VOICE OF AROHA

NEWSLETTER

NL: 03 | 2026

JULY-SEPTEMBER

MORE MAHI MORE IMPACT











OPENING MESSAGE



Kia ora whānau,

Over the past few months, we have shared many powerful stories and conversations through Voice of Aroha, welcoming inspiring guests who shared their lived experiences, knowledge, and wisdom with our communities. We are especially proud of our Mental Health Awareness podcast series, exploring wellbeing, identity, belonging, and resilience. A huge thank you to the Mental Health Foundation and Nōku te Ao for making this important series possible.

We also launched Money Talks with mortgage adviser Vik Singh, helping ethnic, refugee, and migrant communities better understand money, banking, mortgages, and financial wellbeing in New Zealand.

Alongside these series, we continued conversations with inspiring leaders, rangatahi, and changemakers, including Shamubeel Eaqub. Every story helps us amplify diverse voices, share knowledge, and strengthen connection across our communities.

You can watch our Mental Health Awareness, Money Talks, Leaders Talk, and other conversations on the Voice of Aroha YouTube channel.

As we step into October, we invite you to support our mahi by joining us at our annual Night of Aroha Gala Dinner. With 12+ performances, great food, entertainment, and community spirit, it will be a special night of celebration and fundraising.

See the coming pages for Gala details and tickets, we would love to celebrate with you!

Ngā mihi nui,
Kodrean Eashae
CEO, Voice of Aroha

RISING STAR AWARD



A Proud Moment for Voice of Aroha

We are incredibly proud to share that our new initiative, the YES Youth Empower Summit, received the Rising Star Award at the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards for Porirua City. It is a great privilege and honour for Voice of Aroha to receive this recognition, particularly for an initiative that was created with young people at its heart.

The YES Youth Empower Summit brought together hundreds of young people to connect, learn, build confidence, share their voices, and explore new opportunities. What started as an idea grew into something truly special because of the passion, dedication, and countless hours contributed by our team, volunteers, young people, partners, and supporters.

This award belongs to everyone who helped bring the summit to life. It recognises the incredible mahi happening behind the scenes and the belief that when young people are given the right spaces, support, and opportunities, they can thrive and lead positive change in their communities.

A heartfelt thank you to every person who nominated us, supported the summit, volunteered their time, partnered with us, or simply believed in what we were trying to create. This recognition means so much to our Voice of Aroha whānau, and it encourages us to keep going, keep growing, and continue creating opportunities for young people across our communities.

This is only the beginning for YES, and we are excited about where this journey will take us next.





WELLBEING, CONNECTION & FRIENDSHIP





We had an amazing Wellbeing Day, bringing young people together for laser tag, bowling, good food, and plenty of fun! A huge thank you to Nukuora for supporting this special day.

These gatherings are an important part of Voice of Aroha's wellbeing mahi. We believe wellbeing is also about belonging, connection, friendship, and creating spaces where young people can simply come together and enjoy themselves.

From our wellbeing sessions to podcasts, workshops, and community events, every part of our mahi complements the other helping young people build connections, confidence, and friendships that can last well beyond the day itself.





INVITATION TO OUR GALA DINNER

A Night of Aroha
Voice of Aroha 7th Anniversary Gala Dinner 2026

Join us for A Night of Aroha — an evening of compassion, connection, celebration, and impact. For seven years, Voice of Aroha has stood alongside refugee and migrant communities across Aotearoa, empowering young people, amplifying untold stories, and creating spaces where everyone feels they belong. This Gala Dinner is more than a celebration of our journey — it is our annual fundraising event, and every ticket purchased helps us continue this vital mahi.

When you join us, you are not simply attending a dinner. You are helping a young person find confidence, leadership, community, and hope.

Why This Night Matters
Across Aotearoa, many refugee and migrant young people face isolation, cultural barriers, and limited opportunities to connect and thrive. Voice of Aroha provides programmes, wellbeing support, leadership opportunities, storytelling initiatives, and community spaces that help young people build confidence, resilience, and belonging.
Your support on this special evening helps ensure that this work can continue and grow for the next generation.

Event Details
Date: Friday, 30 October 2026
Time: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Venue: The Hub, Kelburn Campus (Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington)
Location: Wellington

What to Expect
- Inspiring stories from young leaders and community members
- Beautiful cultural performances
- A delicious gala dinner
- Live entertainment
- Awards and recognition
- An evening filled with aroha, generosity, and community

Every Ticket Creates Impact
Every ticket purchased is a direct investment in Voice of Aroha's programmes and the young people we serve. Together, we can continue creating opportunities, building belonging, and ensuring that diverse voices are heard, valued, and celebrated across Aotearoa.

Come celebrate with us. Come stand with our communities. Come be part of A Night of Aroha. Reserve your seat today and help us create lasting impact for generations to come.

TICKETS HERE



NEW EPISODES - MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

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.



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Stay connected for inspiring stories, podcasts, community highlights, and the latest from Voice of Aroha. Subscribe today and be part of the journey!

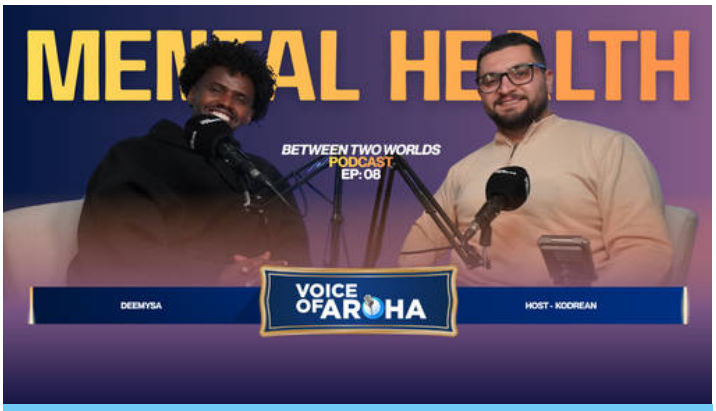
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JOIN OUR YOUTH VOICE NETWORK – PAID OPPORTUNITY!

Join Our Youth Voice Network – PAID Opportunity!

We're recruiting 10–20 refugee and migrant young people aged 15–25 to join our Youth Voice Network. This is your opportunity to:

Share your voice and experiences
Contribute ideas and help influence decisions
Help shape initiatives for refugee and migrant youth
Engage with agencies and government organisations and share insights that can help inform policies and decisions affecting young people
- Build your confidence, leadership and Consultancy skills

No previous experience is required! Your lived experience is valuable, and training and development opportunities will be provided to support you in taking part.

Paid opportunity
Flexible, session-based participation
Priority for the first intake will be given to young people from Porirua, but young people from Lower Hutt and Wellington City are also welcome to apply.
Apply here: https://forms.gle/YbAY7f3JEgKBGy6w9



NEW EPISODES - MONEY TALK

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Subscribe to the VOA Newsletter for exciting news, events, and community projects. Don't miss out on upcoming episodes—subscribe now to stay informed and get involved!



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