

Te Kakara

Brothers Leading
Marae Resilience

Submissions on Te
Pire mō Ō-Rākau

Community
Planting Day



E Moe e Te Arikinui

Tuia he ariki, he taniwha, he tupua, he Kīngi

Tuia te pōtae o te motu kua whakairia ki runga ki te taumata o te rangi, ki runga o pae whakamoe ariki. Kei te Kīngi o te kotahitanga, i puea ake ai ngā wawata o ngā mātua tūpuna, e riringi tonu nei ngā roimata mōu kua wehe atu rā.

I āhua mai koe e te tāpaenga tapu o ngā ariki. Ko te tapuwae tika o Pōtatau hei takahanga waewae māu. Ko te maungārongo tō tuarā kaha, e pai ai tō waha i ngā taumahatanga o te wā. Ko tō kākahu ko te rangimārie, hei korowai i ngā iwi. Ko te atua tonu tō piringa, ki a ia te mana whakaoranga o te tangata, ko ōu ringa ki te hoe o te waka ko te mana motuhake. Ko tō ngākau nā te ao katoa. Ko te kotahitanga tō raukura ka titi ake ki te tiki o Te Arikinui Kuini Nga wai hono i te po Pootatau Te Wherowhero VIII, tētēkura o te waka o te Kīngitanga, ka eke te kōrero, ko Tūheitia ki te rangi, ko Nga wai hono i te po ki te whenua, ka hīria, ka hīria te ariki nui, rire rire hau pai mārire.

Kīngi Tūheitia carried the weight of his ancestors' legacies while guiding the Kīngitanga through modern challenges. Upholding his predecessors' values of justice, peace and mana motuhake, he responded to the needs of his people with grace and strength.

A central theme of his reign was kotahitanga, unifying not only the iwi within the Kīngitanga but also fostering strong relationships between Māori and Pākehā. At a mobilising hui at Tūrangawaewae, where over 10,000 gathered for the call of mana motuhake and kotahitanga, Kīngi Tūheitia shared this powerful message:

"The best protest we can do right now is to be Māori, be who we are, live our values, speak our reo, care for our mokopuna, our awa, our maunga—just be Māori. Māori all day, every day."

This kōrero reflected his leadership, which was grounded in service and action. Whether standing with iwi to protect our environment or nurturing rangatahi to embrace their identity, Kīngi Tūheitia led with quiet strength and unwavering commitment to his people.

With his passing, we honour both his enduring legacy and successor, Kuini Nga wai hono i te po. Her ascension marks a new chapter for the Kīngitanga, but the vision of kotahitanga and mana motuhake remains ever strong.





RST Chair Message

*Nau mai, haere atu ēnei kupu whakataki
i Te Kakara o te Hinu Raukawa, te reo
kawenga kōrero a te tari ō te iwi*

Tēnā koutou katoa,

As we welcome the season of spring, a time of renewal and growth, we reflect on the significant milestones that have marked our journey as an iwi. This season is a reminder of our own collective growth, the resilience of our people, and the importance of kotahitanga as we continue to create a path forward together.

One of the most significant moments in recent months has been the submissions to the Māori Affairs Select Committee on Te Pire mō Ō-Rākau, Te Pae o Maumahara. The kōrero shared at Parawera Marae by our uri and whānau, alongside Ngā Ahi e Toru, was powerful and deeply moving. It united us in our call for justice, healing, and recognition of the historical mamae we continue to carry. This moment of unity, strength, and purpose has added renewed momentum to our journey toward achieving ea – a balance that honours our tūpuna and secures a better future for our uri.

At the same time, our Ngā Wānanga ā-Rohe programme continues to play a vital role in strengthening and preserving our mātauranga. Through these regional wānanga, we are ensuring that our mātauranga is not only valued but also accessible and utilised across our iwi. It is a powerful tool for enabling our whānau to reconnect with their whenua, whakapapa, reo, and tikanga, ensuring that our mātauranga flourishes for future generations.

Our team has also been at the forefront of protecting and enhancing our whenua and waterways, ensuring

the survival of our taonga species, and embodying the principles of kaitiakitanga. Whether through community planting days or the upcoming release of our pukapuka on tuna conservation, their work is a testament to our shared commitment to the health and wellbeing of our taiao.


In June, we celebrated the opening and blessing of Te Kawariki, a new home for our rangatahi. This initiative reflects our dedication to supporting rangatahi as they transition into independent living. Te Kawariki will provide a safe and nurturing space where our rangatahi can grow, learn, and develop the skills needed to thrive as confident adults.

As we look toward the future, we acknowledge the passing of Kīngi Tuheitia and the profound impact of his leadership on our people. We also celebrate the next chapter of the Kīngitanga as Te Arikinui Kuini Nga wai hono i te po Pootatau Te Wherowhero VIII steps into her role as the new Māori Queen. We support her leadership as part of a new generation coming into bloom, guiding us with wisdom and vision.

As always, I extend my gratitude to all those who have contributed to the progress of our iwi. Your dedication ensures that we continue to grow, strengthen, and uphold the legacy of our tūpuna.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Nā Kataraina Hodge
Raukawa Chairperson

An aerial photograph of a large, dark lake nestled in a valley. The lake is surrounded by lush green forests on the right and rolling green hills on the left. In the background, several prominent mountains rise against a cloudy, overcast sky. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

Te Pōtae o te Motu

Te Pōtae o te Motu is a powerful symbol of leadership and unity. It represents the journey taken to select the first Māori King, Pōtatau Te Wherowhero, who was chosen after a long, arduous quest. Since then, this metaphorical pōtae has been passed down through the line of monarchs, each embodying its values and responsibilities. Today, it rests on the head of our current Kuini, Nga wai hono i te po, continuing the legacy of leadership and unity for our people.

Te Pire mo Ō-Rākau

Submissions to the Māori Affairs Select Committee

In June, we passed a significant milestone in the journey towards the return of whenua at Ō-Rākau. The Māori Affairs Select Committee was welcomed onto Parawera Marae, a few kilometres from the battle site, to hear submissions on Te Pire mo Ō-Rākau, Te Pae o Maumahara. This is a bill that will complete the return of the battle site by vesting it in the tūpuna who were either present during the historic battle in 1864 or had prior connections to the whenua.

This occasion marked a powerful moment as uri from Ngā Ahi e Toru (Raukawa, Te Nehenehenui, Waikato-Tainui), shared their kōrero directly with members of the committee, uniting in a collective call for the Crown to address the historical injustices that continue to affect our people.

The event was more than just a formal submission process; it was a symbolic gathering that brought together different iwi and whānau from interested parties. Our Chair, Kataraina Hodge, represented Raukawa alongside her team, delivering a submission that echoed resilience and hope for our iwi. Many other uri also spoke for their people, contributing to a rich collection of kōrero that underscored the importance of this Bill.

One of the key themes that emerged throughout the day was kotahitanga, a unified voice that resonated powerfully with the committee members. The strength of our collective message was not just in the words spoken, but in the shared history and intergenerational mamae that our people carry.



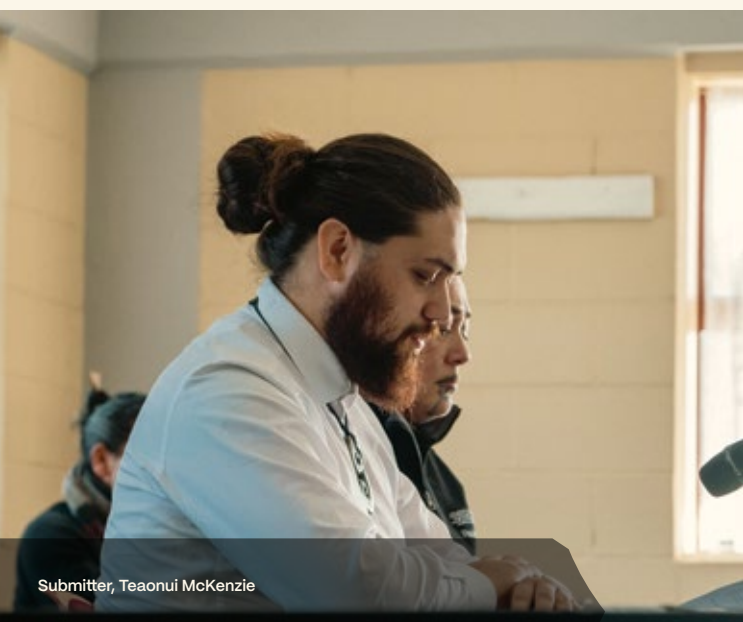
Whakataua at the battle site of Ō-Rākau

In his submission, one representative Teonui McKenzie articulated the deep scars left by the events at Ō-Rākau and the enduring impact of these wounds on his whānau. He spoke of his kuia, Tūmanako, whose love for her reo, culture and family could be compared to his tupuna Ahumai who demonstrated a similar love and passion for her whānau at the time of the battle. He shares that his kuia was his connection to his tūpuna and the whenua, *"Ko taku kuia te kuaha ki taua ao tawhito, i mau i a ia ngā riwhariwha o te pakanga i aua rā, e mau tonu nei i tātou i te rangi nei."*

The submissions at Parawera Marae called for recognition, healing, and justice. As the Select Committee returns to Parliament with the voices of our people ringing in their ears, we stand united in our demand for the Crown to take meaningful action. Te Pire mo Ō-Rākau, Te Pae o Maumahara, represents a crucial step towards achieving ea or a state of completion or balance, and we remain committed to seeing this bill passed through its next phases in Parliament.



Kaiwhakawhiti Reo, Maika Te Amo and Raukawa kaimahi, Phyllis Tahere



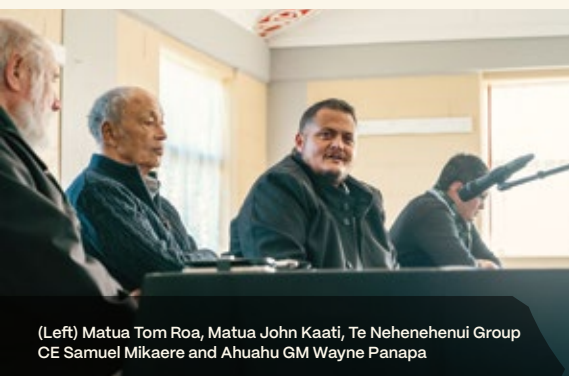
Submitter, Teaanui McKenzie



MP Hana-Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke



Submitter, Kahu McClintock



(Left) Matua Tom Roa, Matua John Kaati, Te Nehenehenui Group CE Samuel Mikaere and Ahuahua GM Wayne Panapa



Matua, Tom Roa



Tāne Ora

A Journey of Brotherhood and Whanaungatanga



Over sixteen weeks, a profound whanaungatanga blossomed among the tāne who took part in the Raukawa Tāne Ora programme. While the initial goal was to elevate physical fitness, the programme quickly evolved into something much more significant. The rōpū forged deep, supportive relationships, creating a safe space where they could be vulnerable and truly themselves.

Their physical wellbeing improved, but so did their mental health and cultural identity. The programme fostered a holistic approach to wellbeing, encompassing mental and emotional healing as a cornerstone. Through group discussions and individual reflection, many tāne confronted and addressed the root causes of their issues, significantly enhancing their mental wellbeing.

Participants acquired valuable knowledge about nutrition, chronic disease management, and healthy lifestyle choices, empowering them to make informed decisions that positively impacted their lives and those of their whānau. Cultural and personal identity played a crucial role in the transformation process. By incorporating te ao Māori principles, the programme helped the tāne reconnect with their cultural roots, providing them with a sense of purpose and direction.

One participant, Manu Waa, shared his transformative journey. In 2019, after a small infection turned into sepsis, he nearly died. Emerging from a coma, he couldn't walk or talk and felt like the "family house pet" sitting at home doing nothing.

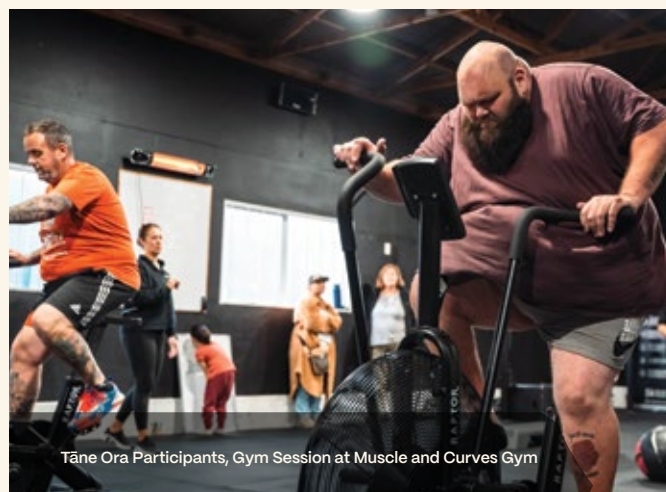
Since joining the programme, Manu now enjoys being active and making better nutritional choices. He has forged lifelong friendships and wishes he had embarked on this journey 25 years ago. Once fearful of walking into the gym, he now looks forward to the weekly sessions, knowing that by the end of each workout, it was all worth it.

The programme was created in response to the shortened lifespans of Māori and Pacific men, aiming to ensure they live long enough to see their mokopuna grow up. This initiative is crucial in addressing health disparities and promoting longevity within the hapori. Raukawa kaimahi Honey Kingi said it has been inspiring seeing the tāne open up and form that whanaungatanga that has allowed them to flourish physically and mentally. It is a beautiful story of resilience, whanaungatanga and transformation, showcasing the profound impact holistic health programmes can have on individuals and communities.

Bringing the programme to life truly took a village. Raukawa extend their heartfelt gratitude to Thelma Popata, owner of Muscle and Curve Gym in Tokoroa for nurturing and guiding the tāne so they could thrive together.



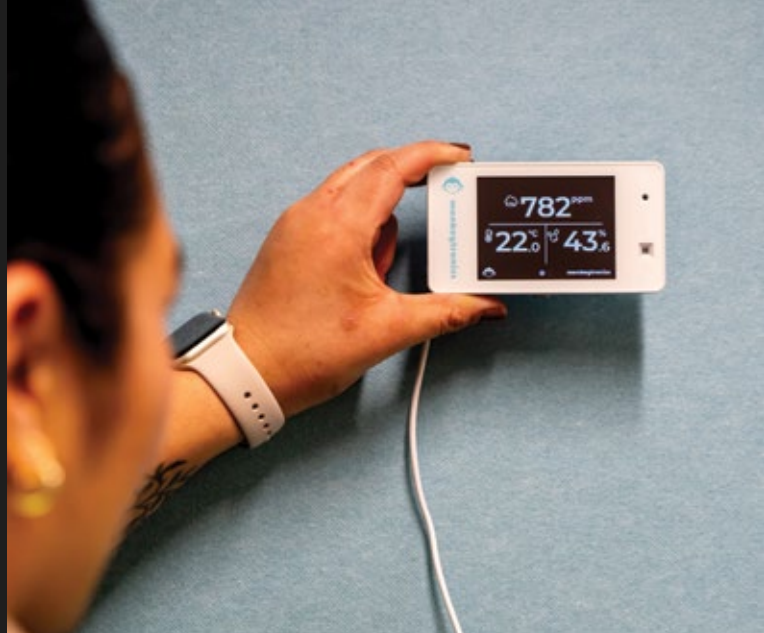
Watch the video
Scan the code or visit
raukawa.info/tane-ora-programme



Tāne Ora Participants, Gym Session at Muscle and Curves Gym

Energy Innovation

Combatting Cold Homes and Energy Hardship in South Waikato



Last year, Raukawa, in partnership with The Lever Room and the University of Otago launched the Raukawa Energy Innovation Project – aimed to transform the lives of whānau residing in the South Waikato by using data-driven strategies.

The initiative was aimed to address the pressing issue of energy hardship and its profound impact on health, wellbeing and the environment.

With the support of Ara Ake, MonkeyTronics temperature sensors were installed in 300 participants' homes, to monitor cold exposure during the winter months.

A warm home can help prevent respiratory illnesses, reduce cold-related health risks, and support cognitive health, mental stability, and social wellbeing. Maintaining a room temperature above 21 degrees Celsius is a significant challenge for many in our community, yet it is crucial for whānau wellbeing, especially for the very young, the elderly, and those with underlying health conditions.

In July, the Raukawa Energy Innovation Project: Baseline Learnings and Insights report was published. It highlighted the phase-one outcomes of the initiative which found:

Health impact: Over 50% of tamariki in the cohort required GP visits for chest infections, asthma, or breathing problems.

Living conditions: 58.1% of households endure cold conditions during winter to save on energy costs. Financial stress: 61.5% of participants feel stressed or worried about electricity bills.

Budget trade-offs: 52.1% of whānau cut back on groceries or juggle other bills to pay for electricity.

Widespread hardship: Through temperature measurements taken in living rooms and bedrooms, it was found that 98.8% of households experienced temperatures below the World Health Organisation's recommended minimum for more than one-third of the winter.

However, many can't afford to heat their homes to this level and struggle to afford the energy required to do so. While there are programmes that seek to improve the quality of housing in Aotearoa (like offering insulation), this does not address the fact that for many whānau the power bills are simply too high, forcing them to make difficult decisions like whether to turn on a heater or put kai on the tēpu.

Our project aims to have a significant positive impact on the lives of whānau and to bring about system-level change. By demonstrating the benefits of warmer homes and the positive effects on health and wellbeing, our study aims to explore the most effective way to subsidise power bills to close the energy gap.

In addition to this, we are working to lift energy literacy among whānau by providing energy efficiency education and simple equipment interventions to improve awareness around energy usage habits and behaviours. We also seek to influence policymakers and funders to prioritise initiatives that increase room temperatures in homes and improve the wellbeing of whānau.

This work details the tough realities of energy hardship in Aotearoa and underlines the need for fair solutions and policies in the energy sector to support those most in need during the energy transition.

If you are interested in learning more or supporting the Raukawa Energy Innovation Project, please contact the project team at info@rauikawa.org.nz.

Enhancing the Mauri of the Whakauru Stream

Community Planting Day in Tokoroa



Raukawa Kaimahi, Charlie Tiare planting at the Whakauru stream

In June, Raukawa, in collaboration with the Pōkaiwhenua Catchment Group and DairyNZ, organised a community planting day along the Whakauru Stream in Tokoroa. This initiative saw the enthusiastic participation of tamariki through to kaumātua, who geared up to plant over 4000 trees to enhance the mauri of our waterways and protect the taonga species associated with them.

The community's response was heartening, as people of all ages came together with mahi boots on and spades in hand, ready to work on the Whakauru Stream. This planting day was not an isolated effort but an ongoing collaboration with the three rōpū. Previous mahi included implementing Te Ārohirohi freshwater monitoring tool, developed by Raukawa, to assess the health of our waterways.

Additionally, the teams had previously monitored the tuna and kēwai populations within the awa. The results were encouraging, revealing a healthy state of some of these taonga species, which further motivated us to continue preserving and enhancing the ecosystem.

Mihiwaatara Hohepa, a Raukawa kaimahi dedicated to preserving the taiao, reflected on the day, saying, *"Seeing our community come together with such enthusiasm and dedication to enhance our waterways was truly inspiring. It shows the strength of our collective commitment to protecting our environment and the taonga species that thrive within it."*

Overall, the planting day was a display of community action. It showcased the willingness of individuals to dedicate their time and energy towards a common goal: improving the state of our waterways. This collaborative effort benefits the taiao and strengthens the bonds within our community, ensuring a healthier, more sustainable future for us all.

We want to send a big mihi to everyone who participated and supported this kaupapa and look forward to future engagements that protect the mauri of the whenua





Raukawa Kaimahi, Mihiwaatara Hohepa and DairyNZ kaimahi, Johan van Ras



Ngā Wānanga ā-Rohe

Connecting People and Places



Whakaaratamaiti Marae, Putāruru.

Helping to support our whānau to rekindle and strengthen their connections to their whenua, whakapapa, reo, tikanga and pūrakau are key themes of Ngā Wānanga ā-Rohe.

Our programme is a series of initiatives facilitated by our kaimahi, they focus on the cultural growth and development of our whānau within our distinct regions that make up our takiwā: Te Kaokaoroa o Pātetere north and south, Wharepūhanga and Te Pae o Raukawa.

Each whitua has a dedicated kaimahi that works with marae and whānau to identify and explore a range of kaupapa that they want to focus on. It's about revitalising and normalising mātauranga ā-iwi o Raukawa across our 16 marae. Our kaupapa is guided by Te Manawapouhihiri, our Raukawa Cultural Framework specifically designed for our iwi that aims to perpetuate and give life to mātauranga ā-iwi, ā-hapu, ā-whānau.

We have already held several wānanga throughout the year at Whakamārama, Mōkai, Tāpapa, Ūkaipō and Ruapeka marae.

In June, Whakaaratamaiti Marae was our gracious host for Ngā Manu Karanga, Ngā Kākā Waha Nui, a wānanga led by local pūkenga, Herani Koia and Kyle Amopiu. With 30 people participating, we focused on supporting our aspiring kaikaranga and kaikōrero along with strengthening their knowledge and command of waiata.

On the first night, the whānau gathered in the whare tupuna, Korōria, to practice mōteatea. Led by Herani,

participants covered a range of songs from Te Rohe o Raukawa – nā Koro Ned Amopiu, to E Noho Ana Au – nā Kui Whakaheke. One song caught the praise of our ākonga, that was Huri Atu, a waiata aroha composed by Emerson Rikiriki. Emerson provided the whānau with an in-depth kōrero about the waiata, a mihi aroha and lament to our loved ones just beyond the veil.

The next day saw an early start, the rōpū shifted straight into wānanga pōwhiri. Gathered in front of the waharoa, Herani led a discussion about the purpose of pōwhiri and the many considerations and intricacies that occur at the gate before a pōwhiri even begins.

The rōpū then split into wānanga karanga and wānanga whaikōrero. Kyle led the tāne, exploring structure, technique, kupu whakarite and much more. Kyle says that he aimed to empower participants to feel confident and comfortable when delivering whaikōrero while respecting the reverence of the art form. One of his highlights was witnessing the creativity of his students and how they utilised whakatauki/whakatauāki during the practice pōwhiri held later in the day.

It can be a bit intimidating for whānau who have jumped on the revitalisation waka, but Kyle offers words of encouragement:

“Every journey starts with the first step, and the journey to becoming a proficient speaker on your paepae requires you to immerse yourself in the culture and the language, so return to your marae every chance you get and learn the stories and traditions which will serve you as you stand as a mouthpiece for your people.”



He goes on to say that building your confidence in public speaking is a long journey but start by practising with friends and whānau and actively seek opportunities that require you to step out of your comfort zone because if it doesn't challenge you then it won't help grow you *"Ko hāneanea te hoariri o pitomata"* – comfort is the adversary of potential. Kyle says that in order to reach your full potential you have to become comfortable with being uncomfortable because that is where growth thrives.

Every kaikōrero and kaikaranga brings a unique insight to the paepae, it adds a variety of voices and perspectives that represent your marae. These wānanga represent an opportunity for the preservation and continuity of traditional forms of oratory and karanga, mahia te mahi, hei painga mō te iwi.

To learn more about our upcoming wānanga, check us out on Facebook, for more info on our guiding framework Te Manawapouhiringi, visit raukawa.info/puna



Pūkenga Whakaako, Kyle Amopiu



Watch the video
Scan the code or visit
raukawa.info/puna





Tuna Tikanga

*Raukawa Publishes New
Resource on Tuna Conservation*

Raukawa is proud to announce the upcoming release of a new pukapuka dedicated to the conservation and cultural significance of tuna within our iwi. This important resource, which will be available to our uri before the end of the year, represents the culmination of extensive mahi by our environment team, who have worked tirelessly to weave together traditional Raukawa knowledge and contemporary scientific insights.

The pukapuka explores the whakapapa of tuna, their importance to Raukawa, and the ongoing challenges these taonga face in today's environment. It provides a comprehensive guide to traditional practices, such as pā tuna construction, as well as modern restoration strategies aimed at safeguarding tuna populations for future generations.

Jessica Webber, a key contributor to this project, expressed her excitement about sharing this resource with the community: *"This pukapuka is more than just a book; it's a living connection to our past and a guide for the future. I'm thrilled to see it in the hands of our uri and look forward to the positive impact it will have on our taiao."*

Although a launch date has not been set, the commitment to making this resource available before the year's end is clear. The pukapuka will serve as a valuable tool for both education and action, empowering our people to continue the legacy of kaitiakitanga and ensure the health of our awa and tuna for generations to come.





Raukawa Kaitiaki Rōpū

Join the Raukawa Kaitiaki Rōpū – a dedicated group representing each of our marae, focused on kaitiakitanga. We will be promoting awareness and encouraging marae involvement in environmental initiatives, advocating important projects, supporting Raukawa initiatives to safeguard our natural resources and provide guidance on environmental issues back to your marae.

Our Mission

- Facilitate discussions and share ideas to enhance the capabilities of our uri
- Raise awareness of environmental issues at marae and hapū levels to foster greater participation and promote sustainability
- Enable our marae to engage in important environmental discussions and opportunities
- Collaborate with our iwi organisation to advocate for and reinforce kaitiakitanga within our takiwā

How to join

- Talk to your Raukawa trust representative or marae chairperson
- Submit your nomination to your marae committee
- Read and sign the Terms of Reference (TOR)
- Email the signed TOR to: **environment@raukawa.org.nz** and a Raukawa kaimahi will contact you



Download the Terms of Reference here:
raukawa.info/kaitiaki

Raukawa Settlement Journey - Te Tai Whakaea

Tai Whakaea is a project that centres on preserving and chronicling the experiences of our iwi during the settlement of our historical treaty claims with the Crown.

The project website highlights the negotiations between Raukawa and the Crown and how our iwi achieved settlement. It explores the settlement process, the many difficulties we faced and how each challenge was overcome. Our journey is explored and recounted through the voices of those who were intimately involved in the settlement process.

Key Outcomes

- Preserving Raukawa History and kōrero tuku iho
- Providing easy access to learning opportunities, resources and mātauranga ā-iwi o Raukawa

Access Resource

Check out the dedicated resource that tells the story of our treaty settlement journey, highlighting our history, achievements, and ongoing commitment to our iwi.



Scan the code or visit:
raukawa.info/tetaiwhakaea



He Ara Tūhono

Collaborative Pathways Towards Success



Rangatahi and collaborators of the Transition to Adulthood Programme

Our Raukawa Transition to Adulthood Rangatahi Service focuses on creating action plans, removing barriers, and building momentum to support rangatahi in their education, training and employment journeys.

Over a three year period, our service has worked intensely with WorkIT and Wera Aotearoa Charitable Trust Youth Services, investing in youth development that leads into employment.

This year our team partnered with Kiwistaff Recruitment Agency and Vertical Horizonz to deliver a 'Rangatahi Trade Training Programme', customised training tailored to employment opportunities in the South Waikato.

Training involved first aid, site safety, manual handling, Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWP), forklift, low level scaffolding, working at advanced heights and confined spaces.

Raukawa kaimahi Aroha Riki-Hamana said that rangatahi, aged 17-25 years old, have shown incredible progress and the programme has already yielded notable achievements.

"In the short amount of time they have demonstrated resilience and determination. As the first cohort, they made us proud with their commitment and performance."

Aroha added the primary goal is to empower young people to level up their abilities and enter the workforce as confident, ready adults. All 10 rangatahi from this cohort are set to enter temporary to full-time employment and training pathways, marking a significant milestone in their personal journeys. They will be supported to work across a number of companies gaining onsite experience.

Each young person is investing in themselves, which in turn, benefits the employers they will join.

Currently, cohort two are preparing to invest in their

futures. In 2025, three more cohorts will be completed. Over an 18-month period our partnership will be supporting 50 whānau. Kiwistaff and Vertical Horizonz are world class in their service delivery, along with our ability to provide responsive support and knowledge, our rangatahi are set for success.

Our team looks forward to providing future updates, celebrating the transformative impact of this initiative on rangatahi and the wider community.



Kiwistaff Director Mainu Huirama talking to rangatahi



Te Kawariki

A New Home for Rangatahi



Raukawa, Community Partners and Rangatahi at the Blessing of Te Kawariki

On 27 June, Raukawa, alongside our community and partners, gathered to celebrate the opening and blessing of Te Kawariki—an initiative dedicated to supporting our rangatahi as they transition into independent living. The occasion was marked by a ceremony that brought together kaumātua, whānau, and community leaders, all united in their commitment to uplift and support our rangatahi as they embark on new chapters of their lives.

Te Kawariki serves as a whakaruruhau—a shelter and guide—for rangatahi emerging from state care and other challenging circumstances. More than just a place to live, Te Kawariki is a home where rangatahi are nurtured, supported, and equipped with the skills and guidance they need to successfully transition into adulthood. This kaupapa is grounded in the values of aroha, manaakitanga, and kotahitanga, ensuring that our rangatahi are embraced by a community that cares for their wellbeing and future.

The establishment of Te Kawariki demonstrates collaboration and shared vision among Raukawa, our community, and our partners. We extend our deepest gratitude to all those who contributed to making this kaupapa a reality. This support and manaakitanga has laid the foundation for future initiatives that will continue to empower and uplift our rangatahi.

Check out the video below featuring kaimahi Aroha Riki-Hamana, who speaks passionately about the significance of this important kaupapa and the positive impact it will have on our rangatahi.



Watch the video
Scan the code or visit
rauikawa.info/tekawariki



Education Grant

Brothers Pioneering PhD Marae Resilience Research



Education Grant recipients Haukapuanui and Sonny Vercoe

Two brothers, Haukapuanui and Sonny Vercoe, are pursuing PhDs in Civil Engineering at the University of Auckland (UoA) centred around marae resilience.

The brothers' research is collaborative, mutually beneficial and culturally resonant. Sonny investigates the seismic resilience of whareniui and seeks to develop whareniui-specific provisions in the earthquake assessment guidelines, while Haukapuanui looks at the exposure of marae across Aotearoa to natural hazards, such as flooding, landslides, liquefaction, tsunami and earthquakes.

"We understand the importance of what these places mean and what they represent for our people," Haukapuanui explains. *"Combined with our technical engineering learnings at University, we are able to merge our Māori ways of thinking to this rangahau and ensure that it adheres to our tikanga and kawa."*

The brothers grew up in Rotorua and are the oldest two of six siblings in their whānau. Through their Simmonds whānau, they whakapapa to Pikitū Marae. Most of their education was completed at Te Kōhanga Reo ki Ōhau and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Koutu, and their final school years they attended Western Heights High School. Growing up, they spent significant time at their father's marae with their koro, and at their mother's marae with their nan.

Pursuing a PhD was encouraged by their lecturers, who later became their PhD supervisors. The interest in their PhD research is influenced by their upbringing and stems from their undergraduate research involvement. As such, their PhD are a natural extension of this mahi.

The brothers express their utmost thanks to Raukawa for the education grant. The tautoko has alleviated financial stresses, allowing them to focus on their studies for the betterment of their whānau, hapū and iwi.

"Our research may be considered pioneering, so the scarcity of existing guidance is quite challenging. Despite this, we're grateful for the wealth of wisdom and knowledge held by our supervisors, whānau, and peers," Sonny explains.

The most rewarding moments have been time spent at their marae presenting and conducting research with whānau. Whether creating tailored marae hazard maps, interviewing kaumātua or doing the dishes, the whanaungatanga aspect of the rangahau is the most meaningful to them both and makes the academic endeavour worthwhile.

These interactions not only enrich their research but also strengthen the bond within the many iwi.

Māori in engineering are in high demand. It is a well-respected profession with high job prospects that can be transferrable across many fields. For young Māori interested in engineering, the brothers offer sage advice: make a plan with the support of your whānau, teachers, advisors and believe in yourself.

Sonny says as raukura (alumni), we often unknowingly carry a decade worth of knowledge about engineering, natural hazards and Māori culture from the teachings at kura. For example, through waiata, pūrākau, whakataukāki, tauparapara, karakia.

"With our Māori worldview, we are able to approach problems from a different lens and that is what sets our people and solutions apart," Haukapuanui says.

The brother's dedication to enhancing marae resilience for whānau, hapū and iwi not only will contribute to the safety and sustainability of these sacred places, but also sets a profound example for future generations.





Raukawa Kūia and Koroua Wellbeing Grant recipient Marie Whare

Raukawa Grants and Key Dates

Education Grants

Depending on your studies, registered iwi members are able to apply for up to \$2000 in education related support.

Study Type	Period that this grant covers	Applications Open	Applications Close	Applications considered
Short course* Certificate, Diploma	01 Jul 2024 – 31 Dec 2024	01 Jul 2024	31 Jan 2025	Feb 2025
Bachelors and Masters	2025 Academic year	30 Nov 2024	31 Jan 2025	Feb 2025
Doctoral	2025 Academic year	30 Nov 2024	31 Jan 2025	Feb 2025

* Short courses include Te Kura Reo o Raukawa and Te Uru Raukawa programmes offered by Raukawa



Sports Grants

Registered iwi members can apply for a contribution towards costs incurred while competing as an amateur sportsperson at a local, regional or national representative level. It is open to amateur competitors such as athletes, coaches, managers and officials (umpire, referee, judge).

Type	Period that this grant covers	Applications Open	Applications Close	Applications considered
Sports grants round 1	01 Jun 2024 – 30 Nov 2024	01 Jun 2024	30 Nov 2024	Jan 2025
Sports grants round 2	01 Dec 2024 – 31 May 2025	01 Dec 2024	31 May 2025	Jun 2025

Kuia and Koroua Wellbeing Grants

Registered kaumātua can apply for a contribution towards costs incurred or needing assistance with their wellbeing.

We have streamlined the process to make this service more accessible for our kaumātua. There is no longer a need to hold your receipts for this grant.

Type	Period that this grant covers	Applications Open	Applications Close	Applications considered
Kuia and Koroua Wellbeing grants	01 Jun 2024 – 31 May 2025	01 Jun 2024	31 May 2025	Jun 2025

Want to Register with Raukawa or Need Help?

To register as a member of Raukawa follow the link below. If you have any questions about our grants process call 0800 RAUKAWA and ask for our grants team.



Scan the code or visit rauakawa.info/grants



Cook Islands Language

This year's Cook Islands Language Week, Te Epetoma o Te Reo Kūki Āirani Māori, embraced the theme *"Ātui'ia au ki te vaka o tōku matakeinanga—Connect me to the waka of my tribe."* The theme highlighted the idea that while we come from different waka, we contribute unique cultural aspects to our vibrant community, journeying together toward shared goals.

Raukawa kaimahi played a key role in the celebrations, organising games, challenges, hākari, songs, and karakia to share and celebrate Cook Islands culture within the office. This week allowed kaimahi to share their culture, enriching our collective waka.

A memorable highlight was learning and performing the waiata E 'itu ngā vaka at the inter-organisation event in Tokoroa. This waiata, depicting the great waka migrations to Aotearoa, created lasting memories and strengthened connections within the community.

Raukawa's involvement not only enhanced kaimahi wellbeing but also demonstrated our commitment to supporting community initiatives and forging genuine connections with the wider community.



Hauora Workshop

Earlier this year Raukawa held a successful workshop as part of our Whānau Ora programme, where participants were introduced to local wellness services that encompass both traditional and western practices of hauora. The workshop featured insights from rongoā and hauora experts, with participants engaging in hands-on activities and taking home taonga and koha that contribute to their overall wellbeing.

This initiative was championed by Raukawa kaimahi Jordaan Cooper, who shared, *"Our goal is to equip participants with the knowledge and resources to maintain their hauora as they enter the workforce, ensuring they're not only work-ready but also life-ready."*

The Whānau Ora programme aims to support our uri and community members by providing them with the skills and support needed for holistic well-being within their families. Through initiatives like this workshop, the programme creates a comprehensive approach to wellness, ensuring participants are well-prepared to navigate both the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Ka Uruora ki te Raki

First Home Buyers Financial Empowerment



For many whānau in Aotearoa, the dream of owning a home can feel like a daunting goal. This was the reality for Jordaan and her husband Chucky Bell, who, after several unsuccessful attempts at buying a home, realised they were missing the knowledge and confidence needed to navigate the complex world of homeownership.

Then Jordaan was offered to participate in the Raukawa Ka Uruora ki te Raki programme, a pilot initiative open to anyone wanting to gain a better understanding of their finances and prepare themselves for purchasing their first home.

"I joined because I wanted to learn how to make better decisions and feel more confident about the whole home-buying process," Jordaan explained.

The programme's focus on financial literacy proved to be a game-changer for Jordaan. Concepts like "interest rates," "loan terms," and "equity," which once felt overwhelming, were broken down into more simple, clear explanations. The programme introduced budgeting apps and planning tools that were helpful, as well as the one-on-one sessions with financial advisors.

But what truly made the experience special for Jordaan was the sense of community within the programme. The support and stories shared by others in the group created a non-judgmental space where she felt comfortable and encouraged.

"Their experiences helped me see that I wasn't alone in this, and their encouragement was really valuable in helping me through the process," she said.

With the knowledge and confidence gained from Ka Uruora ki te Raki, Jordaan and Chucky took their first significant step toward homeownership by establishing a solid budget and savings plan. Central to their journey was the unwavering support of her Auntie Sue-llan and Uncle Michael Green, whose guidance and encouragement proved invaluable. Their wisdom and practical assistance helped Jordaan and her whānau navigate each step with clarity and confidence.

A key milestone was getting pre-approved for a mortgage.

"It was through this collective strength—our whānau, the programme, and our broker—that our dream became a reality."

Today, as proud homeowners, Jordaan and Chucky feel a renewed sense of financial confidence and wellbeing.

"The programme is not just about buying a whare; it's about giving you the knowledge and tools to make informed decisions that will benefit you and your whānau for years to come."

For more information, contact Tungane at info@raukawa.org.nz or phone **0800 RAUKAWA** (0800 728 5292).

Matariki Celebrations

A Joyous Gathering of Kaumātua



The recent Matariki celebration brought together the kaumātua of ngā pou o Raukawa for a day filled with whakawhanaungatanga, hononga, and learning. The event was held at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa in Tokoroa, where around 50 kaumātua came together from Te Pae o Raukawa, Te Kaokaoroa o Pātetere and Wharepūhunga, as well as the dedicated helping hands of our Raukawa kaimahi, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa kaimahi, participants from our Tāne Ora programme, whānau and volunteers from Kiwibank.

This celebration was designed to honour our kaumātua, fostering connections and growth, and aligning with the hope sent to Hiwa-i-te-rangi. The stars of Matariki shone brightly as kaumātua engaged in a variety of activities, including bingo, line dancing, and a scavenger hunt, which not only provided fun but also educational insights into the significance of each star in the Matariki cluster.

One of the highlights was the waiata session facilitated by our kaumātua. Their self-determination and independence were evident as they added their unique vibe to the day, creating an atmosphere of relaxation and harmony with the strumming of guitars and ukuleles. This collective spirit wove through everyone present, connecting and healing in a magical, uplifting experience.

The event's culmination was a delicious kai, featuring hangi, boil-up, seafood mornay, steam pudding, fried bread, and rēwana bread, accompanied by hot tea and cake. The aromas from the kitchen were inviting, and the feast was enjoyed by all.

Reflecting on the day, Raukawa kaimahi Jerrie Uereta commented, *"Matariki is a beautiful time to come together and recognise our kaumātua, their wisdom, and their contributions to our whānau, iwi and community."*

She also wanted to mihi and acknowledge the many hands who made the day possible, including those who brought together the kai.

Many kaumātua added it was *"a lot of fun"*, *"the kai was delicious"*, they *"enjoyed the scavenger hunt"* and *"ready for a moe."*

The Kaumātua Matariki celebration was more than physical activities. It was a holistic approach to wellbeing, allowing everyone present to reflect, remember and renew. A celebration of whānau, hapū, and iwi connections, and a time to strengthen bonds with each other.





Te Huarahi Ako Reo

He Huarahi Ake Ake

Kua roa a Raukawa e pīkau ana i ngā kaupapa whakarauora reo. I tēnei tau i tū anō ai te Kura Reo o Raukawa ki Parawera Marae, i reira uiui ai mātou i ētehi hunga ako reo hei whakaatu i ngā wheako o ngā tauira i roto i ngā tau. I uiui mātou i ngā ākongā o nāianeī, arā, a Bella Pollock rāua ko Tia McIver. I uiuitia hoki ētehi tauira o mua kua noho hei kaiako ināianeī, ko Whakarongotai Hohepa rāua ko Louis Armstrong.

Ko tā Tia, “Ko te whanaungatanga te take i hokihoki ai ahau ki ngā kura reo.” Ko tana ngākau nui ki tōna reo ka tahi, ko tana kōingo hoki ki ōna hoa kōrero ka rua. I kōrero a Louis mō tāna noho atu ki ngā rekereke o ētehi kaumātua, mutunga kē mai o te koi, o te whakaaro nui ki te reo me ōna tikanga. Ko Tīmoti Kāretu tērā, ko Materoa Haenga anō hoki tērā. Ko te momo i a rāua he wero, he whakapātaritari i ētehi wā, he āta whāngai i ētehi wā. I noho mai te tokorua rā ki ngā kura reo o Raukawa i tōna anō tīmatatanga, ki reira poipoia ai te kākano reo o Louis.

E ai ki a Whakarongotai, “*Ko taku momo, ki te rongohau ahau i tērā whakamā, ka karawhiua.*” E mārama pai ana te hunga nei ki te whakamā o te tangata ako reo Māori, i konā pea kitea ai te wāriu o te hunga whakaako, me ngā hoa ako o ngā kaupapa reo nei. He hunga manawa nui, he hunga wheako nui.

Ko tā Louis, “*Ka hapa ahau ki mua i te koroua rā, ka kata pai te koroua rā (Tīmoti). Ka whakaaro ahau, te koi hoki o tēnei koroua.*” Me ngahau te huarahi ako, me hāneanea i ōna wā, me taikaha i ōna wā, engari me rata pai ki te tangata i ngā wā katoa. Ko tā tātou he whakapakari ake i ngā uri, he whakahoki mai i te hunga hīkaka ki ngā tū kaupapa e paingia ana e rātou kia ora ai te reo, kia ora ai te hapori kōrero reo o roto mai i ngā tōpito o Raukawa.

Tirohia te ataata e hono ana ki te QR code i raro nei, ā, whakarongo ki ngā reo o te hunga e kōrerotia nei.



Ngā Mahi Mātātoa o Raukawa

Series Two Now Available



Āria Farrar and Lylah-Lorraine Kelly-Goodwin enjoying their new pukapuka

We are excited to announce the release of the second series of Ngā Mahi Mātātoa o Raukawa, a unique set of interactive learning pukapuka designed to engage tamariki and mokopuna with the rich history of Raukawa. These resources provide a fun, immersive way for our younger generations to connect with our kōrero tuku iho, helping them understand who they are and where they come from.

In this series, tamariki can follow the adventures of Raukawa and his loyal peropero (kurī), Waitete, as they journey across the rohe of Raukawa. Through these stories, they visit our marae and learn the narratives that tie us to the whenua. With vivid illustrations and easy-to-follow activities, these resources make learning about our kōrero both enjoyable and meaningful.

We invite you to explore this resource and share it with your whānau. Whether you're at home or in the classroom, Ngā Mahi Mātātoa is an excellent way to foster a deeper connection to our tikanga and history.

To find out more and to access the resources online, visit our website

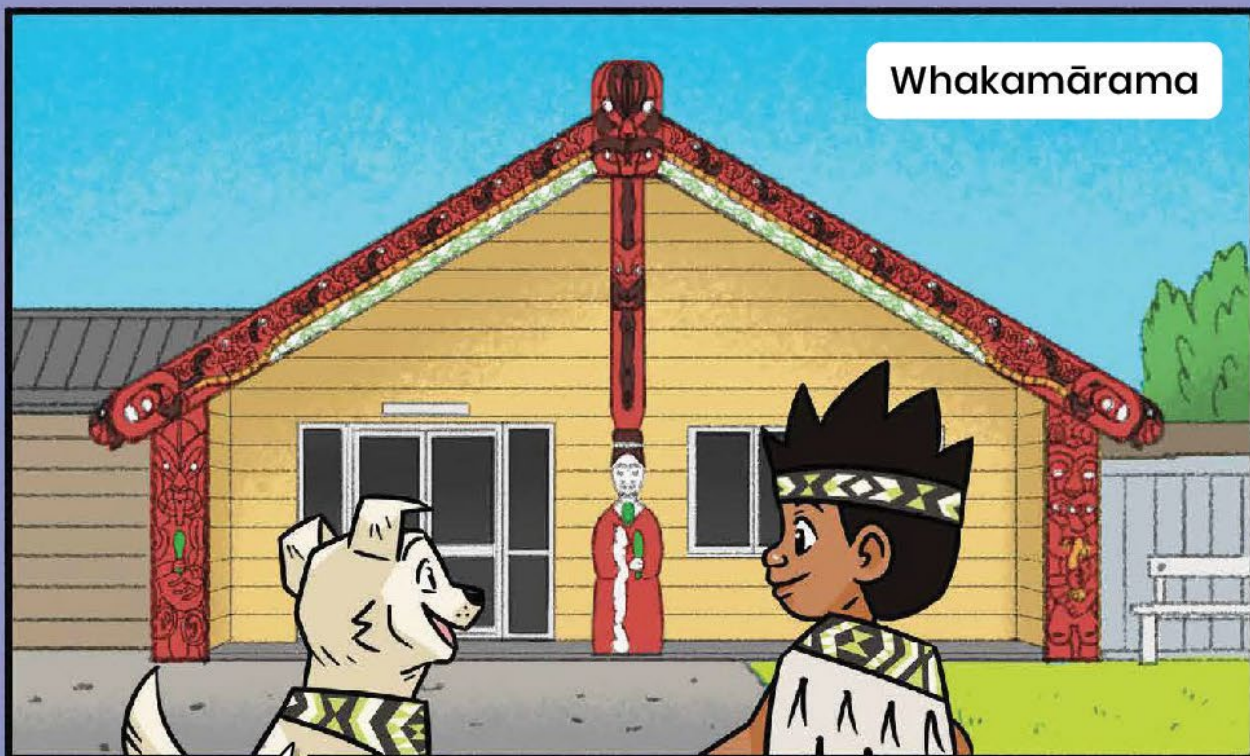


♪ Piki ake, kake ake ki te tihi o Upokotoki.
Ka heke ki Whakamārama, ko Rangimoeākau.
Ka whitiwhiti, ka rere Ki Rurunui,
te pā o Wairangi e ♪

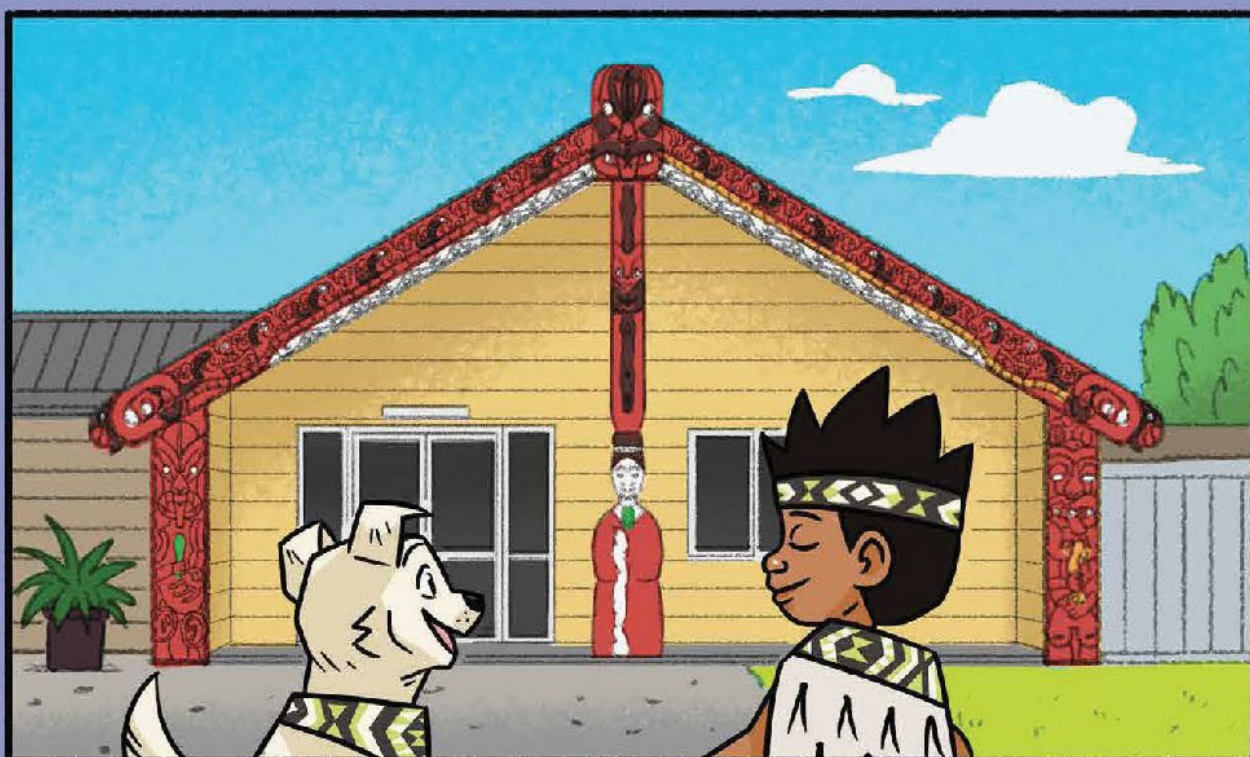


Ka noho nei au

He aha ngā rerekētanga e rima?



Me whakatā tāua ki konei, e Rau, ki Rangimoeākau.



Copyright: © Raukawa Settlement Trust, 1-11 Raukawa Way,
Tokoroa, October 2024, all rights reserved.
Authors: Te Ahua Manu, Teaonui McKenzie and Tōmai Smith
Photography: Arun Vincent
Graphic Design and Layout: Savannah Whiteman
Production: SCG Creative Content Print, Nawton, Hamilton



Raukawa

