VOICE OF AROHA

NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY
FEBRUARY

WELCOME TO SEASON SEVEN



WELCOME NEW TEAM MEMBERS



Podcast with Hon. Chris Hipkins



Podcast with Hon. Mark Mitchell

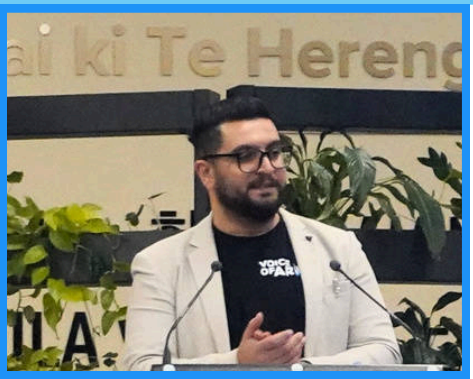


Wellbeing Session “Let’s Move”

YOUTH EMPOWER SUMMIT

Registrations Now Open

OPENING MESSAGE





A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Kia ora whānau,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year. It's hard to believe how quickly January and February have flown by but what an incredibly full and energising start to 2026 it has been.

We began the year by welcoming and inducting our wonderful new volunteers as we step into Season Seven of Voice of Aroha. Their passion, commitment, and heart for community already remind me why this kaupapa continues to grow stronger each year.

Alongside this, our mahi started early. We launched wellbeing sessions to support our communities and responded to urgent calls for important conversations through special podcast episodes — including powerful kōrero with decision-makers and political leaders. These conversations continue to amplify the lived experiences of refugee and migrant communities across Aotearoa.

One of our biggest milestones already underway is the Youth Empower Summit. I am proud to share that Aditi Tiwari has been appointed as Project Coordinator, working alongside 13 dedicated young volunteers who are committed to bringing this summit to life. Their leadership, creativity, and courage give me great hope for the future.

Please mark your calendars: 30–31 May. Registrations are now open (see page 08 for details). This summit is more than an event — it is a space for young people, especially those from refugee and migrant backgrounds, to see possibility, build confidence, and thrive.

As we look ahead, we carry great hope for what this year can achieve. But we cannot do this alone. We warmly invite champions, partners, and funders to come on board and support the continuity of our mahi so we can continue to impact and inspire the next generation.

Thank you for walking alongside us. The journey is just beginning.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Kodrean Eashae
CEO, Voice of Aroha

WELCEOM NEW TEAM FOR SEASON 7



Welcoming Our New Volunteers – Season Seven Begins

We are delighted to welcome a new group of passionate volunteers as we begin Season Seven at Voice of Aroha. Each year, new energy joins our kaupapa — and this year is no different.

Our recent induction sessions were filled with connection, shared purpose, and excitement for the journey ahead. These incredible individuals come with diverse experiences, languages, skills, and stories, all united by a commitment to serve and uplift our communities.

Volunteers are the heartbeat of Voice of Aroha. From supporting podcast production and community events to helping behind the scenes with coordination and outreach, their contribution makes our work possible.

To our new volunteers — thank you for saying yes. We are honoured to walk alongside you and look forward to the impact we will create together this year.





VOICE OF AROHA'S FIRST WELLBEING SESSION FOR 2026: "LET'S MOVE"



To kick off our brand-new season at Voice of Aroha, new seasons of young volunteers came together for a wellbeing day full of energy, laughter, and connection through friendly competition.



The team headed to Strike Entertainment in Petone, where bowling lanes lit up with cheers and laser tag battles brought out everyone's competitive streak. From unexpected bowling strikes to epic laser tag showdowns, it didn't take long for everyone's personalities and hidden talents to shine, definitely something that will continue to shine positively for the remainder of the season.



But this day was about more than just fun and games. Wellbeing sessions like this give us the chance to pause, connect, and recharge. They create space for new friendships to form, confidence to grow, and teamwork to strengthen. It was inspiring to see everyone stepping up, encouraging each other, and embracing the spirit of Aroha.



As we begin this new season, this wellbeing day reminded us of what Voice of Aroha is all about, connection, positivity, and action. If this is how we're starting, we can't wait to see what the rest of the season will bring.

Let's keep moving, growing, and thriving; together.

Written by Elizabeth Moisson.

URGENT PODCAST

On the 21st of January, 2026, Voice of Aroha had the pleasure of hosting a podcast with Dr. Reza. Raising awareness for the situation in Iran, this podcast talks about the history of Iran and how it has impacted the events happening there today.

Through this urgent podcast, Dr. Reza says that the uprisings held in 1999, 2009, 2017, 2019, and 2022 are different to what is happening now, which is a revolution. Shockingly, almost 92 million citizens in Iran had their internet taken away from them for almost 10 days, and it has not returned fully yet. Dr. Reza talked about how Iran, once a modernized country in the 1970s, is now facing water shortages, air pollution, deforestation, corrupting power grids, and unsafe buildings/roads.

By gaining more insight into this topic, we can additionally learn why the Iranian people are finally revolting after all of these years. The purpose of this urgent podcast was to have a kōrero to bring to light what the people of Iran are going through, what hardships they have had to face for the last 47 years (if not, even more), and how we can help our Iranian whānau from Aotearoa New Zealand.

Voice of Aroha is a platform that amplifies the voices of communities. Our mic is open to all — because people are the experts of their own lived experiences, and we are committed to ensuring those voices are heard.

Written by Harshita Rajamani

WATCH NOW





Podcast with Hon. Chris Hipkins

We recently had the privilege of sitting down with the Leader of New Zealand Labour Party, Hon. Chris Hipkins, for a meaningful and forward-looking kōrero.

Our discussion explored leadership, inclusion, and the future of Aotearoa — with a strong focus on how we can better support and empower our diverse communities.
It was great conversation, and we're excited to share the full podcast with you very soon.
Stay tuned.



COMING SOON





Podcast with Hon. Mark Mitchell

We also had the opportunity to sit down with Mark Mitchell, Minister of Corrections, Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery, Minister for Ethnic Communities, Minister of Police and Minister for Sport and Recreation, for a great leaders talk session.

Our conversation focused on leadership journey, community, social cohesion, and the role of government in supporting diverse communities across Aotearoa. A great conversation you don't want to miss.

We look forward to sharing the full podcast episode with you very soon. Stay tuned.



COMING SOON





NEW EPISODES

Tune in to these inspiring kōrero on the Voice of Aroha Podcast.
Watch the full conversations on our YouTube channel — and don't forget to subscribe so you don't miss what's coming next.



WATCH NOW



WATCH NOW



WATCH NOW



WATCH NOW



REGISTER NOW

VOICE OF AROHA

YOUTH EMPOWER SUMMIT

29 MAY 2026 | LAUNCH EVENT AT NEW ZEALAND PARLIAMENT

30-31 MAY 2026 | PĀTAKA ART + MUSEUM, PORIRUA

JOIN OVER 200 + YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE REGION FOR A POWERFUL TWO-DAY SUMMIT FOCUSED ON LEADERSHIP, CONFIDENCE AND CONNECTION

Expect:

- Interactive leadership workshops
- Panel discussions
- Keynote speakers
- Creative sessions and networking
- A safe, inspiring space for youth voice

Officially launched at New Zealand Parliament

Free two-day summit

Morning tea and lunch provided both days

This is your chance to build skills, meet new people and be part of conversations shaping the future

Spaces are limited. Register now.

SCAN TO REGISTER

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