

He mihi ki a Ruakere Hond:

Nā Patu Hohepa
Nō Te Tai Tokerau



The Photo Place

Ko Te Toihau o Te Taura Whiri a Patu Hohepa rāua ko Ruakere Hond.

Muia ana te wāhi huihuinga e te takimano tohunga, ā, rangatira hoki, i te pō o te 8 Whiringa-ā-rangi 2002. I te Novotel Tainui tēnei i Kirikiriroa. He rangatira hoki te karanga, he whakanui i te taumata mātauranga Māori te take. Kei waenganui tonu hoki tēnei i te tāone o Hamutana, kei te taha tonu o te awa o Waikato.

Kāhore i mārama i te puna i puia ake ai te whakaaro, engari kāhore he whakahē. Ko te whakaaro kia kimihia ngā tohunga kakama o te ao Māori mō ngā wāhanga e mauria ana e ngā whare wānanga. Ko te Whare Wānanga o Waikato koia te kaihautū hei tuari i ngā mahi, hei mau i te kaupapa.

Engari rā, ehara i te karanga noa iho nā te whare wānanga. He kupu e rere ana i mua; kei muri kē e aru mai ana te wairua.

Kei tua hoki o te whare wānanga te mana, te ihi me te tapu e karanga mai ana. Tērā e rere ana a Waikato awa. He piko he taniwha, he piko, he taniwha tōna pepeha. Kei a ia, kei a

rātou anō ō rātou reo karanga. E karapotitia ana hoki te awa e ngā maunga mau kōrero – ko Kakepuku te kaimau i waenganui, ko Taupiri te poukā o ngā rangatira, ko Pirongia te kaitiaki e maiangi mai ana rā hoki i te uru. Kei a rātou me ō rātou whānau maunga hoki ō rātou maioha mai. Waikato awa, Waikato whenua, Waikato tangata, Tainui waka – kei te kei ko tōku ariki, te mokopuna o te motu e mau nei i ngā kupu tuku iho:

*Ko Arekahana tōku hāona kaha
Ko Kemureti tōku oko horoi
Ko Ngāruawāhia tōku
tūrangawaewae
Tūrangawaewae mō te Kingitanga...*

Ko te karanga i tae mai ki Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori. Kāhore rawa i tua atu; me whakautu te tono mai, me whakamana te karanga kia tautokona atu te reo rangatira i roto i ngā pūkenga ākonga ka tohia. Ko te tuara kaha o te reo kua huri kē; tīraha mai ana i Taiwhakaaea. Hei tohu mōna me āna mahi, me ōna wawata, me tōna piri

tata ki te kāhui ariki i whakaarotia ai. Koia i tukuna atu ai te ingoa mō te tohu – Te Tohu Reo Māori mō Miria Simpson.

Ehara i a mātou te mana kōwhiri, te mana tohutohu atu rānei hei a wai te kaimau i te tohu nei, hei a wai ngā kaiwhiriwhiri ko wai hei mau i te tohu – ko ēnei katoa kei raro i te mana o Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato. Ka mōhio ko wai, ka tatū te ngākau, ka maioha atu me te whakawhetai ki ngā hunga i tuku atu ai i Te Tohu Reo Māori mō Miria Simpson ki a Ruakere Hond. Anō nei rā i karangatia atu a Taranaki e Putauaki kia tae ā-wairua mai ki a Taupiri.

Heoi rā, ka tukua atu ā mātou mihi ki a koe e Ruakere, te uri o Taranaki, o Ngāti Ruanui, o Te Atiawa me te mihi atu hoki ki tō tūrangawaewae ki a Pūniho Marae i Ōkato i poipoia ai koe. Kei ō maunga titōhea, kei ngā puna e kore nei e mimiti ngā kaimau i a koe. Ka tau mai te ngoikore me te pōuri e huri – uia ki te maunga. Ka mihi atu mātou.