NGĀ HUA O TE MATA REO WĀNANGA REPORT

TE REO TUKUTUKU

Number of Pae Motuhake: 7   **Number of Kaitono:** 20 *(representing 9 kaitono groups)*

Ngā Hua o te Mata Reo wānanga background

Ko ngā whakamārama o Te Hua o te Mata Reo:

- Ko ngā hua i puta mai i nga tini kaupapa whakatairanga i te reo rangatira kia rangatira ai.
- Ko te 'mata' ko ngā mataawaka, ko te mata o te arero e tohu ana ko wai koe, nō hea koe. Arara ko te reo Māori.

Ngā Hua o te Mata Reo wānanga are an engagement and community development mechanism for Pae Motuhake members and kaitono to come together as a collective and share their stories.

Kaitono were invited to present on their project and share what went well, what changes they saw, what they have learnt, what processes could be improved and to share other insights. The wānanga allowed Pae Motuhake to get a snapshot of early outcomes that have been achieved across their kāhui.

Kaitono presentations

Invited kaitono were asked to prepare a presentation for the wānanga around the following questions. The intention was to create a space where kaitono could share their learnings, celebrate their successes and identify any areas that they believe could be improved.

- An overview of your project
- What worked?
- What didn't work?
- What could be done better?
- What outcomes did you see?

As a general guideline, kaitono presentations were advised to be 20 minutes long. There was also time allocated for questions after presentations.

TE REO TUKUTUKU

List of kaitono and summary of their kaupapa

Kaitono Name	Presenter Name	Project Name
Te Whānau o Waipareira Trust	Kelly Henare, Donna Te Whiu, Rewa Harker	Te Reo Matahiapo

A collaboration of three urban Māori organisations (Manurewa Marae, Manukau Urban Māori Authority and Te Whānau o Waipareira Trust) to deliver te reo Māori immersion activities for whānau.

Hei Tiki Creations	Mamae Takerei	Mokotube

Te reo Māori 'edu-tainment' resources, including interactive books, story-based games and Mokotube (an app which centralises the Māori language content available on YouTube). All book illustrations were animated with the use of digital media and talented local animators from Mataatua rohe.

Te Hiku Media	Peter-Lucas Jones	Te Whakahua o Te Reo

Use of technology to preserve and transmit te reo unique to Te Hiku o te Ika. This includes digitising analogue videos of interviews with kuia and kaumātua to provide learners with digital access to idiomatic expressions and models of high quality reo; teaching a computer to kōrero Māori through a community-sourced app; and the development of Piki, te reo Māori voice recognition software.

Korotangi Limited	Te Atarua and Dallas Hibbs	Te Manawa Taki o Te Reo

Te Manawa Taki o Te Reo aimed to support Māori language acquisition in 50-75 families and 8-10 community organisations across three key focus areas; in the home, in early learning spaces, and in community workplaces across Canterbury and West Coast.

Te Ataarangi Trust	Arapine Walker	Te Ataarangi Ohu Reo Pokapū

Creation of Te Tinana, a hub for te reo Māori in Pōneke. This provides a space for whānau to speak Māori, take te reo classes, and participate in activities such as a reo Māori choir.

Kounga Limited	Leon Blake	Te Ukaipo Te Reo

Resources to support whānau to communicate with their tamariki in te reo Māori. Resources include a book of original waiata, supported by audio on CD and via Spotify, and a colouring and activity book.

Cam Swainson	Jean Swainson Foundation	Apollo Personalised Learning

Creation of a digital educational game in te reo Māori. Uses 3D interactive technology to provide immersive gaming in te reo Māori. Targeted at kura and homes.

R & K Consultants Limited	Toni Roberts	Kura Whakarauora

Language planning workshops facilitated by mātanga reo to assist whānau and organisations to create language plans to normalise te reo within their homes and communities.

NZ Māori Golf Association	John Tapiata	Maori Ora Golf

This project was focussed on creating te reo Māori spaces and places within the sport of golf. The endeavour was identified as being important to the distinctiveness of our whānau within the context of golf.

Themes from kaitono

Analysis of the key themes emerging from kaitono, grouped around the questions outlined in the previous section, have provided the following learnings.

What worked?

Using a range of methods to transmit te reo Māori

Te Reo Tukutuku Kaitono have successfully used a wide range of methods to increase whānau awareness, knowledge and use of te reo Māori. This included developing children's activity books, establishing reo social media platforms, composing waiata, and using kaupapa such as golfing to teach te reo expressions.

Many Kaitono have harnessed new technology in creative ways. Technology that is already popular and used by tamariki, such as YouTube, Spotify and online interactive games, have been adapted to a reo format. Tamariki are savvy media operators, and capitalising on their interests has been a successful way of engaging them in reo.

Kaitono have also used technology to capture taonga such as interviews with kuia and kaumātua. This has been used as an online resource to support learners to hear the Ngāpuhi dialect from native speakers.

Identifying and supporting reo champions

Several Kaitono projects which involved kanohi-ki-te-kanohi interaction (such as wānanga, whānau activities) had seen success in identifying people in the community that had a passion for reo to act as champions. These people acted as mentors and motivators for their whānau and community and were valuable in keeping whānau engaged in reo revitalisation.

The tuakana-teina model

Kaitono emphasised the importance of supporting reo learning while avoiding feeling whakamā. Successful techniques to manage this included grouping emergent learners together at wānanga and other reo-based kaupapa and using the tuakana-teina whereby more proficient speakers support those with lesser fluency.

Linking with others doing reo revitalisation mahi

Kaitono reported that whanaungatanga with other organisations and people working in reo revitalisation helped them to deliver successful initiatives. This included having a close relationship with kuia and kaumātua, local iwi historians, iwi radio and media, kura and kōhanga reo, and other Te Mātāwai kaitono.

Building teams of Māori experts

Kaitono noted wider benefits in terms of Mātāwai funding enabling them to employ talented Māori professionals including kaiako reo Māori, reo planners, IT developers, and coders. This provided work opportunities for skilled people, and allowed collective knowledge sharing amongst groups of Māori professionals.

Connecting reo learning to everyday activities

Several successful initiatives focussed on reo that whānau use in their daily lives. This included composing sing-along tunes with lyrics about daily activities and focusing emergent learner reo on vocabulary for use in the home.

What didn't work?

Trying to do too much in a short timeframe

Kaitono often had aspirational goals for their reo revitalisation mahi. A key learning was that organising and delivering events such as wānanga, and engaging rangatahi and whānau in reo takes time. Several kaitono reflected that they had been too ambitious and created plans that were not feasible to deliver in the scheduled timeframes.

Funding and budget issues

Kaitono raised several issues with the funding process. For some it was difficult to determine whether their mahi fit within one of the iwi-based kāhui or under Reo Tukutuku. Others did not know whether their proposed initiative met Mātāwai's eligibility criteria, and found it challenging to access advice.

Several Kaitono experienced delays with receiving the funding, which compromised their ability to hire kaimahi for their initiative. The short term (one year) contracts were also raised as a challenge, as this limits ability to give kaimahi certainty of employment. Kaitono are reluctant to plan for longer term projects without ongoing funding.

Other Kaitono experienced higher demand for their initiative than had been budgeted for. The initiatives could not accommodate growing whānau interest and increasing number of attendees, which was a lost opportunity to engage more whānau in reo.

Challenges finding kaimahi

While kaitono appreciated the ability to create team of Māori professionals, it was nonetheless challenging to find people that have the required

technical skills, are culturally sound, competent in reo and available when needed. This was particularly difficult for organisations located in more rural locations.

Practical issues related to initiative delivery

Kaitono identified several challenges related to delivering their programme, project or initiative. These included:

- challenges in facilitating immersion-style delivery when some participants have little reo, but still need to be engaged
- keeping up with rangatahi and whānau interests, for example developing a video streaming site and then finding out that TikTok is the 'latest vibe'
- needing to develop new skills such as marketing and distribution planning
- maintaining momentum to implement language plans and continue on the reo journey after whānau go home.

What could be done better?

Improvement to funding administration processes

The timeframe between being notified of a successful funding application and receiving the funds was lengthy for some Kaitono, meaning that initiatives were either delayed or had to be paid for out of pocket. Ensuring funding is provided quickly would assist Kaitono to deliver their projects. Using the Mātāpuna system to communicate with the Mātāwai tari does not always result in a timely response. It would be beneficial for the Mātāwai tari to investigate how it could be more responsive to Kaitono queries.

Connection between Kaitono

Kaitono considered that the Hua o te Mata Reo wānanga provided a valuable opportunity to connect with, share stories and learn from other Kaitono, and that similar events should continue to be held regularly.

Project-specific improvements

Kaitono identified areas for improvement within their initiatives, including:

- better awareness of dynamics within emergent learner whānau, including disconnection with reo and feeling whakamā
- the need to appropriately recognise and remunerate valued reo experts, kaiako and kuia/koroua, including ensuring that they are not overburdened
- ensuring that initiatives complement, and do

- not duplicate, what is being offered by other organisations in reo revitalisation
- develop better marketing and promotions so that whānau are aware of the opportunities to learn reo.

Summary of early outcomes

Kaitono were also asked to share the outcomes that they are seeing as a result of their initiative. The early outcomes as shared by Kaitono are outlined below.

Increased whānau engagement in te reo Maori

The most common early outcome was increased numbers of whānau engaged in learning reo, and increased motivation amongst whānau, hapū and iwi to revitalise their reo.

Kaitono described seeing rangatahi emerging as reo champions within their whānau and communities; mothers speaking reo with their pēpi; and kaumātua enjoying reo hubs in their community. There were inspiring examples of whānau enjoying language acquisition and increasing their use of te reo Māori in everyday life.

Enhanced reo Māori and reo ā-iwi proficiency and pronunciation

Kaitono reported seeing advancements in reo within their kaimahi and whānau that attended initiatives and used resources. This was largely domain-specific reo (such as kupu related to reo in the home). Kaitono offering ongoing initiatives, such as kura reo, described noticing improvements in attendees' vocabulary and pronunciation over time. The funding also enabled iwi to capture and preserve exemplars of their reo ā-iwi to provide a resource of idioms and pronunciation for learners,

Capturing hapū and iwi stories

Several of the funded initiatives involved capturing or preserving stories and interviews from kaumātua and kuia, academics and historians. These were used to provide a resource for reo learners (through online platforms, and by creating digital games and books) but also offer a repository of cultural knowledge.

Extending the reach of te reo Māori revitalisation

Kaitono noted that Te Matawai pūtea made it possible to expand and extend their reo revitalisation resources and initiatives, for example by offering more advanced reo classes to those who had been through a beginner course, and by allowing reo resources for tamariki to be available to all kōhanga reo.