Your Raukawa Iwi Newsletter
Issue 60

# Te Kakara

Te Ara ki Raukawa 20<u>50</u> Te Kawariki: Steps to Independence

Ka Uruora: Financial Futures





## RST Chair Message

Tēnā tātou e te iwi,

Welcome to the winter edition of Te Kakara, and what a fitting time to reflect on how we continue to nurture and protect the seeds of our future.

As we mark the 60th edition of this important kaupapa, I want to acknowledge the many hands and hearts that have contributed over the years. From humble beginnings to what you now hold in your hands, Te Kakara has become a platform where our stories, our progress, and our people are celebrated.

In this edition, we share the aspirations of our whānau through Te Ara ki Raukawa 2050, our evolving iwi strategy that sets a clear course for the generations to come. Across our takiwā, uri of all ages have come together to share their dreams for a thriving future. This strategy is not just about tomorrow, it is about the decisions we make today, together.

We also shine a light on the work of our Raukawa Kaitiaki Rōpū, who are leading kōrero on climate change and environmental resilience for our marae. The taiao is not just a backdrop to our lives, it is part of our identity. The wānanga held in March reaffirmed that our strength lies in our collective action and deep understanding of kaitiakitanga.

In April, Raukawa returned to Parliament for our annual Ministerial Forum, where we met directly with the Crown to discuss issues of mutual interest and importance. The forum provided an opportunity

to share our concerns and expectations, as well as to seek out opportunities to work together to support the health and well-being of our people and the wider community. The hui was our first with the new Government, so involved introductions and some detail of our post settlement journey. We laid strong foundations to ensure ongoing dialogue and opportunity to ensure the voice of Raukawa is being heard by national political decision makers.

Further in the pānui is coverage of the incredible progress of our rangatahi at Te Kawariki, the launch of our pēpi and tamariki hub in Putāruru, the protection of our kaumātua through the Kaumātua Haumaru service, and the financial empowerment of whānau through Ka Uruora. These are not just stories, they are real pathways being walked today by our people.

As we pause in the stillness of winter, may we take heart in the warmth of kotahitanga. Our kaupapa continue to grow because of the dedication of our whānau, kaimahi, marae and hapū.

Ngā manaakitanga, **Nā Kataraina Hodge** *Raukawa Chair* 



## Te Ara Ki Raukawa 2050

Shaping the Future of Our Iwi



Our Te Ara Ki Raukawa 2050 workshops were held during the month of March across the takiwā at our Raukawa offices, marae and online.

Overall, we had a great turn out, with many whānau joining us, including uri, non-uri, Raukawa marae trustees, Raukawa kaimahi and people of all ages - from tamariki to kaumātua.

Te Ara Ki Raukawa 2050 is the next step in shaping the future of our iwi, building upon the strong foundation of the Raukawa 2030 Vision – Raukawa Kia Mau, Kia Ora. Now, as we look to 2050, we are once again turning to our people to share their whakaaro and aspirations.

Raukawa Tāhuhu Rangapū Maria Te Kanawa said the workshops showed strong engagement and participation across all age groups.

"All voices were heard, whakaaro was heard, moemoea was heard, and we valued all input. We hope that they feel that the 2050 strategy reflects this."

The workshops are a strategy for our future, our rangatahi – those that are around 16 years old now will be around 40 by 2050.

"All whānau want to be thriving – whatever that looks like for them. We, Raukawa Settlement Trust, our marae, hapū, whānau and as individuals all play a role in this. It will take a mahi tahi mindset to reach our vision together."

She added the online workshops were also popular and enabled those who couldn't travel or lived outside of Aotearoa to attend.

Raukawa kaimahi Stevie Ave attended the first workshop held in Tokoroa and said it was a beautiful day of inclusivity.

"It felt like we were a part of something much bigger, working together to build something that could positively impact our iwi for generations to come."

She said it was inspiring to see so many people passionate about the future of Raukawa.

"We were all thinking about what we want to leave behind for our tamariki and mokopuna."

Our friendly facilitators were great at their job, filled with enthusiasm and a desire for betterment. They provided clear instructions that kept everyone focused on the purpose of the workshop.

The feedback from the workshops was collated and analysed by our consultants and team. Raukawa Settlement Trust (RST) Trustees held a wānanga in April to review the Whānau Voices report (a collation of all feedback from our Te Ara Ki Raukawa 2050 workshops), Data & Insights Report and Environmental Scan. The RST will be considering the draft 2050 Strategy in June, and once approved will be shared with uri for review and then opportunity to provide feedback through July and August.

Raukawa would like to thank everyone who came and shared their ideas and dreams for our iwi as we build our 2050 vision. Your korero will help shape a visionary framework that ensures a thriving future for Raukawa.

Raukawa Kia Mau, Kia Ora.



















## Raukawa Kaitiaki Rôpû

Uniting Marae for Environmental Resilience



In April, the Raukawa Kaitiaki Rōpū (RKR) gathered in te tari o Raukawa for a wānanga that brought together uri from across the takiwā. Each kaitiaki represented their marae, contributing to a collective kōrero that affirmed the diversity within our iwi when it comes to caring for te taiao.

The hui, facilitated by our kaimahi here at Raukawa, created a space where environmental advocates from different marae of the rohe could share insights, projects, and challenges. A key focus was a stocktake of existing taonga and environmental kaupapa across marae, from riparian planting and pā tuna restoration to harakeke wānanga and māra kai. These practical examples reflect the richness of our kaitiakitanga at the flaxroots level.

What stood out was the subtle variation in how each marae connects to their environment. "It was clear to see that we are all Raukawa, but the taiao of our marae differs subtly across the board," shared one participant. "Even the way each kaitiaki related to their whenua was unique and yet, we all felt the same sense of responsibility for our whenua."

The hui also provided space to explore future–focused whakaaro. Discussions looked at how the RKR can support uri and marae to navigate new and emerging challenges, including securing funding, building infrastructure, and engaging with innovative models of sustainability.

The whakaaro that was collected from the wānanga will help shape the future of the RKR through the development of a five-year strategic plan. This plan will guide the group to focus our efforts toward future wānanga that aim to build the capacity and

capabilities of the RKR, and ultimately, support the wellbeing and aspirations of our whānau at the marae. Beyond logistics, the wairua of the hui was positive and insightful. There was a shared vision for empowering our marae to lead their own taiao responses. "In a perfect world, this service would be unnecessary, we would all be fully equipped to be the kaitiaki of our whenua. The aspiration of this rōpū is to support that self-sufficiency," shared Raukawa kaimahi Joe Kaponga.

By providing a platform for discussion, connection, and learning, the Raukawa Kaitiaki Rōpū is laying the groundwork for intergenerational environmental leadership rooted in whakapapa, mātauranga, and aroha for te taiao.

Through this shared journey, we reaffirm who we are and where we stand:

Raukawa te iwi, Raukawa te whenua, Raukawa uri, Raukawa rangatahi, Raukawa kaitiaki. "Mōu, mōku, mō tātou: Raukawa kia mau, kia ora."



## Hauora Day 2025

Health Access to All



Heart checks, hearing checks, vaccinations and more – Hauora Day provided our community with a day of amazing free health services, check-ups and advice for our people.

Provided were free bowel screening, breast screening and cervical screening, child immunisations and drivethrough vaccinations. There were eye assessments, heart checks, 'Stop Smoking' advice and mental health services.

The initiative was organised by South Waikato Pacific Islands Community Services (SWPICS) and was held in March in the Tokoroa Hospital main carpark area. Raukawa was proud to stand alongside an incredible lineup of partners and the day was a true reflection of kotahitanga in action.

Other partnerships included, Te Whatu Ora Waikato, Te Whatu Ora Bowel Screening, Te Whatu Ora Oral Health, Braemar Charitable Trust, Pinnacle Midlands Health Network, Tokoroa Hospital, National Hauora Coalition, Te Whetū Oranga, Tokoroa Medical Centre, Breastscreen Aotearoa and Unichem Tokoroa.

It was a beautiful day to meet and engage with people in our community, from our tamariki to kaumātua. Raukawa would like to acknowledge South Waikato Pacific Islands Community Services (SWPICS) for organising the Hauora Day. We know it took many hands – partners, volunteers, sponsors and other organisations – to put the day together.

This day is an important inaugural approach of improving 'access' to health and wellbeing services here in the South Waikato Community. Ngā mihi nui.







## Te Kura Rec o Raukawa 2025

Te Taumata Pārāweratanga o te Reo



Tērā te taumata ki Maungatautari, e titiro iho ana ki Te Ure Parawera; te huinga o te tini, te akoranga o te mano, te pā whakawairua o reo kia tika, o reo kia rere, o reo kia māori. Nō te Māehe hui atu ai te hunga pīkoko ki te reo ki Te Kura Reo o Raukawa 2025.

He nui tonu ngā kaupapa i tirohia e te iwi hei kaupapa ako, wānangananga mā rātou, mai i te reo ōkawa i tō Pakake Winiata taha, ki te reo whakawhiti i tō Ngaringi Katipa taha. I a Paraone Gloyne ngā tongikura, i a Ngahuia Kopa te reo o ngā mahi haka, tā Taihakoa Maui ko te aroā, tā Tiare Tepana ko ngā kīwaha, i riro mā Louis Armstrong ngā āhuatanga o te reo, i riro mā Tangiwai Tepana te pūtaketanga o te reo. Inā rā te nui o te puna mātauranga hei ruku mā te hunga tauira.

Ko tētehi āhuatanga o tō tātou kura reo, ko te taha ki te poipoi tamariki. I te mōhio, kāore te reo e whāiti ana ki te takitahi o te whānau, e tika ana kia whai wāhi mai ngā tamariki ā ngā tauira pākeke, kia rongo hoki rātou i te reo e rere ana i tōna takiwā. Kua waimarie tātou i te momo i a Kamaea Hakaraia rāua ko Kauri Tepana me kore noa tō rāua wairua pai, wairua rikarika hei whakahaere i te hōtaka tamariki o te kura nei; ko rātou tonu, ko ngā tamariki, ngā whetū pīataata i rewa ai ngā ngākau o tēnā, o tēnā, i eke ai te kōrero, "ka hari ngā tapu o ngā tamariki o te whakapikareka koakoa."

Kia hoki anō ki te whakaaro o te whakatupu pā harakeke, i tēnei tau i tae mai tētehi whānau me ngā reanga e rima i waenga i te mea kaumātua, ki te mokopuna. Ko tahi, ko rua, ko toru, ko whā, ko rima katoa i te ako. He tohu tēnei o te hurihanga o te reo, o te hurihanga hoki o te whakaaro ki te ako i te reo, kaua mā te takitahi anake, engari mā te katoa e ora ai te reo o te kāinga.

Nā rau ringa i tutuki ai te kaupapa nei, me mihi ngā kaiwhakarite, ngā kaitautoko katoa, ngā mea i whakaheke werawera kia parawera nuitia te reo ki ō tātou uri, kia tīkina ake ko te kupu hei whakamihi i a koutou, kei ngā tohunga o te manaaki i ora ai tā tātou kaupapa, mei kore ake koutou katoa.

















## A New Chapter

A Pathway to Independence for Our Rangatahi



For William and Xavier, the move from Te Kawariki Rangatahi Transition Housing into the new Boarding Whare in Tokoroa marked more than just a change of address — it was the next step in their journey toward independence.

After twelve months of guided support through Te Kawariki Rangatahi Transitional Housing, the pair are now the first residents of a purpose-built whare created to bridge the gap between transitional housing and long-term independence. Owned by Twenty20 Sustainable Housing, this whare is part of a wider ecosystem of care designed to equip rangatahi with the tools they need to thrive.

Raukawa kaimahi Aroha Riki-Hamana said in their first month, the young tane embraced new responsibilities.

"They have been managing tenancy agreements and budgeting, to maintaining a flourishing māra kai. Their new whare location is just minutes from Tokoroa's CBD, so this has reduced travel costs and opened doors to employment, education, and essential services."

Last year, Xavier celebrated his 21st birthday with a clear sense of purpose. Aroha says he is now confidently managing all aspects of his life, from kai and housing to education and appointments. She added William, at just 19, completed the Vertical Horizonz, Raukawa Pre-Trade Training Construction Level 3, Cohort Two and secured temporary mahi with support from partners like Workit, WACT and KiwiStaff.

He's worked at CHH Plywood and Fonterra and is currently a student at Te Wananga O Aotearoa. Additionally, with support from the Mayor's Taskforce Fund and Hales Driving Training, he's gained his full licence and forklift endorsement and even owns his own vehicle.

Our strategies are focused on reducing rangatahi homelessness, reducing food insecurity, and helping our rangatahi to upskill and rise above poverty. In transitional housing, the expectation is that you will progress relatively easily into the rental market. The boarding house step allows them another two years of stable housing.

"This kaupapa wouldn't be possible without the collective effort of many," says Aroha.

"We mihi to Angie, Moses, and Jay from Twenty20 Sustainable Housing, and acknowledge Lee Hepi, who now walks alongside these rangatahi as a kaimahi."

Together, we are proving that with care, connection, and opportunity, we can build a future where our rangatahi thrive.



## Kaumātua Haumaru

Protecting Our Taonga



Our kaumātua are a taonga – carriers of wisdom, culture, and legacy. At Raukawa, we believe they deserve to be protected, respected, and empowered to live with dignity. That's why we've introduced Kaumātua Haumaru, a dedicated elder abuse response service for those aged 65 and over living in Tokoroa, Pūtaruru, Tīrau, Te Awamutu, Matamata, Mangakino, and surrounding areas.

Elder abuse is an insidious and often hidden issue. At least one in ten older New Zealanders experiences some form of abuse – whether it's physical, emotional, financial, or neglect. Many don't speak up due to pride, fear, or loyalty to whānau. But abuse is never okay.

We've seen heartbreaking examples, from financial scams and exploitation by trusted friends, to tradesmen taking advantage, to family members causing harm. One kaumātua lost thousands after gifting a vehicle to a friend, only for it to be transferred out of his name. These situations leave lasting impacts, not just financially, but emotionally and spiritually too.

Kaumātua Haumaru is here to help. We offer free, compassionate support, whether you're reaching out for yourself or someone you care about. Our team works with kaumātua to navigate their options safely, connect them to the right services, and support them to make informed decisions. We also work alongside other providers and community partners to ensure kaumātua feel heard, supported, and know they are not alone.

Self-referrals and agency referrals can come from whānau, friends, neighbours, or agencies. You can contact our Raukawa team on hauora@raukawa.org.nz or phone 0800 RAUKAWA (0800 728 5292). You can also walk into any Raukawa office for support. Our free service is voluntary, you can opt out anytime.

To our whānau and wider community, be vigilant, speak out. Our kaumātua deserve aroha, manaaki, and protection. Let's not be dismissive or silent. Let's honour their legacy.

Kaumātua Haumaru. Protecting our taonga. Uplifting our elders.

### Ka Uruora ki te Ao

#### Paving Pathways to Financial Freedom

Helping whānau reclaim their financial mana motuhake and long-term aspirations is at the heart of Ka Uruora, a kaupapa delivered in partnership between Raukawa and Ka Uruora.

Ka Uruora offers savings, education and home ownership opportunities to help you towards achieving financial independence for you and your whānau. Leading the programme locally is kaiwhakatere, Stevie Ave, who brings a unique blend of lived experience, insight and genuine aroha for whānau in her mahi.

"Ka Uruora is about more than just financial literacy," Stevie explains. "It's about restoring mana, building confidence, and supporting whānau to realise goals that sometimes feel out of reach — like homeownership, savings, or becoming debt-free."

Developed by Māori, for Māori, the kaupapa starts with our Sorted Kāinga Ora course — a free, eight-week wānanga that helps whānau understand budgeting, debt management, smart saving, and planning for financial stability. More than just a classroom, it's a space of open kōrero, whanaungatanga, and manaaki.

"I keep the groups small and relaxed, so everyone feels safe to share their whakaaro. There's no judgment or pressure, just guidance. And even after the eight weeks, I'm still here for whānau who want to keep going," Stevie says.

It's not about how much or how little you have; it's about empowerment so you can navigate towards the goals that you have set for yourself. The impact has been powerful. Stevie recalls the story of a tauira who, after taking part, gained the confidence to clear their mortgage — a step he had been too uncertain to take before. Another participant, a truck driver, went from believing homeownership was impossible to being preapproved for his first whare.

"These stories show what can happen when our people are given the right support, in the right way," says Stevie.

Her own financial journey, which included navigating the first-home buying process with limited support, inspired her to step into this role. "We were left to figure things out ourselves — and it shouldn't be that hard for our people." There are a number of barriers that make homeownership particularly difficult for our people, and through our Ka Uruora programme, we aim to reduce these barriers across the board for our whānau.

Looking ahead, the kaupapa will play a vital role in supporting whānau into new housing initiatives like Te Koha a Raukawa, a 56-home development on the old Tokoroa East School site, with 40 homes aimed at progressive ownership and rental pathways for whānau.

"Ka Uruora will be part of that journey too — walking alongside whānau as they prepare to take that next step."

For Stevie, the ultimate goal is to normalise korero about financial empowerment within our whare, strengthening the next generation to navigate their financial futures with confidence. "It's about equipping our tamariki before they leave home — so they understand credit cards, student loans, and how to make informed decisions."

To any whānau who feel uncertain or whakamā, Stevie has a simple message: "You don't have to have it all figured out. This kaupapa meets you where you are. If you're ready to take the first step, I'm here, let's start the journey together".

To learn more or join the next intake, contact Stevie on 0800 RAUKAWA or email info@raukawa.org.nz.



## New Raukawa Kahu Taurima Pêpi and Tamariki Hub

A Welcoming Space for Whānau Wellbeing



A new chapter in whānau wellbeing has begun with the launch of our pēpi and tamariki hub and associated hauora clinic, based at our newly renovated Putāruru office located on Glenshea Street.

This integrated space will support hapū māmā, pēpi, tamariki and their whānau through a combination of culturally grounded parenting programmes and accessible health and social services supporting the critical early years of life.

Sarah Nash, Senior Project Manager, explains that at the core of our new Kahu Taurima service was the vision to establish a pēpi and tamariki hub. A key element of our new service will be the provision of Tākaro Time to parents within our rohe.

Tākaro Time is an informal, whānau-friendly pregnancy and parenting education programme that will be accessible every Wednesday over a 10-week school term. "It's a space where whānau can come together, learn in a relaxed group setting, and share their parenting journeys," she says.

The programme is led by Raukawa and includes korero, collective learning and support. In addition to Takaro Time, external health and social providers will offer specialised services such as hapu wananga designed to support parents through pregnancy and into early childhood care.

Importantly, the environment has been designed to be pēpi and tamariki-friendly, allowing parents to bring their little ones along and learn with the full support of our Raukawa team. The aim is to empower whānau to grow in confidence and connection as caregivers.

Rangimārie Day, Principal Advisor, highlights the deep cultural threads embedded in the hub's design. "We wanted to ensure our Raukawatanga was woven throughout the space," she says.

Prominent pou whenua throughout the room represent significant landmarks such as Maungatautari, Wharepūhunga, Pōhaturoa, and Wairere – all sparking kōrero and connection to our whenua.

The blue seating areas represent local awa: Pōkaiwhenua, Waihou and Ōraka, while beautifully illustrated pukapuka developed by our ahurea team are proudly displayed for tamariki and parents to enjoy. They tell the story and adventures of a young Raukawa and his kurī, Waitete.

In the corner of the hub stands a custom-built wharenui installation, complete with our Raukawa tohu etched onto the maihi. The amo and kōruru have been deliberately left blank, inviting whānau to tell and shape their own stories. "It's a way for our whānau to see themselves reflected in this space – literally," says Rangimārie, referencing a mirror etched with our tohu placed at tamariki height.

Throughout the room, symbolic elements have been thoughtfully incorporated – a whāriki in the colour of Papatūānuku, clouds representing Ranginui, and three hanging raukawa–shaped leaves that echo our core values of tika, pono, and aroha.

At the heart of the initiative is a commitment to holistic support. An on-site clinic will operate by appointment, offering services such as Well Child Tamariki Ora checks aligned with hub activities. This



ensures whānau can access care while participating in kaupapa-driven sessions.

"This is just the beginning," says Rangimārie. "We're laying the foundations now, but we see this becoming a vibrant hub of activity for our community – one that continues to grow and reflect the needs and aspirations of our whānau."

Our new space in the heart of Putāruru is more than a service – it's a warm, empowering space built by whānau, for whānau.

If you want to learn more about our service or how to enrol in our programme, call us on 0800 RAUKAWA or email info@raukawa.org.nz

Watch our video to learn more about our new hub



Scan the code or visit raukawa.info/hub







## Raukawa Sports Grant

Helping Rangatahi Shine on the Field

For 16-year-old Rawiri Te Miha-Gage, the Raukawa Sports Grant was more than just financial support, it was an opportunity to chase his sporting dreams. A passionate rugby league player from Tokoroa High School, Rawiri had his sights set on representing his school at a national tournament. The costs associated with travel, accommodation and gear could have posed a challenge, but with the support of the grant those barriers were eased slightly, allowing him to take the field alongside his team mates.

Rawiri, who is from Raukawa, Te Whānau-a-Apanui, and Ngāti Kahungunu, found that the tournament not only provided him with the chance to showcase his skills but also helped him grow as an athlete and a team player. Competing against top-tier teams pushed him to new heights, strengthening his confidence and determination.

"I know the grant meant a lot to my whānau," shared the young man from Tangata Marae. "Rugby league is a huge part of my life, and being able to compete at this level was an amazing experience."

Beyond the game, the experience opened doors to further opportunities, including exposure to talent scouts and connections within the rugby league community. He now aspires to continue his journey in the sport, with ambitions of playing in the NRL and make it "big in life."

The Raukawa Sports Grant continues to make a meaningful impact in the lives of young athletes across the rohe, ensuring that financial limitations do not stand in the way of sporting potential. By supporting rangatahi in their athletic pursuits, the grant plays a vital role in fostering a love for sport, discipline, and personal growth.

"I'm grateful for the support, it's helping me chase my dreams," Rawiri said. "I hope to one day give back and help the next generation of young athletes."







## 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 2025 – 31 Dec 2025	01 Jul 2025	31 Jan 2026	Feb 2026
Bachelors and Masters	2026 Academic year	30 Nov 2025	31 Jan 2026	Feb 2026
Doctoral	2026 Academic year	30 Nov 2025	31 Jan 2026	Feb 2026

<sup>\*</sup> 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).

Туре	Period that this grant covers	Applications Open	Applications Close	Applications considered
Sports grants round 1	01 Jun 2025 – 30 Nov 2025	01 Jun 2025	30 Nov 2025	Jan 2026
Sports grants round 2	01 Dec 2024 - 31 May 2026	01 Dec 2025	31 May 2026	Jun 2026

#### 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.

Туре	Period that this grant covers	Applications Open	Applications Close	Applications considered
Kuia and Koroua Wellbeing grants	01 Jun 2025 – 31 May 2026	01 Jun 2025	31 May 2026	Jun 2026

#### 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 raukawa.info/grants

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