

TE KAKARA

Te Kakara o te Hinu Raukawa - Your Raukawa Iwi Newsletter

NGAHURU EDITION
Pānui 47 | 2021

Reconnecting through Hākinakina



Outwit, Outplay, Outlast!

Kaumātua Games

Te Whare Kōrero o Raukawa



RST Chair Message

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Te Kakara. I hope this pānui reaches everyone in relatively good spirits despite the uncertainty and disruption that the Covid-19 pandemic has had and continues to have on our way of life and many things we had come to take for granted.

This once in a generation pandemic has touched the lives of every single one of us. For some of our whānau they have known first-hand the grief and devastation it has had, with the loss of loved ones and the direct impact on health. For others, it has resulted in the loss of jobs, increased and ongoing fear and uncertainty in disruption to education, and for all in many ways, it has resulted in the loss of freedom and ability to do so many things.

As winter approaches when the impact and spread of the virus has shown to be more severe in other countries and we have the usual increases in whānau impacted by colds and flu, it is timely to remind everyone to continue to be vigilant, follow the advice of health officials and to do all we can to ensure Covid-19 does not come into our households and touch the health and wellbeing of our whānau and ourselves.

In the coming weeks and months, we will all need to decide for ourselves and tamariki whether to be vaccinated or not to be vaccinated.

I have noticed across some social media like Facebook especially, that there is a range of views and beliefs about vaccinations and, in particular, to the different Covid-19 vaccines that are being provided by health officials across the world, and which will soon be offered to our communities and to all across Aotearoa.

For some, the vaccination kaupapa is one that they are passionately opposed to. As a result, they are very vocal in discouraging others against any vaccines and in raising fear and uncertainty about potential risks. For others, they are passionately in support of vaccinations, including the current Covid-19 vaccinations. As a result, there are also many promotional type activities being undertaken to influence your decision making.

I want to say to us all, is that our health and our wellbeing and that of our whānau and those who we are tasked with supporting and protecting is the most important mahi and taonga we have. I know for all of us that it is the greatest priority we all have.

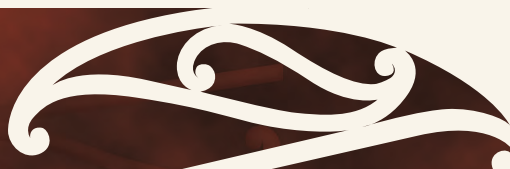
Because of what is at stake, it is so very important that we seek informed, expert, and a wide range of ideas to make an informed decision on vaccinations, especially any Covid-19 vaccine. All of us have the ability to search using our phones, the computer in the library or at school, or in our whare, or the whare of another whānau member, to understand what the benefits of vaccines are and what any risks may be. Seek out those you respect and trust, who you know are invested in what is best for you and your whānau, and who will have an informed and wise view of such things.

Use this kōrero to inform your decisions. There will be some who are passionately against and some who are passionately for. Understand the basis for why they may have this view and make an informed decision on what is right for yourself and your whānau.

I will not share my view in this edition of our pānui because I know, for some, this may affect their ability to keep an open mind. Instead, I will hold my ideas and simply encourage everyone to seek informed expert advice that puts our health and that of our whānau as the priority.

This is a very timely and important kaupapa, so I wanted to take the time to talk about this. I also want to encourage you to take in the wonderful mahi and activities of our whānau and kaimahi in the pages ahead. I encourage you to all take in the wonderful achievements and see the good things that our people continue to do, despite the disruptions that have come our way in recent months.

**Nā Vanessa Eparaima
Raukawa Settlement Trust Chairperson**





Raukawa Services and Offices

Our services and offices continue to operate during normal opening hours, however, each service and office will continue to operate appropriate health and safety protocols to ensure the wellbeing of our staff and visitors. These protocols may be updated or change overtime as we cycle through different Covid-19 alert levels, we appreciate your understanding.

Office	Address	Hours (Mon to Fri)
Tokoroa Main Office	1-11 Raukawa Way	8:30am – 5pm
Putaruru Branch Office	15-16 Princes Street	8:30am – 4:30pm
Te Awamutu Branch Office	53 Mutu Street	8:30am – 4:30pm
Matamata Branch Office	Railside on the Green 41a Hetana Street	8:30am – 4:30pm

For enquiries contact us on **0800 RAUKAWA (0800 728 5292)** or info@rauakawa.org.nz

If you are visiting a Raukawa Office during **ALERT LEVEL 1**, please



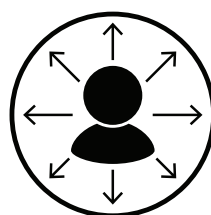
STAY HOME
if you are sick



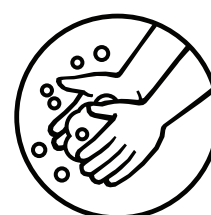
Cough / sneeze
into elbow



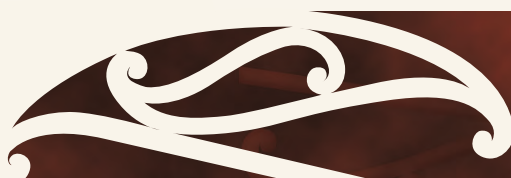
Use
sanitizer



Use tracer
app



Wash hands
with soapy
water for 20 secs





Our elite champions gather in Te Awamutu for the Raukawa Kaumātua Games.

Raukawa Kaumātua Games

Held at the ASB Stadium, part of the impressive Te Awamutu Events Centre, on the 25th of March 2021, thirteen teams, with the vast majority of participants being well past the minimum age of fifty-five, were put through their paces during a series of six indoor events testing skill, guile, agility, and accuracy.

It was fantastic to finally be able to safely host our second ever Raukawa Kaumātua Games, which had been delayed last year due to Covid-19. Excitement swarmed through the playing arena during the pre-tournament march past, when all teams circumnavigated one lap of the indoor arena proudly holding banners, waving flags and one rogue set of pom poms. Our kaumātua certainly do not muck around, and within minutes of the march past concluding, all teams arrived at their designated rotation en masse, ready to get down to business.



Each fifteen-minute activity (Skittles, Corn-hole, Kaplonk, Connect Four, Noodle Hockey, Egg and Spoon Race) pitted teams against each other with precious points at stake. Ninety minutes of fierce competition saw numerous thrills, and in every instance, the final tally mattered.



Even a game as placid as Connect Four flared up on a few occasions with referees being held accountable for “questionable rulings”. Raukawa kaimahi Eugene Whetu said, “This is the most competitive game of Connect Four you will ever see” he laughed.



While the rules clearly stated all players must remain seated, one would easily lose count at the number of times excited players were politely reminded to “*e noho whānau*” by the referee. This was often met with chuckles and bright smiles.





Many high fives between teammates and hearty congratulations were given whenever opposition players hit their targets during the skittles round. One kuia was heard saying, *“That was hard but so much fun”*.

Jim Ngāti, himself a warrior of many battles on the rugby field was an eager observer, forced to sit out the proceedings while waiting for a new knee. *“Everyone keeps the score here”* he smiled.

While lunch was being eaten, team members mingled amongst each other as they reconnected and reminisced. Their faces beamed, there were ear to ear grins, heartfelt embraces and raucous laughter. The wairua flowed from the opening pōwhiri to the end of prizegiving five hours later.

While the Kaumātua Games provide an opportunity to keep active and compete, they also enable our people another invaluable series of moments to connect and treasure together.

We would like to thank our kaumātua, whānau, kaimahi, volunteers and Te Wharekura o Ngā Purapura o Te Aroha for your mahi, aroha and manaakitanga.





Raukawa kaimahi take on the Survivor Challenge in Rotorua.

Outwit, Outplay, Outlast!

The whānau here at Raukawa continues to grow year on year, not just in terms of service range and asset growth but also in staff numbers. We currently have over 70 kaimahi working from our five offices across the takiwā; however, if all goes to plan, we forecast growth to almost 100 kaimahi over the next few months.

Keeping our rōpū of busy bees humming is a key commitment; the team is stretched across multiple fronts, from health and social services, education, culture, history and identity and environment, all of this mahi we undertake to progress our collective aspirations as an iwi. So the whānau took a well-earned break to go on Te Rā Puta o ngā Kaimahi – our annual Staff Day Out held in mid-February.

Te rā puta centres on whakawhanaungatanga, learning more about our Raukawa history and wāhi tūturu and of course, team building. But once the team splits into their four whare (Rātā, Kahikatea, Miro and Nīkau), the gloves come off, and the competitive spirit rises to the occasion. But let's get to that part a bit later.

After morning karakia to start our day, we loaded onto the bus, and our first stop on our way to Rotorua was Te Puna (Blue Springs) in Putaruru. There the team made the short Leslie Road-end trek to Tū Heihei, the source of the puna. As we made our way, we passed by a small number of bemused tourists and visitors who all greeted us with smiles and a hearty “kia ora”. Kōrero was shared by our historian and environment team about the people, places and names along the puna.



...There is still much work to ensure our waterways are protected for our mokopuna and future generations...



We learned about the mahi that our environment team does to protect the awa and the many efforts made to restore and protect its unique aquatic plants and fish species, like the kōkopu (dwarf galaxias), which was on the verge of disappearing. The area is making a strong comeback since measures were put in place to discourage visitors from swimming in the area, causing damage to the stream bed, its banks and aquatic life. But the journey continues for our iwi; there is still much work to ensure our waterways are protected for our mokopuna and future generations.

We then headed to Ruapeka Marae where Raukawa historian Phyllis Tahere talked about her Marae, her whānau and the stories unique to the area. While we listened to the kōrero, builders from SK Ruru Construction were hard at work on the exciting renovations happening at the Marae. SK Ruru Construction Director, Kaiapa Ruru from Paparaamu and Mangakaretu Marae, gave us a brief kōrero about the project and its progression. Before departing, our kaimahi definitely felt a deeper sense of connection to Ruapeka and the surrounding whenua.

We finally touched down in Rotorua, and after a mini hākari we split into our whare teams out on the lake front to take on the Survivor Challenge. The kaupapa was made clear from the start, outwit, outplay and outlast the other teams by winning a series of puzzles and team challenges. This is when the team rivalry went from zero to one hundred, there was lots of laughter, a healthy dose of jeering and copious amounts of strategic cheating going on. Those who practised wise constraint at the mini hākari an hour prior seemed to have the advantage, making light work in the more physical challenges. After six rounds we retired to the shade, the score was tallied and the winning team was Nīkau! With our hearts, minds and puku full to the brim, we headed back home after a long but rewarding day.

Reconnecting through Hākinakina

Dayton Norris-Hill loves softball. While most rangatahi are out shooting hoops or passing a rugby ball, Dayton is out on the field throwing and catching with his ball and glove.

The 17 year old was introduced to the sport as a junior at Fairfield College, Hamilton, before going on to represent his region with the Waikato U18 Boys team. His usual position is first baseman and when there is no catcher or pitcher, Dayton has the talent and flexibility to fill those positions too.

Dayton said the grant came at the perfect time, as he competed in the Waikato Softball Association U18 Boys Representative, held in Palmerston North in January 2020. The Raukawa Sports Grant helped towards Dayton's travel costs, food and accommodation while competing at the tournament.

Dayton says, *"The other teams were too good, but it was a great experience for me and I enjoyed it."* He wants to thank his nana, Shirley Keremeta, for helping him apply for the sports grant, and says that the grant provided an opportunity to reconnect back to Parawera Marae and his great grandfather, Peter Keremeta, who he never had the chance to meet.

Reconnecting back to ones marae, hapū and iwi through our education, kui and koroua and sport grants has been a common experience for many of our applicants, many use this opportunity as a first step to strengthen their ties. The Raukawa Sports Grant is open to athletes, coaches, managers and officials, such as umpires, referees and judges. It is available as a contribution towards costs incurred as an amateur sportsperson at a local, regional or national representative level. If that sounds like you whānau, then apply today.

Photo: Softball player, Dayton Norris-Hill from Parawera Marae.



Raukawa Grants & 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	Payment date	Study period that this grant covers	Applications open	Applications close	Applications considered by RCT
Short course*, certificate, diploma	Paid after completion of study	01 Jan 2021 – 30 Jun 2021	04 Jan 2021	31 Jul 2021	Aug 2021
Short course*, certificate, diploma	Paid after completion of study	01 Jul 2021 – 31 Dec 2021	01 Jul 2021	31 Jan 2022	Feb 2022
Undergraduate, postgraduate, masters	Paid before completion of study	2022 academic year	30 Nov 2021	28 Feb 2022	Apr 2022
PhD, doctoral	Paid before completion of study	2022 academic year	30 Nov 2021	28 Feb 2022	Apr 2022

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

Sports Grants

Registered iwi members can apply for a contribution towards costs incurred while competing as an amateur sports person 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	Payment date	Competition period that this grant covers	Applications open	Applications close	Applications considered by RCT
Sports grants	Payment will depend on application	01 Dec 2020 – 31 May 2021	01 Dec 2020	15 Jun 2021	Jul 2021
Sports grants	Payment will depend on application	01 Jun 2021 – 30 Nov 2021	01 Jun 2021	15 Dec 2021	Jan 2022

Kuia and Koroua Wellbeing Grants

Registered iwi members who are aged 60 years and over can apply for wellbeing and healthcare related support worth up to \$1000. The annual grants aim to alleviate health costs associated with eye, dental, hearing, podiatry treatments, GP visits, pharmacy prescriptions, mobility equipment, heating needs and ambulance fees.

Type	Payment date	Applications open	Applications close	Applications considered by RCT
Wellbeing grants	Payment will depend on application	01 Jun 2020	31 May 2021	Jul 2021
Wellbeing grants	Payment will depend on application	01 Jun 2021	31 May 2022	Jul 2022

Fill out an application form on our website www.raukawa.org.nz or contact us to have a form sent to you, **0800 RAUKAWA** or info@raukawa.org.nz



Festival of Cultures 2021 held in Tokoroa.

Waitangi Day and Festival of Cultures

Over the last six years our annual service held to commemorate Te Tiriti o Waitangi has been atop of Te Puke o Whakauru or more commonly known as Colson's Hill. However, this year both the service and festival were held back to back at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre on Saturday 6 February.

The morning service started at gam with a karanga from our Kaumātua Poihaere Barrett and Ruthana Begbie. The karakia was shared between Kaumātua Te Hapuku Rikiriki, Teonui McKenzie and Papa Timoti Turu from the Pacific Island Presbyterian Church.

Following on from the service, guest speakers shared thoughts on Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its relevance and importance within today's society as a founding national document.

At 10am, we kicked off the festival which showcased ethnic kai, art stalls and great local entertainment along with cultural performances. The crowd in attendance was not as large as previous years, however for those that managed to attend it was a day well spent.

A big thanks goes out to South Waikato Pacific Island Community Trust (SWPIC), Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, Toi Ohomai, South Waikato District Council, South Waikato Education Trust and Raukawa Charitable Trust. Without your support this event would not be possible.



New Co-Chairs for Te Mātāwai

Revitalising te reo Māori is a kaupapa that has been carried by many across multiple generations, from establishing Kōhanga Reo and Kura Kaupapa, to teaching our tamariki in the home, many have taken up the challenge to become reo champions.



We were absolutely delighted when our very own reo champion, Charlie (Tiare) Tepana from Tangata Marae was appointed as Co-Chair on Te Mātāwai. Both Tiare and Reikura Kahi were appointed to the role at the start of 2021, replacing outgoing Co-Chairs Te Waihoroi Shortland and Mereana Selby.

Te Mātāwai is an independent statutory entity set up in 2016 under Te Ture Reo Māori (the Māori Language Act), which aims to promote the use of te reo Māori in homes and the community.

Tiare says that a major focus during his tenure as Co-Chair will be to take language revitalisation to the next level by uplifting the iwi space, Māori communities and marae. While funding is vital, a renewed focus will be valuable, looking at new innovative approaches that support marae, reo supportive communities and reo i te kāinga.

Tiare has been working in the language revitalisation space for more than 15 years, with many more years under his belt out on the marae, within the community and working with kaumātua. He is the Reo and Tikanga Programme Lead here at Raukawa and has been a driving force within our organisation to uplift Raukawa reo through iwi-led programmes like Te Uru Raukawa, Te Kura Reo o Raukawa, Hei Māpuna and Te Whare Kōrero o Raukawa. Tiare was appointed as a member to the Mātāwai Tainui Pae Motuhake (Ngā Paemanu o Tainui) in 2017 and took up the Chair position of that group, obtaining a position as a board member of Te Mātāwai in 2019.

Tiare talks about his excitement in taking on the new role and its many challenges, *“It has been a humbling experience, having the endorsement of my whānau, kaumātua, iwi, Te Mātāwai board members and the gracious support given by Kingi Tūheitia gives me the confidence to take on the new appointment, it has truly been an honour”*.

Growing up, Tiare says that te reo wasn't the main language in his home, but he and his whānau had a strong affinity to kapa haka and mau rākau.

He explains how comfortable he felt in te ao Māori, loving the stories, the feeling of connectedness and the close bonds that form.

A major push on his reo journey was the passing of his wife's father, Te Wakaiti Wakarata (Koro Ned) Amopiu in 2003. Tiare says that his passing had a profound and deep impact on himself and his whānau, *“we now had an even greater sense of responsibility and duty to help and do what we could for our people”*.

In 2005, Tiare began working at Raukawa which was a big step forward, moving from Forestry Management into the language revitalisation space. He spent a lot of time with kaumātua, from Haki Thompson, Te Ao Katoa Tawhi, Mac Winika, Mack Kōperu, Toiamoko Manaia, Rewi Rapana, Te Motunau Kopa, Waaka Gage, Emare Nikora, and many others, all of them supporting and encouraging him and being excited by the many reo Māori developments.

When asked what the language means to him, Tiare says that te reo Māori provides us with exciting new pathways of opportunity and understanding, helping us overcome hardships, it connects you, your whānau and people. Tiare knows that there are pockets of the “living language” out there across the motu, but wants to see the language more widely valued, accepted and spoken throughout Aotearoa, without any sense of whakamā because one day it will indeed become absolutely normal to speak, see and hear it. *“Our kids are all coming through Kōhanga Reo and Kura Kaupapa with a richness of understanding, desire and aroha for the language”*, he says with a bright smile.

Being a reo champion takes patience, dedication and passion. Helping to revitalise and once again normalise our reo rangatira takes places in the home, in the community and also on a national level, we wish both Tiare and Reikura the very best in the mahi that Te Mātāwai undertakes.



Aotearoa Marae, Wharepūhunga.

Te Whare Kōrero o Raukawa

Aotearoa e! Aotearoa e! Te tīare raukawa ki te whenua, te kakara o ngā uri e rangona nei.

He aha kē atu he kaupapa i kō atu i te Whare Kōrero o Raukawa hei whakaterere i ngā whakaaro mō te tau e haere ake nei. He kaupapa i aro pū atu ki te tangata ki ngā mātāpono o te whanaungatanga, o te whakarauora i ō tātou paepae, me te tūhono hoki i ngā uri o Raukawa ki te whenua i nōhia ai e ō tātou tūpuna. I te pito tonu o Kohitātea, hui atu ai te minenga ki runga o Wharepūhunga, ki te marae o Aotearoa. Ki reira kōkiri anō ai i te kaupapa o Te Whare Kōrero o Raukawa. I tae katoa atu ngā whanaunga mai i tawhiti toro atu ana ki te hunga e noho ahi tere ana, ā, tae rawa mai ki ngā kanohi kitea o te wānanga nei kua roa e pīkau ana i te kaupapa. I wāwāhingia, i wehewehea te iwi ki ētahi rōpū kia pai ai te noho tahi a te hunga e mātau ana, e taikaha ana ki te kōrero Māori, me te noho tahi hoki o te hunga kātahi anō ka whāngaihia ki te reo, me ngā reanga hoki o waenganui.



Nō konei ngā ika a whiro ka whakamātauahia ki ngā tikanga, ka tukua kia whakahaere i ngā mahi tapu o runga i te marae. I tere tonu te kite i ngā kōwhao me purupuru, ā, nā ngā pūkenga o te wānanga te iwi i āta whāngai ki ēnei mōhiotanga, ki ēnei mātauranga kia kaha tonu, kia rangatira tonu te kawae i ēnei mahi i ō tātou ake marae. Haere he rā, haere he rā, ka heke ki tērā rōpū, ki tērā rōpū ēnei mahi te kawae. Ngā mahi pēnei i te karakia, te kauwhau, te mihimihī, te waiata. Mutu ana te hui, ko te hunga kātahi anō ka ako ki te kōrero Māori i te whakahaere i ngā kaupapa. I oti pai ēnei mahi i roto i te wiki kotahi! Ka noho au ka mīharo pai ki tēnei tūāhuatanga.





He nui kē atu ngā maumaharatanga pai o te hui nei, i takahia e mātou te ara ki Kāwhia, ka rongo i ngā kōrero mō te whare o Hoturoa, Te Whare o Ngarue i hangāia e te tupuna rā mō Ruaputahanga. Ka waiatatia e Paraone rāua ko Ngahuia me te hunga mōhio te waiata tangi, Te Koha a Tūrongo. Nā konā, ka wiriwiri katoa ngā pona, ka tū ngā huruhuru ka rongo i te wairua o te koroua rā, hotu hotu ana!

Mutu ana, ka rere ki Maketū ki te moenga, ki te takatoranga e takoto tonu nei te waka o Tainui. Ka kitea ngā toka, a Hāni rāua ko Puna. Ka takahia te takutai ki te rākau tapu e kīia nei ko Tangi-te-korowhiti. Ka kī katoa te kete kōrero, te kete wānanga i ngā kōrero taketake o tō tātou iwi, otirā tō tātou waka. Ka mihi ngā pūkōrero o Kāwhia ka huri, ka hoki ki te puihi ki Aotearoa. Tae atu ana ki te marae, ka whikoi katoa mātou ki te wairere o Taiparipūhā. I reira mātou whakarongo atu ai ki te reo mōrearea o ngā wāhine e whakangungu ana i o rātou karanga. Kātahi te āhuatanga ātaahua ko tērā.

Moe atu te pō, ao ake te rangi whakamutunga, ko ngā tamariki i tō rātou hōtaka e kaha waiata ana i o rātou waiata hōu kātahi anō ka ako. He tangi ātaahua, whakatau wairua mō mātou ngā pakeke e whakarite ana mō te whakamātautau whakamutunga. I konei mātou ngā tauira i ngana ki te whakaū i ngā akoranga a o mātou kaiako a Taihako Māui, Whakarongotai Hohepa, Tangiwai Tepana, Winiata Whare, Ngahuia Kopa me Paraone Gloyne. Inā rā te taumata tiketike.

Rere anō ana te reo karanga o ngā wāhine i tohua hei kawē i tēnei taha o te whakamātautau. I pea tahi ko ngā reo iere, ngā reo tōiri o ngā kōhine, me o rātou whāea kia hū ake ai te marae ātea ki mua tonu i te tupuna Hoturoa. Tatangi ana ngā wahine, ara ake ai ngā manu i ngā rākau me ko ngā tūi o te pā, “*piki mai, kake mai.*”

Paki ana te rā, heke ana te werawera i ngā papa o ngā tāne ka whai ake. I horahia te pā ki ngā taonga o Tū, o Tāne hei maunga ringa mā te tokomaha o ngā kaikōrero. Tōna rite, rangatira ake nei. Ko te paepae whakawā ko ngā kähū kōrako, ko ngā kuia, ngā koroheke o Wharepungu i ara ake i o rātou rua ki te whakarangatira i te kaupapa. I tōna otinga iho ko te wairua o te whare kōrero o Raukawa i kaha rangona. Mutu ana ngā mahi, hākari atu mātou ki te hākari o ngā rangatira. Ka rere anō te waiata o te iwi, ka ea, ka tutuki pai tā mātou kaupapa. Aotearoa, tō mana kei runga. Te Whare Kōrero o Raukawa, whakareia!



On Your Mark, Get Set, and Just Go For It!

“The heat is not your friend, but that’s what makes it the Summer Sizzler”, says Ahlene Hemi, one of our Whānau Ora Kaiārahi here at Raukawa. Sitting down to catch up with two of our trailblazing athletes leaves one in a state of awe, as both reflect on running in the Waikato River Trails Summer Sizzler and the Taupō Great Lake Relay held in January and February, respectively.

The Summer Sizzler certainly lives up to its name, the heat radiates from every direction. Tokerau Putai, our AOD Counselor, says you enter with the mindset of *“I just want to see if I can make it to the end”*, but it quickly turns into a series of micro-challenges, running from one shady spot to the next, even if it means all the way up the hill to get under just a sliver of native bush cover.

It’s the third time running the Summer Sizzler for Ahlene, who shifted from the 11km event to the 22km run this year. The trail itself is an excellent way to train up for the Coast to Coast Race, a major bucket list item for Ahlene. An avid event runner, Ahlene has just signed up for the multi-sport adventure race Maunga to Moana later in May. Ahlene says that for many years she didn’t treat her body so well, years of neglect and abuse took an unkind toll on her body and mental wellbeing. But now at the wise age of 60, through hard work, determination and a lot of support from friends and whānau, she has transformed her life where barriers no longer hold her back. Jumping out of an airplane on her 60th birthday or running a 25km run are just the norm now, for Ahlene *“breaking barriers are my new challenge in life”*.

Our two kaimahi talk about the beautiful scenery along the Waikato River trails and how trail running is a lot lighter on the feet than road-based events. Raukawa is one of the Summer Sizzler sponsors, and both Ahlene and Tokerau ran on behalf of the Raukawa Charitable Trust.

Tokerau, who has proudly clocked up his 8th year running in the Great Lake Relay, highlights the comradery of not only running as a rōpū, but the cheers of encouragement from fellow runners and spectators alike who enthusiastically egg you on towards the distant finish line. Tokerau laughs as he recounts how well-meaning spectators would shout, *“keep it up mate, your almost there, it’s just around the corner”*, only to find the finish line for that leg is actual five grueling bends away.



Raukawa kaimahi Ahlene Hemi and Tokerau Putai at the Waikato River Trails Summer Sizzler.

Sullen and dark thoughts arise but are quickly cleansed by another road-side group who are handing out water, lollies and sage advice to runners.

Whanaungatanga is what draws Ahlene; the opportunity to get to know staff is made so much easier when everyone is meeting a challenge together. Being with like-minded people who share a common kaupapa, who are all pushing themselves to achieve and surpass their own personal goals while surrounded by buoyant positivity is what attracts both runners to the event.

Over the last eight years, our Raukawa kaimahi have entered a team into the Great Lake Relay, a breast cancer charity event that spans a 67km course from Pūkawa on the southwest shore of Lake Taupō, and finishes in the heart of Taupō township.

Tokerau says it was great to see the newer staff who joined this year, and you could see the *“hunger in their eyes”* as they battled the incline of Hatepe Hill or navigated the winding roads of Pūkawa. The team looks forward to next year when the race begins anew.



Bringing Whānau Home

Our Marae Renovation Project is an exciting piece of mahi that we have been working on here at Raukawa since last year. Following the impact of Covid-19 as well as its negative economic effects, the Government's Provincial Growth Fund offered funding to primarily "shovel-ready" projects as a way to promote regional growth. As part of this funding, a portion was set aside to support marae development.

This opportunity was taken up by Raukawa, who supported marae with funding applications. Two options were explored and presented to our marae, one being part of a collective of Raukawa marae with the project being managed by the Raukawa Charitable Trust, or alternatively, marae could submit their own applications and manage their projects themselves. Eight marae chose to be part of the collective with seven marae submitting individual applications.

A real focus for Raukawa was not only the amenity improvements to the marae but ensuring that works carried out on the marae were done by people with a connection to that marae.

Rāwhitiroa Marae is one of the eight marae within the collective. Their improvements incorporated earthmoving, contouring and the remaking of an access road and an enlarged chip sealed car park area. This work is being undertaken by SW Civil Ltd, who also took on extra manpower for the project.

Rāwhitiroa Marae had the unique privilege of having three generations of one whānau working simultaneously on the site.

Les Gisborne, or Papa to his moko, is originally from Australia, along with his experience and skills in civil works he also has a military background. His wife Tiari is from Rāwhitiroa, and he considers it his home away from home. Les says the change of country and lifestyle has really reinforced the whakaaro that whānau is so much more important than pūtea moni.

His son John Gisborne grew up on and around the Marae. John says it's where whānau were, where the awa was for swimming and the connection where hui and tangihanga took place. He goes on to say that the Marae is still his place of focus and identity.



Three generations of whānau hard at work at Ōwairaka (Rāwhitiroa) Marae, left: John, Les and Lucan Gisborne.

Lucan Gisborne, Les's moko and John's nephew, has been away for some time in Te Waipounamu but was given the opportunity to be part of the project and feels he is back home. It gives him a heartfelt feeling and great ease to know that he is contributing to the Marae. He sees the continuum of the generations, "Papa, Uncle and myself doing something that we love for people that we love". Lucan now has full-time employment with SW Civil Ltd.

All three hope that this is only the beginning, that progress will continue and that the younger ones will gain skills and direction with a strong sense of home.

Governance Notices

Trustee Nomination Results 2020

At the close date of Friday 6 November 2020, the required number of nominations were received for the following marae representative positions:

Marae	Nominees
Tāpapa	Marina Hireme
Paparaamu	Grant Thompson
Whakaaratamaiti	Juanita Temarama

Congratulations to these successful nominees who started their 3-year terms on 10 December 2020.

Marae	Nominees
Aotearoa	No nominations received.

The RST Board will confirm when nominations for this position will open again.

Trustee Election Results

The election process was overseen by an external Returning Officer. Below is the confirmed results:

Marae	Voting papers sent	Voting papers received	Special Voting papers	Valid Votes	Invalid
Parawera	319	65 (Inclusive of Special Votes)	17	60	5
Ngātira	413	102 (Inclusive of Special Votes)	6	102	0

As the Returning Officer I declare the following results:

Marae	Nominees	Votes Received	Successful Nominee
Parawera	Gaylene Roberts	29	Phillipa Tapu
	Phillipa Tapu	31	
Ngātira	Bernice Kaponga	89	Bernice Kaponga
	Tehuihuinga Grace Everest		

Congratulations and whose three-year team as a RST Marae representative commenced from 10 December 2020.

Denise Lee
Returning Officer
Raukawa Settlement Trust