

Over Queen's Birthday weekend, local Bahá'ís, friends and whānau, gathered at a hui to celebrate *Building Our Future Together – Te Whakarewa o Nga Tirohanga Whānau*.

More than 145 adults and children came together at Rāwhitiroa Marae to share music, creative art projects, and games as they explored the inherent oneness of humanity and consulted on how to work towards the betterment of society. In other words, how do we all, as members of humanity, contribute to social transformation?

Hari Tapatahi, a spokesperson for the conference organisers, was overwhelmed with the comments shared by some of the participants:

"I have never experienced something so warming and the openness of everyone sharing their experiences - it was the platform to have discussions that we would never have been able to have. The kaumatua that were present added that spiritual feeling and over the couple of days the whānau feeling got stronger."

"A wonderful experience; it was lovely to be around vibrant and positive people. I was pleased to not only participate but support."

With a programme that catered to children, youth and adults there was an opportunity for all ages to participate.

"I really felt like the children were in a safe place, so I was able to relax" one of the parents commented.

"We loved the hui. There are no words to describe the joy felt with the whole atmosphere and the beautiful conversations."

"Thank you so much for creating and holding such a space. I look forward to keeping in touch and continuing to work with the beautiful souls I met."

The Waipa conference was one of more than 10,000 organised by Bahá'ís and their friends all over the world, from March through to June this year. In Aotearoa, around 40 conferences are happening during these months.

If you would like to discuss with the Baha'is and their friends what is happening in your area, please email the Waipa Local Spiritual Assembly at waipa-lsa@bahai.org.nz, or call Sue on 021-987-223



Group photo of the hui participants.



Some participants learned the art of raranga with harakeke.



One of the many waiata shared during the hui.



Children enjoying each other's company during an activity.