



## Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki Matariki Hautapu — Nā Kiri Parata / Jen Lucas

Matariki Banner by Rongomai Parata-Taiapa



Photo by Katharina Ruckstuhl

On 20 June Puketeraki started their celebration of an absolutely beautiful weekend filled with aroha, kotahitanga, and kaupapa that lifted our wairua. From the karakia at dawn to the shared kai, pūoro, weaving, kōrero, every part reminded us of who we are and where we come from. Ngā mihi nunui to everyone who showed up, shared their mātauranga, and held space with open hearts. Our whānau are shining bright like the whetū above, onwards into the New Year with purpose and pride.

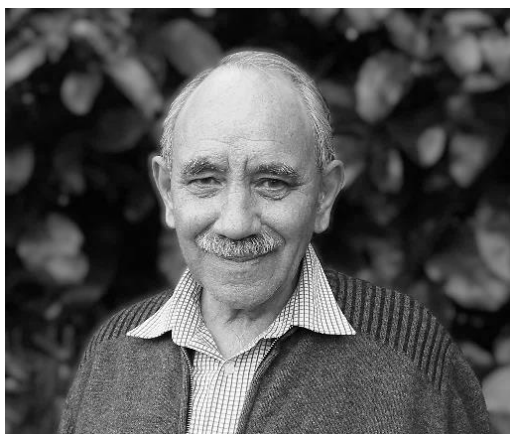
Receiving *moko kauae* (traditional Māori chin tattoos) during this time is especially powerful—it's a deeply personal act of cultural reclamation and identity. Women travelled from as far afield as Timaru and Invercargill for this shows how significant the occasion was.

The Treaty talks gathering of 20 people from diverse backgrounds reflects the spirit of *kotahitanga* (unity) that Matariki encourages. It's a time not only for remembrance and renewal but also for dialogue and understanding—perfect for reflecting on Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its place in Aotearoa today.

And that breakfast and morning star gazing? Classic Matariki magic. About 130 people gathering before dawn to watch the stars rise and share kai is such a moving way to welcome the Māori New Year. The Matariki cluster rising in the pre-dawn sky is a celestial signal of reflection, remembrance, and planning for the year ahead.



## **Ka Mate o Te Wā**



**Tamatea Wiremu Richard SMITH**  
**12 February 1946 – 22 March 2025**



**Richard Hoani PARATA**  
**23 December 1946 - June 10 2025**



**David Tohurangi ELLISON**  
**18 November 1936 – 15 February 2025**



**Kahu Anaru DUFF**  
**9 December 1972 – 14 June 2025**



**Roka Hurihia NGARIMU-CAMERON**  
**27 July 1948 – 10 June 2025**



**Taiawhio Tahu TE TAU**  
**25 January 1943 – 8 July 2025**



## Star Gazing at Hui Te Rangiora Church at Puketeraki

Photos by Virginia Watson



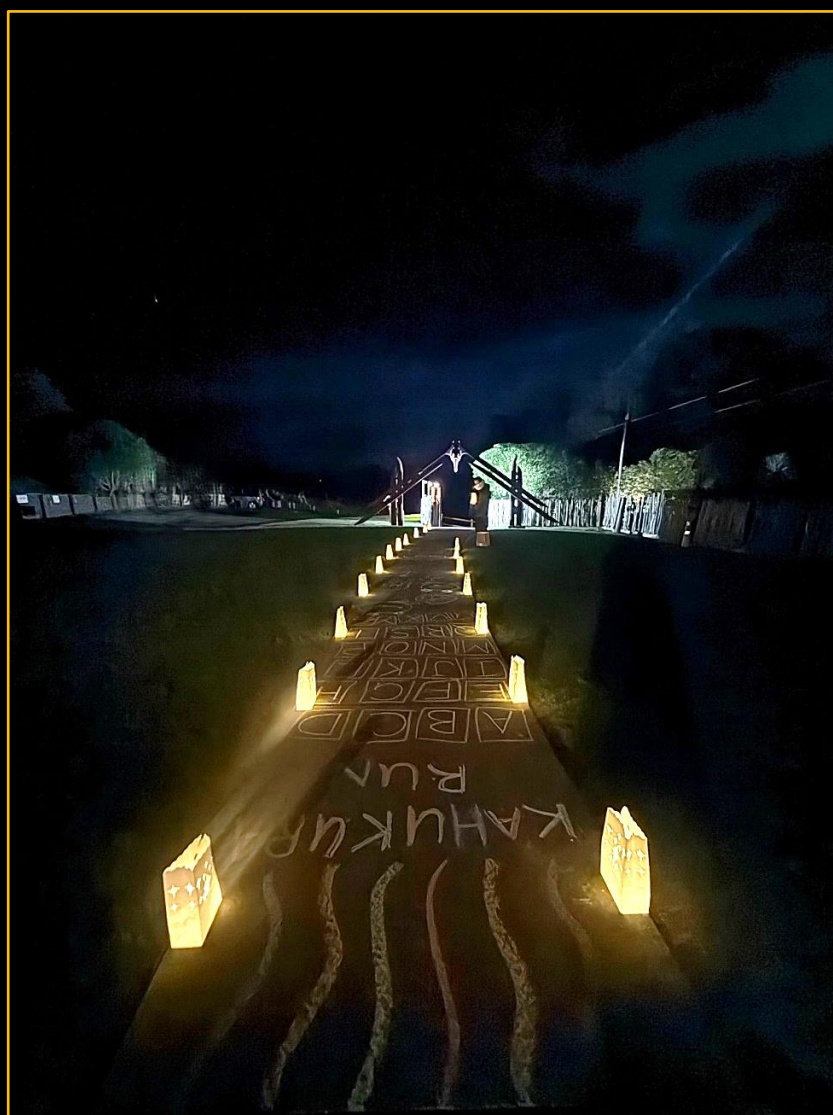








Miriam Parata-Noema with Alister Fraser during Taoka Puoro.





# Takahē Release at Orokonui

Nā Jen Lucas



Orokonui Ecosanctuary kaiārahi (guide) and Puketeraki member Madison Kelly and colleague Elton Smith releasing Takahē.

As Puaka and Matariki return to the night sky, they herald a season of change — marking not only the Māori New Year but also inviting us to pause, reflect on the past, and prepare for the future. The cooler months draw us inward, offering time for rest, restoration, and re-connection.

In Orokonui's upper grasslands, the land itself bears traces of hidden activity. Earth is upturned in scattered mounds, toetoe is snipped and laid in neat bundles, and tussocks are bent into curious arches. These are the quiet but determined signs of takahē — Aotearoa's once-lost, now-recovered swamp hen — hard at work. Under the care of Orokonui and the Department of Conservation's National Takahē Recovery Programme, these taoka species are crafting nests and shaping their space.

Once thought extinct until their rediscovery in 1948, takahē now number around 500 birds. Since their 2012 arrival at Orokonui, they've become a symbol of resilience and renewal.

Today, a thriving whānau of four occupies the upper grasslands. Recent health checks brought good news: breeding pair Waimarie and Bennett are flourishing, and their two juveniles — both now banded with their lifelong visual identifiers — are strong and healthy. One even outweighs its mother at a mighty 2.8 kg.



Banding and health check of a juvenile Takahē.

This growing legacy is thanks to outstanding parenting. Since their 2020 arrival, Waimarie and Bennett have successfully raised nine chicks. Supporting them are older siblings like Ihaka — a 2023 chick who spent a year helping rear his younger kin before graduating directly to the wild. Unlike many takahē, Ihaka skipped the transitional Burwood Bush site and joined a wild cohort in the Rees Valley, a newly established release site on Ngāi Tahu land. Outfitted with GPS, Ihaka's movements will offer fresh insights into life beyond the sanctuary.

### **Nurturing for the Future: Jessie & Bounty Settle In**

The mahi of conservation continues to flourish at Orokonui Sanctuary, with fresh haumata (tussock) plantings nestled safely inside chicken wire enclosures. These efforts ensure nourishing pasture for foraging chicks and help pave the way for future translocations.

As some manu depart, new arrivals bring fresh energy. On the valley floor, we're delighted to welcome Jessie, from Burwood Bush, and Bounty, from Wairakei Golf + Sanctuary. Their arrival lifts the valley population to six. This young couple has just begun settling in, and while Jessie brings a relaxed and grounding presence, Bounty — a little more reserved — is taking his time to adjust. Phil, the dedicated DOC Ranger from Burwood Bush, notes that Bounty has always had a nervous disposition, but Jessie's calm nature seems to be rubbing off.

Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki were represented at the release — a reminder of the shared guardianship that underpins this special place.

### **Honouring a Legacy**

This same valley once hosted Orokonui's elder takahē pair, Paku and Quammen, who spent 11 cherished years in the sanctuary. Exceptional foster parents, their first chick, Kotahi, later fathered Bennett — linking generations across time and terrain. Each season deepens the whakapapa and enriches the stories of these remarkable birds.

### **A Shared Kaitiakitanga**

Conservation here is built on enduring partnerships. With mana whenua, dedicated DOC teams, volunteers, and local supporters, Orokonui is not only preserving a species but strengthening the landscape and community around it. As the stars of Matariki rise, we're reminded that every life, every season, and every takahē contributes to a future we shape together.

Thank you to Madison Kelly who serves as the lead kaiārahi (guide) at *Te Korowai o Mihiwaka – Orokonui Ecosanctuary*, brings a deep connection to place and people through both their ecological and artistic work.

It's heartening to see such care and collaboration between the sanctuary and mana whenua, especially during significant moments like species releases.

## **Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki Orokonui Memberships**

Nā Amanda Symon



As a result of the ongoing partnership between Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki and Te Korowai o Mihiwaka - Orokonui Ecosanctuary, we happily invite all rūnaka members to sign up for free sanctuary membership.

Registered whānau will receive a Rūnaka members' card and ongoing free access to the sanctuary during open hours. All whānau who sign up will receive exclusive members' benefits, updates, and access to specialty events throughout the year.

We're excited about this development, especially its support for our shared goals for mana whenua to continue connecting with Te Taiao.

As we enter te tau hou, the Orokonui valley is bustling with activity. The forest and wildlife continue to thrive under the kaitiakitaka of Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki, the mahi of the sanctuary, and the support of our wider hapori of members, volunteers, and visitors.

Orokonui visits range from shorter, flat hikoi across the grasslands to the cloud forest viewing platform (wheelchair accessible), or longer multi-hour adventures throughout the entire valley (steps and inclines). We recommend looking out for the Takahē whānau, cheeky flocks of kākā, and impressive choirs of kōkō/tūi on your next visit!

If you wish to get more involved with Orokonui through volunteering or our dedicated newsletter, please indicate your interest in the membership form.

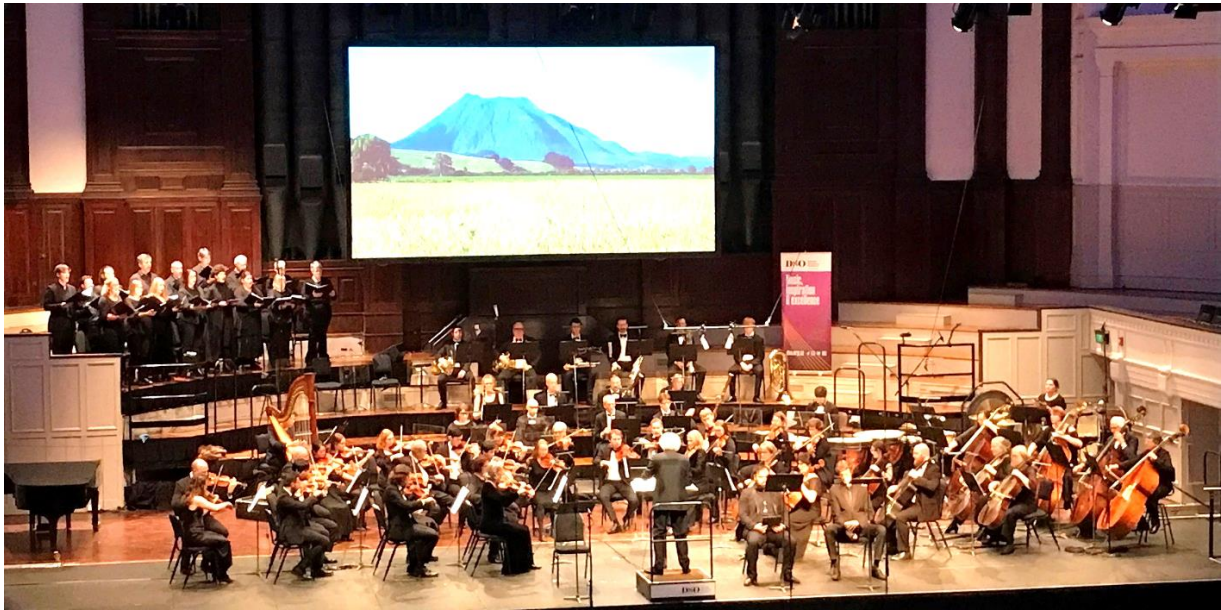
**For a membership form, contact the Puketeraki Rūnaka office. [admin@puketeraki.nz](mailto:admin@puketeraki.nz) 03 465 7300**  
**We look forward to seeing you in the ngahere, hei reira.**



# Brahms & Mataatua: A Journey in Music

Dunedin Symphony Orchestra — Saturday, June 28 | Dunedin Town Hall

Nā Jen Lucas



In one of the most evocative performances of the season, the Dunedin Symphony Orchestra led its audience on a transcendent journey—echoing across centuries, cultures, and soundscapes by illustrating the story of Mataatua Wharenui.

Prior to the concert, Puketeraki and Ōtākou welcomed members of Ngāti Awa with a private mihi whakatau at the Dunedin Town Hall, setting the tone for an evening steeped in connection and remembrance.

Mataatua returned to Aotearoa as part of the 1925 New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition in Dunedin. From there, it was housed in the Tūhura Otago Museum for around seventy years. Following the 1996 signing of a Waitangi Tribunal Deed of Settlement, it finally returned to its home in Whakatāne, where it now stands as a powerful emblem of cultural resilience and revival. Originally built in the 1870s, the Mataatua Wharenui was created by Ngāti Awa as a symbol of unity—a carved ancestral house embodying heritage, artistry, and spirit.

At the heart of the concert was the world premiere of *The Journey of Mataatua Whare*, composed by Gillian Karawe Whitehead. This moving ensemble work gave voice to the trials and triumphs of the wharenui, tracing its journey from sacred origins to exile and homecoming.

The performance opened with a spine-tingling karanga by Lily Fraser of Puketeraki.



**The performance opened with a spine-tingling karanga by Lily Fraser of Puketeraki.**

This ceremonial welcome grounded the audience in whenua and whakapapa, creating a profound sense of place before the orchestra played a single note.

Whitehead's composition was richly layered, performed by the DSO under conductor James Judd, joined by soloists Rebecca Ryan (soprano), Tomairangi Henare (baritone), Paul Whelan (bass), and a 16-member DSO chorus. Ryan's portrayal of the meeting house itself was extraordinary—giving voice to carved wood and ancestral memory with grace and deep emotional gravity. Whelan embodied the colonial voice of power, while Henare gave voice to the endurance and sorrow of Ngāti Awa. The chorus surged with warmth, culminating in the final waiata *Tomo Mai*, sung in unity with Ngāti Awa—lifting the spirit of the entire hall.



# Ruruku: An Exhibition by Hauteruruku ki Puketeraki Waka Club

Hocken Library | 24 May – 2 August 2025

Nā Jen Lucas



The Ruruku exhibition opened on Saturday, 5 July 2025, with a powerful sense of ceremony and community, celebrating Kuramatakitaki—the double-hulled waka ceremonially paddled up Otago Harbour and installed as the exhibition's centrepiece. This evocative gesture united land, sea, and story.

This exhibition is named for the community-led Ruruku Project, which brought to life the club's third sailing waka—Kuramatakitaki—inspired by traditional design and constructed using contemporary materials and techniques.

Kuramatakitaki was first launched in the predawn light on 9 February 2025 at the Waikouaiti awa. Built over two years (2023–2025) by the Hauteruruku ki Puketeraki Waka Club in Karitāne, the waka is a testament to dedication, craftsmanship, and community. The Ruruku project brought people together, strengthening intergenerational ties and reviving traditional knowledge through shared mahi.

The exhibition features a stunning series of photographs that document the construction of Kuramatakitaki, capturing the people, place, and spirit behind the project. These images, alongside



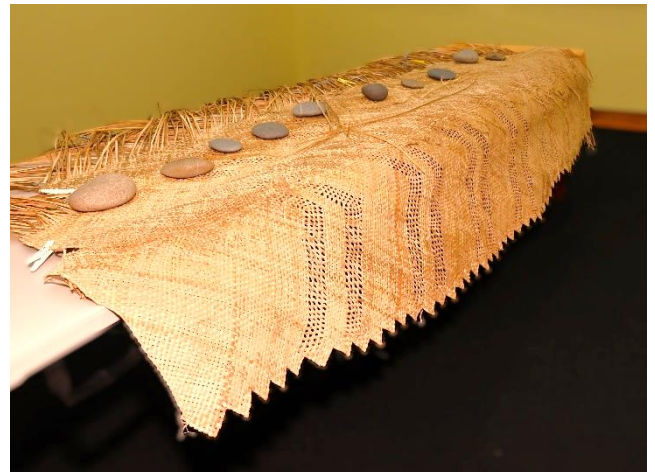
**Kapehu Whetu - star map and various paddle styles on the wall.**

historical accounts of waka journeys, offer a sense of timelessness—honouring the past while navigating the present.

Crafted with care from a rich blend of materials—Western Red Cedar, Atlantic Cedar, Canadian Oregon, Kauri, Australian hardwood, recycled ancient Rimu, sailcloth, leather, harakeke, pounamu, and pāua—Kuramatakitaki embodies both tradition and innovation. Every element tells a story.

Since opening, the exhibition has welcomed over 800 visitors, including international guests, school groups, preschools, and kindergartens. The waka has become a vessel not only of travel, but of learning, connection, and cultural pride.

Whether you're drawn by the artistry, the history, or the mana of the waka itself, Ruruku offers a deeply moving and immersive experience—one that continues to ripple outward from the shores of Karitāne to the hearts of all who encounter it.



**Weaving of the replica sail Te Ra, the historic Māori sail, the only known customary Māori sail in existence currently on display at the Auckland Museum, loaned by the British Museum.**



## Puketeraki Tamariki Holiday Programme 2025 – Nā Chad Steiner-Mitchell



**Whānau and tamariki outside Toitū Otago Settlers Museum in Dunedin.**

Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka hosted our annual tamariki holiday programme recently at Puketeraki Marae between the 14th and 16th of April.

Aroha Ellison did a fantastic job of putting the programme together which ensured that everyone got to take home some awesome experiences.

The programme started off on Monday afternoon with mihi mihi which gave everyone a good chance to introduce themselves and become familiar with the others attending. There was a good mix of tamariki and rakatahi and everyone there shared a common interest in, or connection to our beloved marae.

The first day we had planned to do waka ama on the Waikouaiti awa, unfortunately the weather conditions were not suitable so in lieu of taking the waka out we opted for tākaro and mahi toi in the wharenuī.

Kiri and Miriama Parata's mahi was rawe at getting everyone involved, and their taoka pūoro display was well received.

Following the taoka pūoro showcase, everyone was invited to have a go at making their own pūtangitangi, a taoka pūoro instrument made using



**Suzi Flack with the tamariki during waiata kōrero and practice on the first evening.**

clay to make a hollow circular shape with a hole to blow into, which can also feature one or two smaller holes used to add affect to the main sound. All the pūtangitangi were put aside to dry naturally, and the majority had dried by the final day of the programme.

In the evening after dinner, there was kōrero with some of the waiata we use and run throughs with actions of 'Karitāne' and 'Te Taukaea Aroha.'



Tuesday was the big day for activities, with lunch prepared in the kitchen and packed a day ahead, everyone loaded into the big bus and headed to Toitū Otago Settlers Museum for an Easter egg hunt and there was plenty of time for a quick waiata on the front steps. With the Easter egg hunt inside over, and everyone on the bus, this time bound for the windy drive down to the Royal Albatross colony at Tairaroa Head. The friendly staff at the Albatross Centre, took us under their wings with a guided tour, it was a cold windy day, ka pai to everyone who braved the weather and went on the hīkoi.

On the return journey we stopped at the Macandrew Bay playground, next stop was Leap in South Dunedin which was a wonderful place for anyone to burn off energy.

The evening talent show provided a terrific opportunity for the tamariki and rakatahi to share their awesome skills and talents with a variety of performances of songs, dancing, and displays. Well done to everyone, you are all winners!

Wednesday after breakfast we all headed up to the gates of the urupā for a kōrero on our surrounding landscapes of different mauka Hikaroroa, Pāhatea, Kā iwi a weka, our Waikouaiti awa, and Huriawa Peninsula.



**Nikki Crossan with the tamariki outside the gates of the urupa.**

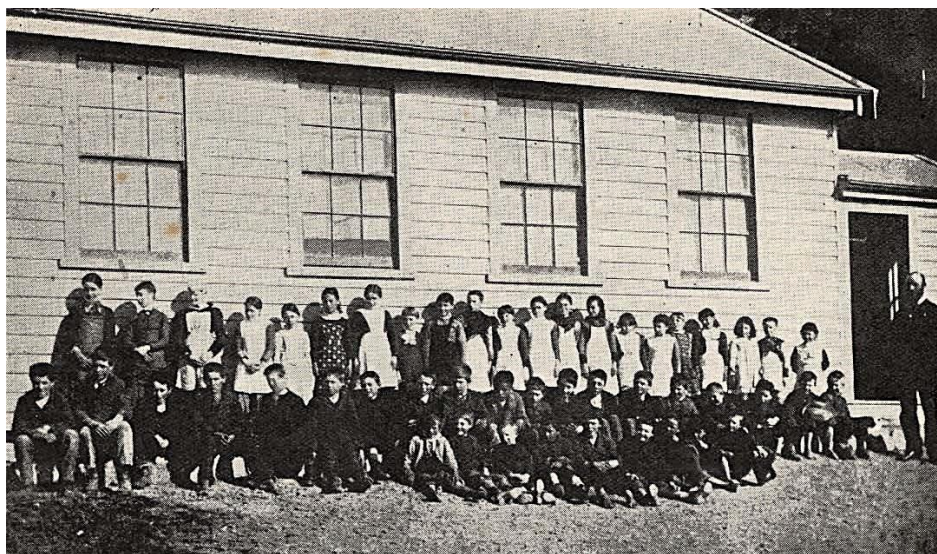
We performed the Karitāne waiata in front of where our tūpuna are resting before heading back to the warmth of the marae. The rest of the day was filled with tākaro, and mau rākau led by Poutama which took us through to the tamariki programme winding up.

Thanks to the helpful and hospitable staff at Toitū, the Albatross Centre, Leap, and of course the bus driver for our safe travels!

The success of the programme was made possible with the many hands that helped. Big heartfelt mihi to Kiri and Miriama, Nikki Crossan, Poutama Crossman, and all the parents and caregivers who chipped in, ka pai tō mahi!

Mauri Ora

## Karitāne School Year Photos



In support of the Karitāne School Jubilee, the Rūnaka would like to extend its collection of school year photos to create as complete a photographic record as possible for the time the school was at its 'old site' in Karitāne.

Please hunt out your annual school photos and send through good quality scans along with the names of as many of your classmates as possible. We would like to create a display for the 'Big Room', now the hui / meeting room for the Rūnaka, that people

**Karitāne Native School, anyone know the date?**

will enjoy reminiscing over during the upcoming Karitāne School 150th Jubilee at Easter 3-5 April 2026. Photos can be sent to: [admin@puketeraki.nz](mailto:admin@puketeraki.nz)



## Te Rūnanga Representative and Alternate Representative for Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki

E te iwi, tēnā rā koutou katoa

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Emma Wyeth as the Te Rūnanga Representative, and Jeffrey Broughton as the Alternate Representative for Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki.

On behalf of the Office of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, I extend our warmest congratulations to both Emma and Jeffrey on their appointments. We look forward to working alongside them in their roles and the contributions they will bring on behalf of their rūnaka and our wider iwi.

We also take this opportunity to acknowledge and express our heartfelt appreciation to Matapura Ellison for his outstanding service and leadership. Matapura was appointed as the Te Rūnanga Representative for Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki in 1999 and served as Deputy Kaiwhakahaere from 2017 to 2023. Across these years, he has demonstrated unwavering dedication, thoughtful leadership, and deep commitment to the aspirations of Ngāi Tahu whānui. His legacy is one of integrity, service, and enduring contribution to our iwi.

Ngā mihi maioha ki a koe, Matapura, mō tō kaha, tō manawanui, me tō ārahi i roto i ngā tau maha.

We now look forward to this new chapter with Emma and Jeff, and the continued strength of representation from Kāti Huirapa.

Ben Bateman

The Rūnaka would like to thank Matapura for his dedicated mahi over the years and congratulations to Emma Wyeth and Jeffrey Broughton.

## Otago Polytechnic | Te Pūkenga Rūnaka Scholarship

Nā Jen Lucas

We are delighted to announce **Aidan Geraghty** as the recipient of the Otago Polytechnic | Te Pūkenga Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki Scholarship for 2025. Aidan is enrolled in the Master of Fine Arts, and we wish him well in his future studies.

We are also delighted to acknowledge our 2024 recipient, **Kiri Parata** who has gained with merit a Certificate in Bachelor of Applied Management. Congratulations Kiri.

Prospective Māori students from our four local Rūnaka enrolled in any study programme are eligible.

The purpose is to acknowledge the contribution students make to their Rūnaka and the local community. It is offered to four students, one from each of the four local Rūnaka, for study in a chosen programme at Otago Polytechnic and will cover the learner's tuition fees for up to three years.

The conditions of this scholarship must meet the academic entry criteria for their chosen programme of study and applies to domestic students only.

To retain this scholarship, successful applicants are required to pass their academic studies with a minimum of 50% in their first and subsequent years of study which must be continuous.

Applications will open for 2026 at the end of February and be advertised in the Rūnaka E-pānui.



Kiri Parata, recipient of the scholarship in 2024.



## Works of Art from Aidan Geraghty

The 2025 recipient of the Otago Polytechnic | Te Pūkenga Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki Scholarship, Aidan Taira Geraghty (Kāi Tahu, Ngāi Tūāhuriri) is a multidisciplinary artist with a background in graffiti/street art, design and sculpture. Graduating from the Dunedin School of Art in 2022 with a BVA (distinction) in Contemporary Sculpture, he pursues an interest in his bicultural heritage and how to visualise a sense of displacement felt by many generations of Tākata Whenua through a contemporary medium.

Aidan's work examines his experience of disconnection from his ahi kā, an experience shared by urban Māori across generations who grew up away from their marae. In this photographic series, he attempts to bridge this distance by highlighting familiar yet unique spaces such as wharenui and wharekai that connect viewers across hapu and iwi.

**Artist acknowledgement: Kā mihi nui to Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki and David Geraghty for the tautoko on this project.**



**Kaituna, Kensington, Otepoti 2023.**



**Aidan Geraghty at Parnell Station.**  
*Kia Whakatōmuri, te Haere Whakamua, Te Tuhi,*



**Kaituna, Kensington, Otepoti 2023.**



**2024, Inkjet Billboard Prints.**



## Kati Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki Nursery

Nā Elizabeth Vanderburg

Puketeraki Nursery is now supplying native plants to Hammer Hardware in Waikouaiti. The nursery has been building a relationship with the local hardware store for the past year and we are happy to announce we will be regularly supplying Josh and his team with beautiful plants that we grow here at the runaka.



Nursery staff members Angelina Young and Elizabeth Vanderburg dropping off a large order at Hammer Hardware.

## Congratulations Graduation / Diploma

Nā Rauhina Scott-Fyfe



Rauhina Scott-Fyfe and Demelza Scott-Weekly at Rauhina's graduation.

Congratulations to Rauhina Scott-Fyfe (from the Goodwillie-Stevens whānau) graduated on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in Ōtautahi with a Diploma in Records and Information Management (Level 6) from the Open Polytechnic, supported by cousin Demelza Scott-Weekly and Ngāi Tahu Archive team members Takerei Norton and Freya Hargreaves-Brown.

## Request from DCC Libraries for an ikoa Māori for Blueskin Bay Library

This request was referred to our te reo people for consideration, and they made the following recommendations.

### Description of name below:

**Waitētē** = is used here to acknowledge the original name of the area.

**Toi** = Summit, point, pinnacle.

**Mahara** = To think about, to remember, to consider.

### Toi Mahara

1. Can refer to memories being at the forefront of our minds.
2. Can refer to recollections of history and knowledge found in libraries and also written by those of days past as well as in the present
3. Mahara with multiple meanings to acknowledge these whakaaro but also the kākahu, Maumahara, that Poua David wore consistently.

4. The kākahu he wore can also be used as a metaphor for knowledge and wrapping around those who seek knowledge and information.
5. **Waitētē Toi Mahara** to refer to the correct spelling of Waitati and elevating the correct name to instil it in living memory within the community.

**The recommendation of Waitētē Toi Mahara was adopted at the RGM.**

### Background:

Waitētē is used here to acknowledge the original name of the area. Rick Ngāmoki was asked if he had any whakaaro about the name of the library. He mentioned that it would be a nice whakaaro to honour Poua David due to his recent passing but also because he opened the library in 2013. Poua David Ellison's kākahu was named Maumahara and woven by Roka Cameron who passed away recently, giving the name additional significance.



# Reflecting on a Wonderful Hauora Day at Puketeraki Marae

Nā Mauriri McGlinchey & Taylor Hendl



Taylor Hendl & Mauriri McGlinchey at Hauora Day.

Emergency Management Otago’s Taylor Hendl and I were privileged to attend Hauora Day at Puketeraki Marae—a day filled with warmth, manaakitanga, and strong community spirit. We had inspiring kōrero with whānau around emergency preparedness, and it was heartening to see such enthusiasm for building resilience.

The presence of so many hauora practitioners created a vibrant, uplifting atmosphere, reinforcing the vital link between health and emergency readiness. Special thanks to Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki and WellSouth for hosting such a powerful event, and to everyone who contributed—including those behind the brilliant Preparedness GO BAGS. Your mahi makes a real difference.

We look forward to continuing these meaningful conversations and building stronger, more resilient communities together.

Ngā mihi nui!

# East Otago Hui Ako

Nā Jen Lucas – Photos supplied

The kapa haka performances at the East Otago Hui Ako on Tuesday, June 24th, 2025, were a powerful showcase of local pride, culture, and student talent. Held at the East Otago Event Centre in Waikouaiti, the event featured groups from:

- \* Karitāne School
- \* Warrington School
- \* Waikouaiti School
- \* Waitati School
- \* Pūrākaunui School
- \* Palmerston School
- \* Macreas Moonlight School
- \* East Otago High School
- \* Learning Links Childcare
- \* Big Steps ECE

East Otago High School’s kapa haka group took the stage delivering a stirring performance that was also live streamed for whānau who couldn’t attend in person.

The day was part of a broader Matariki celebration, with students leading activities that honoured Māori traditions and storytelling. The performances included waiata, haka, and poi, with each school bringing its own unique flair and mana to the stage.



Karitāne School performers.





# Taoka Pūoro Wānaka

Nā Nikki Crossan



Some of the whānau who attended, back row from left: Hori Cliquot, Robert Sullivan, Miriama Parata-Noema, Carolyn Campbell, Mahina-Ina Kingi-Kauai, Alistair Fraser, Morgan Kilkenny, and Adam Keane. Front row: Te Anahera Parata, Rachel Ruckstuhl, Ann Bateman, Kate Bateman, Nikki Crossan, Lily Fraser, Moewai Marsh and Lavinia.

Kāti Huirapa recently ran a Taoka Pūoro Wānaka at Puketeraki Marae. This is our third wānaka held over two years.



**Alistair and Mahina-Ina.**

We invited well known taoka pūoro musicians Alistair Fraser and Mahina-Ina Kingi-Kauai. Kei te waimarie mātou, we are fortunate that Mahina-Ina is a whānau member.

Previously, New Zealand taoka pūoro musicians Ruby Solly (Waihao Rūnaka), Ariana Tikao (Rāpaki Rūnaka) and Pharmacology Lecturer in rongoa Hori Cliquot (Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka) have joined us in Taoka Pūoro wānaka.

There were many kaupapa from previous taoka pūoro wānaka to continue with. We were privileged to receive Kāi Tahu taoka, deceased Toroa manu (Albatross) via 'Komiti Taoka Tuku Ihu'. When Toroa are found mate around the motu, they are handed to the Tūhura Otago Museum to store in their freezers. These were dissected and the wheua (bones) had been drying for a few months as well as hundreds of huruhuru plucked for our weavers.



**Whānau continued the mahi of preparing the wheua to create kōauau (traditional flutes).**





**At each taoka pūoro wānaka, we do a foraging session at the tātahi (beach) / awa.**

Modern technology of an electric drill and saw, or traditional methods of pipi shells for cutting, or shark's teeth to create puta or wenewene (holes) were used.

Mahina-Ina introduced us to all of her taoka puoro, not just to listen to the oro ataahua (sound), but the health benefits from these taoka. Anō, we were privileged to listen to a presentation on the benefits that oro can have on our tinana using taoka pūoro.



**Moewai Marsh creating her pūtangitangi uku.**



**Robert Sullivan creating a pūtangitangi uku.**

In previous wānaka, we were taught to forage for any taoka ie, kota (shells), tumutumu made from toka (stones / rocks), wheua (bones from any manu or animal), kōauau (bladder kelp or *Macrocystis*), pākuru (rākau sticks) and uku (clay).



**Hori Cliquot, Clair White and Robert Sullivan.**

We learnt to take from the whenua, play on the whenua to the whenua, and give back to the whenua.



# Improving Fish Passage in the Hakapupu River

Nā Matt Dale

A “rock ramp” fish ladder has been constructed in the lower Hakapupu catchment, significantly improving fish passage to the rest of the catchment.

Many of Aotearoa’s fish species undertake significant migrations as part of their life cycle, including many of our iconic freshwater species such a tuna (eel) and our five whitebait species. Instream infrastructure, such as culverts can have significant impacts on our freshwater migratory species by preventing them from moving between their breeding, juvenile and adult habitats.



**Fig 1. Downstream view of the Brooklands Road ford, showing poor fish passage characteristics present before construction of the rock ramp.**

As part of the Toitū to Hakapupu Project, the Otago Regional Council, Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki and the East Otago Catchment Group have collaborated to retrofit the Brooklands Road ford with a “rock ramp” fish ladder to improve fish passage to the rest of the catchment.



**Fig 2. Construction of the Brooklands Road rock ramp, showing the low gradient ramps with rocks placed to reduce water velocity and provide resting areas for fish.**



**Fig 3. The Brooklands Road under high flows following the construction of the rock ramp.**

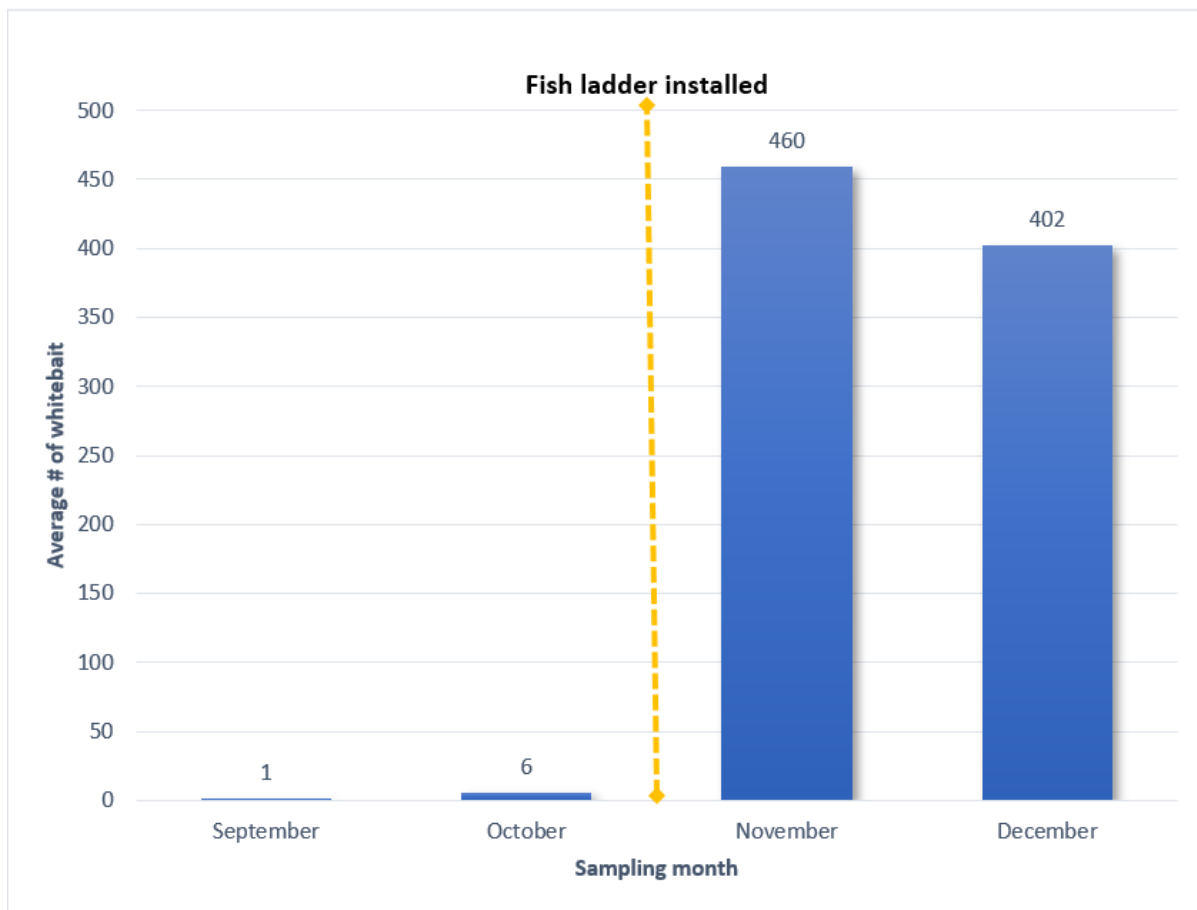
To test the effectiveness of fish passage remediation, Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki undertook a four-month whitebait monitoring project between September and December 2024 across five sites in the catchment. Whitebait nets were set between 3-5 days per month for one tidal cycle per day, with the catch from each day being counted and then released back into the river. The results from Brooklands Road showed a significant increase in the number of whitebait passing the ford, with an average of less than 10 per tidal cycle for September and October, increasing to over 400 for the two months following the construction of the rock ramp.

**Fig 4.** These results show the importance of providing fish passage in our coastal catchments, as well as the effectiveness of well-designed fish passage remediation. Following this project, the Otago Regional Council, Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki and the East Otago Catchment Group have since worked together to repair and replace all other major fish passage barriers in the catchment, restoring ki uta ki tai connection for Te Hakapupu awa and the toaka that live within it.



**Kanakana**





**Fig 4. Daily average number of whitebait (caught over a single tidal cycle) upstream of the Brooklands Road ford between September and December 2024.**

## All Blacks vs France 5 July 2025

Forsyth Barr Stadium Dunedin

The All Blacks sealed a win over France at Forsyth Barr—what an electrifying game that was! You could almost feel the roof lifting with every try.

Massive mihi to Ian Jones for gifting those tickets—his support makes unforgettable moments possible. The fact that two Rūnaka members got the opportunity to experience that live. That’s the magic of whanaungatanga right there.

Kia ora to Chantal Vanisi and Rachel O’Kane for snagging the golden tickets! Hope it was a night to remember.

And if the game wasn’t enough, that **All Blacks Experience discount** is such an awesome bonus for whānau heading to Tāmaki Makaurau. Immersing yourself in the legacy of the All Blacks, with a great 20% off.

## Upcoming Rūnaka Meetings:

RGM – September 7<sup>th</sup> at Puketeraki Marae

AGM – November 2<sup>nd</sup> at Puketeraki Marae

Online links are available

## Member Registrations/Updates

A reminder to update any of your details with the Rūnaka office, change of address, emails etc.

You may also want to update your tamariki details if it’s a while since they were registered.

Registration Forms are available via the website:

[registration form](#) or email [ella@puketeraki.nz](mailto:ella@puketeraki.nz).

Once completed return to: [ella@puketeraki.nz](mailto:ella@puketeraki.nz)

### Or post:

Kati Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki

C/- 130 Stornoway Street PDC, Karitāne 9471

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