and Michael Bendall (Ngāti Porou) as Independent Directors, and Keelan Walker and Calvin Hart as Trust Representatives. Dave Jessep continues as a Director.

Together, our Board shares an important kaupapa - to care for and grow the assets of Rangitāne for our whānau today and the generations to come.



Ngā Manatu o Raurangi 1868



A letter from our rangatira tracing Rangitāne whenua

On 7 September 1868, Rangitāne rangatira living in Wairau wrote to Francis Dart Fenton, the first Chief Judge of the Native Land Court, setting out their interests in whenua across the Rangitāne rohe.

Their letter traced the landscape through generations of Rangitāne knowledge - beginning at Pōhatu awa and moving along the east coast to Te Karaka, across Tapuae-o-Uenuku and inland to Rangitahi and the lakes, before returning through Paepae Tangata, Tokomaru, Tara-o-te-marama, Rahotia and Pareraho. It also identified the rangatira associated with particular parts of the whenua.

Among those named or signing were Hoani Enoka, Hekeira, Watene Te Ihupaea, Wirihana Maui, Wikiriwha, Hopa Te Rangihiroa, Paora Rangitakaia, Mehaka Watene, Ihaia Kaikoura and Hamuera Taioira.

Importantly, this was not the first time Ihaia Kaikoura had helped record the extent of Rangitāne whenua. Historical evidence records that, decades earlier, he'd described places and boundaries along the coast, and a map of the Rangitāne rohe attributed to him was copied by surveyor Charles Ligar in the 1840s.



Ihaia Kaikoura's map (copied by Ligar)
of the Rangitāne rohe

The timing of this letter is significant. The Native Land Court had been formally established under the Native Lands Act 1865 to investigate Māori customary ownership and convert it into Crown-recognised title.

By 1868, Native Land Court sittings were being arranged in Te Waipounamu, making it increasingly important for iwi and rangatira to place their knowledge of whenua, whakapapa and customary interests on the written record.

For Rangitāne, the letter is part of a much longer story of asserting mana and connection to whenua. The Crown's own historical account now recognises that Rangitāne occupied and used a rohe extending from Waiau-toa in the south through Wairau and the Nelson Lakes, north into the Marlborough Sounds and west towards Whakatū.

Ihaia Kaikoura himself had also signed Te Tiriti o Waitangi at Horahora-kāhahu, Port Underwood, on 17 June 1840. Nearly three decades later, his name appearing again on the 1868 letter gives us another glimpse of a rangatira continuing to speak for Rangitāne whenua and rangatiratanga through a rapidly changing colonial system.

More than 150 years later, the names in this letter remain markers of whakapapa, whenua and the enduring presence of Rangitāne across our rohe.

Horahora Kākahu

We recently returned to Horahora Kākahu, one of our significant places and a taonga of deep cultural and historical importance to Rangitāne.

It was here that Rangitāne rangatira Ihaia Kaikōura signed Te Tiriti o Waitangi in 1840. Today, Horahora Kākahu remains an important focus for conservation and restoration mahi.

During the visit, the team checked predator traps, assessed progress in removing old man's beard, and monitored the growth of last year's revegetation planting. It was encouraging to see the island showing positive signs of recovery and growth. Trap monitoring recorded 171 catches across the island. Camera footage indicates that most were mice rather than rats, with three possums also recorded.

A huge thank you to the Department of Conservation for providing boat transport, and to Air New Zealand for funding support that helped make this mahi possible. It is heartening to see the impact of this ongoing work as we continue to protect and restore Horahora Kākahu for our whānau and generations to come.



Restoring Ōhine-anau-mate

That same commitment to caring for our whenua is also being carried forward at Ōhine-anau-mate, where whānau and community recently joined forces for a hands-on day of restoration.



Hardy native species, including harakeke, toetoe and tī kōuka, were planted across the site to help slow stormwater runoff, trap sediment and support the recovery of the surrounding environment. This practical expression of kaitiakitanga and collective care is contributing to the ongoing restoration of this important whenua and waterway.

Ngā mihi nui to everyone who gave their time and energy to support this kaupapa.

Next up in this space: Wānanga Tuna

13-15 November 2026 - Annual Wānanga Tuna ki Rotoiti

Caring for te taiao is also about maintaining the knowledge, practices and relationships that connect us to it. That kaupapa will continue at Rotoiti this November with our annual Wānanga Tuna. The wānanga brings whānau together to reconnect with tuna, customary harvesting practices and the mātauranga that sits around them. It is also an opportunity to share knowledge across generations, strengthen connections to Rotoiti, and deepen our understanding of the health of the wai. Environmental monitoring will form part of the weekend, alongside a range of cultural, educational and whānau-focused activities. More information will be shared soon.

Kurahaupō Waiata Wānanga

The countdown is on!

It's less than ten weeks until all three Kurahaupō Iwi will be coming together to perform kapa haka at Te Ipukarea before the Hākari. As representatives of Rangitāne o Wairau at Te Ipukarea, we strongly encourage everyone who is registered to play for us to get involved and tautoko this kaupapa.

The waiata ngahau is a special part of Te Ipukarea and one of the things that makes our event unique. This is an opportunity for us to come together as Kurahaupō and celebrate. If you haven't already, please take some time to familiarise yourself with our waiata and actions. Get in touch if you want to request a copy of the kupu.

Our waiata sessions in Wairau, led by Te Matahiapo, have been taking place monthly at Ūkaipō and we'd love to see more whānau there.

Wairau wānanga

- Sunday 25 October | 10:00am - 1:00pm | Ūkaipō
- Sunday 8 November | 10:00am - 1:00pm | Ūkaipō
- Thursday 19 November | Evening time TBC | Ōmaka Marae

Please bring a plate of kai to share.

Whakatū wānanga

- Saturday 26 September | 10:00am - 1:00pm | Ngāti Kuia tari
- Friday 9 October | 10:00am - 1:00pm | Ngāti Kuia tari
- Saturday 14 November | 10:00am - 1:00pm | Ngāti Kuia tari

Online wānanga (all whānau welcome)

- Thursday 22 October | 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Let's make the most of these opportunities to learn our waiata, connect with whānau, and stand together as Kurahaupō at Te Ipukarea.



He Toi Whakairo at Te Papa

Rangitāne rangatahi Rihari Bird, Manaia Huntley, and Sativa Scott, accompanied by Keelan Walker and Will Macdonald, recently travelled to Pōneke for the dawn blessing and opening of He Toi Whakairo | The Art of Māori Carving at Te Papa Tongarewa.

The exhibition celebrates the legacy, mana, and future of whakairo Māori, bringing together taonga and stories from generations of carvers. Of special significance to Rangitāne is the inclusion of Wahangohi (Wahaika), a taonga from Tōtaranui, Te Taihū, associated with Rangitāne o Wairau, Ngāti Kuia and Ngāti Apa ki Te Rā Tō.

For our rangatahi, the visit was a special opportunity to spend time with taonga, deepen their connection to whakairo Māori, and represent Rangitāne alongside whānau, hapū, and iwi from across Aotearoa.

Marlborough Lines Scholarship Open

Applications are now open for the Marlborough Lines Tertiary Scholarship for Māori.

If you whakapapa to Te Taihū and plan to study in 2027 - whether leaving school, starting tertiary study, or returning to tertiary education - this scholarship could help support your journey.

Key dates and information:

- Applications close 30 October 2026
- Open to school leavers and adult learners
- Application forms are available on the website or from the Rangitāne o Wairau office

So if you're considering study next year, don't wait until the last minute. Get your application in and take advantage of this opportunity to support your education goals.

Other scholarships opening soon

Remember, our other scholarships will be opening earlier than in previous years, with payments also being made earlier to help whānau with school and study costs before the new year begins.

Poroiwi Education Grant

Opens: 1 October | Closes: 10 December | Payments: 20 January

Rangitāne General Scholarship & Manawa Energy Taiao Scholarship

Opens: 1 November | Closes: 20 January | Payments: 1 February

Keep an eye out for application information and don't miss the deadlines.

Kia rite mō te pōti – enrol to vote!

Make sure you have your say in the kind of government you want for the next three years.

The 2026 General Election will be held on Saturday 7 November, and you need to be enrolled or have updated your details by midnight Sunday 25 October to vote. If you enrol after 4 October, you can still vote, but you'll need to cast a special vote.

You can enrol or update your details online using a New Zealand driver licence, passport, or verified RealMe ID. If you don't have these, you can complete an enrolment form online and have it emailed or posted to you, download a form, call 0800 36 76 56, or free-text your name and address to 3676 to have a form sent out. Completed forms can be uploaded, emailed or posted back to the Electoral Commission.

Take a moment to check your enrolment now - and encourage your whānau to check theirs too. Visit www.vote.nz for more information.



Calendar Dates

Ngā rā whakahirahira

Kurahaupō Wānanga Waiata
See dates on previous page

Last day to enrol to vote
25 October

Marlborough Lines Scholarship applications close
30 October

General Election
7 November

Wānanga Tuna
13 – 15 November

Horowhenua Kaumātua Kiribimete Party
14 November

Te Ipukarea 2026
20 – 21 November

Horowhenua Tamariki Kiribimete Party
5 December

Wairau Kaumātua Kiribimete Party
11 December

Wairau Whānau Kiribimete Party
12 December

Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau

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9am–5pm Monday – Friday

Rangitāne o Wairau