

A close-up photograph of several brown feathers with white and tan patterns, set against a dark background. The feathers are the central focus, with their fine barbs clearly visible. Overlaid on the feathers is white text.

He Puāwaitanga

Ōpōtiki

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 rongō te pō, ka rongō 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!

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



Photography

Graduation photography provided by
KeyImagery Photography

Web: <http://www.keyimagery.com>
Email: support@keyimagery.com
Phone: 021 829 966

Ōpōtiki Graduation Ceremony Details

Friday, 19 June 2026

Registration | 12:30 pm

Ceremony | 1:30 pm

Ōpōtiki Deluxe Theatre

127 Church Street,

Ōpōtiki

Toi – Māori & Indigenous Art

Toi Paemātua - Diploma in Māori and Indigenous Art (Toi Ataata) Level 5

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

Te Tirohanga Māori — Māori Worldview

Te Whāinga o te Ao Tikanga Level 3

Te Reo Māori – Māori Language

Te Rōnakitanga ki te Reo Kairangi Level 5

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

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

Waiata Tautoko

Karakia Whakamutunga

Light refreshments available for graduates, whānau and friends

Toi Māori & Indigenous Art

**Toi Paemātua - Diploma in
Māori & Indigenous Art
(Toi Ataata)
Level 5**

Kaiako: Manu Tupara

Johneen Kelly
Ivynne Kerekere
Trinity Munro
Christopher Te Kiri
Te Whiu Te Maipi
Mahea Tupara

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

Kaiako: Manu Tupara

Moanaikauria Kennedy
Tapene Mika

Te Tirohanga Māori Māori Worldview

**Te Whāinga o te Ao Tikanga
Level 3**

Kaiako: Ramari Albert

Juanita Bark
Hariata Biddle
Lana Delamere
Tuhawaiki Delamere
Renata Kingi
Edwina Kingi
Ramari Kingi-Albert
Eikura Kingi-Albert
Tuterangi Kingi-Albert
Sonny Kingi-Albert
Jayce Pepere-Kingi
Leevana Rogers
Hinetera Ruha
Andrea Tunks

Te Reo Māori Māori Language

**Te Rōnakitanga ki te Reo
Kairangi
Level 5**

Kaiako: Maurice Taia

Parewhai Campbell-Seymour
Ngaumutane Jones
Roseanne Jones
Te Rangihau Karauna
Anna Kurei
Julie Moses
Tutu Rakuraku
Debbie-Sharon Shaw
Susan Taia
Krystle Taiaroa
Hurae Te Rupe

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

Kaiako: Maxine Tai

Tuesday PM

Tania Apiata
Paraakiri Higgins
Kerrin Hunter
Cecelia Jacob
Trudy Karauria
Meri Matchitt
Marita Matchitt
Nichola Maurirere Emberson
Natasha Te Moana
Faafetai Waititi
Kahukura Webb
Liisa Wharepapa

Wednesday PM

Darius Apanui-Nepe
Logan Bertram
Cherie Brosnan
Brent Brosnan
Helena Coughlan
Feleshia Edwards
April Hape
Paeroa Harre
Tea Beverly Hunia
Hinemoa Jordan
Mack Rewiri
Taupaki Rewiri
Leslie Robson
Tess Shaw
Piripi Springhall
Pauline Taiatini
Paegan Taitapanui-Collins
Waimaria Walker
Jessie Wilson

Leading by example and learning Te Reo Māori

Liisa Wharepapa | Taura

Liisa Wharepapa's (Te Whānau ā Apanui) journey with te reo Māori wasn't something that happened overnight, it was a goal waiting to be pursued until the moment she felt ready to take that step.

The moment that truly pushed her forward came when she was elected as a parent representative on the Board of Trustess at the kura her tamariki attend.

"Our kura is going through the process of becoming full immersion, so I thought this is the perfect time for me to learn. I had to lead by example and when you're on the school board, the picture is bigger than you and your whānau. I studied for my whānau, my hāpori, my hapū and my iwi," says Liisa.

Liisa began her journey at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa in 2024, completing He Pī Ka Pao Levels 1 and 2, before going on to finish He Pī Ka Rere Levels 3 and 4 the following year. While enrolled under the Ōpōtiki campus, her classes were delivered in her local community of Te Kaha.

When Liisa first began her studies, she didn't realise the scale of the commitment or how much she would learn. Initially expecting a short course and quick certificate, she soon found herself on a deeply transformative journey.

"I have no regrets taking on this challenge. The biggest challenge for me was the commitment, I work long hours, raise 2 kids, and chair the school board. There were times I wondered how I was going to manage it all, but I kept reminding myself the goal was bigger than me. It wasn't about whether I wanted to do it, I knew I had to."



What carried her through wasn't just the learning, it was the people. In a small community where everyone knew each other, the classroom created something new, a shared journey.

Her fellow tauira became a strong support network, checking in, sharing encouragement and celebrating each step along the way, while her kaiako played a vital role in their growth with constant support, reassurance, and belief in their potential.

"Our kaiako was always there, reassuring us that we were on track, encouraging us as a rōpū. Classes were made fun. If we missed a class, we'd actually feel like we missed out."

Liisa continues her learning journey beyond the classroom through wānanga, kura involvement, social media, and everyday life.

At home, she is supported by her whānau, who have encouraged her growth in te reo, with her dedication inspiring both her tamariki and her partner along the way.

"While I was in the class, I didn't always realise how much I was taking in, but once it's over, those little moments in everyday life start to show just how much you've learned. My confidence has grown, I understand conversations and my journey is only just beginning"

Te Reo Māori Māori Language

Te Ara Reo Māori (He Pī ka Pao)

Level 1 & 2

Kaiako: Stacey Tai

Tiffany Babington
Joelle Bettridge
Bonnie Cookson
Sasha Franklin
Martin Harlow
Barlowe Huriwaka
Tarmara Katene
Kirwan Leathers
Ariana Nikora
Kelita Paora
Arlyce Paora
Lamen Poihipi
Deborah Riddell
Jackie Ropotini
Roberta Shaw
Danielle Wilson
Nataalia Wilson

Te Ara Reo Māori (He Pī ka Pao)

Level 1 & 2

Kaiako: Maxine Tai

Katarina Ahu
Kowhai Bell
Brenda Coutts
Ruihirerewaipuke Edwardson
Tuterangi Gage
Jason Groom
Maraea Hata
Patricia Hurrell
Kararaina Kopa
Denny McGarvey
Lisa McGarvey
Bobbie-Grace Paora
Carol Puru
Quinn Williams

Kohinga Waiata

Tama Ngākau Mārie

Tama ngākau mārie
Tama a te Atua
Tēnei tonū mātou
Arohaina mai

Murua ra ngā hara
Wetekina mai
Ēnei here kino
Whakararu nei

Whakaaria Mai

Whakaaria mai tō rīpeka ki a au
Tīaho mai rā roto i te pō
Hei konā au titiro atu ai
Ora mate hei au koe noho ai
(Repeat)

Ko te Whaea (Ka waiata ki a Maria)

Ka waiata ki a Maria
Hine i whakaae
Whakameatia mai
Te whare tāngata
Hine pūrotu
Hine ngākau
Hine rangimārie
Ko te whaea
Ko te whaea
O te ao

Mā te Mārie

Mā te mārie a te Atua
Tama wairua tapu hoki
Me ngā anahera pono
Tātou katoa e tiaki

Mā te māngai pono hoki
Tātou katoa e ārahi
Ki te pono, ki te tika
Ki te toronā o Ihowa
Amine

Homai to poho

Homai to poho
Hei piringa
To poho hei piringa
Homai to kiri
Kia rongo atu
To kiri kia rongo atu
Homai o kupu
Kia korero
O kupu kia korero

Karakia Whakamutunga

Kia tau, ki a tātou katoa
Te atawhai o tō tātou ariki a Ihu Karaiti
Me te aroha o te Atua
Me te whiwhingatahitanga
Ki te Wairua Tapu
Ake, ake, ake
Āmine

He Hōnore

He hōnore, he korōria,
maungārongo ki te whenua
Whakaaro pai e ki ngā tāngata katoa
Ake ake, ake ake, Amine
Te Atua, te piringa, tōku orange

Ka poipoia

Ka poipoia ahau i te po marino e
te korowai o te atua o taku whare okioki

Tērā ngā whetu korikoriko te marama tae ahoaho
hei hoa mōkū i te poho o taku whare okioki
Te kapua i te ikaroa mōkū mo aku takahanga
hei hoa mōkū i te poho o taku whare okioki

Ngā whakamoemiti

Ngā whakamoemiti
whakawhētai e Ihu e
mo ou manaakitanga
Ki te iwi e tau nei
Ko koe te piringa
Ka puta ki te orange
e te Ariki, Pai mārire

Te Aroha

Te Aroha
Te whakapono
Me te rangimārie
Tātou tātou e

E toru ngā mea

E toru ngā mea Ngā mea nunui “echo”
E kī ana “echo”
Te paipera “echo”
Tumanako “echo”
To poho hei piringa Whakapono “echo”
ko te mea nui
Ko te Aroha

Kāpuia

Our Graduate Community



To learn more, scan here
or visit twoa.ac.nz/kapuia

Te Kōpuretanga

Scholarships



To learn more, scan here
or visit twoa.ac.nz/taura-students/scholarships



Te Wānanga
o Aotearoa