

Te Waiata Nui!



Pukapuka Waiata



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Naa _____ teenei pukapuka waiata.

Ngaa Waiata:

1. Hei aha kei taku umu?
2. Anoo te pai
3. Nei raa te kaupapa
4. Te Winika
5. Tai Te Aroha

Te Koorero

This waiata has a long history, and was originally a humorous love song.

“Hei aha kei taku uma?” translates as “What is this pain within my chest?”

Over the years it was rewritten to the current version, first aimed at encouraging young men to join the 28th Maaori Battalion in WWII.

It is now associated with fighting fascism and protecting people from colonisation.

The second verse translates as:

*Young people, wake up get out and
Support your tribe
Be strong, brave and steadfast
Forever, always be courageous!*

Hei aha kei taku uma

Hei aha kei taku uma?
E tuki nei te mamae
He aroha pea ki te tau
Ka momotu ki tawhiti e?

Aue te aroha, aue te mamae,
Tootooia kumekumea!
E peehi kino iho nei
I ngaa mookai kiri e

E oho rangatahi maranga raa
Haapaingia too iwi e
Kia kaha, kia toa, kia manawanui
Ake, ake kia kaha e

Aue te aroha aue te mamae
Tootooia kumekumea!
E peehi kino iho nei
I ngaa mookai kiri e

Te Koorero

The lyrics to this song came about at the passing of Paturihi Tuhakaraina's husband.

It wasn't until his unveiling however that the song was sung. The words are taken from the Holy Bible, and they are fitting for the people of Ngaati Hauaa - being a people of faith.

They have become proverbial sayings to the people of Ngaati Hauaa, encouraging one and all to abide by the Living Word.

The opening verse can be translated as:

How good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together In unity, upon the pathway of goodness.

Anoo Te Pai

(Kaiaarahi):

Hei ora mo ake tonu e! Anoo te pai!
Hei ora moo ake tonu e
Anoo te pai, te aahuareka e
Te nohonga o ngaa teeina
O ngaa tuaakana, kotahi ana raa
I runga i te ara pai

(Kaiaarahi):

Kei te toomai!
Kei te toomairangi o
Heremona e
Ki te maunga o
Hiiona I whakahautia te kupu a
Te Atua Hei ora moo ake tonu e.

Te Koorero

The song was composed in 1987 by Te Tāwhiro Maxwell and Te Okeroa Huriwaka of Te Whakatōhea, who also created the melody. Their reputations grew as experts in crafting lyrics and composing music that flowed beautifully to the ears of listeners.

The central purpose of the song is to awaken and inspire the people to speak the Maaori language more actively. The Maaori-speaking elders of the iwi clearly understood the serious challenges posed by the decline of the language.

The pare kawakawa (a traditional mourning garland) became a symbol—an encouragement and a call to action—urging the people to unite and develop strategies for the survival of the noble language.

They drew upon a well-known proverb by Sir Tīmoti Kāretu to anchor the essence of the song:

“Tōku reo tōku ohooho, tōku reo tōku māpibi maurea, tōku reo tōku whakakai mārihi.”

(My language is my awakening, my treasured adornment, my precious ornament.)

Nei raa te kaupapa

Tooku reo tooku ohooho
Maapihi maurea
Whakakai maarihi

Nei raa te kaupapa
Ko te reo Maaori e
He taonga tuku iho
Noo ngaa tiipuna
He pare kawakawa
He mea hirahira e

Tooku reo, tooku ohooho
Maapihi maurea
Whakakai maarihi
Koorerotia te reo
I ngaa waa katoa
Kia kore e rite ki te moa
Mana tangata
Mana motuhake

Tooku reo tooku ohooho
Maapihi maurea
Whakakai maarihi

Te Koorero

This song acknowledges the prestigious Tainui waka taua (war canoe), Te Winika.

It celebrates her origins in the forests of Tanemahuta as a mighty totara tree.

It then names her fixtures, including the Karu Atua, which can be translated as “the eyes of the ancestors”.



Te Winika, he waka taua

Te Winika

Te Winika, he waka taua
Ko koe tonu te waka tupuna o Tainui.
I ahu mai i te ngaahere, o Taanemaahuta e,
Te Winika, kia ora raa
Te tauihu, me te taurapa
Te rau awa me te kaunaroa
Karu Atua puhirere
Me te punga e!
Aa hii aue aue!
Te Winika, he waka taua
Ko koe tonu te waka tupuna o Tainui.
I ahu mai i te ngaahere, o Taanemaahuta e,
Te Winika, kia ora raa
Te Winika, kia ora raa
Ii aue hii

Te Koorero

This song was composed by Dr. Wharehuia James Milroy (Ngai Tuuhoe), and is derived from a waiata tapu composed by the Kupenga brothers.

Wharehuia Milroy gifted 'Tai Te Aroha' to Aritiatia Community Marae at Fairfield College.

The lyrics compare love to a wellspring of water, giving life and inspiration.

Tai Aroha

Tai Aroha

Ko te aroha anoo he wai
E pupuu ake ana
He awa e maapuna mai ana
I roto i te whatu maanawa.

(x2)

Ko toona matapuna he hoohonu
Aa inaa ia ka rere anoo
Ko toona maataapuna he hoohonu
Aa inaa ia ka rere anoo
He taitimu, he taipari, he taiope, he tairoa
He Tainui, he Tainui, he Tainui.

The koorero for the following waiata were written by kaimahi o Te Whare Taonga o Waikato:

Hei aha kei taaku uma?

Te Winika Tai Te Aroha.

The koorero around Anoo te Pai can be found in Ngaa Waiata Tuku Iho ki te Iwi, 2017, Volume 1

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The koorero around Nei Raa Te Kaupapa was collected by Rick Mītai, a grandchild and descendant from within Te Whakatōhea. This koorero can be found in the *Aotearoa Songbook 2025*.



**Ngaa mihi ki a koutou,
kia kaha Te Reo Maaori.**

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