

## Rēhua Today

Since being built, Te Whatu Manawa Māoritanga o Rēhua has attracted numerous important gatherings, hui, tangihanga, tourism, political meetings and Central (Methodist) Mission functions.

Among the bodies that have worked from or at Rēhua are the Waitaha Cultural Council, under Te Kiato Riwai, the Ōtautahi Football Club, the Rēhua Kohanga Reo (the first in the South Island) and Rēhua Marae Social Services.

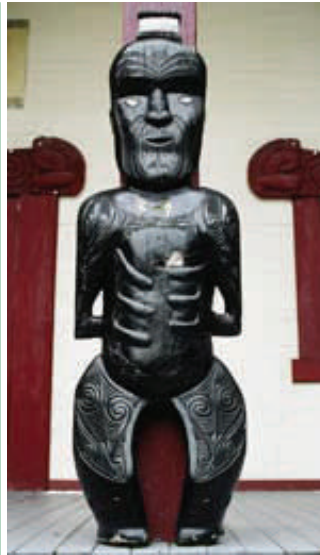
Rēhua hosts many visitors every year from primary school children to royalty Rēhua continues to be a centre for recreation, social occasions and worship. Its stance as a multi-tribal and multi-cultural marae make it a place where people from all backgrounds may find a common unity.



*This plaque sits at the entrance to the marae. It records the history of the site.*

*(Photo: Ash Spice)*

We have commenced work on collating all materials relating to the background & establishment of Rēhua. Should any person have such material please contact the Rēhua Archives. Phone: 3555 615



*Ancestor, Paiea sits at the base of the pou on the porch of Te Whatu Manawa Māoritanga o Rēhua*

For more information on Te Whatu Manawa Māoritanga o Rēhua, check out Ti Kōuka Whenua on Christchurch City Libraries website

**Christchurch City Libraries**  
Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi

50th Anniversary 5 December, 2010

## Rēhua Marae Te Whatu Manawa Māoritanga o Rēhua



"Aroha-nui ki te tangata"

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**Amid the stately character homes and modern townhouse developments of Christchurch's Springfield Road sits Rēhua Marae. Flourishing tī kōuka and harakeke mark the driveway and entrance to the marae. Visible from the street are glimpses of the deep red carved barge boards and ridgepole of Rēhua's whareniui ' Te Whatu Manawa Māoritanga o Rēhua'.**

Te Whatu Manawa Māoritanga o Rēhua was opened in 1960. The lifting of tapu was performed by representatives of the Waikato tribes led by Princess Piki (Dame Te Atairangi Kahu) who represented her father King Koroki, whose poor health prevented his attendance. Visitors from all the tribes in Aotearoa were present.



Later the same morning, the house was opened by the then Prime Minister Walter Nash and other officials accompanied by Sir Eruera Tirikatene. Thousands of people took part in the celebrations that continued over the following four days.

*Reverend Wilfred Falkingham & Bishop Panapa at the official opening of Te Whatu Manawa Māoritanga o Rēhua .*



The visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to Rehua Marae on Sunday 25 February 2002 was a significant occasion for all of Christchurch. Māori leaders, local communities and hundreds of school children joined in the welcome for the Royal visitors.

## **Rēhua Beginnings**

Rēhua began life as a hostel for girls and then boys at its initial site in Stanmore Road in the early 1950s. The hostel accommodated young Māori apprentices who came to Christchurch under the Māori Apprentices Trade Training Scheme at the Christchurch Polytechnic.

The scheme was instituted by prominent members of the Hāhi Wēteriana (Wesleyan/Methodist Church) and other Ngāi Tahu elders including, the Rev. Wera Couch, the Rev. Wilf Falkingham and Mr Joe Moss. The scheme was the first of its kind in New Zealand.

**It is intended to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Trade Training Scheme, in 2012.**

Through the efforts of the Methodist Church and Ngāi Tahu elders, planning began for the building of a whareniui at Rēhua in 1955.

Subsequently, construction and carving of Te Whatu Manawa Māoritanga o Rēhua began in 1957. At that time it was over one hundred years since a carved whareniui had been erected in the South Island. It was decided at a meeting at Rāpaki in 1959 that the whareniui would be representative of all the tribes in New Zealand.



Te Whatu Manawa Māoritanga o Rēhua was largely built using the voluntary labour of apprentices and others who were interested. Many local firms donated construction materials and the tōtara used for the 40 carved poupou and epa was donated by Okains Bay farmer, Murray Thacker.



Carving and the design of tukutuku panels was overseen by Henare Paikea Toka. He was helped by his wife Mary Toka (an expert in the weaving of tukutuku panels) and by Joe Kingi from Northland.

Other carvers who were employed to carve the poupou and epa lived and worked at Rēhua for over a year. Fibre for weaving the tukutuku was brought from the bush at Arahura in Westland and used to craft the 1200 square feet of tukutuku panels that decorate the interior of Te Whatu Manawa Māoritanga o Rēhua today. These tukutuku are the work of women from Rāpaki, Taumutu, Wairewa and Ōtautahi, including the W.E.A. Māori Club.