

The purpose of Iti Kahurangi

The main purpose of Iti Kahurangi is to provide learners with information and experiences drawn from the culture of Rangitāne o Wairarapa. The curriculum is intended to help add to everyone's overall life experience as well as to educate and inform.

A central drive for Rangitāne o Wairarapa is that descendants of Rangitāne learn about and then experience personal growth through connecting with their identity, language and culture. One of the main platforms from which to achieve this is through schools who are also charged with ensuring that children receive education about their own and local Māori culture.

We also believe that there is value for everyone living in the Wairarapa or with connections to the region in learning about our culture. An extension of this that we are sure will be of benefit to anyone is if learning about Rangitāne motivates an individual to learn more about themselves they will gain greater pride and confidence.

Iti Kahurangi has been developed as a response to generations of local people, both Māori and some non Māori asking, "Where are our stories? Our songs? Our heroes? Why are we learning about foreign people and even places around other parts of New Zealand? We should be learning about all local things"

Many teachers have voiced the same questions. Often there has been a case where the necessary information or people with the information have been unavailable. Other times parts of information have been found but teachers have not been confident to deliver a lesson in case the story or history was not right. Sometimes linking information to the curriculum or incorporating it into a plan has been an impediment.

Iti Kahurangi is a comprehensive resource that makes introducing the culture of Rangitāne o Wairarapa easy and accessible. There are core topics with introductory examples such as karakia, waiata and history that anyone can access and utilise for their own learning. Some sections are specifically designed to assist school teachers to deliver a programme that is full of local content, can be a stand alone lesson, a term unit or as a part of a cross curricular activity. Action plans, ideas for inquiries, lesson plans, an education experience outside the classroom trip example and a new Pukaha Mount Bruce programme are all provided.

Iti Kahurangi is further supported by Rangitāne o Wairarapa kaimahi and their connection to a wide network of people with specialist knowledge who can assist with advice and personal support.

Akona Rangitāne - The Rangitāne o Wairarapa education website is also available for more information, links and ideas. Go to www.Rangitane.iwi.nz