

30 JUNE 2024

KA URUORA I-PANUI



Ka uruora ngā tangata Ka uruora ngā wānanga He uruora ki te whai ao Ki te ao mārama

Kei ngā uri katoa o Taranaki maunga nō runga i te rangi, tēnā rawa atu koutou katoa.



We've recently witnessed a surge in our shared ownership model. Month after month, new whānau have embraced the journey to homeownership through our shared equity pathway, signalling a significant expansion of opportunities within our iwi.

However, it's essential to recognise that the path to homeownership is not without its challenges. Financial education plays a crucial role in equipping whānau with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate these complexities. We share the story of Te Raumahora and her whānau, who shares her experience of taking part in the course, sharing her journey from facing homelessness to slashing her debt remarkably.

In tandem with our efforts to promote homeownership, our WhānauSaver scheme continues to make significant strides forward. With Ngāti Ruanui joining we now have six out of the eight Taranaki iwi participating, providing greater opportunities for eligible whānau across the region to access contributions. The steady growth of our scheme, now with 834 active and registered whānau members, reflects the ongoing success and commitment of our whānau to secure their financial futures.

Moreover, our Te Urunga Kainga Programme marks a significant milestone as we proudly welcomed the first tenants into our new rental program in Taranaki.

With the Ōkato School site project underway, comprising 16 stand-alone units and six kaumatua units, alongside new build developments in Tāmaki Makaurau, Te Whanganui-a-tara, and Wairau, we're committed to providing accessible housing opportunities across Aotearoa — read more about these further into this i-pānui.

In preparation for these opportunities, we will be hosting online Financial Literacy courses via Zoom for whānau interested in participating. Completion of this foundational course is the first step towards eligibility for our developments, equipping whānau with the necessary skills to navigate homeownership and rental opportunities.

As we reflect on the recent achievements and look towards the future, one thing remains clear: together, we write the story of our successes and pave the way of a brighter future for our tamariki and mokopuna. .

Jamie Tuuta Chair, Ka Uruora



Quick Overview

WhānauSaver

942 No. of Whānau Signed-up

\$507k Total Whānau savings

Financial Literacy

336 No. of Whānau that have Completed the Programme

Whānau Supported into Home Ownership

14 Whānau supported into Shared Equity Home Ownership

11 Whānau supported into Outright Home Ownership

3 Whānau supported into Affordable Rental

A Financial Literacy Success Story

Before Te Raumahora began her financial literacy journey with Ka Uruora, her story was one of resilience amidst financial adversity.

Working in the social services sector alongside her husband, they navigated through life with a large whānau of six to support. Despite their dedication to their mahi, financial literacy had never been a strong suit. Their journey was marked by challenges, stretching every dollar to survive.

Their financial challenges took a devastating turn when Te Raumahora and her whānau found themselves homeless in 2019. Amid personal loss within her whānau and the pressures of having to find a new whare, Te Raumahora and her whānau faced the harsh reality of the housing crisis. Despite stable employment and strong references, securing a new rental proved nearly impossible. They found themselves applying for over 120 whare, stretching from coast to coast, with no success, taking them over a month to secure a whare.

Motivated by the desire to secure a better future for her whānau, Te Raumahora registered for our financial literacy course. Her expectations were clear – to confront her spending habits and gain the tools needed for

financial stability. With her tane by her side, they dove into the kaupapa, determined to break free from the chains of debt and generational poverty.

The impact of the financial literacy course was profound. Te Raumahora and her whānau embraced the journey towards financial freedom, alongside her whanaunga both taking part in the kaupapa and teaching it — creating a real sense of comfort for her.

Through lessons on budgeting, prioritising debt repayment, and understanding the power of compounding interest, they made significant strides in reducing their debt. But it wasn't just about financial gains; it was about reclaiming a sense of safety, security and empowerment.

Reflecting on her journey, Te Raumahora emphasises the importance of celebrating milestones, staying disciplined with spending, and involving the whole whānau in financial education so that your tamariki can enter adulthood with good financial habits. Her advice to others facing similar challenges is rooted in practicality and determination – keep track of spending, seek out financial education opportunities, and celebrate each win (no matter the size) towards financial freedom.

Their efforts and commitment paid off as they witnessed a remarkable reduction in their debt, from \$70,000 to \$9000 within a year and a half since taking part in the course. As, after having their tamariki, they got used to surviving off one income, taking advantage of this by continuing this even when they returned to having two income channels — allowing them to use one income on living and one income to focus on paying off their debts.

The message from Te Raumahora to her whānau and iwi resonates deeply. Financial education is not just about crunching numbers; it's about breaking the cycle of poverty and securing a better future for our tamariki and mokopuna. Her story illustrates the transformative power of education and what can be achieved when our whānau are given equal opportunity to learn.

As we celebrate the journey of Te Raumahora, we're reminded of the importance of making financial education accessible to all. Through initiatives like Ka Uruora, we strive to empower whānau with the knowledge and tools they need to build a brighter tomorrow.

Together, we can rewrite the narrative and create a future of prosperity for ngā iwi katoa.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a floral patterned cardigan over a light blue top, is sitting at a wooden table. She is smiling and looking down at two young children, a girl and a boy, who are also looking at the table. They are playing with colorful alphabet blocks. The background is a bright, indoor setting with a shelf holding various items, including a potted plant and some books.

Te Uru Tahua

WhānauSaver Update

Our WhānauSaver scheme continues to make strides forward, with Ngāti Ruanui joining our ranks in the last quarter, bringing the total to six out of the eight Taranaki iwi participating.

This expansion creates greater opportunities for eligible whānau across Taranaki to access the contributions offered by each of the six iwi. We're thrilled to note the growth, with now 834 active and registered whānau members contributing to the scheme, collectively accumulating \$418,475.71 in savings - an amount that continues to increase daily.

While there isn't much to report on, we want to emphasise that the steady growth of our WhānauSaver scheme is a positive reflection of its ongoing success and the commitment of our whānau to secure their financial futures.



Mirihana & Gloria beat 76k debt.

Ka Uruora is overjoyed to have supported Mirihana and Gloria into homeownership through shared ownership.

Mirihana and Gloria's journey with Ka Uruora started back in 2021, when Mirihana signed onto one of our Waitara financial literacy courses. The financial literacy course was an enlightening experience for Mirihana as it wasn't until she had attended her first class that she realised they were facing \$76,000 in debt.

It got to the point where they were struggling to pay rent because they got stuck in a constant cycle of trying to pay off their debt while maintaining their regular lifestyle. Mirihana and Gloria knew they had to turn over a new leaf, break old spending habits and start laying the foundation for a stronger financial future.

Ultimately Mirihana and Gloria had their hearts set on owning their own

home, however they knew they needed to reduce the amount of debt they had before it was possible. With the end goal being homeownership, they knew that they had to set some goals that contributed to reaching their goal becoming debt free.

During the financial literacy course, they gained the knowledge and motivation they needed to start their journey to becoming debt free. They had set a strict budget, worked a second job and made some sacrifices over the years to reach the end goal.

Within two and a half years Mirihana and Gloria worked tirelessly, paid off \$73,000 of their debt, and although they had their minds set on being debt free before becoming homeowners, the right whare came along for them.

Ka Uruora are extremely proud of all that Mirihana and Gloria have achieved in such a short amount of time. This however didn't come easily, the resilience and determination they both showed over this time was admirable.

We sat down with Mirihana and Gloria and took a deep dive into their journey [click here](#) to watch the interview

Update on Affordable Housing Initiatives

We recently reached a significant milestone for our housing initiatives as we proudly welcomed the first tenants into our new rental program in Taranaki.

Touched on in our last i-pānui, the newly built whare in Ōkato, by Te Kāhui o Taranaki Iwi, have now been filled and stand as a testament to our joint commitment to providing security, warmth, and a sense of belonging for whānau.

Among the upcoming developments is the Ōkato School site project. Situated centrally within the Ōkato township, this site, now under the ownership of Te Kāhui o Taranaki Iwi, captures the essence of forward momentum and potential.

A scheme plan has been crafted, outlining the construction of 16 stand-alone units, alongside six kaumatua units. These units will be allocated to Affordable Rentals and Public Housing, with the final tenure mix to be confirmed as the project progresses.

As we navigate through the intricate process of development, significant strides have already been made. Resource consent is on track for completion by the end of May,



with full subdivision consent draft conditions currently under review. Civil procurement is anticipated to conclude by early August, paving the way for civil works to commence in early October of this year.

Furthermore, our commitment to providing accessible housing opportunities continues to flourish as we announce three new build developments in Tāmaki Makaurau, Te Whanganui-a-tara, and Wairau, under our rebate rental opportunity. These developments, available to all eligible iwi members, represent the next chapter in our journey to empower whānau and build stronger hapori.

Through our rebate rental opportunity, we offer whānau a pathway to affordable housing, with a significant discount off the market rent price. Ranging from 10% to 30%, the discount is calculated based on household income, ensuring that whare remain accessible.

We're excited to introduce these new developments, each offering modern, sustainable living spaces designed to meet the diverse needs of our whānau. These developments promise to provide more than just homes—they offer a place to thrive.

In preparation for these exciting opportunities, we will be hosting online Financial Literacy courses via Zoom for whānau interested. It's essential to note that completion of our financial literacy course is the first step towards eligibility for these developments. This foundational course equips whānau with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the complexities of homeownership and rental opportunities, setting them on the path towards a brighter future.

Stay tuned for further updates and details on how you can be a part of these transformative developments.

Iwi Partners





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