



# He Puāwaitanga

Rotorua  
Classes of 2025





## Mihi from Te Kura Toroa Chief Executive Officer

E te karanga o te rā, tēnā koe.

### He Puāwaitanga – A Time to Celebrate

He Puāwaitanga is one of the most significant moments in the journey of our taura – a time to reflect on the challenges overcome, the knowledge gained, and the future that now lies ahead. It's a privilege to join you, your whānau, classmates, and kaiako in celebrating this incredible milestone.

He Puāwaitanga means 'to come to fruition', and represents not just the completion of your studies, but the growth and transformation you have experienced along the way. Today is a testament to your resilience, determination, and commitment to your goals. Whether your journey has taken months or years, you have persevered through challenges and emerged stronger. For that, we acknowledge and celebrate you.

We've long believed that education is transformative, and our vision, "He takapau mātauranga, he whānau huarewa—whānau transformation through education," speaks to the impact learning has beyond the individual. When one person succeeds, their whānau, hapū, and iwi benefit too. That's why your achievement today is not just yours alone—it's something to be shared and celebrated by all those who have supported you along the way.

At Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, our mission is simple: 'Kia angitu te taura – taura success'. Success means something different for each of you. For some, this tohu will open doors to new career opportunities. For others, it represents a pathway to empowering your whānau, marae, hapū, iwi, and wider community. No matter what success looks like to you, today is about recognising how far you've come and the possibilities that now await.

I encourage you to embrace the opportunities that come next. Continue striving for excellence, continue learning, and continue using your skills and knowledge to create positive change. This is not the end of your learning journey, but a stepping stone to whatever comes next. Education is lifelong, and we hope to see many of you return to learn with us again in the future. Wherever your path leads, know that you'll always be a valued part of our whānau.

Take pride in this moment, celebrate your success, and enjoy the recognition you have worked so hard for. We're all incredibly proud of you.

Ngā manaakitanga

**Evie O'Brien**  
Chief Executive Officer

Your graduation photos will be available to download online, free of charge, from:

### Photography

Graduation photography provided by  
**KeyImagery Photography**



Web: <http://www.keyimagery.com/event>  
Email: [support@keyimagery.com](mailto:support@keyimagery.com)  
Phone: 021 829 966

Web: <https://keyimagery.drive.gallery>

# Rotorua Graduation

## Ceremony

Friday, 8 May 2026

### Distinction Hotel

390 Fenton Street, Rotorua

Registration | 8:30am - 9:30am

Ceremony | 9:30am

### Māhi ā-Rehe – Skills & Trades

Thinning to Waste Micro-Credential Level 3

Forest Industry Foundation Skills Level 2

### Te Tirohanga Māori – Māori Worldview

Te Ao Māori Foundation Level 3

### Rātonga Papori – Community & Social Services

Manaaki Tāngata - Certificate in

Bicultural Social Services Level 4

### Ārahi Kaupapa – Leadership & Management

Manu Taiko – Māori Governance Level 4

### Te Reo Māori – Māori Language

Te Pīnakitanga ki te Reo Kairangi Level 7

Te Rōnakitanga ki te Reo Kairangi Level 5

Te Pūtaketanga o te Reo Level 3 & 4

Te Ara Reo Māori (He Pī ka Rere) Level 3 & 4

Te Ara Reo Māori (He Pī ka Pao) Level 1 & 2

### Hauora – Health & Wellbeing

Diploma in Rongoā Level 5

Certificate in Rongoā Level 4

### Toi – Māori & Indigenous Art

Kāwai Raupapa - Certificate in Māori & Indigenous Art

(Toi Ataata) Level 4

Kāwai Raupapa - Certificate in Māori & Indigenous Art

(Ngā Mahi ā te Whare Pora) Level 4

Toi Paemātua - Diploma in Māori & Indigenous Art

(Ngā Mahi ā te Whare Pora) Level 5

Maunga Kura Toi - Bachelor of Māori Art (Raranga) Level 7

### Ako – Education

He Korowai Ākonga - Bachelor of Education

(Primary Teaching) Level 7

### Waiata Tautoko

### Karakia Whakamutunga

*Light refreshments available for graduates, whānau and friends*

## Mahi ā-rehe Skills & Trades

### Thinning to Waste Micro- Credential Level 3

Kaiako: Shand Edwardson

Snowden Capper  
Robert Delamere  
Martin Hamilton  
Pacito Honey  
Gianne-Kayah Robb  
Victor Samuel  
Teariki Takairangi  
Laurence Werahiko  
Reuben Weston  
Jeremiah Williams

### Forest Industry Foundation Skills Level 2

Kaiako: Shand Edwardson

#### Semester A

William Bigwood  
Osheana Corbett  
Dean Foster  
Hori Grayson-Karitiana  
Dj Kahui  
Te Aronui Kameta-Marsden  
Anton Kereama  
Haimona King  
Kereti Mikaere  
Julian Paul  
Kingstahn Rikihana  
Cody Shaw  
Ngakau Thomas  
Moerangi Timu  
Cody Ware  
Remojacoby Wetini-Marsden

#### Semester B

Hunter Hay  
Darron Kereama  
Shyne-Mizpah Leilua  
Samantha Makiha  
Elijah Marsters  
Tawhitimatea Penno  
Manaia Potaka-Kara

Emperor Rowe-Sullivan  
Usher Taiaroa  
Darrius Tipiwai  
Noah Wood

## Te Tirohanga Māori Māori Worldview

### Te Ao Māori Foundation Level 3

Kaiako: Rangitīaria Rika

Angela Angell  
Te Moana Blake  
Vincetta Brady  
Jocelyn Hancock  
Sally Hunter  
Hannah King  
Thomas Payne  
Te Paea Raimona  
Brooke Walker

## Rātonga Papori Community & Social Services

### Manaaki Tāngata - Certificate in Bicultural Social Services Level 4

Kaiako: Vivien Moke

Toni Colbert-Doctor  
Rebekah Hamilton  
June Hare  
Skyla Harrison  
Karamea Hohepa  
Abigail Martin  
Meihana McGee  
Justin McLeod  
Aroha Smith  
Mary Smith  
John Subritzky-Samuels  
Chanelle Toma  
Cheyene Tuhakaraina  
Dana Walker-McFarlane  
Lisa Worthington

## Ārahi Kaupapa Leadership & Management

### Manu Taiko – Māori Governance Level 4

Kaiako: Neville King

Chanel Coromandel  
Victor Edelsten  
Naivette Guiton  
Myra King  
Heeni Morehu  
Hinemoa Pitiroi  
Luonne Rowley  
Judith Tule

## Te Reo Māori Māori Language

### Te Pinakitanga ki te Reo Kairangi Level 7

Kaiako: Tiahomarama Fairhall

Biancha Biddle  
Jennifer Bridson  
Brian Campbell  
Ashley Clark  
Patricia Cotterill-Konui  
Ngatuire Hapi  
Raewyn Hodge  
Miriam Iti  
Maureen Kelland  
Simone Liddell  
Richard Mitai-Ngatai  
Te Aka Murphy  
Waiheke Murray  
Marcus Powell  
Erueti Rakena  
Meagan Reuben  
Ariana Smith  
Rereahu Tamaki-Maguire  
Jaylene Tamati  
Herewini Waikato  
Atamira Walker  
Lucas White  
Hinepukohurangi Williams

### Te Rōnakitanga ki te Reo Kairangi Level 5

Kaiako: Auroa Rikiti

Kanan Clancy  
Moana Corbett  
James Dodd  
Janelle Hikawai-Poi  
Bevan Hyland  
Marewa Lamb  
Piha Ngahere  
Moana Tapsell  
Te Ao Te Are  
Ramoana Te Are  
Lynda Vercoe  
Louise Vercoe-Payne  
Tui Waiariki  
Deborah White

## Te Reo Māori Māori Language

### Te Pūtaketanga o te Reo Level 3 & 4

Kaiako: Erueti Rakena

Donnalynn Douglas  
Ngahuia Elliott  
Taitimu Frahm  
Christie Haumaha-Nyman  
Meihana Herbert  
Tracy James  
Jay Kapene  
Sandy Kohu  
Tewi Mahaki  
Nikki Motu  
Bernice Puru  
Andrew Strickland  
Heidi Symon  
Justin Timoti

### Te Ara Reo Māori (He Pi ka Rere) Level 3 & 4

Kaiako: Hiria Mihaka

#### Wednesday AM

Morgan Aperahama  
Wendy Apiata  
Luke Frogley  
Teila Hodge  
Shane Hona  
Adelaide Kiel  
Miriata Kingi  
Anthony Ormsby  
Hinepau Peka  
Nicholas Pharo  
Dwayne Winiata

#### Wednesday PM

Sara Cunningham  
Orion Douglas  
Mahara Hooper  
Rangianahere Karaitiana  
Tionee Paul  
Jana Tamepo  
Aroha Tapsell

### Te Ara Reo Māori (He Pi ka Pao) Level 1 & 2

Kaiako: Frances Kingi

#### Tuesday AM

Helen English  
Waimarie Hare  
Amy Herewini  
Lionel Knowles  
Ngaronui Herewini  
Reihana Herewini  
Tekotia Ngati  
Arohia Pehi  
Sfax Pereniki  
Leah Taitapanui  
Dennis Tutbury  
Joseph Tutbury  
Tracy Tutbury  
Parris Wara  
Teina Whauwhau  
Daniel Wright

#### Wednesday AM

June Baine  
Alison Conrad  
Cynthia Couchman  
Glenys Courtney-Strachan  
Kathleen Daniels  
Aimee Kettoola  
Danny Kettoola  
Claire Manning  
Benjamin Page  
Anthea Parekura  
Sheryl Roach  
Chyanne Sergeant  
Christine Shaw  
Kathleen Whiripo

#### Wednesday PM

Matthew Appleby  
Alysha Ashby  
Pryde Bonnar  
Steven Fahey

Dean Hubbard  
Taylah Ma  
Amy Nathan  
Jessie Nelson  
Leah Ratana

## Hauora Health & Wellbeing

### Diploma in Rongoā Level 5

Kaiako: Kahuariki Hancock

Freda Amopiu  
Luke Armstrong  
Kerianne Bruce  
Edwina Burt  
Lara Curd  
Marena Gregory  
Mia Joyce  
Kenya-Maree Mole  
Rita O'Callaghan  
Tokerau Putai  
Tammy Sharp  
Rawinia Terry  
Solomon Vaetoru  
Kayla Whaiapu  
Maxine Williams  
Willy Wilson

### Certificate in Rongoā Level 4

Kaiako: Te Moana Blake

Rawinia Apanui  
Maea Gregory  
Amelia Hall  
Suede Heath  
Heneriata Maraldi  
Candis Ngawaka  
Alicia Oakley  
Rangianiwaniwa Pehikino  
Rangi Peni-LeVaillant  
Tekohatu Ripia  
Yvonne Rogers  
Sandra Velarde Pajares

## Toi Māori & Indigenous Art

### Kāwai Raupapa - Certificate in Māori & Indigenous Art (Toi Ataata) Level 4

Kaiako: Riria Lundon

Devereaux Hemara  
Aaron Hepi  
Cheyane Kahukiwa  
Kiri Leach  
Donna Morgan  
Chelsea Retemeyer  
Gina Tutbury  
Reoirangi Tutengaeha  
Laeva-Maree Wade

### Kāwai Raupapa - Certificate in Māori & Indigenous Art (Ngā Mahi ā te Whare Pora) Level 4

Kaiako: Amanda Haylings

Marie Brelsford-Smith  
Tracey Emery  
Brooke Halbert  
Erin Ingram  
Giani Mackey  
Natalie Pereniki  
Aroha Rask  
Cheval Rawhiti  
Myra-Dawn Spooner  
Marlene Thompson  
Arihia Thompson-Wilson  
Jacqueline Webber  
Alysha Wilson  
Brittany Wright

### Toi Paemataua - Diploma in Māori & Indigenous Art (Ngā Mahi ā te Whare Pora) Level 5

Kaiako: Tracey Robens

Teheipounamu  
Deelka Bell  
Kahurangi Dewes-Green  
Hilary Haimona  
Philippa Kahotea  
Renee Love  
Rachel Pearson

### Maunga Kura Toi - Bachelor of Māori Art (Raranga) Level 7

Kaiako: Margaret Belshaw

Claire Aldhamland  
Catherine Booker  
Tony Campbell  
Ka Inanga Edward  
Angelique Gilgen  
Jessica Haunga  
Amelia Homs Ferrer  
Puhi Howden-Taiepa  
Yumi Iwasaki  
Christina Kutia  
Elayna Ngata-Campbell  
Valerie Ngatai  
Rangitiarua Rika  
Vicki Smith  
Nga Tran  
Lisa Wilton

**He Korowai Ākonga -  
Bachelor of Education  
(Primary Teaching)  
Level 7**

Kaiako: Rie Morris, Morag Blair,  
Wendy Mack

Marlena Martin  
Graham Thomas  
Kiri Tuhakaraina



## Embracing tikanga gives understanding and meaning

Te Roopu Moana grew up around tangihanga, with a background in funeral directing and embalming, but never fully understood the reasoning behind certain Māori practices.

“I’ve always been around sick, deceased, and dying people. My mum was always called when someone was ill to do karakia or whakamoemiti, and I would go along with her. I observed our tikanga, but no one explained the reasons behind it.”

Her decision to explore tikanga further came when she realised her master’s report on tangihanga felt too westernised.

“Even though I was raised within te ao Māori, I don’t speak te reo and I have a disconnect. I thought, how can I make my report more meaningful? How can I create something that resonates? That’s when I signed up for Te Whāinga o te Ao Tikanga.”

Guided by her kaiako, Marama Furlong, Te Roopu found deeper meaning in tikanga. This not only helped her complete her master’s but also shaped her future direction.

Despite being able to confidently discuss funeral practices with bereaved whānau, her inability to introduce herself in Māori was a barrier.

“I didn’t know my pepeha, or how to structure a kōrero about my whakapapa to make meaningful connections. Thankfully, Whaea Ma provided that foundation from the start. I knew I was in the right place.”

Te Roopu was grateful for the nurturing environment her kaiako created, allowing her and her fellow tauira to grow with confidence.

“Whaea Ma is incredible. Understanding the why behind tikanga has deepened my connection immensely.”

## Kohinga Waiata

### He Hōnore

He hōnore, he korōria  
Maungārongo ki te whenua  
Whakaaro pai e  
Ki ngā tāngata katoa  
Ake, ake, ake, ake  
Āmine  
Te Atua  
Te Piringa  
Tōku oranga

### Na Tāne

Na Tāne i piki ake ki te toi huarewa  
Ki te tiki i ngā kete o te mātauranga  
Ko te kete Tūāuri  
Ko te kete Tūātea  
Ko te kete Aronui

Ka tahi ka hora ki te ao kikokiko  
Ki te ao hurihuri  
Ki o tātou tīpuna  
Ka hoa te taura  
Herenga tangata

Ko Te Kupenga o te Mātauranga  
Ko te kete Tūāuri  
Ko te kete Tūātea  
Ko te kete Aronui

Ka tahi ka hora ki te ao kikokiko  
Ki te ao hurihuri  
Ki o tātou tīpuna  
Ka hao te taura  
haerenga tangata  
Ko te Kupenga o te mātauranga x2  
Te Wānanga o Aotearoa

### Tai Aroha

Ko te aroha anō he wai  
E pupū ake ana  
He awa e māpuna mai ana  
I roto i te whatumanawa  
Ko tōna mātāpuna he hōhonu  
Ā ina ia karere anō  
Ko tōna mātāpuna he hōhonu  
Ā inā ia karere anō  
He tai timu, he tai pari  
He tai ope, he tai roa  
He tai nui  
He tai nui  
He tai nui

# Kāpuia

Our Graduate Community



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Te Wānanga  
o Aotearoa