

Iwi to light up sky for Matariki

Fireworks displays mix tradition, sustainability

Ruth Wong

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc has been celebrating Matariki – the Māori New Year – with fireworks since 2002, and this tradition has become popular across their rohe (territory), from Te Wairoa in the north to Wairarapa in the south.

In 2021, the Matariki Māori Advisory Committee raised concerns about fireworks, citing light and noise pollution, fire risks, damage, and environmental waste.

It believed fireworks were inconsistent with the core principle of remembrance and did not align with the spirit of the celebration.

However, Ngāti Kahungunu has successfully managed public fireworks displays at their major Matariki celebrations for many years, addressing cultural and environmental concerns proactively.

Remembrance and symbolism

For two decades, Ngāti Kahungunu has used fireworks as a creative medium to share stories of old, celebrate, and honour remembrance.

These Matariki celebrations have now become the largest annual events in Wairoa, Waipukurau, Dannevirke, Hastings, Napier, and Masterton.

During the fireworks display, the sky comes alive with symbolism:

- Vivid blue: The sky is painted in vivid blue to honour Rangī (sky father).
- Red: Representing Papatūānuku (Earth mother).
- Yellow kōwhai coloured starshells: Reflecting the



energy and warmth of Tamānui-te-Rā, the sun, and his wife Hinetakurua, the winter maiden. He rises at the same place where Matariki sits on the eastern horizon, signalling the start of Whangai o te hauahi hautapu ceremonies, remembrance and celebration.

- Black sky: Represents Tāne, the god of the forests and protector of the environment.

- White comets and starshells: Symbolise new beginnings.

- Loud explosions: Clear negative spirits, allowing good spirits to enter the community. Rātana bands enact a similar ceremony, clearing the way for manuhiri (guests) to enter a marae safely. The bass drum simulates thunder strikes and sonic booms.

- Falling willow stars: Represent tears in remembrance of those who passed since the last Matariki.

Environmentally conscious

To minimise the impact of fireworks on the environment, Ngāti Kahungunu follows these practices:

- Para kore/zero waste commitment: 95% of waste from fireworks displays is diverted from landfills. Cardboard and copper wiring are recycled, and cardboard cases are able to be composted with minimal chemical impact on the soil.

- Minor pollution: Light, sound and air pollution from the Matariki fireworks display have minor effects on the surrounding areas. These displays occur once annually for eight minutes, causing less light pollution than lightning and street lights, less noise than thunder, and generating only 250kg of carbon emissions – less than emissions from cars driven to a typical Matariki celebration.

Māori creators

Several Māori creators have used fireworks to make powerful statements:

- In January 2009, Te Miringa Hohaia created Te Haruru ki Tawhiti, featuring imagery of Te Raukura in the sky with fireworks at Parihaka International Peace Festival.

- Tame Iti, artist and activist, commissioned a fireworks sky show for the opening of Te Uru Taumatua in Ruatāhuna in March 2014, featuring imagery of Uenuku, Hinepukohurangi, Urewera, and Te Pūru.

- Tūhoe iwi commissioned a custom fireworks display for Tūhoe treaty settlement celebrations in Ruatāhuna in August 2014.

A resilient tradition

As the third largest iwi in Aotearoa, Ngāti Kahungunu boasts 40,100 registered members. Their commitment to cultural resilience is evident

through the revival of Matariki – a time to honour ancestors, celebrate the harvest, and connect with the cosmos – whānau marama (family of light).

Each year, 27,000-plus visitors flock to nine free community Matariki events organised by Ngāti Kahungunu. These gatherings go beyond fireworks – they also feature:

- Kapa haka performances: Traditional song and dance celebrating heritage.

- Live bands and hip-hop crews: Infusing energy and rhythm into the festivities.

- Waka maemae aroha lanterns: Floating symbols of remembrance and hope.

- Hautapu ceremonies: Feeding the stars pre-dawn ceremonies

- Mahuika purakau fire gatherings: Stories around the warmth of beach fires.

Sustainable approach

Ngāti Kahungunu's fireworks displays serve as more than visual spectacles. They build immense pride within whānau (extended families) and enhance the iwi's mana (prestige) as environmental stewards.

By diverting waste, minimising pollution, and fostering community connections, these displays embody Ngāti Kahungunu's commitment to both tradition and sustainability.

As the skies light up with vibrant colours, Ngāti Kahungunu invites all to join in this celestial shared experience – a fusion of past, present, and future.

For more information about Ngāti Kahungunu's Matariki celebrations, visit matariki.events or follow their social media channels, or www.kahungunu.iwi.nz

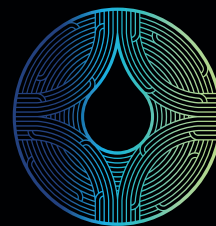
■ Kai hau hai Matariki, feast on kai, entertainment and fireworks. Free entry. 6pm to 9pm, Friday, June 28, Mitre10 HB Sportspark, Hastings.

MATARIKI AT WAIAROHA

Tuesday 25 &
Wednesday 26 June
6pm-9pm

Waiaroha Heretaunga Water
Discovery Centre, Hastings

hastingsdc.govt.nz/waiaroha



Waiaroha
Heretaunga Water
Discovery Centre



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OPINION

A beacon of hope for reducing family harm

Insights on dealing with pressing issue are shared

Ruth Wong

Te Kura is a Ngāti Kahungunu approach to Whāngaiā Ngā Pā Harakeke – a New Zealand Police initiative that encourages collaboration with iwi and other agencies to reduce family harm within Māori communities.

On May 29-30, iwi workers throughout the country attended the annual National Family Violence Conference to gain insight and improved techniques in the way they respond to family harm, the challenges whānau face, and solutions to supporting whānau wellbeing.

This year the conference was held in Te Whanganui-a-tara at the Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre. Attendees felt nurtured, encouraged, involved and refreshed. At the conference, they had time-out spaces, counselling and mirimiri.

Te Kura operates on the principle of holistic support, recognising that addressing

Attending gave me the opportunity for learning, networking and the sharing of innovative ideas in responding to family harm.

Nicosia Webster, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated Te Kura co-ordinator

family harm requires complex approaches. This includes providing access to culturally responsive services such as counselling, legal advice and health services tailored to the specific needs of Māori whānau. By integrating these resources into their initiative, Ngāti Kahungunu endeavours to create a safe and nurturing environment where families can heal and thrive.

Our role as an iwi is to support our Māori service providers, ensuring they are not only equipped but able to provide the necessary support to whānau in need.

"Attending gave me the opportunity for learning, networking and the sharing of innovative ideas in responding to family harm," Nicosia Webster, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated Te Kura co-ordinator, said.

"The conference gave us time to reflect, re-energise and look at setting goals for ourselves going forward. One of the great reflections of the conference was the theme of the event which focused on empowering change."

In a significant stride towards addressing one of society's most pressing issues, the Te Pūtake 2024 Aotearoa/ NZ National Family Violence Conference stands as a beacon of hope and progress.

The conference's primary objective was clear: to explore innovative strategies and interventions aimed at preventing family violence and supporting those affected.

With a focus on both prevention and intervention, the conference brings together policymakers, researchers, practitioners and community leaders who are at the forefront of this complex issue.

Ruth Wong is Director of Smart Services & Communications Adviser at Ngāti Kahungunu



Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc Te Kura co-ordinator Nicosia Webster (second from left) networking at the conference in Wellington.

KAHUNGUNU LIVING LONGER IMMUNISE



Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi INCORPORATED

Protect You, Protect Yours, Protect Us

Healthy, Strong, Vibrant Whānau





New skippers for Kahungunu

Cadetship programme enables crew to step up into skipper's role

Coastal Offshore immediately after.

The programme included health and safety, legislation, navigation and everything needed to successfully and safely skipper a fishing trip in one of Matt's fishing boats.

For Matt, it means that he no longer has to be on board for all fishing trips and knows that his crew has the experience, knowledge and qualifications needed to execute a successful trip.

Matt is focusing on growing his business, which includes opening a fresh fish and fish-

For Matt, it means that he no longer has to be on board for all fishing trips ...

and-chip shop at 140 Taradale Rd, The Fishermans Shop.

Supporting the development, growth and sustainability of the fisheries sector is an important kaupapa for Ngāti Kahungunu, given the fisheries settlement history and the significant commercial and environmental interests Ngāti Kahungunu has in fisheries and the moana.

Matt Douglas (Ngāti Kere) from Douglas Brothers Fishing has been fishing in Kahungunu waters for more than 30 years.

Recently, two of his crew were supported by Kahungunu Asset Holding Company through the Te Puni Kōkiri Cadetship programme to attain their Skipper Coastal Offshore qualifications through the Westport Deep Sea Fishing School.

With this qualification, Gardner Aitkin, 23 (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāpuhi), can now skipper further out and be in charge of larger vessels, as well as being confident to abide by the relevant regulations and manage the crew.

This is a step up from the Skipper Restricted Limits ticket that Gardner previously held, which had limitations on where he could go, and what size boat he could skipper.

Former deckhand Kruize Wright, 23 (Ngāpuhi), not only finished off his Skipper Restricted Limits ticket, but also completed the Skipper

Matt Douglas with Gardner Aitkin and Kruize Wright as they prepare to head out on the Costa Rica.

AUNTY'S GARDEN

Dish for the 'winter quiet'

This past month has been busy clearing out all the autumn stuff and planting and trimming for the winter months.

"Winter quiet" I call it, which gives me a break from full-on work, yet there are plenty of greens in the garden.

Mangateretere School held its 121st reunion and it was so good.

It was great to see a few alumni from my era from many years ago.

Sweet memories returned as we laughed and chatted about the old days, the teachers, the students and mostly the camaraderie we enjoyed back then.

Actually, the main highway that passed the school was so busy; buses dropping off kids from all directions, traffic going by. Nowadays things are more intense on that road.

Thankfully, we had a pedestrian crossing back then which the senior students had to take care of. The photographs marking the past years were wonderfully displayed.

The dinner at Toitoi in the evening was lovely, too.

A visit to my daughter in Ngaruawahia was bittersweet. Now, partly disabled, I noticed how tired she looks, yet she's dedicated to her students, working with them to assist with their credits.

I know our family has a stubborn streak in our makeup, like work and illness now always go together and going to the doctors is on the bottom of the list.



Her diet, no sugar or dairy and she exercises every day at the gym, and she's also back teaching two days a week.

In spite of many trials in life, there is still joy and happiness. Family times for us are often and when we're together especially at Aunty's garden, stresses just seem to disappear.

CAULIFLOWER YUMMY

Ingredients
1 Cauliflower (Steamed)
Cheese sauce
50g butter

½ cup of milk
1 Tsp Flour
1 cup grated cheese
½ cup sliced almonds

Method

- Clean and steam your cauliflower pieces or leave whole, and place aside.
- Make a white sauce by melting the butter in a pot then add the cold milk and flour and whisk until smooth, then add in the cheese.
- Cook through then turn off and pour over your cauliflower.
- Spread almonds on top. It's very yummy.

USE YOUR COVID-SENSE

**KIA MATAARA
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**KIA HAUMARU
BE SAFE**

**KIA ATAWHAI
BE KIND**



**KIA TŪPATO
BE CAREFUL**

"Kahungunu Living Longer"

PROTECT YOU, PROTECT YOURS, PROTECT US

More than 100 stories and comments gathered

On May 20, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc formally presented its report "Te Ao Mārama ki Te Matau a Māui – Undiluted Voices of Whānau" to senior judicial and Ministry of Justice leaders.

The report summarises whānau and community engagements held in Napier and Hastings in September last year, where more than 1000 stories and comments were gathered from more than 100 people with experience of the justice system.

Te Ao Mārama senior responsible owner Renee Smith describes the report as a clear guide that reflects the voices of Ngāti Kahungunu whānau, signposting opportunities to improve experiences for participants in Napier and Hastings District Court locations.

The report identifies 15 key themes and 11 potential opportunities. "Insights align with the repeated calls for transformative change in the justice system we have heard over the past four decades and broadly cover wellbeing, support to navigate court processes and the physical court environment," Smith said.

"The report reinforces the importance of Ngāti Kahungunu iwi aspirations and working with whānau towards Te Ao Mārama in Te Matau-a-Māui," said Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc (NKID) chief executive Chrissie Hape.



A meeting of minds in Hastings: Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc representatives presented their report Undiluted Voices of Whānau to senior judicial and ministry leaders. They are (back row, from left) Renee Smith (Ministry of Justice), Rhonda Hoffman (Ministry of Justice), Judge Jacqueline Blake (Hastings), Chrissie Hape (chief executive Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc NKID), Karauria Ruru (Ministry of Justice), Judge Richard Earwaker (Napier), Judge Gordon Matenga (Hastings), Krystal Haimona (strategic lead NKID); and (front row, from left) Judge Peter Callinicos (Napier), Thompson Hokianga (deputy chair NKID) and Chief District Court Judge Heemi Taumaunu.

Voices of whānau on justice

"We are very pleased to formally receive this report from Ngāti Kahungunu and acknowledge the kōrero shared are taonga. Every experience is unique and the best way for us to hear about impacts of the justice system is to hear directly from whānau about their experiences," said Smith.

"Ngāti Kahungunu is now planning whānau and community design wānanga from July 29 to August 2, 2024. Insights from these wānanga will be the opportunity to develop whānau informed solutions and recommendations to realise Te Ao Mārama in Te Matau-a-Māui," Krystal Haimona said.

The report reinforces the importance of Ngāti Kahungunu iwi aspirations and working with whānau towards Te Ao Mārama in Te Matau-a-Māui.

Chrissie Hape, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc chief executive



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Aotahi Kahungunu MATARIKI EVENTS 2024



MATARIKI TĀPUAPUA The Pools of Matariki

The Pond, Flaxmere Park,
Henderson Road, Flaxmere
6pm - 9pm FREE ENTRY

Float a waka lantern with a personal message of remembrance of healing. Kai trucks & acoustic performance



MATARIKI WHAKANUIA KI TE WAIROA Wairoa Celebrates Matariki

Wairoa Community Centre
Alexandra Park, Marine Parade
Wairoa
6pm - 8pm FREE ENTRY

Kai, entertainment, remembrance & fireworks



WHĀNAU MARAMA Light Show

Atea a Rangi, Waitangi Park
Highway 51, Awatoto, Napier
Every 30min from 6pm - 8pm
\$10 @ www.matariki.events

Family of Light and the traditional star compass used by ocean navigators. A sensory experience like no other.



MATARIKI @ WAIAROHA Hikoi of Remembrance

Waiaroha - Heretaunga Water
Discovery Centre,
Southampton St, Hastings
6pm - 9pm FREE ENTRY

Float a waka lantern with a personal message of remembrance and healing



MATARIKI WHANGAI I TE HAUTAPU - HAU AHI Matariki Ceremony

546 Marine Parade, Napier
[next to the National Aquarium]
6am - 7am FREE ENTRY

Ceremony to remember loved ones, give thanks for the harvest and blessings for the future



KAI HAU KAI MATARIKI Feast on Kai, Entertainment, and Fireworks

Mitre 10, HB Regional Sports Park
Perciville Rd, Hastings
6pm - 9pm FREE ENTRY

Kai, entertainment, remembrance & fireworks



MATARIKI MAHIKA Storytelling around the fire

546 Marine Parade, Napier
[next to the National Aquarium]
6pm - 9pm FREE ENTRY

Beacon fires along Matau a Maui, float a waka lantern with a personal message of remembrance or healing, storytelling around fires



TĪRAMA MATARIKI LIGHT GLOW Wairarapa Celebrates Matariki

QEII Park
Dixon St, Masterton
6pm - 8pm FREE ENTRY

Light displays, kai, entertainment, remembrance

MATARIKI.EVENTS

Justice programme welcomes new roles

Ruth Wong

Te Whānau-a-Apanui celebrated a milestone within the Apanui Justice Programme on May 9, 2024, at Te Kaha Marae.

The programme welcomed Roka Stainton, Meri-Ann Matchitt, Ana-Mei Rika, and Nesia Kane into the roles that will support whānau engaged in various stages within the justice system.

"With each kaimahi being a descendant of Te Whānau-a-Apanui, the shared whakapapa was warmly received by the iwi. Having these kaimahi in place now, signals a new era for the Apanui Justice Programme as the kaupapa continues towards the betterment of Te Whānau-a-Apanui iwi and generations to come," Elvis Shepard, Te Whānau-a-Apanui mandated representative, said.

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc were honoured to attend this significant event. Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc and Te Whānau-a-Apanui connected in 2023 with the purpose of sharing learnings of Justice Sector Programmes within each organisation.

The relationship between Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc and Te Whānau-a-Apanui continues to grow from strength to strength.

"Te Ara Toiora is achieved through iwi, hapū and whānau. It was a privilege to support and celebrate with our



Te Whānau-a-Apanui celebrate a key milestone within the justice system.

Te Whānau-a-Apanui whānau," Krystal Haimona, Strategic Lead, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc said.

"Apanui Justice Programme is grateful to the many people and organisations who have supported this kaupapa since its inception.

"The mihi whakatau for the kaimahi hou could not have been the success it was without the enduring support from Te Whānau-a-Apanui, Ngāti Kahungunu and representatives from local

justice sector agencies, Lynette Parekura, Te Whānau-a-Apanui mandated representative said.

Background

In June 2019 Te Whānau-a-Apanui and Justice Sector Agencies (Ministry of Justice, Ara Poutama Aotearoa - Department of Corrections, New Zealand Police) signed an Agreement in Principle to enter an enduring cross-sector relationship agreement.

One expectation for this

agreement was for justice sector agencies and Te Whānau-a-Apanui to co-design, co-decide and co-implement a joined work programme to analyse the impact of the justice system to the rohe and explore ways to make the system fairer and more responsive to their needs.

In response, the Apanui Justice Programme was established in 2020, parallel and complementary to Te Whānau-a-Apanui Treaty negotiations.

The first phase of the Apanui Justice programme (July 2021-June 2023) consisted of six workstreams which focused on:

- Stocktake: Services, service gaps, victims' legislation
- Research: Qualitative and quantitative data for Te Whānau-a-Apanui living within or outside of iwi territories
- Relationship building: Hapū chair forum, iwi representatives, mahi group wānanga, joint governance, Regional Crown Agency Leads, Police Te Pae Oranga Leads
- Enabling infrastructure: Multi-purpose hub whare with video-conferencing units

The focus on this next phase (July 2023-June 2026) will shift to acting on the facts and main issues identified while building upon the established infrastructure and working relationships.

A new programme structure was arrived at in close collaboration with iwi representatives, taking into consideration what was heard in hui and wānanga with Te Whānau-a-Apanui living within or outside of iwi rohe and in joint governance hui:

- Taha Mataara: Awareness, alert, mitigate risk; (prevention and early intervention initiatives)
- Taha Hononga: Form links, network, connect (between services and iwi and between iwi with each other)
- Taha Oranga: Grow skills, knowledge wellness (reintegration, rehabilitation, therapeutic initiatives)



NGĀ TOHU O TE TAU HOU

Celebrating the Māori New Year at the Ātea a Rangī

2024 PUBLIC EVENTS

**June 25-27 6-7am
Tues-Thurs:**

- Kōrero by local waka navigators
- Sighting Matariki, stars & planets
- If poor weather kōrero inside heated marquee

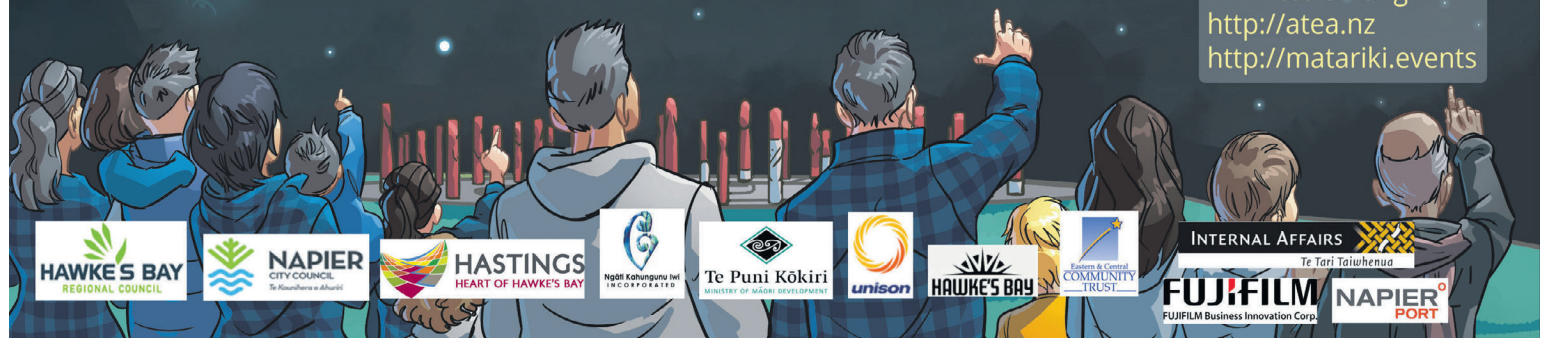
**June 24-28 6:30-9pm
Mon-Fri:**

- Whānau Mārama light show at Ātea tickets @ <http://matariki.events>

June 28 Friday

- 5-7AM - Hautapu Ceremony & Hāngī
- 9:30 AM-12PM - Whānau Entertainment & Kai
- All kai - Gold coin koha or Paywave

More info
FB - Atea a Rangī
<http://atea.nz>
<http://matariki.events>



Healthy balms and Maku rise from cyclone

Rangatahi turn cyclone pain to community gain

Pakaru Pānuī

After Cyclone Gabrielle, our community was hit hard, and our whānau, hapū, and iwi felt the impacts on our health and wellbeing.

Our rangatahi, using the skills we learned in wānanga, stepped up. We started making and selling our specialty Kawakawa Balm to raise money. The support from our community for our kawakawa balm has not only helped Toi Matarua raise urgent funds for families in need but also created jobs for nine of us rangatahi in Hawke's Bay!

From a humble shed behind our CEO's house, our kawakawa balms have grown into a social enterprise arm of Toi Matarua called 'Māku'.

'Māku' is about empowering whānau to take their hauora into their own hands.

Dr Sally Rye (Ngāti Porou and Ngāti Kahungunu) says kawakawa is a plant endemic

to Aotearoa.

"It has incredible medicinal properties that have been used for generations by our ancestors to treat a diverse range of conditions. It contains a bioactive molecule called myristicin, an antibacterial and antifungal which assists with treating inflammation, infections, skin irritations, minor cuts, eczema and rheumatics to name a few.

"When the looper caterpillar eats the leaf of Kawakawa, it triggers the myristicin compound as a defence mechanism, increasing the potency of the plant. This is why we choose the leaves with the holes in them for rongoā making"

Drawing on this rich heritage, 'Māku' offers specialty Kawakawa balms to deliver the natural healing benefits of this traditional remedy.

One of our coolest initiatives funded by 'Māku' is 'MokoBoys'. Our team of rangatahi goes into the homes of local kaumātua to help with tasks like mowing lawns, māra kai (gardening), cleaning, tech assistance, and just having meaningful kōrero—all for free. We saw a need in our



These Kawakawa Balms have grown into a social enterprise arm of Toi Matarua called 'Māku'

community and acted so this service has zero funding.

We are 100% not-for-profit, and the employment of our rangatahi is only made possible through the sales of our Kawakawa Balms from

'Māku'.

You can purchase our Kawakawa Balms from Puāwai Cafe on Latham Street, Napier, or on our website www.toimatarua.com. We offer 30ml and 100ml Original

Kawakawa Balms, with exciting new products coming soon. Stay tuned, e te whānau, and cop yourself some natural healing remedies. Each balm sold is a koha to our future. Catch yous next month.



Let's go to Church!

Flaxmere Christian Fellowship
220 Flaxmere Avenue, Hastings
Main Sunday Meeting - 10:00AM

The Flaxmere Christian Fellowship is a local Church which has been operating since 1980. Situated on Flaxmere Avenue it draws people from around the Hastings and Napier area. This Pentecostal Church was birthed out of the Charismatic renewal of the late 1970's.

The main meeting is every Sunday morning starting 10:00. A Bible College also operates on Sunday evenings for those serious about advancing their knowledge of the Bible. Different groups run during the weekend which cater to youth ad adults. Children's Sunday school

classes run on a fortnightly basis during the Main Sunday service.

The Fellowship aims at reaching people with the Good News of Jesus Christ and the transformational power that message brings. It is

involved with different programs in the community to help bring this to pass. The Flaxmere Christian Fellowship is also a strong advocate for the Jewish People's right to exist as an independent and sovereign state on their historical ancient land in Israel.

Feel free to come and try us out!

Flaxmere Christian Fellowship - 220 Flaxmere Avenue, Hastings

Main Sunday Meeting 10.00am - Phone 06 879 5588

Email: flaxmerechristianfellowship@hotmail.com

Web: www.flaxmerechristianfellowship.com

Help us protect and restore our waterways



Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi
INCORPORATED

NGARURORO AWA RESEARCH HUI

The iwi is involved in two research projects. Learn how the Ngaruroro works below the surface, how river management and gravel extraction affects groundwater across the Heretaunga Plains. Also, with the use of historic Ngaruroro imagery and knowledge we need help to define desired outcomes for the awa so we can co-develop scenarios that NIWA scientists will model to assess flood protection.

Who should attend?

Ngaruroro Mana Whenua - If you recognise Ngaruroro awa as your sacred awa, this hui is for you. For catering purposes, we are requesting that participants register to attend.

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated acknowledges our research partners – Lincoln Agritech and NIWA (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research).

Monday 1 July 2024
10.00am - 3.30pm
Omahu Marae, Heretaunga

More Information

<https://www.kahungunu.iwi.nz/awa-research>

To register

<https://www.kahungunu.iwi.nz/AwaResearch-Register>

Email awa-research@kahungunu.iwi.nz