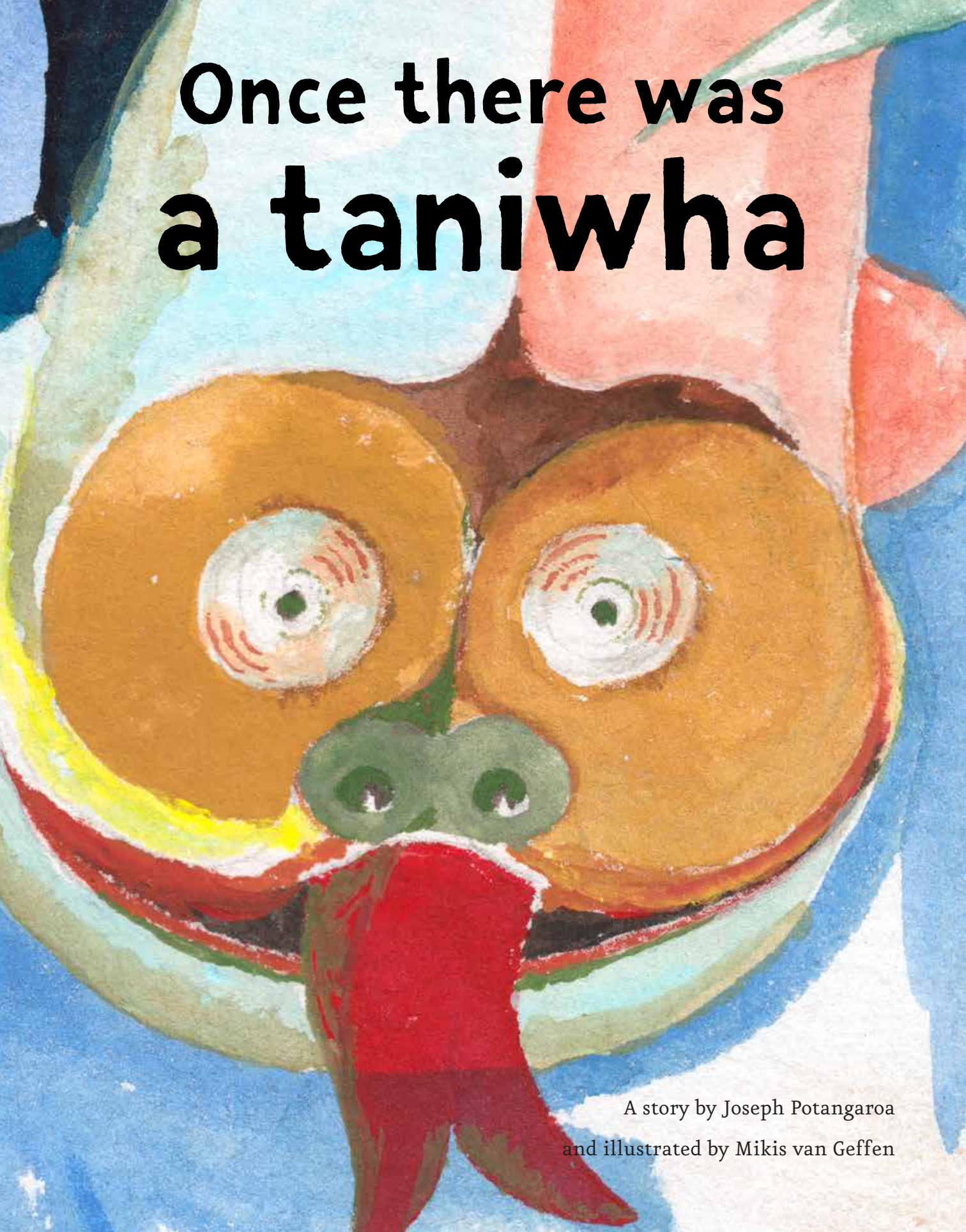


Once there was a taniwha



A story by Joseph Potangaroa
and illustrated by Mikis van Geffen

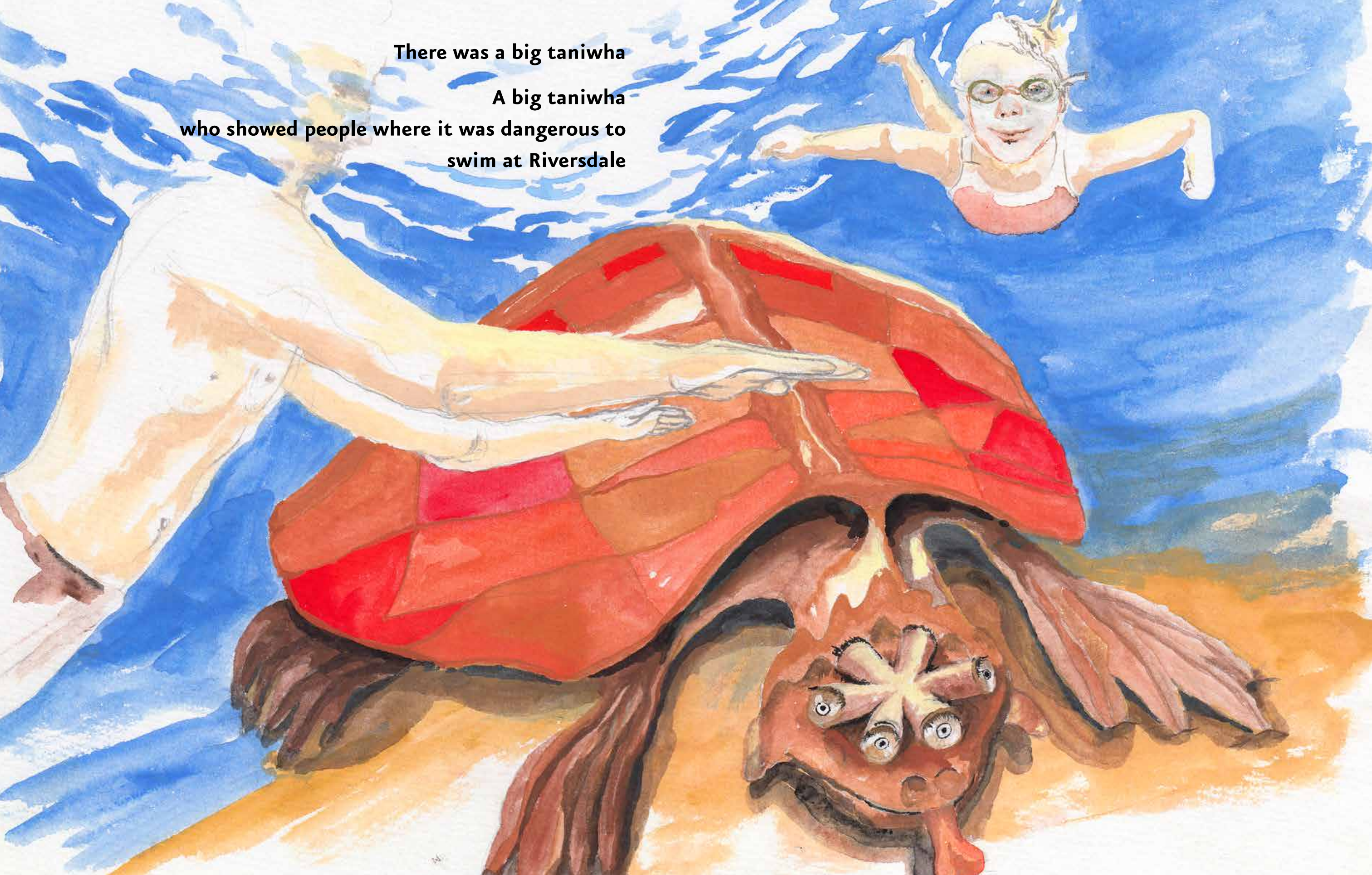
Once there was a taniwha

A taniwha who lived in water

He could change shape and
helped people all around
the Wairarapa

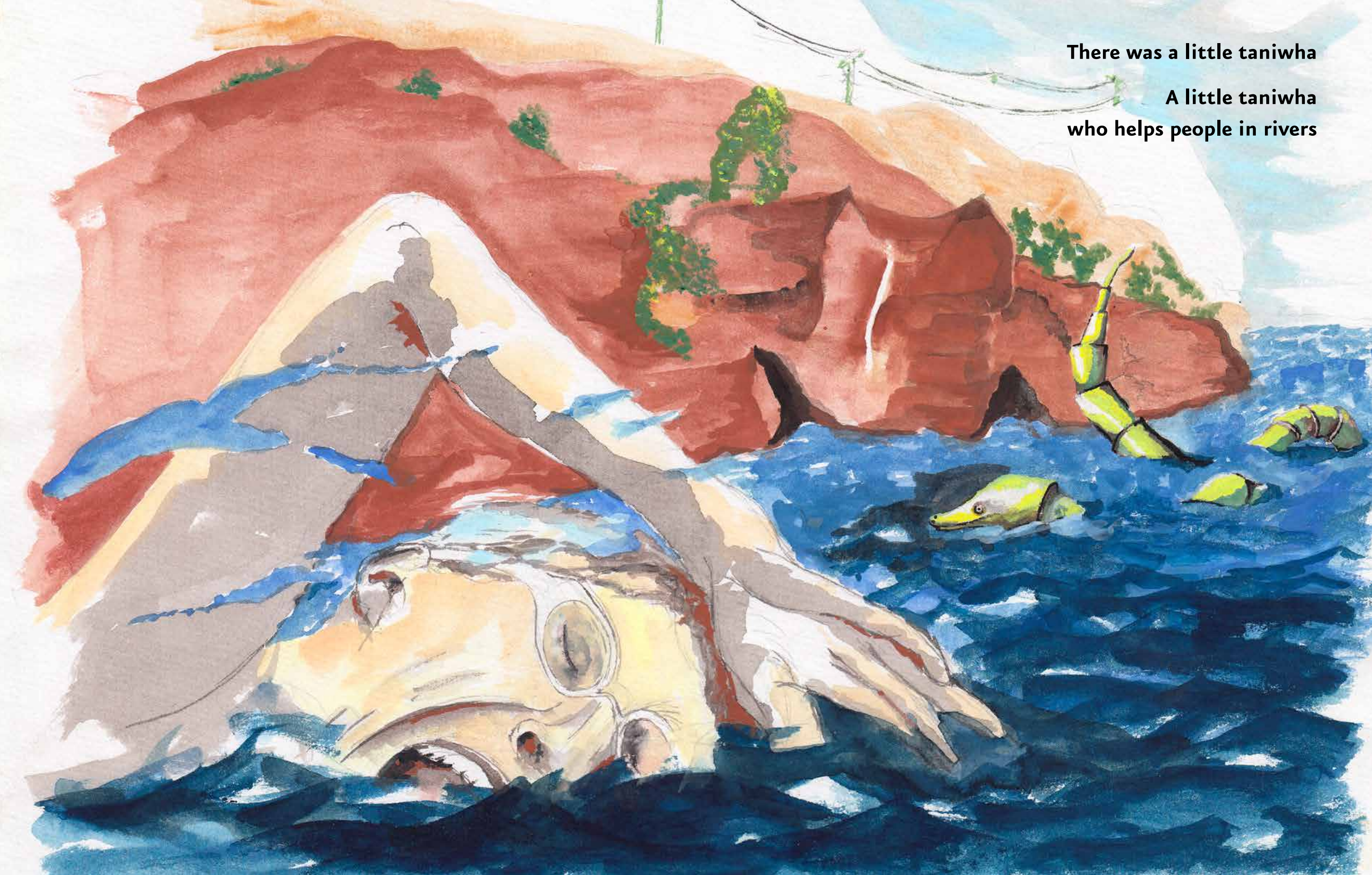


There was a big taniwha
A big taniwha
who showed people where it was dangerous to
swim at Riversdale



There was a little taniwha

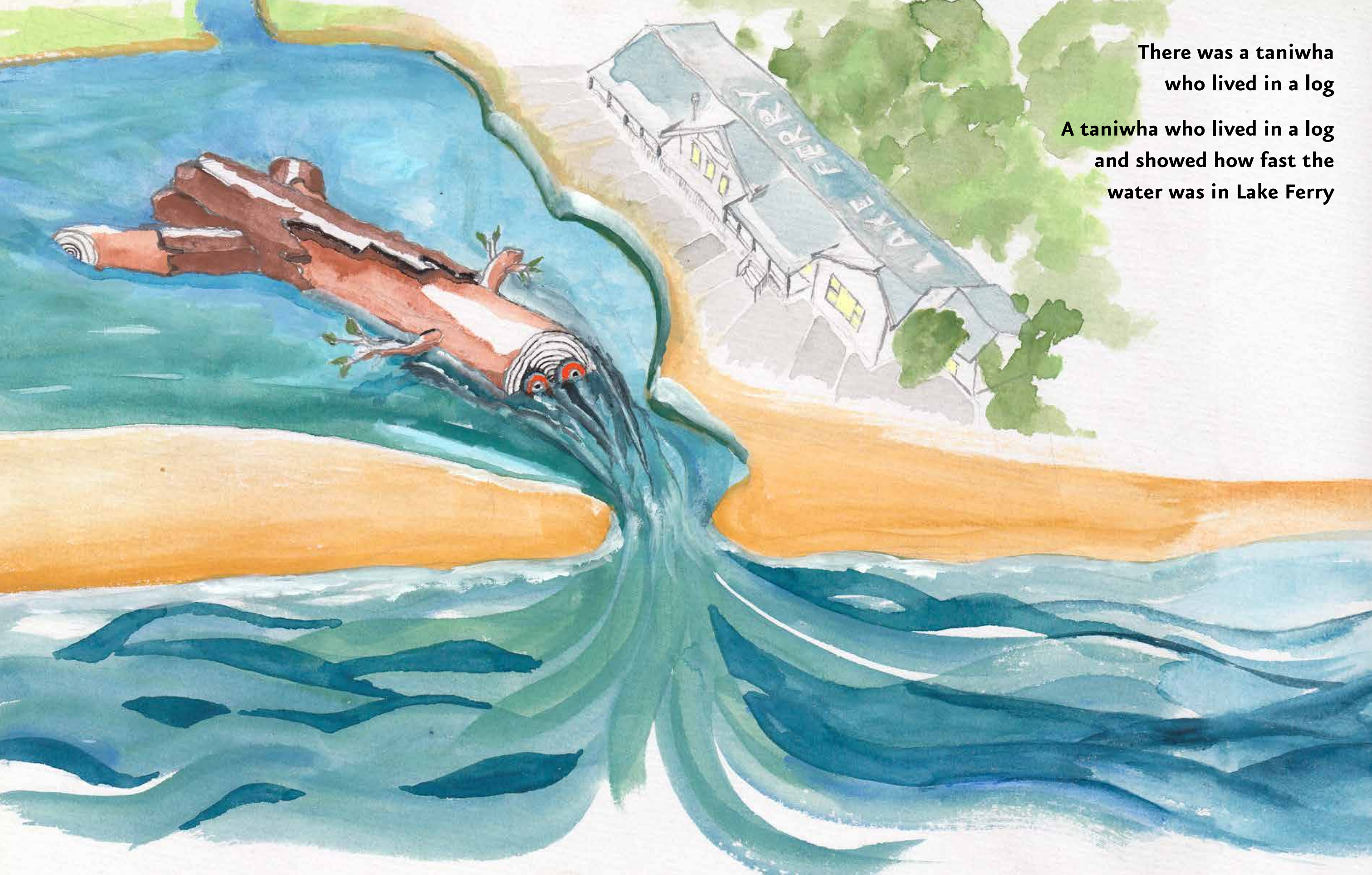
A little taniwha
who helps people in rivers



There was an octopus taniwha

**An octopus taniwha who told people to be
careful at Castlepoint**





**There was a taniwha
who lived in a log**

**A taniwha who lived in a log
and showed how fast the
water was in Lake Ferry**

**And you know what
The taniwha is still at all these places
to help you and me.**



Taniwha, a legendary monster that stalks unsuspecting prey along waterways or a guardian that watches over those under its protection?

Whatever image a person thinks of when they hear 'taniwha' the essence of the many faceted concept has been with Māori since the beginning of time. Today people are more likely to think of a huge ferocious lizard yet in Māori history taniwha came in many shapes and sizes. Sometimes taniwha were helpful spirits without a physical body or even the means by which curious children were warned away from danger. A treacherous bend on a river that was the lair of a taniwha, other peoples might say the home of a troll or bogeyman, kept all but the most mischief children far away.

In the Wairarapa we have our own taniwha and supernatural beings.

Learn more

If you would like to learn more about Wairarapa taniwha you can go to <http://education.rangitane.iwi.nz/>

To get to taniwha stories follow the menu stories - taniwha

You can read legends about taniwha throughout the Wairarapa Region.

You might like to visit some of the taniwha as a family or as a group. Please remember taniwha are there to remind us that a piece of water can be dangerous.



About this resource

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

Joseph Potangaroa

Kaituhituhi
(06) 377 4191
027 857 4601
tiri1@xtra.co.nz

Kathy Rimene

Chairperson
(06) 370 0600
kathy.rimene@rangitane.iwi.nz

This learning resource is one of a series of eight. They have been produced to promote Rangitāne o Wairarapa language, history and tikanga. They have been written for children, mainly for under 5s although the te reo versions especially are suitable for older children and teachers. All eight are written in both English and te reo Māori.

The resources have been written by **Joseph Potangaroa**. Illustrations by **Mikis van Geffen** of Design Unlimited. Translations by **Astee Karaitiana** and **Mike Kawana**.

Specialist advice was gratefully received from early childhood teachers **Michelle Potangaroa** of PAUA Early Childhood Home Based Care Services, **Susie Wilmshurst** of Masterton Christian Childcare Centre, **Karen Blade** of Una Williams Kindergarten and **Astee Karaitiana**. Special thanks to **Gaye Sutton** storyteller and Wairarapa REAP.

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