

Foreword

The descendants of Whatonga and his grandson Rangitāne have lived in the Wairarapa for centuries. In order to maintain a constant tenure Rangitāne people had to listen to and observe the ways that nature communicated with them which we now recognise as the earliest form of education. In human terms older generations passed on all the useful things to know through te reo and more latterly educators have used several spoken languages, writing, other mediums and technology to educate.

Throughout the 1980s kaumātua of Rangitāne o Wairarapa were educating people on the culture and history of the iwi. Since becoming incorporated society in 1989 the whānau of Rangitāne have constantly been involved in sharing their knowledge with people from all walks of life.

Since the early 2000s requests for help from schools and organisations have grown. They are all interested in learning about various aspects of Te Ao Māori. Rangitāne has responded whenever possible despite the challenges of having few people and increasing demand.

There has for some time been a desire to develop a Rangitāne curriculum with associated resources. This would help Rangitāne to share tikanga, reo, history and other important aspects of the culture whilst addressing the needs of groups and individuals, particularly schools.

Rangitāne o Wairarapa and The Ministry of Education has formed a strong relationships over the past five years during which time strategic planning documents and connected projects have been successfully completed. During 2014/15 the Ministry of Education presented Rangitāne o Wairarapa with an opportunity to develop a curriculum framework. This was enthusiastically taken up with the project taking place between April and July 2015.

Happily taking on board suggestions from Helene Peyroux, Cathye Haddock and George Konia of The Ministry, Rangitāne invited three Masterton Schools Lakeview Primary School, Masterton Intermediate and Opaki School to work together to develop the curriculum. Paul Andersen (Lakeview), Lucy Zouch (Opaki) and Megan Roberts (MIS) represented their schools while Mike Kawana and Joseph Potangaroa contributed on behalf of Rangitāne. Delphine Morris of mana films started filming a video that would document the projects development but could not continue due to an important project she became involved in in Australia. Mikis van Geffen of Design Unlimited was able to pick up the video work in addition to resource and website design aspects of the project that he was already involved in.

The project team enjoyed sessions spent working on the curriculum. Each was able to contribute using a strengths based approach which made the overall experience effective, fun and fulfilling.

The end product of the project is **Iti Kahurangi** the Rangitāne o Wairarapa Education curriculum for years 7-8. While it is aimed at one age group it has already proven to be easy to modify it to fit other age groups.

Joseph Potangaroa, Project Coordinator, July 2015