

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

Kawerau

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, for the next 90 days, from (Scan this QR code):



Photography

Graduation photography provided by
Ira Vision Media Ltd

Web: <https://iravisionmedia.pixieset.com/tewanangaoaotearoa2026kaweraugraduation/>

Kawerau Graduation Ceremony Details

Friday, 15 May 2026

Registration | 8:30am

Pohiri | 9:30am

Ceremony | 10am

Rautahi Marae

117 Onslow Street,

Kawerau

Ako – Education

He Puāwai - Certificate in Adult & Tertiary Teaching Level 5

Toi – Māori & Indigenous Art

Toi Paemātua - Diploma in Māori and Indigenous Art (Ngā Mahi ā Te Whare Pora) Level 5

Kāwai Raupapa - Certificate in Māori and Indigenous Art (Ngā Mahi ā Te Whare Pora) Level 4

Rātonga Papori – Community & Social Services

Manaaki Tāngata - Certificate in Bicultural Social Services Level 4

Hauora – Health & Wellbeing

Certificate in Rongoā Level 4

Ārahi Kaupapa – Leadership & Management

Certificate in Money Management Level 3

Pakihi – Business

Smart Steps to Business Level 3

Te Reo Māori – Māori Language

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

Ako Education

He Puāwai - Certificate in Adult & Tertiary Teaching Level 5

Kaiako: Elsie Rakuraku

Semester A

Alice Aramoana
Frances Baker
Laura Batt
Patricia Falwasser
Elizabeth Graham
Kerry-Anne Hirini
Ngareta Mason
Audrey Mauriri
Pele Paenga
Amber Paraha
Tangaroawhai Paraku
Joy Porquis
Feu Ropati
Maraea Ruru
Tamara Simpkins
Shirley Taiatini
Kuo Wawatai
Emmett White

Semester B

Mya Batt Brown
Kalani Borell
Patricia Carre
Debra Craig
Margaret Davies
Antony-Gene Edwardson
Phebe Eruera
Tiahomarama Fairhall
Stephney Grayndler
Elizabeth Kaa
Anna Mathers
Aaron Maui
Janet McKay
Ashley McLeod
Hinekura Mika
Robyn Neil
Te Hopuawai Rakuraku-White
Bettsy Smith
Laken Stone
Maxine Tai
Kaya Tamaki
Tipene Tihema-Biddle
Ana Yugar Cardenas

Toi Māori & Indigenous Art

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

Kaiako: Gerry Karekare

Kayah Harris-Wana
Glynn Rogers

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

Kaiako: Gerry Karekare

Waahi Apiata
Lynette Curtis
Reina Hale
Nebraska Hovell-Brooking
Perry Papera-Jackson
Charlene Peita
Grace Stone
Ellen Tuna
Sharn Turei
Francesca Wharewera

Rātonga Papori Community & Social Services

Manaaki Tāngata – Certificate in Bicultural Social Services Level 4

Kaiako: Rawena Rangitauira

Naika Biddle
Te Hukatai-Moana Bryant-Kameta
Danielle Croucher-Wheto
John Kara
Bryce Marsh
Crystal Nikora
Patience Pari
Harmony Robinson
Suzanne Ryder
Chade-Toroa Tihi
Denise Tiopira
Riria Wiki



Kawerau local lives out childhood dream of learning to weave

Barbara Wheto | Tauira

As a young girl, Barbara Wheto always had a fascination with harakeke and the art of weaving. But growing up in an era where being Māori and Māori culture were scorned upon, she was never encouraged to explore the art form.

She recalls being punished as a young child for playing with harakeke, and from then on, she would hide in the bushes just to practice weaving.

“As far as my parents were concerned, being Māori was the worst thing that could ever happen. Weaving had always been something I’d wanted to do, but I was made to feel like it was wrong,” says Barbara.

In 2022, Barbara enrolled in Kāwai Raupapa Level 4, in Raranga, at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa after seeing an advert on Facebook to study locally in Kawerau.

This decision was one that Barbara was excited about after years of feeling like she had to hide her desire to weave, but it also came with a mixture of fear, knowing that she had never immersed herself in te ao Māori before.

“In the first class, my kaiako was talking about harakeke, and I thought, what the heck is harakeke? That’s how much I didn’t know. I was raised pākehā, and I know that world. I don’t know the Māori world, but I want to know. That has made me more determined to do what I’m doing.”

At 60 years old, Barbara graduated in Toi Paematua - Diploma in Māori and Indigenous Art (Ngā Mahi ā Te Whare Pora) Level 5 from Te Wānanga o Aotearoa – Kawerau Campus.

And she didn’t stop there. In 2024, she begun working towards her degree, studying Maunga Kura Toi – Bachelor of Māori Art at the Rotorua campus of Te Wānanga o Aotearoa.

Barbara speaks highly of her kaiako, May Te Pou, who was a great source of encouragement for her throughout her weaving journey.

“My kaiako went to the ends of the earth to support me, and she still does, even though I’m now a tauira in Rotorua. Studying raranga has been for me, and this is something that I have wanted since I was a child. Getting to study raranga has meant the world to me.”

Hauora Health & Fitness

Certificate in Rongoā Level 4

Kaiako: Vanessa Skipper

Faith Greenfield
Jessica McKeeman
Lynn O’Brien
Faith Pongi
Talitha Pongi
Ngaio Pryor
Hine Rua
Nita Singh
Maria Tamatea
Garry Te Ruki
Debbie Thomsen

Ārahi Kaupapa Leadership & Management

Certificate in Money Management Level 3

Kaiako: Julie Reilly

Shanaeya Brookes-Barton
Emma-Leigh Ewing
Emily Kuresa
Vinara Nikora
Rena Rogers
Nickola Savage
Laken Stone
Kazarine Tuhoro

Pakihi Business

Smart Steps to Business Level 3

Kaiako: Julie Reilly

Kerry Brooking
Emma-Leigh Ewing
Patricia Falwasser

Te Reo Māori

Māori Language

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

Kaiako: Martin Rakuraku

Aaron Falwasser
Rachel Field
Carlene Gardiner
Davina Hudson
Tai Hunia
Naanipunga Tioke
Cazna Waiari
Julianne Perry
Jennifer Reynolds
Waimanuka Selway
Graeme Storer
Te-Tiriti-O-Waitangi Te Rire

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

Kaiako: Martin Rakuraku

Tuesday PM

Kenneth Aramoana
Louise Coates
Garry Cole
Tatijana Croucher-Wheto
Mykah Davies
Monique Davis
Courtney Hikuroa
John Hillman
Darlene Hiraka
David Kaukau
Jordan Lloyd
Bernadette Marks
Campbell Pakuria
Thomas Te Aonui
Sarah-Ellen Te Aonui
Sarah Te Pono
Tawai Thatcher
Eru Wickliffe

Wednesday PM

Jovannie Anderson-Rikihana
Pania Kare Kare
Don Kare Kare
Aroha Marumarū
Freesia Murray
Maria Pereira Stagno
John Peri
Wakata Takuira
Jolene Taylor
Tarnya Te Riini
Patricia Warner

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



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or visit twoa.ac.nz/taura-students/scholarships



Te Wānanga
o Aotearoa