

Tūrei te 1 o Māehe, 2022

This is the first Te Matatini pānui entitled, Te Matakōrero. We would like to thank our whānau whānui o te ao Kapa Haka, for inspiring Te Matakōrero. This will give us the opportunity to share more of our peoples and are Matatini stories and news straight from the horses mouth.

Matamaumahara - Muriwai Ihakara (Te Matatini Kaiwhiriwhiri)

Ka riro te amokura nō Te Tokotoru a Manawakotokoto ki te au kume o taeninihi, ki te tōnga o te marino. Kua hinga te pou kaiawha o te whare o Te Āti nui a Kawatapuārangī, a Muriwai Mitchell Ihakara.*

A truly inspirational man. A lifetime contribution to Kapa Haka as a kaihaka, kaiako and kaiwhiriwhiri for the past 20+ years.

Ka maumahara tātou ki a koe. Moe mai rā e te rangatira, e Muriwai.

**He kōrero mau mahara nā te whānau o Muriwai Ihakara*



On the 29th of October 2021, after much deliberation, input and advice collated from kaihaka, Kapa Haka and key stakeholders, it was decided that Te Matatini Herenga Waka Herenga Tangata National Kapa Haka Festival be postponed to 2023.

In the current state that Aotearoa is in, with Red Light - Phase 3 within the COVID-19 Protection Framework (a.k.a the Traffic Light System), the decision to postpone the Festival has proven to be the best decision we could have made to 'tiakina te whakapapa' - protect our whānau, rohe and ensure the delivery of the Festival itself is safe.

We would like to acknowledge each and every one of you, for playing an integral part in the decision making process.

Further details pertaining to the new Festival dates for 2023, will be announced in the coming months.

In 1972, the 11th-12th of March, the very first New Zealand Polynesian Cultural Festival was held in Rotorua. The beginning of what is now known as, Te Matatini National Kapa Haka Festival, is the most 'prestigious' Kapa Haka event in Aotearoa. In celebration of the 50 golden years of the Festival, Te Matatini will produce a project called 'Te Matatini 50' (TM50). TM50 will consist of a 50-song waiata album, a book of recollections and moments from across all the Festival years, as well as a behind-the-scenes 50-episode web-series. TM50 has been supported by a project team which includes the likes of Kapa Haka icons Robert Ruha, Tangiwhiri and Trevor Maxwell to name a few.

An evidence-based piece of research, 'The Value of Kapa Haka (2021)' was commissioned by Te Matatini to identify the positive contributions that Kapa Haka makes to our diverse Māori communities and the NZ society. The 4 key focus areas were broken down into;

1. The positive attributes Kapa Haka has on the Māori health index
2. The increase in academic achievement levels of students who actively participate in Kapa Haka
3. The positive contributions Kapa Haka makes towards the revitalization and promotion of te reo Māori, te reo rangatira.
4. The fiscal contribution Kapa Haka makes towards the national economy

The next step is to disseminate the research out to you, the people of our rohe.

If this research sounds like something you would be interested in, please sign up to our mailing list via the [Te Matatini website](#).

As you may be aware, Aotearoa is in Phase 3 of the Red Light System under the COVID-19 Protection Framework (CPF). For our whānau, this means a greater focus on individual responsibility, rather than relying on health services to be able to cope and contact trace in the way they had earlier in the pandemic. Please refer to this [trusted COVID-19 website](#) for more detail on life in Red Light.

Te Matatini would like to promote and share useful resources from within our Rohe, to help prepare you and your own whānau to manage and create a COVID-19 plan. This month we are sharing a link to the [Te Arawa COVID-19 whānau plan](#). This handbook outlines some useful tools to assist in safely navigating your whānau through the current COVID-19 outbreak.

Ngā Tumanako Kapa Haka was established in 2005 by a group of ex-students of Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Hoani Waititi Marae, in West Auckland. The Kapa Haka was named after the wharehau at Hoani Waititi Marae (Ngā Tumanako) to represent the intimate connection with their meeting house which is reinforced by the saying “E kō au tōku whare, kō tōku whare ko au”. Ngā Tūmanako strives to uphold the mana of Hoani Waititi Marae and all the elders who have come before them, whose dreams they work tirelessly to realise, ‘He roopu i whakaarahia i roto i ngā tūmanako o rātou mā’.

Here is a clip for your pure entertainment and visual pleasure:

Ngā Tumanako, 2017, Waiata-ā-ringa: Oriori Tekau Mā Waru

- Matamaumahara - Remembering an event, person or moment in history
- Matatini - Kapa Haka or organisation related
- Matapae - Topical discussions
- Mataora - Health and wellbeing
- Mataoro - Profile of a Kapa Haka, waiata or tāonga (trophy)

