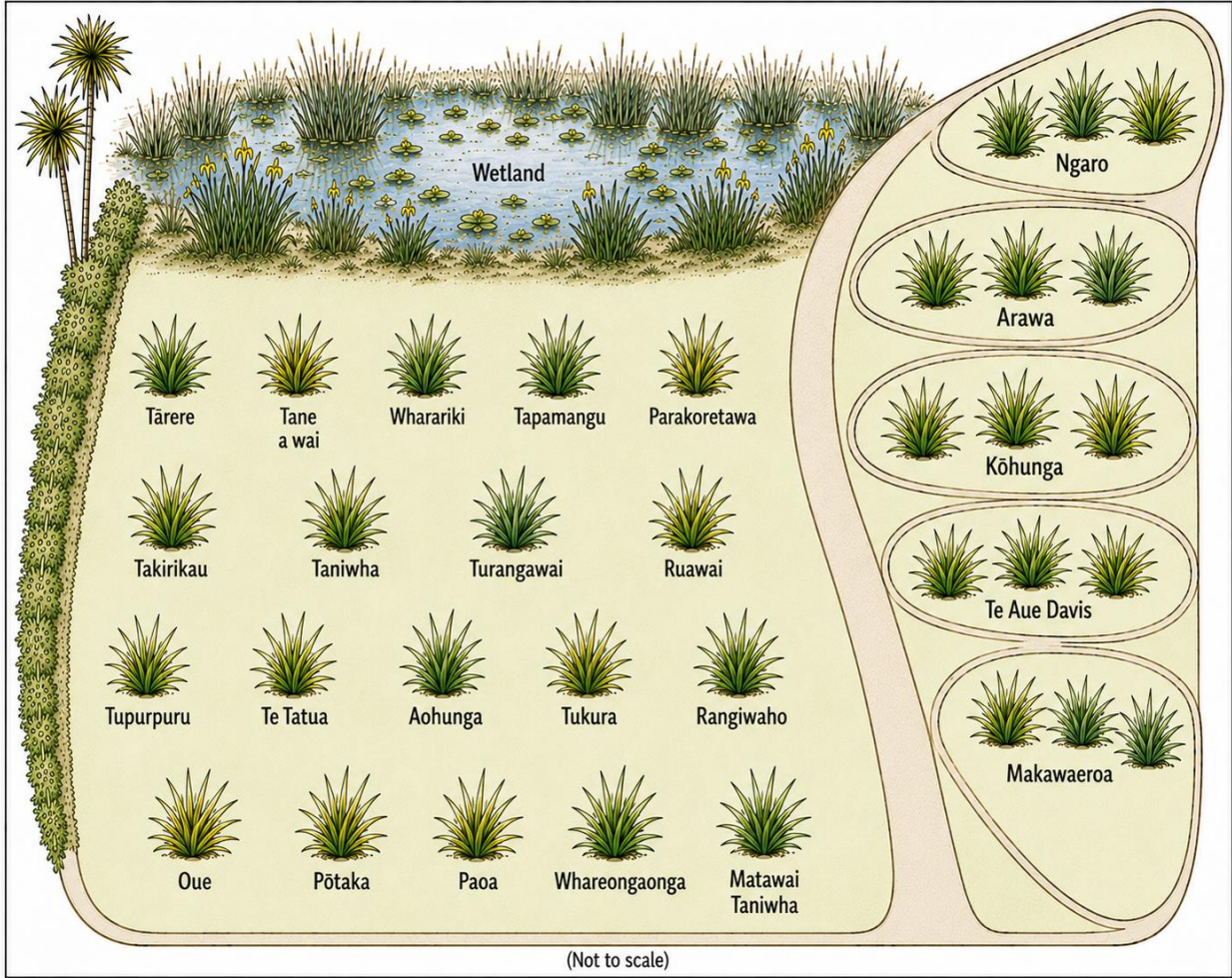


## Pā Harakeke Collection

This pā harakeke is part of Waikereru Ecosanctuary, located in the Waimātā Valley, approximately 9 kilometres inland from Gisborne on the Tāirāwhiti / East Coast. The Ecosanctuary is a restoration project founded by Dame Anne Salmond and Jeremy Salmond, focused on regenerating native bush and providing habitat for rare birds, plants, and animals.

The Rene Orchiston Collection of 60 harakeke cultivars was planted at Waikereru as part of the sanctuary's ecological and cultural restoration. This portion of that original collection has been planted to provide a living resource for the weaving community of Tāirāwhiti. The collection sits near the 1769 Garden — a botanical commemoration of the first encounters between Tāirāwhiti Māori and the crew of Captain Cook's *Endeavour* in late 1769. When Cook and his botanists Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander came ashore near Gisborne, they collected the first scientific specimens of New Zealand plants. The 1769 Garden features plants from that same coastline, connecting this pā harakeke to that historic moment of encounter.

Cultivar descriptions are drawn from *Harakeke: The Rene Orchiston Collection* (3rd Edition) by Sue Scheele.



*Pā map (not to scale).*

## Garden Structure

The collection is arranged with the principal muka (fibre) cultivars grouped in the right-hand beds, followed by the East Coast and Tairāwhiti cultivars in the main body of the garden.

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## Muka Varieties

### Makaweroa (30)

**Also known as:** Hiraka

**Source:** Torere, Eastern Bay of Plenty.

**Description:** Medium height with fairly straight, soft but strong leaves. Pale green with orange-brown margins and keel. Flowers only rarely.

**Qualities and Uses:** An outstanding muka cultivar producing delicate, silky white fibre with very little dressing required. Especially suited to fine muka kete and soft fibre work.

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### Unknown – “Te Aue Davis” (47)

**Source:** Sent to Rene Orchiston by Te Aue Davis.

**Description:** Very similar in appearance to Tapamangu, with an especially black margin and keel.

**Qualities and Uses:** A very fine muka cultivar.

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### Kōhunga (16)

**Source:** Maniapoto area.

**Description:** Tall and slightly drooping blue-green leaves with black margins and keel. Distinguished by a powdery blue underside and numerous tall flower heads.

**Qualities and Uses:** One of the most highly regarded traditional fibre cultivars. Produces long, silky white muka. Widely prized for fine cloaks and high-quality weaving.

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### Arawa (42)

**Source:** Rotoiti area.

**Description:** Straight, fairly long medium-green leaves with reddish-orange margins and keel. Very tall flower stalks, although it flowers infrequently.

**Qualities and Uses:** An exceptional muka cultivar. Produces long strands of clean fibre and strips very easily. Especially good for ladies' piupiu for its length, though prepared strips do not dry as strong as some other cultivars. Excellent for whenu, aho, muka kete and kākahu work generally.

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## Ngaro (29)

**Source:** Moutoa Estate, Foxton.

**Description:** Very tall straight-growing cultivar with dark bronzy-green foliage and strong fibre visible through the leaf surface.

**Qualities and Uses:** One of the classic fibre cultivars. Produces very strong but fine silky muka. Excellent for piupiu, cloaks, kete and cordage.

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## Tairāwhiti and East Coast Varieties

### Matawai Taniwha (37)

**Source:** Matawai, near Waioeka Gorge.

**Description:** Very tall, slightly bendy harakeke with yellow-bronze foliage and reddish-brown margins.

**Qualities and Uses:** A kete and whāriki variety valued for its long strips and rich corn-yellow tones after preparation.

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### Whareongaonga (36)

**Source:** Tawatapu district, south of Gisborne.

**Description:** Short to medium height with narrow tapered yellow-green blades and orange margins.

**Qualities and Uses:** Produces abundant shiny, strong but brittle fibre that strips cleanly. May be used for piupiu though it is not as strong as other piupiu cultivars. Dries white.

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## Pōtaka (60)

**Source:** East Coast.

**Description:** Tall blue-green leaves with powdery blue undersides and black margins.

**Qualities and Uses:** A very good fibre cultivar producing long silky strands. Especially valued for kete work where it dries bright white.

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## Oue (26)

**Source:** Tairāwhiti (East Coast).

**Description:** Short, strong, pale green blades with blunt Gothic-shaped tips and orange-brown margins.

**Qualities and Uses:** An excellent all-purpose weaving cultivar producing very strong kete and durable weaving material.

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## Rangiwaho (32)

**Source:** Tawatapu district, south of Gisborne.

**Description:** Short bush with bendy leaves and reddish-brown margins.

**Qualities and Uses:** Primarily a green kete variety. Not suitable for fibre extraction.

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## Tukura (4)

**Source:** Waihirere, Gisborne district.

**Description:** Tall, soft but strong cultivar with bendy leaves and red margins.

**Qualities and Uses:** Best used by dragging strips through boiling water rather than boiling. Used for weaving. The gum at the base has healing properties and was traditionally used for treating burns.

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## Aohanga / Awanga (1)

**Source:** Waiomatatini, East Coast.

**Description:** Medium-height cultivar with pale green leaves striped in white.

**Qualities and Uses:** Primarily decorative, although historically associated with coarse fibre uses including mats and kete.

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## Te Tatua (34)

**Source:** Puha, near Te Karaka.

**Description:** Short, straight, pointed medium-green blades with reddish-orange margins.

**Qualities and Uses:** A strong kete cultivar that strips well. Traditionally associated with a belt woven for Chief Tupurupuru.

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## Tupurupuru (2)

**Also known as:** Tarariki in Taranaki.

**Source:** Gisborne, East Coast.

**Description:** Medium to tall with olive-green foliage and chocolate-brown margins. Young leaves show characteristic brown smudging at the tips.

**Qualities and Uses:** Used for general weaving, kete and whāriki. Especially useful for long weaving strips.

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## Tākirikau (5)

**Source:** Tauwhareparae, East Coast.

**Description:** Tall, handsome harakeke with strong pale yellow-green leaves and bright yellow-orange margins.

**Qualities and Uses:** A true tihore variety producing long strong shiny muka. Excellent for piupiu and fibre work.

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## Taniwha (8)

**Source:** Waiomatatini, East Coast.

**Description:** A dramatic bronze-coloured harakeke with crimson markings and blue-purple bloom beneath the leaves.

**Qualities and Uses:** Primarily ornamental and highly valued for visual contrast within plantings.

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## Turingawari (7)

**Source:** Tauwhareparae, Ngāti Porou.

**Description:** Tall soft and bendy harakeke with reddish-brown margins.

**Qualities and Uses:** A kete variety valued for ease of handling and flexibility.

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## Ruawai (14)

**Source:** Near Mt Hikurangi.

**Description:** Tall blue-green leaves with silver-blue powdering and black margins.

**Qualities and Uses:** A highly prized East Coast muka cultivar producing long silky white fibres ideal for fine cloaks and kete.

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## Tārere (40)

**Source:** Tairāwhiti (East Coast).

**Description:** Short bendy bright yellow-green leaves giving the bush a distinctly golden appearance.

**Qualities and Uses:** Valued especially for kete because prepared strips dry to clear yellow and golden tones.

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## Tāne-ā-wai (28)

**Source:** Tikitiki, East Coast.

**Description:** Medium-height cultivar with wide bendy leaves and brown margins.

**Qualities and Uses:** Used mainly for green kete and best used unboiled.

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## Wharariki (41)

**Species:** Phormium cookianum

**Source:** Tairāwhiti (East Coast).

**Description:** Tall soft wharariki with pale green margins and pendulous seed pods.

**Qualities and Uses:** Used for soft baskets, rourou and beginner weaving because of its softness and flexibility.

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## Tapamangu (18)

**Source:** Waioamatatini, East Coast.

**Description:** Medium-height, narrow, strong pale green leaves with black margins and keel.

**Qualities and Uses:** One of the finest traditional fibre cultivars. Strips easily into strong shiny muka and was later used in breeding the well-known Seiferts Superior milling flax.

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## Parekoritawa (22)

**Source:** Waioamatatini, East Coast.

**Description:** Traditional variegated cultivar with bright sulphur-yellow striping and orange margins.

**Qualities and Uses:** Highly ornamental and historically important as a parent of many modern coloured hybrids. Produces shiny but brittle fibre.

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## Landscape Setting

The garden is set within Waikereru Ecosanctuary in the Waimātā Valley near Gisborne. A wetland margin sits behind the main planting area, reflecting the natural ecological relationship between harakeke and damp ground, and providing a transition between the cultivated collection and the surrounding restored native bush. Waikereru was founded by Dame Anne Salmond and Jeremy Salmond and is managed by the Longbush Ecological Trust. The pā harakeke is cared for by local weavers and stands adjacent to the 1769

Garden, which commemorates the plants encountered by Cook's botanists Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander when the Endeavour arrived on the Tāirāwhiti coast in October 1769.

The arrangement of cultivars reflects both practical weaving groupings and regional relationships, especially among Tairāwhiti and East Coast fibre cultivars.