

**Puliima National Indigenous Languages  
Information Communication Technology Forum**

**“Modern Ways for Ancient Words”**

(Language Workers of varying technical experience whose focus is the reclamation and revitalization of  
Indigenous languages)

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**Free to access resources for learning Māori**

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**Summary of presentation:**

This will be a joint presentation. The *Te Whanake* series and its attendant digital resources are the largest single set of teaching and learning resources for the teaching of *te reo Māori* – the Māori language. Importantly the digital resources to be found at <http://www.tewhanake.maori.nz> are the largest set of free to access resources for the teaching of any indigenous language in the world. Those online resources include a digital dictionary, animations with self directed learning materials, Māori language television programmes and language exercises as podcasts and streamed videos.

With the convergence of telephony, mobility and access to the World Wide Web the challenges and indeed opportunities for educators to deliver learning resources effectively and efficiently are increasing. Importantly the opportunities for indigenous peoples to record, develop and disseminate their respective languages and cultures are also increasing.

This presentation will discuss these online resources to show the potential that this new technology has for assisting learners and teachers of indigenous languages. The role of Te Ipukarea- The National Māori Language Institute in helping maintain and revitalise the Māori language will also be discussed.

**Presentation**

The *Te Whanake* series provides the basis for a structured Māori language programme from beginner level through to the advanced learner of Māori.

This presentation will:

- discuss the current projects of Te Ipukarea- The National Māori Language Institute;
- discuss and show some of the online resources for the range of textbooks and resources for the *Te Whanake* Series.

## Te Ipukarea – The National Māori Language Institute

This was established in July 2008 after significant Government funding was received. At the core of the Institute is the pursuit of excellence in scholarship, teaching and research in the Māori language and a collaboration of partners committed to advancing the status and regeneration of the Māori language. The management of these projects is by a small team based at AUT University.

The partner institutions are: AUT University, Te Ataarangi, Te Kawa a Māui and Te Herenga Waka of Victoria University of Wellington, Te Panekiretanga o Te Reo Māori of Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, Te Puna Wānaka of Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology, Aotahi: The School of Māori and Indigenous Studies of the University of Canterbury and Lincoln University. Te Ara Poutama, Faculty of Māori Development at AUT, hosts the Institute for the partnership.

The eight projects funded will:

1. Develop digital technology for the learning and teaching of the Māori language and by so doing enhance the digital literacy of Māori language learners and educators.
2. Identify key repositories of Māori knowledge and digitally record and disseminate via an interactive portal.
3. Develop graduated online Māori language learning activities for independent study.
4. Promote a Māori language lecture series and disseminate using digital technology.
5. Develop a quality standards framework for the Māori language at the tertiary level.
6. Strengthen the digital literacy of Māori speakers by advancing the notion of digital traditional forums for teaching and learning.

The expected outcomes will be:

- Improved digital literacy of Māori language scholars, teachers and students.
- Higher standards of Māori language instruction, and consequently an improvement in the quality of the Māori language.
- Improved connectivity between Māori speakers, communities and scholars using interactive digital technologies.
- An enhanced culture of scholarship in the Māori language.
- An expanded corpus of quality literature written in the Māori language.

The partners aspire to identify other projects and sources of funding to ensure the life of the Institute beyond the three-year timeframe.

### Project 1: He Rangi Mātāhauariki mō te Reo

This project is completed. As discussed earlier, it has provided digital resources for the *Te Whanake* series, from the beginner to the advanced level, by taking the existing audio and its supporting print material and converting them to podcasts. This creates a simple one platform resource that is easier to use and mobile.

Using a compatible content management system students create their own podcasts and submit their work online. All assessment and feedback is given online.

Currently, partner institutions are in various stages of installing the digital platform so that their Māori language staff and students can also use the platform that we have at AUT University. Training about how to use the digital platform and the way to install the system was provided free by Te Ipukarea to the IT staff and Māori language teaching staff of the respective partner institutions.

(see <http://www.apple.com/au/education/profiles/autuniversity/video.html>)

### **Project 2: He Pātaka Mātauranga**

This project is to identify native speakers who are key repositories of Māori knowledge from various tribes around Aotearoa/New Zealand and interview and record them speaking on aspects pertaining to te reo me ngā tikanga Māori (Māori language and culture). These interviews will be streamed and freely available through the Te Ipukarea website. Interviews and recordings will take place during 2009. The aim is to have all interviews streamed on the Te Ipukarea website by the beginning of the 2010.

### **Project 3: Te Whanake Online**

This project is to develop storyboards, voice recordings, waiata, activities and animations for the three *Te Whanake* textbooks, namely *Te Pihinga*, *Te Māhuri* and *Te Kōhure*.

Storyboards for *Te Pihinga* have been completed. The voice recordings, songs and animations for *Te Pihinga* will be completed once we have secured funding for that. The aim is to have the storyboards, voice recordings, activities and animations for *Te Māhuri* completed by February 2010 and *Te Kōhure* completed by the end of December 2010.

The goal of the Te Whanake Online project is to develop a series of online interactive modules to complement other *Te Whanake* resources. Te Whanake Online supports an immersion or game-style approach to language learning. Currently the fifteen modules for the first book in the series, *Te Whanake 1 Te Kākano*, have been completed and have been available free to use online at the Te Whanake Animations website. Institutions can also download the modules and adapt them specifically for their own students. Each module begins with an animated movie introducing the new language of the module. Between nine and sixteen activities in each module provide practice in a wide range of spoken and written language skills, including listening with comprehension, speaking, reading with comprehension, writing and activities to help learn grammatical structures and vocabulary. The project means that Māori language learners will have access to an online resource which is at the forefront of current thinking and practice in language learning online and firmly grounded in a successful and well-established Māori language series of texts, study guides, audio-visual resources, a dictionary-index, and teachers' manuals.<sup>1</sup>

### **Project 4: He Papa Huia**

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<sup>1</sup> Ka'ai, T.M., McDonald, J., Moorfield, J.C. Te Whanake Online: An interactive resource for Māori language learning. *He Puna Kōrero – Journal of Maori & Pacific Development*. Vol 7, No 2, September 2006 pp. 62-67

This project will promote and disseminate a Māori language lecture series through the video-conferencing facility that utilises the Access Grid Network through the **Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network (KAREN)**.

A group of specialists in the teaching, learning and revitalisation of the Māori language have been selected to deliver lectures during the academic year in 2009. Each lecture will be delivered in the Māori language and will also be presented from their respective institution depending on the speaker and the institution's accessibility to the KAREN network.

The lectures will also be recorded and available online through the Te Ipukarea website.

### Objective

There are several key objectives for this project

1. To provide a platform for experts in the Māori language engaged in research and revitalisation, to share and discuss their knowledge within Te Ipukarea's partner organisations.
2. To improve connectivity between Māori speakers, communities and scholars using interactive technologies.
3. To provide high quality content on aspects of Māori language learning online and to make it as accessible as possible.

### **Project 5: He Anga Reo**

This project will develop a quality standards framework for the Māori language. Adult learners of Māori have a range of options including universities, tribal and pan-tribal colleges and community initiatives/programmes. There is, however, no coherent framework to assess the quality of the language being taught or learnt and within what timeframe.

The aim of He Anga Reo is to provide a framework that can be applied across institutions to ensure the quality of the Māori language is the highest possible and to assist both learners and teachers in the attainment of critical language features.

It is hoped that this framework will assist not only member institutions but other organisations with a vested interest in the development of the Māori language like the Kohanga Reo National Trust, The Māori Language Commission, the New Zealand Qualifications Authority and the Ministry of Education.

### **Project 6: He Whakamāoritanga**

The range of literature in the Māori language is not extensive, especially at the intermediate and advanced level. There is an urgent need to access current experts in the Māori language to not only translate but write original material in Māori.

Proposed projects include;

- Translating a key seminal work in New Zealand literature. This could include works of non-fiction or fiction or a script for a published play.

- Developing creative oral literature and making it available online.
- Developing a 'writers in residence' scheme to support original writing in Māori.
- Supporting applications for existing writers in residences by writers in the Māori language.

#### Objective

This project involves collaboration on the translation of seminal literary works by Māori writers and artists; and the creation of a new corpus.

There are two other projects being worked on in Te Ipukarea which have been funded from two other agencies.

#### **Project 7: Kupu Arotau**

Very little serious research has been undertaken on lexical change in Māori as a result of contact with European immigrants. This research project aims to develop a Māori-English dictionary of loanwords adopted into Māori from non-Polynesian sources. This research project is currently focused on the collection of the loanwords occurring in the Maori-language newspapers published in the period 1842 to the 1930s and the Māori language Bible. The data collection of more than 18,500 loanwords and related data is complete and currently the dictionary is being prepared for its online version and the analysis of the data is being undertaken. The Foundation of Research, Science and Technology fund this project.

#### **Project 8: Te Kāwai Kūmara**

One of the long term strategic goals of the Institute is the development and delivery of a common postgraduate programme across its membership in the Māori language. Importantly this common programme will be supported by advanced digital technologies including but not limited to podcasts, Smart Board technology, video-cam supervision, and digital conferencing via the KAREN Network. Clearly that goal can only be achieved by having future Māori scholars who are not only highly literate in the Māori language, but who are also highly digitally literate. Prior to that outcome however the development, testing and implementation of appropriate and suitable digital platforms and the creation of best practice curriculum suited to such platforms need to be established.

The aim of this project is to build the research capability and capacity of Māori scholars to advance their skills in teaching and learning through research in the Māori language, supported by advanced digital technologies. Underpinning this is the longer term need to support new and emerging scholars to become supervisors of theses, particularly at the PhD level, in particular those written in Māori. Importantly, it will also bring about significant strategic change in the way centres of excellence can be brought together using digital technologies.

While there have been significant advances in the flax roots development of Māori language, advanced scholarship particularly at the postgraduate level, is fragile. A cursory analysis of the number of PhD theses ever completed in the Māori language suggests that the number may be little more than six. In addition, the number of staff currently in the tertiary sector who have supervised PhDs in Māori to completion are perhaps no more than two and they are aging and due to retire in the next few years. Both estimates are concerning and this project attempts to address this issue in a comprehensive and collaborative way.

(see [akoatearora.ac.nz/projects/te-kāwai-kūmara](http://akoatearora.ac.nz/projects/te-kāwai-kūmara))

Of interest is the e-journal *Te Kaharoa* we have developed as a way to publish the repositories of Māori knowledge, our postgraduate students and our staff. It is a referred journal and we welcome articles from scholars globally (see [www.tekaharoa.co.nz](http://www.tekaharoa.co.nz))

## **A general description of the *Te Whanake* textbooks and resources**

The *Te Whanake* series contains a comprehensive set of Māori language learning resources, including four textbooks with complementary study guides, recorded audio and video listening and speaking exercises, teachers' manuals, and a Māori dictionary for learners and teachers that develops Māori language ability from beginner through to advanced levels.

The *Te Whanake* series evolved out of the need for Māori language resources for adults that reflected modern methods of teaching second languages. Over the last thirty years considerable advances have been made in improving second language teaching methods based on an improved understanding of how additional languages to a person's first language are learnt.

The teaching methodology reflected in the *Te Whanake* textbooks and resources is based on the way learners in a natural bilingual situation learn an additional language. These textbooks and related resources are a culmination of what is now over 40 years of study by the author of developments in second and foreign language teaching methodology and bilingual education, together with the practical application of teaching Māori to secondary school pupils and adults for a similar period of time.

Considerable research has been carried out in writing these materials. Searching for appropriate recorded oral and written materials suitable for the developing language of the students has also been a time-consuming task. Likewise, finding or creating illustrations to include as resources to assist learners and teachers has been important. The illustrations and cartoons have been chosen or created with teaching points in mind, as well as to add interest to the written text. Some illustrations have been created as prompts for speaking and writing practice exercises.

Further research and checking with native speakers went into the grammar and usage sections of each chapter. Some aspects of grammar and usage are not to be found in other textbooks or grammars.

The authentic oral texts selected for the videotaped listening exercises are from Māori language programmes held at the New Zealand Television Archive. Not only was careful selection required, but also negotiation with the New Zealand Television Archive for the use of the materials at a reasonable cost was a long process.

### **Dictionary and Index**

The *Te Whanake* bilingual dictionary, *Te Aka Māori-English, English-Māori Dictionary and Index*, is designed for learners of Māori at all levels. It is written on new principles with modern and everyday language essential for learners. As well as the words one would expect in a traditional dictionary, it has encyclopaedic entries designed to provide key information about plants, animals, stars, planets, heavenly bodies, important Māori

people, key ancestors of traditional narratives, tribal groups, ancestral canoes, song types, Māori names for institutions, country names, place names and other proper names. There are also detailed explanations of key concepts central to Māori culture. Comprehensive explanations for grammatical items are included, with examples of usage, as are idioms and colloquialisms with their meanings and examples. These have all been included because they are important in communicating in a Māori context, and contribute to understanding and speaking the language in a natural way.

While this dictionary is designed to stand alone, it not only includes all the words used in the *Te Whanake* series of narrative texts and resources, but is indexed to the *Te Whanake* series, thus giving quick access to topics, maps, illustrations, idioms, colloquialisms, proverbs, tribal sayings, grammar and usage explanations with examples.

### **Sets of audiocassette, videocassette tapes and CDs**

The recorded exercises are designed to help the students practise the new language of a particular chapter and previous chapters. They are an essential part of the language programme, being closely integrated with the textbook, where the instructions for the listening comprehension exercises and visual prompts for speaking practice exercises are contained. There is a gradual shift over the first two student textbooks from a preponderance of meaningful practice drills of new grammatical structures and question-answer exchanges to mainly spoken authentic texts for *Te Māhuri* and *Te Kōhure* aimed at developing the listening comprehension skills of the learners.

Learners can use the audiotapes at home or in the language laboratory, where they are able to record their responses in practice exercises. In the language laboratory learners are able compare their language with the model responses provided by native speakers of Māori.

### **Online resources**

The most recent developments for the *Te Whanake* series are the incorporation of resources online.

These include:

- Converting the audiocassette and videocassette tapes/CDs into digital learning objects that are delivered from our online platform, AUT Online, and are also available online at the Te Whanake Podcasts website
- Developing new online resources for independent study by learners at Te Whanake Animations website
- An enhanced version of the online dictionary and index.
- Two TV drama serials are now streamed online at Te Whanake TV website.

### **Television series**

As a result of a partnership between TVNZ Education Television (eTV) a colloquial Māori language course, called *Te Kai a Te Rangatira*, was designed to complement the *Te Pihinga* textbook and resources. This first took the two courses based on these materials into homes and institutions throughout the country in the second semester of 1995. These courses are aimed at people throughout Aotearoa/New Zealand who are unable to attend regular classes because of the remote location or because of family ties or work

commitments and who, under normal circumstances, would not have access to learning the language or the chance to improve their Māori language skills.

*Te Kai a Te Rangatira* was the first Māori language television series created as part of a tertiary level language course and screened on eTV. Each programme in the 13-part television series includes a 12 minute drama based in a city restaurant run by the whānau (family) that own the restaurant land as a result of a land claim. Each episode also includes archive or documentary illustration of the course's main themes. Students enrolled in the courses were permitted to videotape the televised programmes. The emphasis is on modern colloquial Māori. The story centres on themes that come from the textbook.

As a result of the success of this venture, a similar television series for beginners called *Te Kākano* was completed for broadcast in mid-1997. Each 30-minute programme contains a 12-minute drama series, explanations of grammar and usage points, and discussions about cultural aspects. All of these are related closely to content in each chapter of *Te Whanake 1 Te Kākano*.

Both of these TV programmes are streamed online at Te Whanake TV website. Exercises accompany each episode to ensure that learners develop listening skills and are guided into extracting as much benefit as possible from viewing and hearing the language of each episode.

Kura Productions, led by Quinton Hita and Te O Kahurangi Waaka, working with the author and Te Ara Poutama of the Auckland University of Technology, have produced a beginners' Māori language television programme of a hundred 26-minute episodes for the Māori Television Service. It began screening five days a week in peak viewing time on 31 March 2009. This programme is closely tied to *Te Whanake 1 Te Kākano* and the related resources. There will be a dedicated website to supply support resources, including interactive activities, and a forum for learners to discuss language learning experiences as well as to practise new learning. Website material will be developed around the content in each episode. When the viewing stops, the learning continues online. Each televised episode will have three sections: grammar, vocabulary and activities.

### **Converting the audio- and videocassette tapes/CDs to the online platform**

Te Ara Poutama, the Faculty of Māori Development at the Auckland University of Technology, has converted the taped audio exercises and activities into a digital format for distribution out of an online e-learning platform. This digital content is available for playback on Microsoft Windows and Apple computers, television screens, as well as portable media devices such as mp3 players, video iPods and 3G phones. The videos are now streamed online. These can be used free at the Te Whanake Podcasts website.

Adapting the taped audio and video exercises and activities for online use on the internet has numerous benefits for, not only the learners, but also the staff and institutions involved in delivering the teaching. For example:

- Learners are able to access all the exercises and activities online at no cost, thus avoiding the expense of purchasing audio- and videotapes or CDs and DVDs;

- Provided learners have a microphone connected to their computer, they will be able to record their responses and submit them to their teachers for quick feedback. With an internet connection, they will be able to submit their exercises for assessment from anywhere in the world;
- Provided teachers have an internet connection, they will be able to mark and give quick feedback to the learners from anywhere in the world;
- This development means that language laboratories will no longer be required for teaching and learning Māori, thus freeing institutions from a major expense, not only for equipment but also space will be freed for other purposes.

This is a major development in the methods of learning and teaching Māori.

### **Enhanced dictionary and index online**

Since December 2006 the hard copy dictionary also has an enhanced online version, including photographs and sounds, which is free (<http://www.maoridictionary.co.nz>). The online version enables new entries, meanings, photographs and sound recordings to be added by the author at any time. The use of the online dictionary is steadily growing with, currently, more than 50,000 visits per month averaging more than seven searches per visit.

Learners using Te Whanake websites have access to the online dictionary at the click of a button.

## CURRENT LIST OF TEXTBOOKS AND RESOURCES

### ***Te Whanake 1 Te Kākano***

- Student textbook.
- Audio tapes/CDs (6).
- Videotapes (13) - *Te Kākano* series for eTV
- Teachers' manual.
- Student study guide.

### ***Te Whanake 2 Te Pihinga***

- Student textbook.
- Audio tapes/CDs (4).
- Videotapes (7) – *Te Kai a te Rangatira* series for eTV.
- Teachers' manual.
- Student study guide.

### ***Te Whanake 3 Te Māhuri***

- Student textbook.
- Audio tapes/CDs (2).
- Videotapes (2).
- Teachers' manual.
- Student study guide.

### ***Te Whanake 4 Te Kōhure***

- Student textbook.
- Videotapes (6).

***Te Aka: Māori-English, English-Māori Dictionary and Index.*** 2004. Auckland Pearson Education New Zealand.

### **Websites**

**Te Whanake Online** <http://www.tewhanake.maori.nz/>

- **Te Whanake TV** <http://tv.tewhanake.maori.nz/index.cfm/1,198,0,45.html>

Te Whanake TV streams two programmes: *Te Kai a te Rangatira* (1996) and *Te Kākano* (1997). Both were produced by eTV and The University of Waikato and subsequently marketed by TVNZ Enterprises. *Te Kai a te Rangatira* was to provide support material for *Te Pihinga*. The streamed resources now include listening comprehension exercises and activities to support the videos.

- **Te Whanake Podcasts** <http://podcasts.tewhanake.maori.nz/>

Online activities of the *Te Whanake* textbooks for playback on Microsoft Windows and Apple computers, television or portable media devices including iPods and 3G phones

- **Te Aka Māori-English / English-Māori Online Dictionary** <http://www.maoridictionary.co.nz/>

An enhanced online bilingual dictionary based on the hard copy published version that includes encyclopaedic entries, idioms and grammatical explanations. It is indexed to the *Te Whanake* Māori language series.

- **Te Whanake Animations** <http://animations.tewhanake.maori.nz/>

Online modules of animated movies and activities for the 15 modules in the first textbook.