



Te Hau Kōmaru National Waka Hourua Festival

On the sixth of April, Te Hau Kōmaru National Waka Hourua Festival came to Kaiteretera for a week-long festival.

Te Hau Kōmaru Charitable Trust hosts this festival biannually, bringing together kaupapa waka experts from across Aotearoa. The purpose of the festival is to connect whānau, share mātauranga and raise awareness of waka hourua.

A fleet of four double-hulled waka arrived in Kaiteretera at sunrise. They were greeted and welcomed into the bay by Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō whānau on our waka Te Haeata.

Once the fleet arrived on the shores of Kaiteretera, a powhiri officially opened the week-long festival. Hundreds of people gathered on the beach before dawn to witness this historic occasion.

A big mihi to all of those whānau who took time out of their busy schedule to attend and support this kaupapa especially those whānau who paddled out in Te Haeata. Your tautoko and manaakitanga helped to make this a special day.

Kia hiwa rā NEWS AND EVENTS

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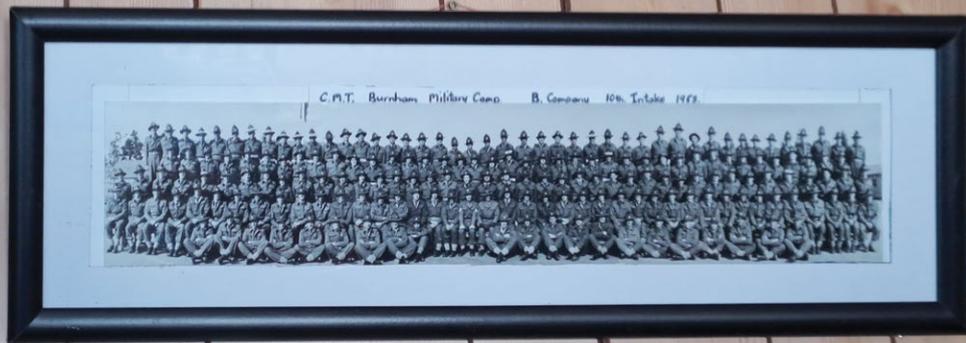
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Keeping you informed of news, announcements and opportunities, from around our rohe and the motu.



Wiremu Mason



Wiremu, aged 19 years, at Burnham Military Camp 1953. Includes his cousin, Chester Hemi

Kaumātua Corner

New pānui section

Interview with Wiremu Mason in Ashburton, 26 March 2024

Wiremu attended the recent Kai Ngātahi in Christchurch in February. "I had such a great time and wish that I had got involved with the iwi much earlier", he said. Wiremu has spent most of his life being active – he is 90 years young. His advice to all young people is don't sit, be mobile, walk around and keep active.

He was born Friday 13 May 1934, in Havelock. He has two brothers and three sisters, Wiremu being the youngest boy. They were all born in Marlborough and grew up during the depression.

His grandmother was from Tuatapere, a small rural town in Southland, but settled in the Marlborough Sounds. She is registered in the Ngāi Tahu registration book, number 91.

Wiremu's father had six or seven siblings. During World War II his father went to Fiji with the Public Works to help the country with its defensive preparations in the Pacific against the imminent Japanese invasion.

"I was about two years old when we moved to Kaikōura with my siblings." He was head boy at Kaikōura District High School in his final year. Through his school years he was captain of the 1st XV rugby team, had his name engraved on the Honours board twice and won the tennis championship. "Mathematics was my favourite school subject", he said.

Wiremu speaks fondly of Kaikōura: "It was a great life in Kaikōura. It was my favourite place to have lived", he said. He recalls a childhood memory where he and a school friend went out hunting and his friend shot himself in the stomach. Wiremu had to run for help – it was a long way, but his friend survived. He said the last time he was in Kaikōura was 2023 and that a lot had changed, but he still recalled many of the places he'd ventured around as a youngster.

Wiremu left home when he was 18 years old. He served in the New Zealand Army, based at Burnham Military Camp. He was in B company (Canterbury,

Nelson-Marlborough, West Coast Regiment) leading up to the Queen's visit to New Zealand in December 1953, following her Royal coronation in June 1953. The Queen and her husband, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, stayed for almost six weeks, travelling through Aotearoa, as part of a six-month tour of the Commonwealth.

In those early adult years, Wiremu was involved in lots of things. After military service, he started working for the New Zealand Railways in Christchurch as a cadet. His father-in-law also worked at the railways. When working at Amberley, Wiremu's job was to ring the bells. He had a Mark 1 Ford Zephyr, which was the first car that he bought. He also owned a Triumph Tiger 100 motorbike at one time.

Wiremu has been married for 62 years. Wiremu and Fay have two daughters: Lianne Reynolds who lives in Ashburton; and Sandra Watson who lives in Perth, Australia. They have two granddaughters, Maddison and Cassidy.

Wiremu arrived in Ashburton in 1957. After the railways, he worked for the wool manufacturer Lane Walker and Rudkin in the main office. He was the proud owner of five suits, and remembers paying 50 pence for business shirts. In his 10 years at the company he travelled all over the South Island for wool sales. He also spent time at Lincoln University doing a course on how to mix the wool and learning about costings. He was asked to go into the wool store on his return to Lane Walker and Rudkin, to put order into the place.

Wiremu and Fay later went into the food industry. They owned three shops in Ashburton. Two were takeaway shops, and the other was a restaurant.

Wiremu has a keen passion for all types of sport. He recalls his wife Fay never played sport, but she would always have his gear ready, so he could go to play. The first rugby game he went to at Lancaster Park

was Fiji playing Canterbury. He played rugby in Hurunui for Kaikōura, played in Waikari, Amberley, and Rangiora for North Canterbury. Wiremu's father-in-law refereed some of Wiremu's games. He recalls that his Uncle Martin Mason (Joe's dad) was a national Woodchopping Champion.

Throughout his years Wiremu has kept up his keen interest in sports playing squash and golf.

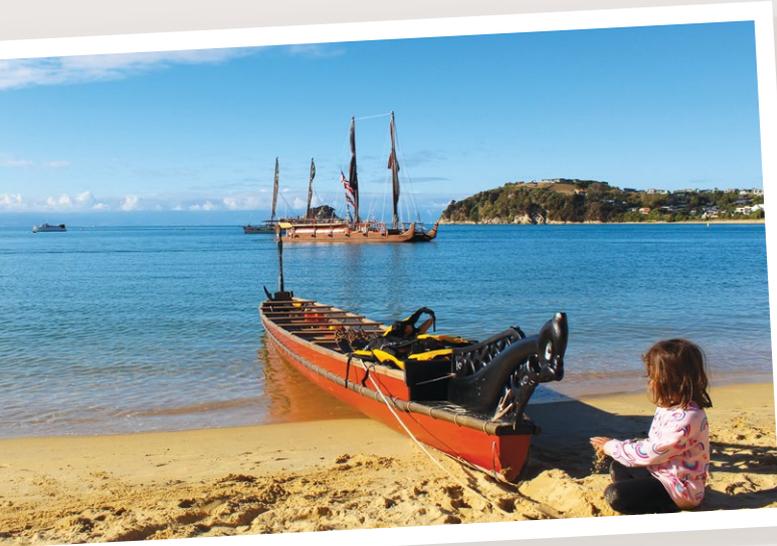
In particular, he is an accomplished golfer. He has had five hole in ones. At his last hole in one, he was presented with a \$1,000 Citizen watch and a trophy. The watch is inscribed on the back with 'Hole in one, Bill Mason'. He has spent over 50 years playing golf and has a handicap of three, which sets Wiremu apart as a player of commensurate skill in the game.

He played in a competition with 600 other Māori. He won a Māori tournament trial, going on to win on three separate occasions. He also played in the New Zealand Golf Open.

Twenty-two years ago, Wiremu had a serious accident and was in hospital for 50 days. When he finally came around, he was in a hospital bed. He had smashed his hip and leg and spent two and a half years in hospital learning to walk again.

Wiremu reflected that he missed not knowing his Māori heritage and whakapapa. He was 'brought up in the white man's land'. Things were much different in the conservative country town of Ashburton. However, his favourite kai is still kai moana, mussels and pāua.

Photos from Te Hau Kōmaru National Waka Hourua Festival



Annual Report cover photo competition

Calling all photographers! Professional and amateur. Nau mai harae mai.

Would you like to have one of your photos on the cover of our Annual Report for 2024? Ngāti Apa ki te Rā To would like to invite whānau to submit photographs to be considered for the cover of this year's Annual Report.

This is a new initiative that offers whānau the opportunity to have their photography published and shared. Details and conditions about the competition can be found on our social media pages and our website.



Kelly Hayes lands cadetship

Nelson City, Tasman District and Marlborough District Councils have recently started a cadetship program which is being supported by the eight iwi of Te Taihū.

The programme aims to boost the councils' capacity for iwi engagement. New cadets will be given exposure to the inner workings of local government and iwi.

The Tasman District Council cadet Kelly Hayes is of Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, Ngāti Koata and Ngāti Kuia descent. Kelly is the daughter of Mahana Hayes and the granddaughter of Frances Manihera. Having previously worked part-time at Tasman District Council, Kelly said she was excited to return and strengthen the connections she has already made and uplift te ao Māori throughout the organisation.

Tasman's chief executive Leonie Rae said "Kelly's return would boost the council's relationship with iwi, and give her a deeper understanding of local government functions."

Congratulations Kelly, we are extremely proud of you. Ka rawe.



Upcoming events

Kaumātua Afternoon Tea

When: Thursday 9 May, 2pm – 4pm
Where: River Kitchen, 81 Trafalgar Street, Nelson

Te Kaiaotanga o Te Reo, Māori Language Revitalisation Symposium

When: Thursday 30 and Friday 31 May
Where: ASB Theatre, Wairau

Kai Ngātahi Auckland

When: Friday 21 June
Where: Auckland

Mana Rangatahi

When: Monday 15 – Friday 19 July
Where: Waikawa and Picton

