



Ka Uruora Te Matau a Maui Launch

The Ka Uruora Te Matau a Māui launch took place at Waiohiki Marae in Ahuriri Napier on 16 August 2025, bringing together whānau to celebrate a partnership between Tamatea Pōkai Whenua, Mana Ahuriri, and Ka Uruora.

This partnership aims to build hundreds of new homes across the Hawke's Bay region in the coming years.

Ka Uruora Te Matau-a-Māui offers a variety of housing pathways for whānau, including discounted rentals, rent-to-buy schemes, and shared equity options. Alongside housing, financial education programs are provided to prepare families for home ownership.

Key leaders expressed the deeper vision behind this initiative: building futures where whānau can prosper for generations on their whenua, ensuring pathways to both rental and ownership that create security and belonging.

The initiative reflects iwi-led determination to create systemic change and provide more than just homes, enabling whānau to build wealth and reclaim a sense of security.

The first step following the launch was enrolling whānau in financial literacy courses that started on 16 September 2025 to prepare them for upcoming housing opportunities. Interested whānau can register or find more information through the Ka Uruora website or contact support via email.

This initiative exemplifies a collaborative, iwi-led response to the housing crisis, focused on empowerment and long-term wellbeing of whānau within Te Matau a Māui.



December 2025 Pānui



Te Umuroimata Planting – A Week of Whānau, Hope, and Renewal

Our community gathered with aroha and determination to breathe new life into a cherished place. What began as a quiet concern raised by Whaea Taape about the state of Te Umuroimata blossomed into a shared mission led by our beloved kaumātua Taape Tareha O'Reilly and Maia Kaukau.

Supported by Matua Huriana's warm welcome and alongside friends from Natural Urban Forests, Ethan Bryson and Rhys Korach, we worked shoulder to shoulder to prepare a special plot of whenua between Te Umuroimata and Taipo Stream.

The journey was not without its ups and downs. Plant donations swung like the tides—from hopeful whispers of 1500, to the challenge of zero—and yet, through every twist, the spirit of whānau never wavered. The generosity shown was remarkable. Te Wai Mauri Nursery's precious contribution of plants rekindled our hope.

Napier City Council opened their arms by granting us unrestricted access to the reserve lands. Vital pūtea from Hawke's Bay Regional Council and Ahuriri Tributaries Catchment Group, along with generous plants from Fish and Game and The Pā Ltd, and discounted supplies from Biorich, reminded us all what collective care can achieve.

All week, the site thrummed with the energy of many hands and hearts preparing the whenua. Forest soils, compost, and mulch created a nurturing bed for nearly 1,888 native plants—43

species—destined to transform this land into a thriving ngahere.

Woven through with pathways, this new ngahere invites our tamariki, mokopuna, and all future generations to walk inside and feel the embrace of the forest. The care taken with microbial inoculation and forest soils promised that these young plants would flourish long after our planting day.

More than just planting trees, this was a rekindling of mauri—a restoration of life force to a place steeped in significance. It became a living legacy shaped by whānau unity, resilience, and hope. On planting day, through rain or shine, we planted more than trees; we planted the future, the spirit of community, and the enduring belief that together, we can nurture and protect our taiao.

Te Umuroimata's transformation stands as a beautiful beginning—one full of promise, connection, and the powerful reminder that when whānau come together, incredible things can blossom.

Evelyn Ratima – 2025 Napier Meritorious Award Recipient

Evelyn Ratima was honoured as the recipient of the prestigious 2025 Napier Meritorious Civic Award, recognising her extraordinary voluntary contributions to our Ahuriri community.

This award represents the highest level of civic recognition, acknowledging voluntary service that goes above and beyond standard civic award criteria. Her recognition reflects a lifetime dedicated to uplifting whānau, strengthening hapū and marae, and ensuring the stories and values of Ngāti Kahungunu are preserved and honoured for future generations.

Evelyn has been a kaiako (teacher) at Te Kōhanga Reo o Whakatu, where she nurtures rangatahi for the future, and serves as a kaikaranga and kaitiaki for Tangoio Marae. Her work at the Kohanga Reo involved a five-year journey of building trust and gaining confidence from families in order to assist community development efforts. Through her educational role, she has profoundly impacted countless young lives by teaching te reo Māori and instilling cultural pride in the next generation.

She serves as one of four kaumātua who sit with judges at Te Kooti Rangatahi in Heretaunga, supporting youth in the justice system. Additionally, she works with the wellness and wellbeing of Māori inmates for the Department of Corrections, visiting prison inmates to provide spiritual uplift and hope. Her compassionate approach to rehabilitation demonstrates her belief that everyone deserves care and support.

Evelyn represents Mana Ahuriri on the Hastings District Council Wastewater committee, a position she assumed in 2016, and sits as the Kuia for the Multicultural Association. Her environmental advocacy extends to protecting and restoring the natural world that sustains her people.

In addition to her Meritorious Award, Evelyn has been a Trustee of Mana Ahuriri since 2009, representing all seven hapū and serving as one of the last original trustees. Through this role, she plays a significant leadership part advocating for the wellbeing of hapū and the restoration of the Ahuriri environment.

Evelyn previously received the Queen's Service Medal in 2019 for her services to Māori and the community. Her work, alongside her late husband Des, helped transform the Whakatu community, which now has a reputation for resilience and determination. Their contributions ranged from reducing crime to cleaning up waterways, and their involvement extended to regional councils and health boards.

Living her values of being "Community Driven, People Led, Whānau focused," Evelyn embodies the principle of "Te Mana O Ahuriri"—demonstrating through decades of service that true leadership means lifting others, preserving culture, and creating pathways for future generations to thrive.

This presentation of the 2025 Napier Meritorious Civic Award stands as a major milestone, celebrating Evelyn Ratima's profound and lasting contributions to the social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of Ahuriri, Napier and the wider Hawke's Bay region. Ka tuwhera a Maungaharuru, ka kati a Tangitū, Ka tuwhera a Tangitū, ka kati a Maungaharuru. When the season of Maungaharuru opens, the season of Tangitū closes, When the season of Tangitū opens, the season of Maungaharuru closes.

Ka tika me whakanuia i a Evelyn Ratima, mo ūna matauranga, me ūna wheako i koha ki tona whanau me ūna hapū . E kaha tonu ia te poipoia i ngā uri whakeke. Congratulations Whaea Evelyn, thank you for your service to our Ahuriri Hapū, Whānau and Hapori.





Napier's Night Shelter Āhuru Mōwai Offers Warm Haven for City's Vulnerable

A community-driven night shelter is providing vital support to Ahuriri's rough sleepers, offering more than just a bed for the night — it's restoring dignity and hope to the city's most vulnerable residents. Āhuru Mōwai, meaning "a warm, calm haven" in te reo Māori, opened its doors to address a critical need in the community following several tragic deaths of people sleeping rough in Napier. The shelter operates daily from 4pm to 8am, currently accommodating up to eight men each night.

The night shelter was established by the Napier Ahuriri Homeless Shelter Society Incorporated after community members were moved to action by preventable deaths among the city's homeless population. Local kaumātua gifted the name, grounding the initiative in Māori values of care and collective responsibility.

"For many guests, this is the first stable sleep they've had in weeks or months," said representatives from Whatever It Takes Trust (WIT), the experienced social services provider managing day-to-day operations. "People have told us it's life-changing — they finally have the energy and clarity to start setting goals again."

Āhuru Mōwai provides warm beds, hot drinks, and a supervised, safe environment with strict alcohol- and drug-free policies. The shelter focuses on "whānau pounamu" — the most vulnerable rough sleepers requiring urgent support — and connects guests with additional services when they're ready.

Early results from the pilot programme show promise. WIT staff report improved wellbeing among regular guests, with some reconnecting with whānau, making plans for the future, or engaging with social services after extended periods of isolation.

Kyle Turner, one of the shelter's first guests, described the experience as life-changing after four years of homelessness. "Nothing better than a better quality of life, fresh clothes folded, clean bedding, bathrooms, showers," he said, crediting the shelter with helping him rebuild his self-esteem and set new personal goals. Napier City Council has committed significant funding to the initiative, including \$62,000 this year and \$38,000 allocated for 2025/26.

Council leaders describe the shelter as a crucial component of the city's broader homelessness strategy, providing immediate safety for those in crisis.

Community response has been equally strong, with locals donating bedding, toiletries, clothing, and funds. Many residents view Āhuru Mōwai as addressing homelessness with compassion rather than stigma.

While operating as a pilot programme, the shelter's leadership continues reporting to Council to evaluate long-term viability and potential expansion. Future considerations include services for women, youth, and wider whānau groups.

"Āhuru Mōwai is a tangible expression of manaakitanga," supporters say. "It's proof that even small places of refuge can spark significant changes in people's lives."

For Napier's rough sleepers, the shelter represents something profound: a place where they can feel safe, respected, and seen — a warm haven in every sense of the word.

For more information about Āhuru Mōwai or to support the night shelter, contact Whatever It Takes Trust or the Napier Ahuriri Homeless Shelter Society Incorporated.

A successful trades evening brought together whānau businesses

On Thursday, August 7th, Mana Ahuriri and TW Group welcomed Mana Ahuriri, Kahungunu, and Māori tradespeople and suppliers to an evening dedicated to property development and procurement strategy.

Held at TW Group's Onekawa facility, the event offered attendees the chance to learn about upcoming projects, hear about the group's progressive procurement approach, and network with other Mana Ahuriri, Kahungunu, and Māori businesses.

Guests discussed the importance of collective knowledge, acknowledging that, "we don't know what we don't know," and encouraged all whānau in business to register their pakihi through the Mana Ahuriri website or by email.

With nearly 400 homes planned in the development pipeline, along with major commercial projects such as the Severn Precinct, significant opportunities were highlighted for whānau businesses to take part in these future ventures.

Special thanks were extended to TW Group for their hospitality and support in hosting the event, reaffirming the shared enthusiasm for upcoming opportunities in the region.



Hawke's Bay 2025 Local Elections: Complete Results Summary

The 2025 local elections in Hawke's Bay, held on 11 October, delivered significant changes to the region's political landscape, with incumbent mayors ousted in Napier and new leadership emerging across the district. The elections also saw binding referendums on Māori wards, resulting in their removal from both Napier and Hastings councils.

Napier City Council Results

Mayoral Race

Richard McGrath achieved a decisive victory in the Napier mayoral race, defeating incumbent mayor Kirsten Wise by a substantial margin. McGrath, campaigning on a platform of "commonsense change, needs before wants," secured 10,185 votes compared to Wise's 6,763 votes. Third-placed candidate Nigel Simpson received 3,989 votes.

This marked the first time since 2013 that an incumbent mayor was defeated in a Hawke's Bay mayoral race, making McGrath's victory part of a historic election cycle for the region.

McGrath has appointed Sally Crown as Deputy Mayor for the 2025–2028 term.

Hastings District Council Results

Mayoral Race

Wendy Schollum won a closely contested mayoral race in Hastings, securing 7,212 votes. Fellow councillor Marcus Buddo came second with 6,613 votes, followed by Steve Gibson with 5,810 votes and Damon Harvey with 5,569 votes. Fifth-placed Darrin Wilson received 1,107 votes.

Schollum's victory came after incumbent mayor Sandra Hazlehurst chose not to seek re-election for a fourth term. The race remained tight throughout counting, with late votes extending Schollum's lead. Michael Fowler, a second-term councillor and chartered accountant, has been appointed Deputy Mayor.

Voter Turnout

Hastings District achieved a voter turnout of 46%, representing a dramatic increase from the 34% turnout in 2022. This 12 percentage point jump was the largest increase in voter participation across all Hawke's Bay councils.

Māori Ward Referendums

Both Napier and Hastings councils held binding referendums on the future of their Māori wards, as required by legislation passed by the National-led government. The results were decisive in both

districts.

Napier Māori Ward Referendum

Napier voters chose to remove the Māori ward by a clear margin:

- Remove the Māori Ward: 11,656 votes (56.9%)
- Keep the Māori Ward: 8,844 votes (43.1%)

The referendum result is binding and will apply for the 2028 and 2031 elections. Napier was the only city council among seven that held referendums to vote for removal of their Māori ward.

Despite the removal, Mayor-elect Richard McGrath stated that the council would continue to ensure Māori voices are heard in decision-making processes.

Hastings Māori Ward Referendum

Hastings voters also chose to remove the Takitimu Māori ward, despite the council having received 76% support for Māori wards in consultation conducted in 2021:

The referendum result means the three elected Māori ward councillors (Heather Te Au-Skipworth, Kellie Jessup, and Siiam Daniel) will serve their full three-year term until 2028, but the ward will be disestablished for the 2028 and 2031 elections.

Mayor-elect Wendy Schollum, who supported Māori wards, pledged that despite the referendum outcome, her council would "continue to honor Te Tiriti o Waitangi and ensure that Māori voices are genuinely heard and represented at every level of decision-making."

Regional Context

The Māori ward referendums were held across 42 councils nationwide. Of these, 25 councils voted to remove their Māori wards while 17 opted to keep them. In Hawke's Bay specifically, all councils except Wairoa voted to remove their Māori wards.

Historical Significance

The 2025 elections marked several historic outcomes for Hawke's Bay:

1. End of an era for incumbent mayors: For the first time since 2013, incumbent mayors were defeated across the region. Richard McGrath (Napier), Will Foley (Central Hawke's Bay), and Scott Gilmore (Tararua) all unseated sitting mayors.

The only incumbent to retain office was Wairoa's Craig Little, who ironically was the last person to defeat an incumbent mayor in 2013.

2. Surge in voter engagement: All councils in the

region recorded higher voter turnout compared to 2022, with Hastings and Central Hawke's Bay seeing the most dramatic increases.

3. Māori representation changes: The disestablishment of Māori wards in Napier and Hastings represents a significant shift in the region's approach to Māori representation in local government, despite both councils having initially established these wards with community support.

Looking Ahead

The newly elected mayors and councillors were sworn in at inaugural council meetings held between 28 October and 11 November 2025. They face significant challenges ahead, including ongoing cyclone recovery efforts, managing council debt and rates, and addressing infrastructure and housing needs.

The referendum results on Māori wards mean that both Napier and Hastings will need to develop alternative mechanisms to ensure effective Māori participation in council decision-making, particularly given the importance of Treaty obligations and the significant Māori populations in both districts.

The next local elections will be held in 2028, at which point the removal of Māori wards will take effect.



New Moteo-Puketapu Bridge Officially Opens, Marking a Community Milestone

On August 23, 2025, the Hawke's Bay community celebrated the official opening of the new Moteo-Puketapu Bridge, a symbol of resilience and recovery from the devastating impact of Cyclone Gabrielle. The bridge, a vital connection over the Tūtaekurī River near Hastings, was destroyed in the cyclone two years prior, cutting off key transport links for local residents and businesses.

The new two-lane bridge includes a shared cycle and walking path and is built to higher engineering standards to withstand future challenges. Standing three metres taller than its predecessor, the bridge features deep 41-metre piles and a streamlined design with three columns instead of five, reducing debris build-up during floods.

This \$28 million project was fully funded by the Government's National Infrastructure Funding and Financing programme and is part of an \$800 million investment to rebuild and strengthen transport infrastructure across the Hastings district.

The opening ceremony started with a dawn blessing followed by a community celebration at Puketapu Park, emphasizing the collective effort involved in rebuilding the lifeline that supports local connectivity. The new bridge restores safe and reliable access for residents, commuters, and freight, enhancing economic activity and everyday life in the region.

Local leaders and government representatives highlighted the project's significance in restoring essential infrastructure, boosting community morale, and preparing Hawke's Bay for a stronger, more connected future. The bridge stands as a testament to the area's determination to rebuild better and stronger in the face of natural disasters. The reopening of the Moteo-Puketapu Bridge is more than a construction milestone – it is a promise of resilience, connection, and hope for the community moving forward.



Original Wooden Moteo – Puketapu Bridge

IRONMĀORI 2025 Returns Home to Hawke's Bay With Powerful Community Support

IRONMĀORI, one of Aotearoa's most influential indigenous wellbeing and triathlon events, will return to its roots in Hawke's Bay on 31 October and 1 November 2025, drawing hundreds of participants from across the motu for a weekend celebrating health, culture, and whānau.

This year's event marks a special homecoming, returning to the region where IRONMĀORI was first conceived in 2009 by founders Heather Te Au-Skipworth and Wayne Skipworth. The 2025 programme includes the popular Quarter and Half IRONMĀORI events, alongside the inclusive Kaumātua, Rangatahi & Tamariki races that encourage multi-generational participation.

Leaders within Ngāti Kahungunu say the 2025 homecoming carries deep cultural significance. Mike Paku, Chair of Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga, says seeing the kaupapa return to its birthplace is a proud moment for the community:

"Over the years, we've all watched as IronMāori has gone from strength to strength... so we're happy to keep it here in its ūkaipō, Kahungunu."

Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga Chief Executive Waylyn Tahuri-Whaipakanga describes IRONMĀORI as a natural fit for the region's values:

"We could really feel the mauri of the event carried by participants, support crews and organisers alike."

Known for its warm, inclusive atmosphere, IRONMĀORI continues to champion whanaungatanga, mental and physical wellbeing, and sustainable lifestyle change. Long-time participant and respected kuia Waiora Rogers says the kaupapa is about more than finishing a race:

"You just put one foot in front of the other... then you start thinking about the kai you fuel your body with. On it goes."



Moteo – Puketapu Bridge

For many, the sense of belonging keeps them coming back.

Veteran competitor Whetumarama Mita says: "The atmosphere and the people make it awesome. I've made great friends through IronMāori – there's a real sense of belonging." Hawke's Bay Paralympian Peter Cowan, who won bronze at the 2024 Paris Paralympics, says his connection to IRONMĀORI goes back to his youth, saying the event is always uplifting:

"They make you feel loved, and it's humbling... Young people need to see local champions. They need to see something positive."

The event remains supported by ACC, which promotes injury prevention and recovery through whānau-focused initiatives such as the Whānau Zone and access to rongoā Māori practitioners in past events.

With strong local support, returning champions, and a renewed cultural focus, IRONMĀORI 2025 is set to be one of the most meaningful editions yet. Its return to Hawke's Bay affirms not only the event's origins but its ongoing mission: to uplift Māori whānau through movement, community, and connection.



Harlem Cruz's Leadership Growing Community Connection in Ahuriri

Purotu Pā serves as a transformative umbrella organisation for several key kaupapa in Napier, working to build stronger connections, well-being, and opportunities for Māori whānau across Te Matau-a-Māui. Its suite of initiatives includes Making Moves, Purotu Ltd, and Te Kōhanga Reo o Reremoana Ruruhi, as well as the Taku Wahine Pūrotu and Taku Tāne Pūrotu Trusts.

Central to these efforts is Harlem-Cruz Ihaia, a trailblazing wāhine Māori leader whose vision and action are changing futures for whānau Māori across Aotearoa. Crowned Miss Universe New

Zealand 2017, Harlem-Cruz leveraged her platform to uplift Māori women, rangatahi, and whānau, always grounded in te ao Māori and her own lived experience. She became a proud advocate for Māori identity, famously showcasing her tā moko on the Miss Universe stage and using her voice to inspire others to embrace their culture and confidence.

In 2020, Harlem-Cruz founded Pūrotu Limited, aimed at empowering whānau through personal development and employment readiness. She soon launched Making Moves, a rangatahi-focused work-readiness and social enterprise initiative offering mentoring, practical support, and opportunity for local youth. With major milestones such as the launch of Te Kōhanga Reo o Reremoana Ruruhi and the Taku Wahine Pūrotu and Taku Tāne Pūrotu Trusts, Harlem-Cruz is creating an intergenerational ecosystem of support nurturing wellbeing, strengthening identity, and empowering Māori communities to thrive.

Harlem-Cruz's leadership also extends into governance as a board member of the Mana Ahuriri Trust, where she contributes to the cultural, social, and economic stewardship of her iwi.

"Making Moves is about creating spaces where our people feel supported, connected, and proud of their heritage," says Harlem-Cruz Ihaia. "Through our collective efforts at Purotu Pā and my role at Mana Ahuriri Trust, we are laying strong foundations for future generations."

Through Purotu Pā and her ongoing initiatives, Harlem-Cruz is helping to build a kinder, safer, and more equitable Napier—where Māori values and community spirit guide the path forward.

For more information on Purotu Pā, Making Moves, and related kaupapa, follow their community updates on Facebook and Instagram.



Ahuriri Pā Warz 2025 – Celebrating Whanaungatanga and Wairua Hapū!

Saturday 27 September 2025 – Te Whare Whakaaraara, Nuffield Avenue, Marewa
What an awesome day of competition, laughter, and kotahitanga for our Ahuriri Hapū at Ahuriri Pā Warz 2025!

Hosted this year by Tangoio Marae, whānau gathered at Te Whare Whakaaraara for a full day of sports, connection, and celebration of our shared whakapapa and wairua.

An exciting day from the moment whānau began arriving, with tamariki racing around reconnecting with cousins, kaumātua sharing stories under the marquees, and the sound of laughter filling the air.

It was a day that embodies the essence of what Pā Warz is all about – bringing whānau together in the spirit of friendly competition and strengthening the bonds between our marae.

The morning kicked off with fierce competition across volleyball and ki o rahi. The turnout was fantastic, with whānau from across Ahuriri turning up in full force to represent their marae and enjoy the kaupapa of kotahitanga and fun.

The volleyball courts were buzzing with energy as teams dove for saves and celebrated every point with cheers from the sidelines. Meanwhile, the ki o rahi games showcased the strategic brilliance and agility of our rangatahi and pakeke alike, with some plays that had spectators on their feet.

One of the highlights was seeing three generations of some whānau playing side by side, with kaumātua teaching mokopuna the finer points of the games and everyone sharing in the joy of participation.

The kai station was kept busy all morning, with volunteers ensuring everyone was well-fed and hydrated between matches.

The energy continued into the afternoon with basketball, poi toa, and of course, the main event – Tug of War! Every team gave it their all, but one marae stood tall above the rest.

The basketball games brought out some serious skills, with crossover dribbles, three-pointers, and fast breaks that would make any sports fan proud. The poi toa competition was a beautiful display of coordination, rhythm, and cultural pride, with each team putting their own unique spin on their performances. The crowd couldn't help but join in with the waiata, creating waves of support that lifted every competitor.

And then came the tug of war – the moment

everyone had been waiting for! The tension was palpable as teams lined up, dug their feet in, and prepared to give everything they had. The roar of the crowd was deafening as ropes went taut and teams strained with all their might. There were cheers and more than a few good-natured taunts flying between supporters.

Congratulations to our 2025 champions – Waiohiki Marae!

A huge mihi to our hosting marae Tangoio for their manaakitanga, and to the dedicated planning committee – Nani Taane and Coralee Thompson (Tangoio Marae) alongside Mel Goodchild (Sports HB) – for pulling together a fun and memorable event.

The day wouldn't have been possible without the countless volunteers who helped with everything from setting up at dawn to packing down after dark, the whānau who brought kai to share, and everyone who contributed their time and energy to making this event so special.

We're already looking forward to Ahuriri Pā Warz 2026, which will be hosted by Wharerangi Marae! Big mihi also to the Pakaru Pānui crew who spent the day capturing the action and wairua of the event. Working alongside our rangatahi and seeing the kaupapa through their lens was inspiring – we can't wait to collaborate again on future projects.

Watching our rangatahi step into storytelling roles and document their own whānau and culture in action was a powerful reminder of how important it is to support the next generation of content creators and cultural guardians. Their fresh perspectives and creative energy brought something special to the coverage of this year's event.

Keep an eye out for more mahi from Toi Matarua / Pakaru Pānui on the Mana Ahuriri Registered Members page.

If you're not yet registered with the Trust, visit manaahuriri.org/register or email info@manaahuriri.org for help joining our whānau network.





Moteo Marae

Mana Ahuriri Trust Charts Path Forward at Annual Gathering and welcomes new and old trustees.

Mana Ahuriri Trust held its annual general meeting at Moteo Marae on 29 November, bringing together whānau for a comprehensive review of the organisation's progress and future direction.

Despite the warm start to the day, attendance was strong, with members gathering to hear updates from the Trust's leadership team, including presentations from the general manager, board chair, and investment manager.

The meeting covered key developments from the past year, financial performance, and strategic initiatives underway within the Trust. Whānau engagement throughout the proceedings was notably positive, with members actively participating in discussions and demonstrating clear enthusiasm for the Trust's trajectory. The overall tone reflected a community confident in its leadership and optimistic about Mana Ahuriri Trust's capacity to deliver meaningful outcomes for current and future generations.

Congratulations to our newly elected trustees!

We are excited to welcome Suzie Hiha and Marina Toatoa to the Mana Ahuriri Trust board.

We look forward to working with you to achieve great outcomes for our hapū!

2026 Board Members

- Te Kaha Hawaikirangi
- Suzie Hiha
- Chad Tareha
- Joe Reti
- Marina Toatoa
- Peter Eden
- Tania Eden
- Parris Greening (GM)

(Harlem-Cruz Ihaia & Evelyn Ratima not present)

Launch Major Retirement Village and Housing Developments in Napier

Mana Ahuriri has unveiled exciting plans for a transformative \$140 million retirement village development in Greenmeadows, signaling a significant partnership with Metlifecare, one of New Zealand's leading retirement village operators.

Situated on a prime 6-hectare site at 42 Wharerangi Road in the Te Roropipi precinct, this project marks a milestone in Mana Ahuriri's Accelerated Housing Programme, aiming to deliver nearly 400 homes across multiple Napier locations.

The retirement village will offer around 150 single-level two and three-bedroom villas, a premium care home, and a range of amenities including a pool, gym, café/bar, library, and extensive native landscaping. Construction is set to begin later this year, with the first residents anticipated in 2027.

The site was blessed in a special Karakia mō te wāwāhi ceremony on November 1st, 2025, underscoring the importance of spiritual respect for the whenua and Māori cultural values in the development process. The project also compliments Mana Ahuriri's first housing initiative Pukemokimoki.

"This development is more than just housing; it represents an opportunity to provide a sense of belonging for our kaumātua and wider community while honouring our whenua," said Te Kaha Hawaikirangi, Chair of Mana Ahuriri Trust. "By partnering with Metlifecare, we blend cultural heritage with quality, modern living solutions that benefit all generations."

The collaboration reflects Mana Ahuriri's commitment to creating sustainable, diverse housing solutions that promote economic, social, and cultural wellbeing for ngā hapū o Ahuriri and Hawke's Bay communities. It also brings significant employment opportunities through its construction and ongoing operations.

This initiative exemplifies how iwi-led development in partnership with corporate entities can generate enduring benefits, delivering housing and care that strengthen the mana of the land and the people who call it home.

Mana Ahuriri Trust has announced a major new partnership with Metlifecare and a significant second housing development project at Te Roropipi, 42 Wharerangi Road in Greenmeadows, Napier.

This collaboration forms part of Mana Ahuriri's Accelerated Housing Programme, which aims to deliver approximately 400 homes across multiple sites in the Hawke's Bay region, with a focus on

diverse housing solutions for all stages of life, including families and kaumātua (elders).

The key development is a premium retirement village on a 6-hectare site, which Metlifecare will develop with an estimated investment of \$140 million. The village will include around 150 single-level two and three-bedroom villas, a premium care home, and amenities such as a pool, gym, café/bar, library, and landscaped outdoor spaces featuring native plantings.

This development exemplifies a shared commitment to manaakitanga (care and respect), kaitiakitanga (guardianship), and sustainability, reflecting both cultural heritage and modern living needs.

Construction is planned to begin later in 2025, with the first residents expected in 2027. The site was spiritually prepared with a blessing ceremony (Karakia mō te wāwāhi) on November 1st, 2025, emphasizing respect for the whenua (land) and tikanga Māori throughout the process. The project will also generate significant employment opportunities during construction and in ongoing operations.

Mana Ahuriri Trust Chair Te Kaha Hawaikirangi highlighted that this development brings positive economic, social, and cultural benefits to the hapū and the wider Hawke's Bay community, creating a place of belonging for older New Zealanders while honouring the land.

The overall development strategy by Mana Ahuriri Trust involves collaboration with iwi-owned entities like Hāpai Housing and property fund Hāpai, underscoring a focus on empowering enduring Māori success in the property sector.

The partnership with Metlifecare further strengthens the Trust's mission to support whānau through housing pathways tied to cultural values and community wellbeing.



Wharerangi Road - Te Roropipi



Toi Tu Te Reo 2025

Toi Tu Te Reo 2025

On November 13–14, 2025, Hastings once again became the beating heart of te reo Māori revitalisation as Toitū Te Reo returned for its second year. Aotearoa's national Māori language festival brought thousands together in a vibrant two-day celebration described as an event of "inspiration, education, and activation of the language and culture."

Heretaunga's streets and venues came alive as learners, advocates, and cultural leaders from across New Zealand united for this pivotal gathering, which festival founder Dr Jeremy Tātere MacLeod called an unwavering commitment to the language, "regardless of policy, rhetoric, social media, newspapers, because like anything the tide will ebb and flow".

This year's two-day festival divided spaces into Rangimamao, conducted solely in Māori, and Pūmotomoto, delivered in English—ensuring participation irrespective of fluency and inviting thousands of new learners while reaffirming the mana of established reo champions such as Dr Sir Timoti Kāretu.

Iconic Hastings North streets were transformed into bustling hubs for Māori business, kai stalls, musical performances, art demonstrations, and a rangatahi (youth) poetry slam—all designed to showcase Māori creativity, entrepreneurship, and communal pride.

Many attendees described the atmosphere as electric, with te reo Māori heard freely among crowds, both in intimate wānanga (workshops) and exuberant street concerts. The National Iwi Chairs Forum reaffirmed its support for the 2025 festival, framing it as a "living expression of mana motuhake and Māori potential."

The festival also operated under the guidance and blessing of two luminaries, Te Arikinui Kuini Ngā wai hono i te po (the Māori Queen). Her ongoing support and presence at the September programme launch signified profound backing for the kaupapa and Dr Sir Timoti Kāretu, The first Māori Language Commissioner, famed kapa haka

composer, and co-founder of Te Panekiretanga o te Reo (the Institute of Excellence in Māori Language).

Bayden Barber, Chair of Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated, expressed: "This festival has become a national celebration of our shared journey, a place where we unite to celebrate, debate, and act for the future of te reo Māori."

Toitū Te Reo 2025 in Hastings remains a testament to the movement's resilience, inviting all, regardless of proficiency, to join in upholding the taonga that is te reo Māori.



Owen Street Blessing

Pukemokimoki Development Marked Key Milestone with Mauri Stone Laid

Mana Ahuriri Trust's landmark Pukemokimoki Development on Owen Street reached a key milestone in September, with demolition work completed and ground improvement beginning soon after.

The 24-unit housing project, the first under the Trust's Accelerated Housing Programme, marked a major step toward providing warm, safe, and affordable homes for whānau in Ahuriri.

Named after the sacred island that once stood in Ahuriri's harbour, the Pukemokimoki Development combined modern housing design with deep cultural and environmental values.

After a site blessing in August, development partner TW Construction worked through preparatory stages, completing demolition by mid-September. Ground improvement works began immediately afterward, stabilising the whenua for the next phase of construction.

A significant spiritual milestone took place on Monday, September 22, when Mana Ahuriri laid the mauri stone sourced from Te Whanganui-a-Orotū (Ahuriri Estuary). The dawn ceremony symbolically anchored the project to its ancestral roots and reaffirmed its connection to the surrounding environment.

"A single stone acknowledged and anchored the mauri of the whenua and development, symbolising kotahitanga with the environment," said Mana Ahuriri Trustee and Napier City Councillor Chad Tareha. "This approach honoured both the history and ongoing significance of the area."

The Trust said the milestone reflected its vision to build enduring homes that serve both physical and spiritual needs. With around 400 homes planned across multiple sites, including the Wharerangi (Te Roropipi) development, Mana Ahuriri established a strong foundation for future housing projects that will support whānau across the region for generations to come.



Te Uru Ahupūtea – Free financial literacy course

As our housing developments continue to progress, we move closer to providing warm, safe whare for our whānau. To help you prepare for these opportunities, Mana Ahuriri and Tamatea Pōkai Whenua have partnered with Ka Uruora to offer Te Uru Ahupūtea, our free financial literacy course.

It's the essential first step in accessing future housing opportunities. Read the full pānui to see course dates, locations and how to get involved.

<https://manaahuriri.org/2025/12/08/te-uru-ahuputea-free-financial-literacy-course/>

Mauri ora!
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