

# Te Kakara

Raukawa Trustee:  
Gaylene Roberts

2024  
Year in Review

Te Wānanga Kaimānga  
o Ngāti Tangata



Te Tātāwhāinga  
Kaumātua o Raukawa



# RST Chair Message

*Tēnā koutou katoa*

As the warmth of Rehua-pona-nui embraces us, we are reminded that summer is a time for action, abundance, and connection. This season calls us to move with purpose and celebrate the achievements of our iwi while preparing for the opportunities that lie ahead.

Reflecting on the past year, we've made significant strides in uplifting our whānau and fostering kotahitanga across our community. A highlight was the submissions to the Māori Affairs Select Committee on Te Pire mō Ō-Rākau, Te Pae o Maumahara. This occasion at Parawera Marae brought together Ngā Ahi e Toru, united in purpose to share kōrero that resonated with strength and hope. It was a powerful reminder of the legacy we carry and the responsibilities we uphold for our uri.

Our kaumātua were at the heart of Te Tātāwhāinga Kaumātua o Raukawa, held in Tokoroa this November. Over 200 kaumātua came together for a day of whakawhanaungatanga, hauora, and vibrant competition. Events like this demonstrate our commitment to honouring those who laid the foundations of our iwi while nurturing the intergenerational bonds that strengthen our future.

In the same spirit, our Ngā Wānanga ā-Rohe programme continues to reconnect whānau with mātauranga, whenua, and tikanga. Through these wānanga, we ensure that the mātauranga of our tūpuna is accessible and actively used, creating a pathway for future generations to thrive.

This year also marked the opening of Te Kawariki, our rangatahi transitional housing initiative. This kaupapa exemplifies our dedication to supporting our rangatahi as they navigate their journey into independence, providing them with a safe space grounded in aroha and manaakitanga.

As we step into a new year, let us carry the energy into 2025, remaining steadfast in our commitment to kotahitanga and the aspirations of our iwi. Together, we continue to build a thriving Raukawa community for generations to come.

Ngā manaakitanga,

**Nā Kataraina Hodge**

*Raukawa Chairperson*



# REHUA- PONA-NUI

*The summer season, Rehua-pona-nui shining brightly, bringing warmth and energy. Now is the time to move with purpose, to celebrate the abundance of the season, and to strengthen our connections to whānau and whenua.*

# Year in Review

## Te Whare Kōrero o Raukawa

January

Te Whare Kōrero o Raukawa is an initiative that has been running for 10 years now and is a highlight to many of our iwi. This year, it was held at Tāpapa. The kaupapa always provides pivotal knowledge around language, traditional stories, taonga and the essence of our Raukawa identity.



Tauira of Te Whare Kōrero o Raukawa at Wairere, Ōkauia



Te Akaaka Rauwhero at Ō-Rākau Battle Site

## O-Rakau 160th Commemoration

April

April 2, 2024, marked 160 years since the Battle of Ō-Rākau, which was one of the most significant events in the history of Aotearoa, New Zealand. Over a thousand people gathered at the battleground near Kihikihi to commemorate and pay respects to the profound loss of life that marred the three-day battle.

## Te Kura Reo o Raukawa

April

Te Kura Reo o Raukawa is an immersive language programme preserving and revitalising te reo Māori within our community. This year it was held at Parawera Marae.



Te Kura Reo o Raukawa 2024, Parawera Marae

## Mōtai Tangata Rau

April

After a brief hiatus, Mōtai Tangata Rau returned to the haka stage and represented Raukawa at the Tainui Regionals at Claudelands Kirikiriroa, where they received multiple awards and qualified for Te Matatini next year.



Mōtai Tangata Rau, Tainui Regionals 2024



Unveiling of whare names at Tāpapa Marae

## Unveiling of Manawanui and Manawaora

May

In May, Tāpapa Marae unveiled the names of the whareniui, Manawanui, and the wharekai, Manawaora. The occasion was a culmination of a 36-year dream, through the hard work and dedication of the local hapū Ngāti Tūkorehe, Ngāti Kapu Manawawhiti, Ngāti Te Rangitāwhia, Ngāti Te Rangitapu, kaumātua, the construction company, and many others who played a part in bringing these whare to life.

## Te Kawariki Rangatahi Transitional Housing

June

Raukawa, alongside our community and partners celebrated the opening and blessing of Te Kawariki Rangatahi Transitional Housing – an initiative dedicated to supporting our rangatahi as they transition into independent living.



Te Kawariki Opening, Tokoroa

## Mānawatia Matariki

June

We celebrated Matariki with lots of activities, yummy kai and fun during the week. Our kaimahi watched a movie in te reo Māori, participated in trivial pursuit and let our creative juices flow through painting. Matariki also brought together the kaumātua of ngā pou o Raukawa for a day filled with whakawhanaungatanga, hononga, and learning.



Kaimahi, Wendy Clair with Kaumātua



Kaimahi, Phyllis Tahere (right) at Parawera Marae

## Te Pire mo Ō-Rākau

July

We hosted the Māori Affairs Select Committee with Ngā Ahi e Toru (Raukawa, Te Nehenehenui, and Waikato-Tainui) at Parawera Marae to hear submissions on Te Pire mo Ō-Rākau, Te Pae o Maumahara. It was a powerful day of kōrero and kotahitanga.

## He Ara Tūhono

August

We had our first cohort graduate from our Rangatahi Trade Training Programme, a programme that focuses on creating action plans, removing barriers, and building momentum to support rangatahi in their education, training and employment journeys.



Rangatahi Trade Training Programme participants and collaborators

## Tāne Ora Graduation

August

For over 16 weeks, tāne participated in our Tāne Ora programme that focused on physical and mental wellbeing, and cultural identity. There were many wins within the weeks, including the whanaungatanga that formed between the participants.



Tāne Ora Graduate, Matua Tahu



Kaumātua, Te Rauna Cawker, representing Ūkaipō Breeze

## Te Tātāwhāinga Kaumātua o Raukawa 2024

November

The annual Te Tātāwhāinga Kaumātua Games took place at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre, with over 250 kaumātua from across the region gathering for a day of whakawhanaungatanga and hauora through fun activities and challenges. Congratulations to this year's winner Ngātira Marae, followed by Parawera in 2nd place and Tangata Marae in 3rd place.

## Putāruru Tari

November

We relocated our Putāruru office to a new and much larger office located at 4-6 Glenshea Street, Putāruru. The space will host our Family Start, Well Child Tamariki Ora, Kaumātua Services and the newly established Kahu Taurima Pēpi Hub for our community. It will provide a dedicated space for pēpi and tamariki services, along with hosting other Raukawa services.



# Celebrating our Pakeke

## Te Tātāwhāinga Kaumātua o Raukawa 2024



On a spirited day in Tokoroa, the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre came alive with laughter, competition, and whanaungatanga as over 200 kaumātua gathered for Te Tātāwhāinga Kaumātua o Raukawa. This year's event centred on celebrating our kaumātua, provided an opportunity for pakeke to reconnect with old friends, form new bonds, and participate in a wider community kaupapa outside the familiar boundaries of the pā.

The games, designed to be kaumātua-friendly, saw a cheeky competitive edge emerge among participants. In noodle soccer, for example, the kaumātua were reminded to keep their noodles to themselves—but a few mischievous strikes added to the fun and energy of the day.

Adding to the lively atmosphere were our MCs, Koro Hone Poai and Nana Mere Whāwhā, from Te Whānau a Noa Marae. With their playful banter, the pair kept the energy flowing, keeping the vibe high all day. A highlight of the day was the victory of the Ngātirians from Ngātira Marae, who took home the top honours for their spirited performances across the games.

Prizes were awarded to some outstanding participants whose energy and dedication shone throughout the day:

- **Wendy Winikerei**  
Players' Player
- **Cappy Te Kanawa and Hazel Mete-Kingi**  
Dedication and Spice
- **Ben Onehi and Tia Mclver**  
Standouts for the Entire Day
- **Te Rauna Cawker**  
The Best Vibes

Tangiwai Tepana, Raukawa Events Coordinator and lead organiser of the day brought her wealth of experience working with kaumātua to the occasion. *"This event is about giving back to our kaumātua, connecting them*

*with each other and with the services and support that Raukawa provides," she shared. "We want to honour our tūpuna while building a better future for our mokopuna, and this kaupapa is only but one avenue that reflects that commitment."*

Te Tātāwhāinga Kaumātua is about more than just games. It's an intergenerational event that weaves together the lives of kaumātua and mokopuna. Tamariki from Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Hiringa once again played a pivotal role, serving as runners, helpers, kaimirimiri, and the number one supporters for their pakeke. Their presence brought an extra layer of joy and connection, highlighting the importance of fostering relationships across generations.

The atmosphere of the day was described as playful, cheeky, and brimming with energy, a true reflection of the vibrant kaumātua community. It provided a rare and cherished opportunity for pakeke to come together in an environment that celebrated their contributions, reminded them of their importance to the iwi, and reaffirmed their place within the wider whānau.

Looking ahead, the hope is that this kaupapa will continue to thrive, becoming a beloved tradition that strengthens connections and celebrates our kaumātua. With the ongoing support of our whānau and kaimahi, Te Tātāwhāinga Kaumātua will remain a vibrant expression of our commitment to building a thriving Raukawa iwi, one that treasures its kaumātua while nurturing its mokopuna.

As Tangiwai reflected, *"This is about honouring those who came before us and ensuring their legacy continues to flourish. It's a day for laughter, connection, remembrance of those who are no longer with us and celebrating the strength and mana of our kaumātua."*





# Trustee Profile: Gaylene Roberts

*Being a trustee is a sacred responsibility that demands dedication, humility, and foresight*



*Ko Wharepūhunga te maunga  
Ko Waikato te awa  
Ko Ngāti Raukawa, ko Waikato ngā iwi  
Ko Ngāti Werokoko te hapū  
Ko Gaylene Roberts ahau*

Gaylene Te Ute Roberts (nee Keremeta) is a dedicated Raukawa Parawera trustee, representing the cherished region of Wharepūhunga. Her connection to her whenua and heritage runs deep, linking her to the traditions and stories of her people.

As a trustee, Gaylene's mahi revolves around fostering the wellbeing of her whānau and iwi. She is committed to serving her marae in various capacities, supporting the unity and progress of the Kīngitanga and ensuring that the cultural heritage of her people is preserved and celebrated.

Her dedication to the Kīngitanga and the future of her iwi motivated her to become a trustee. She aims to honour her ancestors' legacy and safeguard her cultural heritage, enabling future generations to thrive. Her vision includes empowering her people, fostering resilience, and promoting cultural revitalisation.

Being a trustee is a significant responsibility, requiring dedication, humility, and foresight. It involves embodying the values of service, stewardship, and collaboration. This role allows her to contribute to the growth and prosperity of her marae.

*"It is a privilege to serve our marae and contribute to its growth and prosperity."*

Gaylene expresses, *"whānau is the cornerstone of my existence."*

She is blessed with three sons and a daughter, eight mokopuna and two "mokomoko". Her whānau is her source of strength and inspiration, reinforcing the values of integrity, resilience, and compassion. Their support fortifies her commitment to her community and her responsibilities as a trustee.

She enjoys connecting with others – whether it be through kapa haka, sharing whakapapa, imparting knowledge, or simply sharing a meal.

*"I cherish the moments that strengthen our bonds and celebrate our heritage."*

With a background in governance, community development, and cultural advocacy, Gaylene brings a diverse skill set to her trustee role.

Looking ahead, she envisions a future of resilience, prosperity, and cultural revitalisation for her iwi. Over the next five years, she hopes to see her people thriving economically, socially, and culturally. She believes that investing in education, sustainable development, and cultural preservation will help future generations embrace their identity and contribute to the success of their marae.

Her vision for the marae of Raukawa is *"to serve as a vibrant hub of cultural activity, education, and community empowerment."*

She imagines a place where people of all ages come together to learn, celebrate, and connect with their heritage. By investing in infrastructure, programs, and initiatives, she aims to create a lasting legacy of cultural enrichment and community unity.

# Sports Grants

## A Generational Passion for Sports



From left to right:  
Syniva Bryce, Charlice Bryce, Megan Bryce née Thompson and Mihiwai Henare.

The Raukawa sports grants are fuelling the athletic dreams of a whānau spanning three generations: a mother, her daughters, and granddaughter.

Nana Megan Bryce née Thompson, born and raised in Tokoroa, grew up playing netball and softball. As a mother of eight and a nana to six mokopuna, she has always been a staunch supporter of youth pursuing their sporting goals.

*"There are great lessons and life skills in playing team sports for our Māori tamariki," she says. "I believe sports work hand in hand with classroom education, moulding future leaders."*

Over the years, Megan has been deeply involved in her children's sports activities, including basketball, rugby 7s, rugby league, netball, and touch rugby. She has taken on various roles such as management and coaching, and helped with transportation, and catering.

Megan's daughters, Syniva and Charlice Bryce, are also elite athletes in netball and touch. Over the years, between them, they have represented Waiariki Netball, Trident High School Premiere 1 Netball at the Upper North Island Secondary School Tournament (UNISS) and touch at the NZ Secondary Schools Nationals, Bay of Plenty and New Zealand Touch, and the Waikato Bay of Plenty (WAIBOP) Magic Netball Development Squad.

Charlice and Syniva express their gratitude for the Raukawa sports grant, highlighting its role in enabling them to pursue their passion for sports without financial burdens. *"We are very privileged and grateful to have the grants to relieve pressure on our parents. We are able to just train hard, play hard, and enjoy the journey. Thank you, whānau at Raukawa, for your support."*

Currently, Megan is supporting her eldest mokopuna, 16-year-old Mihiwai Henare, who has excelled in both netball and touch rugby. Mihiwai has represented Waiariki at the Aotearoa Māori Netball Oranga Healthy Lifestyle (AMNOHL) Tournament at the U15 and U17 levels, and she plays for the Premiere 1 netball team at Trident High School in the Whakatane Premiere Grade. She has also represented her school at the NZ Secondary School Touch Nationals.

Mihiwai aspires to reach the highest level of netball and represent Aotearoa, but her current focus is on helping her school netball team succeed at the Upper North Island Secondary Schools (UNISS) Netball tournament this year. She acknowledges that the Raukawa Sports Grant alleviates financial pressures on her whānau, allowing her to concentrate on her mahi.

Through the Raukawa sports grants, this remarkable family can nurture their generational passion for sports, paving the way for future leaders and champions.

# Wānanga Kaimānga

## Exploring Whakapapa, Tuakiritanga and Mātauranga

Wānanga Kaimānga is a whānau-led kaupapa that explores whakapapa, tuakiritanga and mātauranga ā-iwi, ā-hapū, ā-whānau. The kaupapa focuses on connecting and reconnecting the whānau of Ngāti Tangata, exploring tūpuna narratives, history, kōrero tupua and so much more. The project aims to deepen one's connection, whether it's the connections they have with each other, to their ancestors, to their whenua, waterways and skylines. Because when whānau are connected, we are stronger, more resilient and we can map our way forward to achieve our collective aspirations. When we are empowered, we can navigate the world confidently, safely and successfully.

A series of huiata (webinars) were run in the lead up to the ā-kanohi wānanga held on Friday 25 October. The huiata were a way to canvass a wide range of kaupapa before the hui took place, allowing more time for the whānau to enjoy a sites of significance tour. Kaupapa included kōrero from the arrival, settlement and expansion of Ngāti Hinerangi into Ōkauia, to pepeha, whakapapa, kāwai and the stories of the land. We explored the feats of Kōperu and his grandsons Tokotoko, Te Riha and Tangata. It is the pōtiki of the whānau, Tangata, who would go on to marry Pupū, an uri of both Tamatehura and Wairangi, cementing the relationship between Ngāti Hinerangi and Raukawa in the late 1600s.

On the Friday, over 150 whānau gathered at Tangata Marae to learn about their whakapapa and history, followed by site visits. Heading up Douglas Road to the urupā, pointing out pā, wāhi tapu, taumata and maunga, the whānau were introduced to the remarkable history of these places. The tour continued at Wairere Falls, where the whānau revisited the pūrākau of Whetūānuku, the kaitiaki of Wairere, to the early visits of the explorer Ngāhue, to the names of the different parts of the tāheke.

The final site was at Papahuia (Opal and Crystal Hot Pools), where the whānau held a spā-nanga. While bathing in the Ramaroa hot pool, here they were introduced to the pūrākau of Papakauri – the Mauri of the Waihou River, to Hinarepe and Ngāti Mokoroa, to the names of the four waiariki of the area and much more.

After weeks of huiata, it was important that whānau gather face to face, renew and strengthen their bonds, and actually connect with the whenua and waters during the sites tour.

Wānanga participant, Pānia Churcher, says *"I thought I knew my whakapapa, but there is so much more to learn, ... I've really enjoyed learning more about pūrākau, the movements of my ancestors in times gone by, and also the kōrero tupua...it's helped me and my whānau to strengthen our connections"*

The kaupapa was led by the whānau of Tangata, and funded by Whiria Ngā Hua, a fund administered by Raukawa. This is an enterprise fund dedicated to supporting whānau initiatives that address critical community issues. The fund empowers individuals and whānau to actively shape the services that impact their lives, promoting self-determination and community ownership. To learn more about Whiria Ngā Hua and when the next round of funding opens contact us on 0800 RAUKAWA or [info@raukawa.org.nz](mailto:info@raukawa.org.nz)



Te Whānau o Ngāti Tangata, Ōkaiua.



Kaiwānanga Tōmai Smith pointing out tūtohu whenua along the Kaimai Range.



Wairere Falls, Ōkaiua.





Raukawa Sport Grant recipient Dayton Norris

# 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](https://rauakawa.info/grants)

# Governance Pānui

## Trustee Nomination Results Announcement

We are pleased to announce the successful nominees for our marae representative positions. Congratulations to the following trustees who began their three-year terms on 10 December 2024:

Ruapeka – James Whetu

Ōngāroto – Nachele Griffiths

Rāwhitiroa – Paraone Gloyne

Mangakāretu – Rirituku Rick Paul

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Raukawa