

Ko ngā Waka o Ngāti Porou

Nā Waho Tibble

Nō ngā rā o te 23 ki te 27 o Hūrae (Hōngongoi) 2001 i tū ai tētahi hui wānanga a Ngāti Porou ki te Whare Wānanga o Waikato. Nā te Taura Here o Ngāti Porou ki Kirikiriroa i whakahaere, ko te tokomaha o rātau he ākongā he rangatahi kei tērā whare wānanga. Ko ō rātau pākeke ko Tāmāti rāua ko Tilly Reedy me Waldo Houia. I haere atu ēnei o mātau o Pōneke nei ki te āwhina, ki te tautoko, awau, a Wi Kuki Kaa, a Katete Tāngaere me tana hoa me June, me taku taina a Te Rātū.

I te ata o te Mane ko te pōhiri a Tainui ki a mātau i runga i te marae o te whare wānanga. He mahi nā rātau pēnei nā, ka tono te whare wānanga ki ngā iwi kia haere atu ki reira ki te wānanga i ā rātau kōrero mō rātau anō, ia tau he iwi kē. Ko te iwi tuatahi ko Tainui, i te tau i muri mai ko Te Arawa, i tērā tau ko Mātaatua, i tēnei tau ko mātau. I whakaarotia e Tāmāti mā ko ngā waka o Ngāti Porou te kaupapa hei whāinga mā mātau.

Ko ngā pakeke i haere mai i te wā kāinga ko tō mātau kuia ko Mate Kaiwai me ana tungāne me Āpirana Mahuika rāua ko Koro Dewes. I reira anō hoki a Kāterina Mataira, kua roa kē e whakaako ana i reira, me Piripi Aspinall kei Tuhikaramea e noho ana i tēnei wā. I tae ake a Te Whaimutu Dewes ki te kōrero mō ngā ika me te kerēme a Ngāti Porou ki te Taraipūnara o Waitangi. I moe mātau i te marae o te whare wānanga, he whare kī tonu.

I tīmata tonu mai ngā kōrero i a Nukutaimemeha, te waka o Māui nāna nei i hī ake a Niu Tirenī. E iri mai nā tana waka i te tihi o Hikurangi maunga, kia whakatau ake a Te Aotaki ki a Tūwhakairiora i tana haerenga mai me tana rau kotahi i roto i Te Whakatōhea, “E, haere mai ki a au ki a Hikurangi maunga e tauria ana e te huka.” I kōrerotia tērā kōrero i roto o Wharekahika. He rau tau pea i muri mai, ko Te Kani-a-Takirau e



Ko ngā kuia mōrehu, ko Roka Pāora o Te Whānau Apantū rāua ko Mate Kaiwai o Ngāti Porou te tamahine a Āpirana Ngata, e whakarongo atu ana ki ngā kōrero Mana Wahine o Ngāti Porou, arā 'Ko ngā kōpara o Rongomaitāpui.'

whakautu ana i te tono ko ia hei kīngi, “Ko tōku rangatiratanga nō te pō mai; ehara taku maunga a Hikurangi i te maunga haere.” Ka whai ko ngā uri o muri nei ki tēnei nā,

*“Ko Hikurangi te maunga,
Ko Waiapu te awa,
Ko Ngāti Porou te iwi.”*

I te ūnga mai o ngā waka e mōhiotia nei ko te Heke mai i Hawaiki, ngā waka e whitu rānei e hia rānei, kua roa kē ngā uri o Māui e noho ana i te rohe o Ngāti Porou. Nō muri i a Māui, ko te Uri o Toi, ko Ngā Ruawaipū, ko Ngāti Uepōhatu. Ka whai mai ko Nukutere waka, ko te Whironui tangata, ko tana tamahine