

**NZEI Early Childhood and Support Staff Scholarships NZEI scholarship  
2022 – Final report - Josephine Westley**

**Purpose of my project**

My project is to contribute to strengthening and normalising the use of te reo Māori throughout the classroom in the school community and education sector. To achieve these project goals I have undertaken the 2022 Te Ahu o Te Reo Māori course. This program focuses on te reo Māori proficiency, acquisition of the language and practical ways to apply cultural and language concepts in the classroom and within communities. The course covers five areas, including local dialect, practice of te reo Māori, foundations of grammar and writing conventions, development of te reo Māori language in curriculum delivery and strategies to promote Māori language in classrooms and school communities.

**Changes to Original Proposal and Reasons for the change**

To further enhance my ongoing te reo Māori and Tikanga learning pathway I took the opportunity and also enrolled in 2022 into a Te Ataarangi Oranga Reo course. This additional course was designed to support intermediate and advanced learners who have developed Māori language competencies at a foundation level and are looking to extend skills and abilities in everyday reo situations. The course was in full immersion Māori and ran over 4 x 20-hour rumaki reo at Onetahua Marae in Golden Bay. The Te Ataarangi Oranga Reo course extended my confidence in speaking te reo Māori. The experience complemented the teaching of the Te Ahu o Te Reo Māori course.

**Research findings and/or a detailed summary of completion of study**

The course followed a progression to explore and develop your paku mihi (introduction personal mihi), with a large focus of the course on whakahua (pronunciation), mita / reo ā-iwi (local dialect), tikanga o te Reo (grammar).

Each Wānanga focuses on a pūrākau (cultural narrative) shared from one of the local iwi. These narratives help to explain the importance of the landmarks throughout Te Taihū o te Waka a Māui (Top of the South) and the relationship that the iwi have between their ancestors and the land. The course covered the pūrākau of Kupe, Matua Hautere and Rakaihautu (navigators who named many of the prominent landmarks throughout Te Taihū o te Waka a Māui). From these pūrākau I have learned the importance of these landmarks and the connection with the land to the local iwi, their korero tuku iho, their sacred places and histories and their way of being as tangata/mana whenua.

Throughout the course, the programme encourages discussions and in-depth questioning of how to link and incorporate uaratanga (values) into the educational setting. Reflection on uaratanga which are important to you and your whanau is also encouraged. The core uaratanga which have been focused on are listed below:

- Manaakitanga
- Aroha
- Kotahitanga
- Māia
- Whakamana
- Kaitiakitanga
- Whakawhanaungatanga

Another focus of the course is learning and understanding of new whakatuaki, karakia tīmatanga, karakia whakamutunga, karakia kai and waiata. With this wider range of karakia and waiata, I have developed confidence to use, share and incorporate these into everyday educational settings.



*Figure 1: Kaihautu Tom Alesana, Kōrero to the students of Te Ahu o te Reo Māori about the importance of the Maitahi River to the local iwi.*

**Liaison/Interaction with NZEI Te Riu Roa members and/or community groups** Throughout the course, I have incorporated my learning to promote Māori language with my NZEI colleagues. As the NZEI National Support Staff Representative for Te Tauihu o te Waka a Māui I have taken up all opportunity to promote and normalising the speaking of te reo Māori. I have demonstrated this at our National Leadership Group meeting in Wellington at Nelson Branch level and at the Area Council. I have incorporated and shared my experiences with my colleagues, with the intention of enhancing and strengthening te reo Māori within the mainstream classrooms.

### **Summary**

Firstly, thank you to NZEI for the opportunity that the scholarship has given me to pursue studies with te reo Māori. The courses I have undertaken because of the scholarship have allowed me to gain confidence and ignited my passion to continue studying to strengthen my confidence in using te reo Māori and understanding of Tikanga. I have enrolled in 2023 to both Level Four Te Ahu o Te Reo Māori and Te Ataarangi Oranga Reo course.

I have shared the experience of my studies with my NZEI colleagues, and with the wider Richmond School community of colleagues and students. I have contributed to strengthening and normalising the use of te reo Māori throughout the school and classroom through to use of te reo Māori and Tikanga into classroom programmes. This in turn has contributed to other educators and NZEI members enrolling into Te Ahu o Te Reo Māori courses.