

Haere Mai Welcome.

Welcome to Waitangi Festival 2026

This year's kaupapa or theme is manaakitanga (hospitality) and Mō tātou, mā tātou (by all of us, for all of us).

Manaakitanga reflects the importance of caring for others, extending warmth, respect and generosity to all.

Mō tātou, mā tātou reminds us that the future of Aotearoa is something we shape together. It speaks to collective responsibility and shared benefit, a commitment to build a future designed, carried and upheld by all who call this place home.

As we gather to celebrate Waitangi, we invite you to honour these values, fostering an atmosphere of unity, respect and shared purpose.



Waitangi Festival Programme.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi Commemorations

3-6 February 2026

Haere Mai

Free Event Parking



Event parking will be available, with a free shuttle service provided to transport attendees to the Grounds. Please note that parking is not permitted in the immediate vicinity. These areas will be actively managed by traffic control to keep bus lanes clear, and penalties will be enforced for any violations.

Parking is at Bledisloe Domain and Haruru Falls (beside ITM). Parking is free.



Shuttle Services

A FREE shuttle service will be provided for all visitors from 3 - 6 February. Shuttles will run continuously between Bledisloe Domain and the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. For events at Te Tiriti O Waitangi Marae, shuttles will run from Haruru Falls (beside ITM). See daily schedule for times.



Ferry Services

On Friday 6 February, Northland Ferries will operate a charter service from Russell, direct to Waitangi at 4.00am, the public are welcome to join this service. A Waitangi pier stop on the regular ferry services will operate from Russell. Ferries depart Russell every 20 minutes, and Waitangi (to Paihia) every 20 minutes from 8.00am – 5.00pm.

Preferred Driving Route

If you're traveling to Waitangi from south of Kawakawa, we ask that you take SH1 to Pakaraka, then continue on SH10 to Puketona. Take SH11 towards Haruru Falls which will give you the most convenient access to free parking options at Haruru Falls and Bledisloe Domain.

Admission Fees

4-5 February: Due to Waitangi Day events, there may be changes to our usual schedule.

6 February: Free entry all day, all buildings within the Waitangi Treaty Grounds are closed with the exception of the Whare Waka Café which will be open from 8.00am – 4.00pm.

The Waitangi Festival is a family friendly event, free from smoking, vaping, alcohol and fizzy drinks.

National Broadcast

The official television broadcast of the Waitangi 2026 commemorations will bring the nation together for thoughtful, timely conversation in an election year.

With Te Tiriti at the centre of public dialogue, 6 February 2026 offers a powerful moment for reflection, discussion and shared understanding. John Campbell joins hosts Peter-Lucas Jones and Blake Ihimaera live from the Treaty Grounds as leaders and commentators engage in meaningful kōrero about the journey ahead.

Proudly supported by Te Māngai Pāho and NZOnAir, the national broadcast begins with the dawn karakia at 5.00am, before opening up a morning of insight, perspective and connection.

From 5am to 8am, audiences across Whakaata Māori, TVNZ, Sky Television and Whare Kōrero are invited to be part of this important national moment.



Please leave your pets at home. The Waitangi Estate is a kiwi habitat - please leave your dog at home and not in your car.



The Waitangi Estate is a no smoking/vaping area.



Waka Launch

Ngātōkimatewahaorua, one of the world's largest ceremonial waka, is most likely to launch at high tide on 1 or 2 February. Throughout the week, all waka are also most likely to be seen paddling during high tide. Tide times are available at www.tideschart.com

What to bring

- Water bottle (fountains available)
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Umbrella
- Beach chair
- Snacks
- Your whānau and friends
- Arrive early to avoid disappointment
- A positive and respectful attitude, following the theme of Manaakitanga and Mō tātou, mā tātou.



The Waitangi festival programme is subject to change without notice.

Filming and photography will take place at this event. By attending, you consent to the use of images and recordings.

Waitangi Festival Programme.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi Commemorations

3-4 February 2026

Tuesday 3 February

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE

4.00 am - 6.00 pm ITM to Te Tiriti O Waitangi Marae

TE TIRITI O WAITANGI MARAE

5.00 am Pōwhiri O Te Motu & Kawemate (Te Ariki Tumu Te Heuheu). The Official Waitangi 2026 Community Programme Opening

1.30 pm Pōwhiri for Governor General

4.00 pm Pōwhiri for Indigenous Taiatea, Ka Lahui Hawai'i Delegations and Karuwha Trust

NGĀTI RĀHIRI MĀORI KOMITI

Taumata Hinewhare (aka Shippeys)

9.15 am - 1.00 pm Karakia – MC Mikaira Pau / Kaumātua

Preparing for Governor General
Seating available for Kuia & Kaumātua

Mahi Toi – Hapū Kōrero - Kapa Haka

Ngāpuhi Merchandise, Ngāpuhi Register,
Kaitiaki Kauri, Te Hau Ora O Ngāpuhi



Wednesday 4 February

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE

8.00 am - 6.00 pm ITM to Te Tiriti O Waitangi Marae

8.00 am - 6.00 pm Bledisloe Domain to Waharoa / Main Entrance

ROAD OPENING CEREMONY

7.00 am - 8.00 am Haruru Falls Road Reopening: Corner of Haruru Falls Road and Bayly Road

UPPER TREATY GROUNDS

9.30 am Pōwhiri for Judiciary, Diplomatic Corps and Local Government

1.00 pm Pōwhiri for Kiingitanga

TE TIRITI O WAITANGI MARAE

9.00 am start Waitangi Marae Māori Markets featuring kai, arts, handcrafted taonga, kākahu, rongoā Māori and mirimiri

Maranga Mai Forum Tent. Theme: The Power of Indigenous Networks

11.00 am Pōwhiri for Selwyn Foundation

3.30 pm Pōwhiri for Local Governance NZ

8.00 pm Kids Movie Night and Entertainment

NGĀTI RĀHIRI MĀORI KOMITI

Taumata Hinewhare (aka Shippeys)

9.15 am Karakia – MC Mikaira Pau / Kaumātua

Stage Theme – Whakatupu Rangatira – Tupuna Day

Mahi Toi - Hapū Kōrero - Kapa Haka

Ngāpuhi Merchandise, Ngāpuhi Register,
Kaitiaki Kauri, Te Hau Ora O Ngāpuhi

3.00 pm - 5.00 pm Whānau Ora

Stalls – raranga – food – rongoā – mirimiri
educational information – “E Tū Whānau”

BB Spray Art – Painting – Entertainment

Breastfeeding Māmā /
Kuia & Kaumātua Space



Waitangi Festival Programme.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi Commemorations

5 February 2026

Thursday 5 February

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE

8.00 am - 7.00 pm ITM to Te Tiriti O Waitangi Marae

8.00 am - 7.00 pm Bledisloe Domain to Waharoa / Main Entrance

UPPER TREATY GROUNDS

11.00 am Pōwhiri for Parliamentarians

4.00 pm Hobson Memorial gate open to the public

4.30 pm Royal New Zealand Navy Beat Retreat and Ceremonial Sunset

5.30 pm Finish

WAITANGI FORUM TENT

(Marquee, Lower Treaty Grounds, access via Waka Gate)

8.00 am Te Tiriti ki te Paremata

10.00 am Ōhanga Māori

11.00 am Kai Sovereignty

12.00 pm Mātauranga Māori

1.00 pm Land Back

2.00 pm Regulators

3.00 pm Tikanga or Tukanga

4.00 pm Te Reo o te Motu v Te Reo o te Kāinga

WAKA AREA AND SPORTS FIELD AREA

9.00 am start Market stalls selling arts, craft and food

TE TIRITI O WAITANGI MARAE

9.00 am start Waitangi Marae Māori Markets featuring kai, arts, handcrafted taonga, kākahu, rongoā Māori and mirimiri

Maranga Mai Forum Tent. Theme: Evolution and Advancement of the Māori Nation

Mokopuna Forum, Kids Play Zone and Te Rangitāmīro Whānau Ora Launch

8.00 am Pōwhiri for Te Runanga O Otakou Delegation

3.00 pm Pōwhiri for Nga Haahi Katoa

6.00 pm Live Band

8.00 pm Movie Night and Entertainment



NGĀTI RĀHIRI MĀORI KOMITI

Taumata Hinewhare (aka Shippeys)

9.15 am Karakia – MC Mikaira Pau / Kaumātua

Entertainment – Kōhia Band

Stage Theme – Tiaki Whakapapa – Whānau Day

Hapū Karaoke

10.00 am - 12.00 pm Ngāpuhi Merchandise, Ngāpuhi Register, Kaitiaki Kauri, Ngāpuhi Iwi Social Services, Te Hau Ora O Ngāpuhi

Challenges – sandcastles on the beach, poi making

1.00 pm Whānau relays – sack-races, egg & spoon

2.00 pm Tug of War

Tamariki activities – stalls – raranga – food – rongoā – mirimiri educational information – E Tū Whānau – pipi collecting challenge

BB Spray Art – Painting – Entertainment

Breastfeeding Māmā / Kuia & Kaumātua Space



Waitangi Festival Programme.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi Commemorations

6 February 2026

Friday 6 February

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE

3.00 am - 7.00 pm ITM to Te Tiriti O Waitangi Marae

3.00 am - 7.00 pm Bledisloe Domain to Hobson Memorial Gate

UPPER TREATY GROUNDS

5.00 am Dawn ceremony at Te Whare Rūnanga

6.30 am Flag raising ceremony accompanied by a Scottish bagpiper

7.00 am Public breakfast snack

9.00 am Interdenominational church service at Te Whare Rūnanga

11.30 am RNZN Kapa Haka Group (MCG)

11.50 am Royal NZ Navy (RNZN) Guards parades at Flagstaff

12.00 pm The Waitangi Day 21 Gun Salute by the Royal NZ Navy fired from the HMNZS Te Kaha at the Flagstaff

12.15 pm RNZN Band Performance



House of Shem



JTB



Reiki Ruawai



Te Huaki



Hātea Kapa Haka

UPPER TREATY GROUNDS STAGE

This year's Main Stage features a dynamic mix of kapa haka, contemporary Māori music and iconic local sounds, celebrating the richness, creativity and diversity of Aotearoa's musical landscape.

1.00 pm **Hātea Kapa Haka**
Formed in 2000, Hātea are an award-winning rōpū, renowned for their traditional and original compositions and are a popular fixture at Waitangi Day.

1.25 pm **JTB**
JTB is a six-man band made up of musicians from diverse genres, backgrounds, and corners of Te Hiku o te Ika a Māui. Despite their different journeys, they share one mission every time they step on stage: to have fun and bring unforgettable entertainment to the people.

2.20 pm **Te Huaki**
'The Voice of the South' returns home to Waitangi, performing for his own people of Ngāti Hine and Ngāpuhi. Now based in Ōtautahi / Christchurch, Te Huaki has built a strong reputation as a respected recording artist of te reo Māori waiata, particularly those grounded in Ngāpuhi and Ngāti Hine kaupapa. Renowned for his powerful vocals and musicality, he is delighted to be back in the north, sharing his music through a special series of performances.

2.45 pm **Reiki Ruawai**
A standout talent in Aotearoa New Zealand's diverse music scene, carving out a distinctive sound of his own. Blending indie pop and R&B with dance-driven energy and soulful depth, his music is both captivating and unmistakably original.

3.40 pm **House of Shem**
One of Aotearoa's most iconic reggae bands, founded by the late Carl Perkins and now proudly led by his sons Te Omeka and Isaiah. Known for their soulful harmonies, conscious lyrics, and unmistakable Polynesian spirit, their music has become anthemic across the Pacific and beyond. Their performances continue to carry a legacy of whakapapa, unity, and aroha to audiences around the world.

5.00 pm Stage Entertainment Ends

Waitangi Festival Programme.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi Commemorations

6 February 2026

Friday 6 February

WAKA STAGE AREA

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 9.00 am - 4.00 pm | Market stalls selling arts, craft and food |
| 10.30 am - 4.30 pm | A full programme of cultural performances, individual performances and diversity, Theme: Mō tātou, mā tatou and Manaakitanga |

SPORTS FIELD AREA

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 9.00 am - 4.00 pm | Market stalls selling arts, crafts and food. Educational and other organisations providing free resources and support |
| 9.00 am - 3.00 pm | Taumata o te Ora (Ngāti Hine FM stage). Me mahi tahi tātou - working together for health and wellbeing of all whānau with hauora service providers from Te Tai Tokerau |

WAITANGI FORUM TENT

(Marquee, Lower Treaty Grounds, access via Waka Gate)

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 5.00 am | Karakia Huaki i te Rā |
| 7.00 am | Wāhi Kapu Tī |
| 8.00 am | Rangatahi ki te Rangatira |
| 9.00 am | Te Mana o Te Reo |
| 10.00 am | Muriwhenua Kapa Haka |
| 10.30 am | Waerenga Te Kaha |
| 11.00 am | Story Sovereignty |
| 12.00 pm | Never Ceded |
| 1.00 pm | Tau Kowhiringa Pōti |
| 2.00 pm | Te Uri o Manumanu - ka riro te karakia whakamutunga ki tēnei kapa |

TE TIRITI O WAITANGI MARAE

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 5.00 am | Dawn Ceremony, Flag Raising and 1840 Tūpuna Signatories Roll Call |
| 8.30 am | Waka parade in front of Te Tiriti O Waitangi Marae |
| 9.00 am start | Waitangi Marae Māori Markets featuring kai, arts, handcrafted taonga, kākahu, rongoā Māori and mirimiri |
| | Maranga Mai Forum Tent. Theme: The 200 Year Prophecy of Te Tiriti O Waitangi 1840 |
| 3.00 pm | Waitangi Commemorations 2026 Official Closing Ceremony and Karakia |

NGĀTĪ RĀHIRI MĀORI KOMITI

Taumata Hinewhare (aka Shippeys)

Stage Theme – Manaaki Tangata

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 9.15 am | Karakia – MC Mikaira Pau / Kaumātua |
| 3.00 pm | Kapa Haka |
| 4.00 pm | Fire Dancer & Jugglers |
| | Ngāpuhi Merchandise, Ngāpuhi Register, Kaitiaki Kauri, Te Hau Ora O Ngāpuhi |
| | Stalls – raranga – food – rongoā – mirimiri educational information |
| | BB Spray Art – Painting |
| | Breastfeeding Māmā / Kuia & Kaumātua Space |
| 6.00 pm | Karakia – MC Mikaira Pau / Kaumātua |

The Waitangi Day Commemorations Committee appreciate the support of the following sponsors who helped bring this event to you.



For more information about Te Tiriti O Waitangi Marae programme check www.waitangimarae.co.nz

For more information about Waitangi Treaty Grounds programme check www.waitangi.org.nz

The Waitangi Festival programme is subject to change without notice.





Waitangi 2026 Festival Map.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi Commemorations