Rangitāne

Kei Puta te Wairau

Whiringa-ā-rangi (November) 2026

Iwi pānui, events & information



He koura rua mō Rangitāne o Wairau

He koura rua mō Rangitāne o Wairau - Two Gold Pins for our iwi identity!

Yes, e te whānau, our Rangitāne o Wairau identity has received national recognition, winning two coveted “Gold Pins” at the 2026 “Best Design Awards” in the “Large Brand Identity / Cultural” and “Toitanga” categories.

The Best Design Awards are Aotearoa’s premier design awards, recognising outstanding achievement across the creative industries. A ‘Gold Pin’ represents the highest level of recognition within an award category, making this a particularly proud achievement for our iwi.

Developed alongside Māori-owned creative agency, Guardians, our refreshed identity was introduced earlier this year. It marked an evolution from the familiar kōtuku identity that served Rangitāne for decades, and an opportunity to reflect on who we are, what connects us to our past, and how we express our identity for future generations.





He koura rua
(continued)

This identity journey was never simply about changing a logo. Through kōrero, wānanga and contributions from across Rangitāne, we set out to create something grounded in whakapapa, whenua, whānau and ahi kā.

Rangitāne are the ahi kā, the eternal flame. Our fires have continued to burn through generations, reflecting our enduring connection to Wairau, our responsibilities as kaitiaki, and the stories and traditions we carry forward.



Inspired by Te Pokohiwi o Kupe and our rohe, the identity draws its colours from twilight skies, glowing embers and the waters of Wairau, while placing our people and whenua at the centre of its imagery.

The Toitanga Gold carries particular significance, recognising excellence in kaupapa Māori design and cultural expression. It celebrates not only how our identity looks, but the whakapapa, whakaaro and collective mahi behind it.

The judges acknowledged the craftsmanship, care and thought behind the identity, describing it as a confident, contemporary expression of whakapapa and place.

We acknowledge Guardians, particularly Pou Auaha / Creative Director Anzac Tasker, Pou Rautaki / Strategic Lead Olivia Darby and Ringatoi Matua / Design Director Amy Tasker, alongside the wider rōpū: Russell Hooton-Fox, Kereama Taepa, Judith Macdonald, Keelan Walker, Peter Meihana, Corey Hebberd, Rowena Smith, Ben Harrison, WorkGroup, Phil Kim, David James, SignFX, Tan Desai and Jodie Palatchie.

Importantly, the awards formally recognise Rangitāne o Wairau as Pou Taketake / Cultural Lead, reflecting the central role of our iwi in guiding this kaupapa.

Our thanks also go to the many Rangitāne voices that shaped this journey. These awards belong to the collective, recognising an identity that honours those who kept our fires burning before us, reflects our strength today, and gives our mokopuna something proudly and unmistakably their own.

Tini whetū ki te rangi, ko Rangitāne ki te whenua.

Judges' comments:

"The project demonstrates how whakapapa and place can provide a strong foundation for contemporary brand expression, while creating an identity that feels confident, relevant and prepared for the future."

"The judges felt this mahi was well deserving of Gold...and everyone involved should take immense pride in the outcome."





Mana motuhake | *Our governance*

Your iwi, your voice – 2027 Trustee Election and AGM

Mā tāu rourou, mā tāku rourou, ka ora ai te iwi.
With your contribution and mine, the people will flourish.

Trustee nominations are now open.

The future of Rangitāne o Wairau is something we all have a part in shaping. Nominations are now open for two Trustee positions on Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau Trust.

We warmly encourage whānau to step forward, share their skills and whakaaro, and help guide the future direction of our iwi through the governance of our Trust.

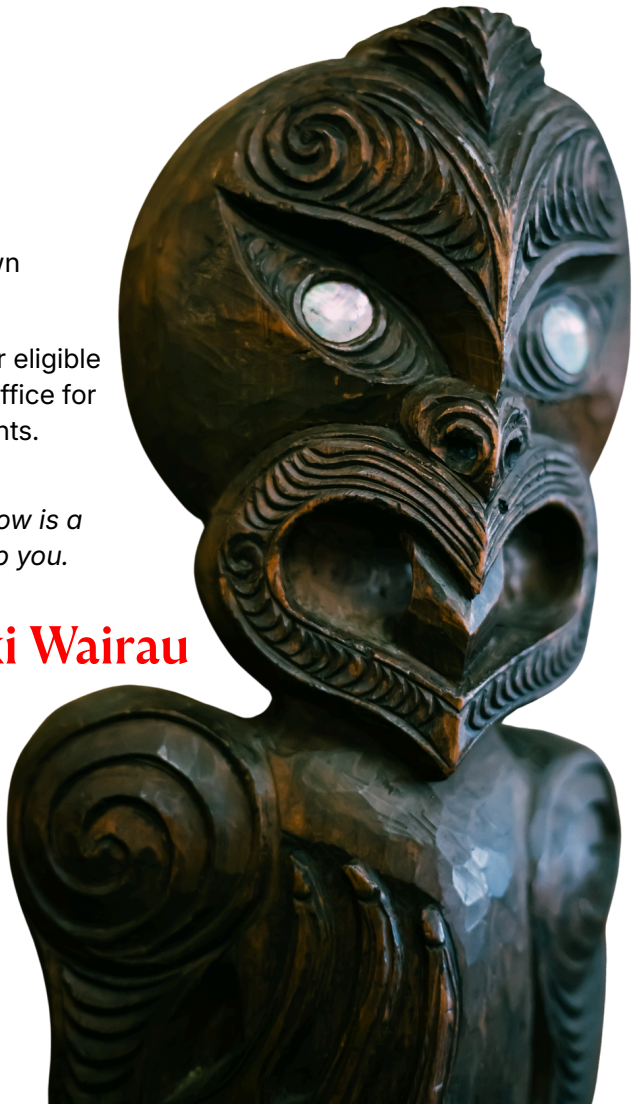
- Nominations open: 14 October 2026
- Nominations close: 12:00pm, 16 November 2026

- Voting opens: 3 December 2026
- Voting closes: 5:00pm, 22 January 2027

- AGM: 10.00am, Saturday 23 January 2027, at Ūkaipō, Grovetown
- Election result declared: 23 January 2027

Registered adult iwi members can nominate themselves, or another eligible member (with the candidate's agreement of course). Contact our office for nomination forms, eligibility information and submission requirements.

Not yet enrolled on the Trust Register?
If you're 18 years or older and have the appropriate whakapapa, now is a great time to register! Reach out to us at the office and we can help you.



Hui-ā-Tau 2027: Nau mai, hoki mai ki Wairau

Friday 22 – Saturday 23 January 2027 - Wairau

E te iwi, mark your calendars! Hui-ā-Tau 2027 is coming up in January, and we warmly invite whānau to come home to Wairau for a weekend of hui, whanaungatanga, and connection.

The weekend begins on Friday evening with Kawe Mate at Tuamātene Marae. On Saturday, we will gather at Ūkaipō for our Annual General Meeting, followed by a Whānau Fun Afternoon at Blenheim Indoor Sports, before rounding out the day with our Evening Hākari at the Marlborough Event Centre.

Travel assistance remains available for registered adult iwi members (18+) travelling from outside the rohe. While organised travel is now fully subscribed, eligible whānau can still apply for travel reimbursement by completing a reimbursement form at Hui-ā-Tau.

Our website has everything you need to plan your Hui-ā-Tau weekend, including the full programme, Kawe Mate information, travel and accommodation options, Hākari tickets, and livestream details.

Visit the website for all Hui-ā-Tau 2027 information and registrations.

Ngā Manatu o Raurangi 1860



Hōhua Kingi – Rangitāne rangatira and tohunga

In this pānui we remember the date of 16 October 1860, when Rangitāne rangatira Hōhua Kingi spoke at a hui in Wairau with a Crown representative, asserting his outstanding claims to whenua at "Queen Charlotte Sound, Wairau and Awatere".

The hui took place four years after the 1856 Rangitāne land transaction, when the Crown paid £100 for Rangitāne interests across a vast area of Te Tauihu.

Despite this agreement, significant issues remained unresolved, including customary land interests and promised reserves.

Hōhua's statement is a reminder that Rangitāne rangatira continued to assert their rights and connections to ancestral whenua, even after the Crown considered much of the land to have been purchased.

Also known as Hōhua Rangireia and Hōhua Te Hauwai, Hōhua descended principally from Ngāi Te Heiwi and was a member of the Rangitāne Rūnanga. The pā of Ngāi Te Heiwi stretched across a significant area. Starting at Tuamātene, they continued to Whiringatau near Tuamarino, Koromiko, Otaamau and Urukakea in Picton, then through Anakiwa to Kaituna and the pā of Motuweka (Havelock) and Orakiawhea.
From there, the connections continued through Kaituna Valley and back towards the Wairau, to Ruakanakana, Ohamere, Waikākaho and Tuamātene. His connection to whenua was also reflected in the name Hōhua Te Hauwai, which he used when signing the 1856 Rangitāne Receipt, referencing Hauwai at Kaiparatehau (Lake Grassmere).

Beyond his leadership, Hōhua was renowned as an extraordinary tohunga, said to possess the ability to command the winds, sea and weather. Rangitāne kōrero tuku iho recount that while crossing Raukawa (Cook Strait), Hōhua encountered another waka carrying a tohunga who claimed equal powers over the taiao (natural environment). A contest followed, with Hōhua emerging victorious, and the other waka was forced to turn back and return to their home.

Another account places him at the siege of Kaiapoi pā, where he had been taken by Ngāti Toa to assist in their campaign against Ngāi Tahu. At this battle (after three months of failed sieging), Hōhua changed the direction of the wind so that the fires would burn the pā's palisades - which they did - and the pā fell to the invaders. On the return journey, Te Rauparaha reportedly ordered Hōhua thrown overboard into the vast seas of Raukawa. He was rescued by a dolphin that we Rangitāne know as Kahutia-te-rangi, who carried him safely to Te Aro pā in Te Whanganui-a-Tara. Hōhua eventually returned to Wairau, settling at Waikākaho, where he later died following an accident involving his horse. His headstone (pictured above) has since been repaired, restored and re-erected.

Hōhua's life is remembered through both historical records and kōrero tuku iho, reflecting his standing as a rangatira, his extraordinary abilities as a tohunga, and his enduring commitment to Rangitāne whenua and whakapapa.

Mā te maumahara ki ngā kōrero o nehe, ka mau tonu te mana o ō tātou tūpuna. By remembering the stories of the past, we uphold the mana of our ancestors.

Te Rae o Karaka





We recently marked a special day at Te Rae o Karaka!

Rangitāne o Wairau and Ngāti Kurī joined Sally and Rob Peters at Te Karaka, near Marfells Beach, to acknowledge the protection of this significant whenua. A former pā and place of occupation for Rangitāne tūpuna, Te Karaka holds connections to Huataki, Mahiiti and Wikiriwhi Te Waiharakeke. Through Sally and Rob's generosity and commitment, much of the area is now protected by a QEII National Trust covenant, safeguarding its cultural history and supporting native restoration.

Over many years, Rata and Rick Andrell and Rangitāne whānau have contributed to planting and restoration, while Aunty Judith Macdonald has nurtured the relationship with the Peters whānau. These collective efforts help protect kōiwi, former occupation sites and the surrounding landscape.

Ngā mihi to Sally and Rob, the QEII National Trust and all contributing whānau. We also acknowledge the East Coast Protection Group's coastal trapping and planting work. Together, these enduring relationships are helping safeguard Te Karaka for generations to come.

Tikanga

We would like to take this opportunity to share some information with our iwi about the tikanga of Rangitāne in relation to the interment of ashes in waterways.

For Rangitāne, our awa are taonga. They were the highways of our tūpuna, provided important mahinga kai, and continue to sustain our people today. As a result, tikanga has long maintained a separation between waterways and matters associated with death and tangihanga.

Recently, Rangitāne became aware that ashes had been placed in a local waterway. In response, and in accordance with our tikanga, a rāhui was placed over the area. The purpose of the rāhui was to acknowledge and manage the tapu associated with the event, allow appropriate cultural processes to occur, and provide time for the area to be cleansed before the rāhui was lifted.

We acknowledge that practices and beliefs can differ between individuals and whānau. However, we wish to clarify that the placement of ashes in waterways is not consistent with the tikanga of Rangitāne o Wairau.

Nau mai, haere mai Megan!



We're delighted to welcome Megan Plier - Meg - to Rangitāne as our new Kaitohutohu Taiao, Kaupapahere me te Whakamahere (Environmental Advisor, Policy and Planning).

With a regulatory background and a passion for environmental planning, Meg looks forward to working alongside whānau and bringing Rangitāne values into meaningful kaupapa across the rohe.

Outside work, Meg enjoys exploring Wairau, spending time outdoors, and being with whānau and friends.

Rangitāne and Port Marlborough strengthen relationship through Kawenata





On Monday 19 October, Rangitāne welcomed Port Marlborough New Zealand to Ūkaipō for the signing of a Kawenata, marking an important step in a relationship that has been developing over some time.

Following the pōwhiri, kaimahi, whānau and Board members from both organisations gathered for the signing, with Rangitāne Kaiwhakahaere Matua Corey Hebberd and Port Marlborough Chief Executive Rhys Welbourn speaking about what the relationship means and where it can go from here.

The Kawenata is about having a relationship that goes much further than engaging when a consent comes across the table or there is an operational issue to work through. It is about knowing each other, sharing knowledge and finding opportunities to work together in ways that are meaningful for both organisations.

“We want to build the kind of relationship where we can pick up the phone, have open conversations and look for opportunities to do good things together. Whether that is restoring important places, sharing our knowledge or creating opportunities for our people, there is a lot we can achieve by working together.” Corey Hebberd

That understanding is particularly important given the footprint of Port Marlborough across places that hold generations of Rangitāne history. Waitohi, Waikawa, Motuweka, Raukawakawa Moana and the wider Sounds are part of a connected cultural landscape, shaped by whakapapa, occupation, travel and tikanga.

For Port Marlborough, the Kawenata is an opportunity to better understand Rangitāne connections across the rohe and reflect that knowledge in its work. The port and Rangitāne have worked collaboratively over the past year on a number of projects, including the naming and brand development of Muriwai Industrial Hub at Riverlands, where Rangitāne cultural knowledge helped shape the identity of the development. Rangitāne have also contributed to environmental planning and monitoring for the Havelock Channel Reinstatement and Marina Redevelopment Project, bringing important cultural perspectives to the management of environmental effects for this significant project. The Kawenata provides a foundation for building on this work, creating opportunities for earlier engagement, greater cultural understanding and more meaningful collaboration as Port Marlborough plans, develops and manages its operations across the rohe.

“There is a lot for us to learn from Rangitāne about the places where we operate and the stories and history connected to them. This is about building that understanding into our relationship and finding practical ways we can work together.” Rhys Welbourn



And rather than leaving those stories at the signing table, the next part of the day was spent out in the rohe, sharing some of them first hand.

Sharing the kōrero of the whenua

Following the signing, the group joined Rangitāne Trustee Dr Peter Meihana for a haerenga, beginning with kōrero from Pou Ahurea Te Matahiapo Hynes about Tuamātene and the wider Rangitāne landscape.

Tuamātene, now known as Grovetown and once known as Big Bush, was once an extensive native forest, with rākau including tōtara, kahikatea, rimu and māire. The forest stretched from around the Grovetown Lagoon through to where Tuamātene Marae stands today and was an important birding and kai gathering area for Rangitāne.



Tuamātene was also closely connected to Tuamoutere at Spring Creek and Tuamarino. These wetland forests, fed by artesian springs, sat amongst a much wider network of Rangitāne pā and kāinga throughout the Wairau.

Te Matahiapo shared the story of Rangitāne rangatira Ihāia Kaikōura, also known as Ihāia Nohotā, who lived across Wairau and Te Whanganui. His father, Nohotā, was a rangatira of Ngāi Te Heiwi.

The pā of Ngāi Te Heiwi stretched across a significant area. Starting at Tuamātene, they continued to Whiringatau near Tuamarino, Koromiko, Otaamau and Urukakea in Picton, then through Anakiwa to Kaituna and the pā of Motuweka (Havelock) and Orakiawhea. From there, the connections continued through Kaituna Valley and back towards the Wairau, Waikākaho and Tuamātene.



These were not separate places on a map. They were connected through the people of Ngāi Te Heiwi, and through the waterways, trails and relationships which linked Rangitāne communities across the rohe.

The story of Tuamātene continued to change over time. The site where Tuamātene marae now stands once was Grovetown School, and when flooding affected Wairau Pā, tauira from the Wairau Pā school attended school at Grovetown. The whenua eventually returned to Rangitāne through a much longer journey. In the 1990s, when the Government began a process that allowed Māori to apply for the return of surplus Crown land, Rangitāne applied for Tuamātene. A peppercorn lease was later agreed with the Crown, with the whenua formally transferred to Rangitāne in 2014 following the Rangitāne o Wairau Deed of Settlement process.



Ūkaipō has its own important place in that story. In the early 1950s, Rangitāne exchanged interests in the Pukatea fishing block for land next to the old Grovetown Hall and land at Waikawa. With many Rangitāne whānau living in Grovetown at the time, the hall became an important gathering place for birthdays, tangihanga, celebrations and other kaupapa. Rangitāne's Waitangi Tribunal claims were also heard there. In 2012, the old Grovetown Hall was replaced by the building we now know as Ūkaipō. Sharing this kōrero at Ūkaipō was especially fitting given the footprint of Port Marlborough's operations and the connections between many of these places.



From there, Dr Peter Meihana and Rangitāne kaimahi took the group to 17 Valley, the Ōpaoa Bridge pou and Rangitāne House, where they also viewed the pou, whale bone and the Ngā Wai e Rima exhibition on display.

The haerenga gave those from Port Marlborough a chance to hear the stories of these places while standing in the landscape itself, and to better understand the whakapapa and history that sit behind the relationship being recognised through the Kawenata.

The signing is an important milestone, but it is also about what comes next: continuing to share knowledge, understand each other's perspectives and find practical ways for Rangitāne and Port Marlborough to work together.

Education Support for 2027

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

Key dates and information:

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

We encourage all eligible tauira to apply and take advantage of this opportunity to support their education journey.

Interested in applying? Find more information on our website: www.rangitane.org.nz/resources/scholarships (or get in touch with us at the office).

Celebrating Whānau Success

We are so proud to see our whānau reaching their goals and excelling in their chosen path. Congratulations to our whanaunga for the following big milestones:







- Lorraine (Rain) McDonald – Graduated with a Bachelor of Teaching (Primary) from the University of Waikato in April and is now putting her skills into practice as a first-year teacher.
- Jovarn Simmonds – Graduated as a New Zealand Police Constable in March, also receiving the Top Firearms Award in recognition of his skills and commitment to safe firearms practice.
- Ana-Rose Offord – Achieved an impressive 5th place overall in the Under 16 category at the NZ Highland Dancer of the Year Competition in Nelson, placing in every dance she competed in.

If you, your tamariki, or extended whānau are out there doing great things, we'd love to celebrate your success and share it with our wider whānau. Get in touch with us!

Ngā rā whakahirahira
Calendar Dates

Te Ipukarea 2026
20-21 November

Wairau Whānau Kiribimete Party
27 November

Whānau Wānanga Tuna
28-30 November

Horowhenua Tamariki Kiribimete Party
5 December

Wairau Kaumātua Kiribimete Party
11 December

Horowhenua Whānau Kiribimete Party
12 December

Rangitāne o Wairau AGM
23 January

Rangatahi Raumati Wānanga
25-28 January

Kura Tuakiri
6-8 February

Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau
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Level 5, Rangitāne House
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PO Box 883 Blenheim 7240
9am-5pm Monday - Friday

Rangitāne o Wairau