

A close-up photograph of brown feathers with white text overlaid. The feathers are detailed and layered, with some showing a lighter, almost white, pattern. The background is dark and out of focus.

# He Puāwaitanga

Whakatāne  
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

*Tuia te rangi e tū nei*

*Tuia te papa e takoto nei*

*Ka rongo te pō, ka rongo te ao*

*Tuia te muka tangata*

*I takea mai i Hawaiki Nui*

*I Hawaiki Roa*

*I Hawaiki Pāmamao, te hono-i-wairua*

*Ki te whaiao, ki te ao mārama*

*Tihei mauri ora!*

# Whakatāne Graduation

## Ceremony

Wednesday, 13 May 2026

**Whakatāne Baptist Church**  
**67 Keepa Road, Whakatāne**

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Registration | 8:30am - 9:30am

Ceremony | 9:30am

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### Te Reo Māori – Māori Language

Te Aupikitanga ki te Reo Kairangi Level 6

Te Rōnakitanga ki te Reo Kairangi Level 5

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

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

### Toi – Māori & Indigenous Art

Toi Paematua - Diploma in Māori & Indigenous Art

(Ngā Mahi ā te Whare Pora) Level 5

Kāwai Raupapa - Certificate in Māori & Indigenous Art

(Ngā Mahi ā te Whare Pora) Level 4

### Hauora – Health & Wellbeing

Certificate in Rongoā Level 4

Certificate in Tākaro, Sports & Exercise Level 4

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### Waiata Tautoko

### Karakia Whakamutunga

*Light refreshments available for graduates, whānau and friends*

Your graduation photos will be available to download online, free of charge, for the next 90 days, from (Scan this QR code):



### Photography



Graduation photography provided by  
**Ira Vision Media Ltd**

[https://iravisionmedia.pixieset.com/  
tewanangaoaotearoawhakatanegraduation2026/](https://iravisionmedia.pixieset.com/tewanangaoaotearoawhakatanegraduation2026/)

## Te Reo Māori Māori Language

### Te Aupikitanga ki te Reo Kairangi Level 6

Kaiako: Hemi Waters

Maria Eruera  
Oceanna Grace  
Sheryl Khull  
Anahera Kingi  
Andrealee Maru  
Nicole McCarthy  
Te Pairi Tait-Olsen  
Kristina Tuwairua  
Mona Armstrong  
Nicholas Brell  
Michelle Deacon  
Tyrone Gage  
Te Kaha  
Isaiah Karaitiana  
Leonie Kibblewhite  
Te-Arani Raimona

### Te Rōnakitanga ki te Reo Kairangi Level 5

Kaiako: Himaima Kingi

Bethan Brass Duggan  
Samuel Epiha  
Laura Madritsch  
Hatea Ruru  
Danny Wi

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

Kaiako: Hiine Mika

Loretta Merriman  
Anne Moon  
Karen Scheffer  
Kylie Shortland  
Caroline Takotohiwi  
Gerald Thompson  
Monique Waenga  
Patrick Waenga

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

Kaiako: Hiine Mika

#### Wednesday PM

Geraldine Africa  
Keri Brewerton  
Sharday Cable  
Vincenzo Doctor  
Kenneth Henry  
Reremoana Kaata  
Stevie-Ray Kinghazel  
Tyzah Kutia  
Phillip Patuwai  
Lily Penwarden

#### Thursday PM

Ngawhakarau Akuhata  
Patricia Kane  
Dennis Moke  
Carol Pigott

## Toi Māori & Indigenous Art

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

Kaiako: Lisa Mckendry

Naomi Biddle  
Kathrine Davey  
Keita Kingi  
Mereana O'Sullivan  
Elain Schwarz

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

Kaiako: Lisa Mckendry

Julie Bowering  
June Daniela  
Rhylee Hahipene  
Dallas King  
Maera Lewell  
Susan Pickford  
Lucy Rio  
Anne Rodden  
Ani Tai  
Sieanna Walker



## Representing tāne in the weaving classroom Weku Kereopa | Taurira

Weku Kereopa may have been the only tāne (male) in his raranga (weaving) class but that didn't deter him from completing the Diploma in Māori and Indigenous Art.

The Murupara local would travel to his class in Whakatāne once a week to study the level 5 programme at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa.

*"It was a good environment to be in and around. Yes, I was the only male but they (classmates) would awahi (embrace) me and support me."*

Growing up, Weku would attend weaving expo's with his aunties and mum. From there he grew a passion and an interest for the art form.

*"Hardly any of my whānau weave now but I found all of their work in our shed and that made me want to learn and keep it alive."*

Apart from the exposure to raranga that Weku had growing up and weaving bracelets from time to time, his knowledge and experience was minimal.

*"At the start we were all novices and we were scared of talking up our work. This programme has built up a lot of confidence in me. I used to hide away in the corner but I feel more confident and open to share my weaving and everything I've learnt."*

Weku encouraged those with even a small amount of interest to give raranga a go and to remember that weaving was once a big part of life for both tāne and wāhine (women) in Māori culture.

*"I guess for men, we should remember that our people used to make ropes and nets for hunting and fishing. Because I live in the bush, I'm going to relish all that stuff. So, if they have a hunger to learn, just go for it."*

Studying at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa provided an environment that Weku said was enjoyable and made him feel comfortable while on his learning journey.

*"Once you get in the classroom it's quiet. Everyone is weaving and you just feel a good vibe. It doesn't matter what level you are, we just work together and try to help each other."*

**Hauora**  
Health & Fitness

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**Certificate in Rongoā  
Level 4**

Kaiako: Jess Mackey

Tania Dargaville  
June Faulkner  
Tamara Hanlon  
Herewini Hape  
Maea Herangi  
Alena Karaka  
Elizabeth Lynch  
Mayleen Maki  
Diane Moore-Jones  
Angela Murphy  
Tymera Ruru  
Tania Te Moni

**Certificate in  
Tākaro, Sports & Exercise  
Level 4**

Kaiako: Lynette Ngaheu

Monte Aranga  
William August  
Rihari Biddle  
Deanne Brown  
Judas Hokianga Houkamau  
Daunte Maxwell  
Te Rahui Miringaorangi  
Cruise Ohlson  
Aden Ohlson  
Pypa Patrick  
Waireti Paul-Wilson  
Constance Puna  
Brieana-Leigh Russell  
Rangiwhakawaitau Tarei  
Ihaka Wilson

# Kāpuia

Our Graduate Community



To learn more, scan here  
or visit [twoa.ac.nz/kapuia](https://twoa.ac.nz/kapuia)



## 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

## Tuhinga Kōrero Notes

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Te Wānanga  
o Aotearoa