



The Photo Album

He Kohinga Whakaaro





MUM-TO-BE

**NGĀTI KAHUNGUNU, RONGOWHAKAATA,
TE ATIWA ME NGĀTI MUTUNGA**

Kia ora. My name is Tomai. I am 19 years old and I am expecting my first baby.

When I was growing up, Māori language was an important part of my life and it still is today. I started off in kōhanga reo and then moved on to kura kaupapa. When our family moved I went to a bilingual school. We shifted again and I went to another kura kaupapa and from there went to an English-speaking secondary school.

When my brothers and sister and I were little, my parents spoke Māori to us at home and I grew up thinking that speaking Māori language was normal and that everyone could do it.

So, when I found out I was pregnant, I didn't even really think about it – I just assumed that I would raise my baby to speak Māori because that was how I was brought up. I know this is something I really want for my baby.



As someone who has grown up with Māori language, I think it is really special to be able to speak two languages and I know that there are lots of benefits from growing up bilingually. One of the main reasons I was employed in my current job was because I am fluent in both Māori and English. So just even from a career perspective, having Māori language has helped me.

I live at home with my mum and dad and my brother and sister. I'm lucky because everyone that lives in our home speaks Māori and so will be able to speak Māori to my baby. But at the same time, I know that I am going to have the biggest role to play in helping my baby learn Māori.

I think speaking Māori is a neat opportunity for children to have something special that not everyone has. In the long run, I think kids do better from having the gift of two languages so I want to make sure my baby has those benefits. Being able to speak Māori is awesome!





**GRANDMOTHER (MUTTY) TO MAIA (3 YEARS)
PĀKEHĀ/NEW ZEALANDER OF SCOTS HERITAGE**

Kia ora. I really believe that language, no matter what language it is, is a treasure to be cherished, loved and developed. Language is the thing that tells you who you are and gives you your culture and identity. It is the means through which we think, communicate and learn to understand one another, and is a tool for success.

When my son, Adam, rang to tell me that he was getting married and that his fiancé, Nicky, was Ngā Puhī, I wanted to embrace that. I think we should share and celebrate everything we have to offer. If we don't do that, then we stand to lose out. It's about strengthening bonds.

When they told me that Maia was on the way and that they wanted her to grow up bilingually with Māori and English, my initial reaction was, 'I'd better do something about myself!' I am very supportive of Maia growing up as a Māori language speaker because I think being bilingual is an opportunity for

success in New Zealand and the world. As a grandparent, I think I should be helping to foster that opportunity for Maia.

Since Maia has been going to kōhanga she has grown from having one 'mixed' language to having a first language and being fluent also in English. It's just amazing, absolutely amazing! I have to say to her, 'What's the Māori word for 'so-n'-so?', and she will tell me.

I think if I don't develop my skills in Māori language, then I'm going to miss out as far as Maia is concerned. I don't want to miss out on what she is thinking and saying. If I can't dialogue with her fully in both languages, I want at least to be an active participant in conversation.

There is a definite relationship between self-esteem, language and cultural identity. If I don't embrace reo Māori, then what messages am I giving to Maia about the language? And what messages am I giving her about that part of herself? I want her to grow up strong in herself and to stand tall and proud. That means supporting her Māori language development and showing her that I value that part of who she is.

I think growing up fluent in both English and Māori means that Maia is going to have greater opportunities for success and that she is going to make a worthwhile contribution to our society.





**PĀPĀ OF TE AORANGI
(6 YEARS), MANAIA (4 YEARS)
AND TE KIRIWA (7 MONTHS)
PĀKEHĀ**

When I teamed up with my wife, Hineihaea, I just always knew that when we had children, they would grow up with Māori language because it is some-thing she is very passionate about. So it was never a con-scious choice after

the children were born – we just knew that our children would grow up as Māori language speakers. This was based on our belief that children have a right to know their language and that it is our responsibility as parents to give it to them.

There were lots of other reasons too that we made the decision to raise our kids as Māori language speakers, like the cognitive advantages in knowing more than one language, the benefits that being bilingual brings later in life, better self-esteem - it just made really good sense. So when we found out we were expecting our first baby, we started planning for it.

One of the things we planned to do was to only speak Māori to the kids. While it has been hard at times, we have stuck to this. Now, as a result, the kids have grown to become very fluent speakers of Māori. I think that the decision to only speak Māori to them is one of the main reasons that they are as fluent as they are. I think if one of us spoke Māori to the kids and the other spoke English, I don't think their language would develop quite as fast as it has.

A large part of it has also been about me taking responsibility to get myself up to speed to support the kids with their Māori language development. I now find that my conversational skills are a lot better than my ability to write in Māori, which is probably different to most other people learning Māori as a second language. But it has been hugely beneficial for me too – I am learning alongside the kids.

The kids can still speak English, but Māori is the language that they choose to speak. We've never worried about them learning English because we know that it will happen, no matter what. You can't help but live in this country and learn to speak English. We have never taught it to them or spoken to them in English but the reality is they engage with everyone around them - with society, with other family members - and their English comes on just the same as with other children.

Now Te Aorangi is at the point where he can read both Māori and English. We started teaching him to read Māori from a very early age. Now he is using the language skills he has developed through Māori and has taught himself how to read English.

It's easy for people to think that it's the schools' responsibility to teach kids Māori and that if kids go to kōhanga reo or kura that they will learn the language there. But we figured that kids are only at school for really six hours a day and the rest of the time they are with their parents at home or out in the community. So I think that we as parents have to take responsibility for our kids' language development - not just leave it up to schools.

I think the language that you build a relationship in is the one that you sustain it in. I'm really proud of my children. I'm proud of them anyway, but especially proud of their language ability. It's not easy to sustain a relationship in a second language. It's hard work. But if you stick with it, it's well worth the effort because the rewards are immense.



Hineihaea

**MĀMĀ OF TE AORANGI
(6 YEARS), MANAIA
(4 YEARS) AND TE KIRIWAI
(7 MONTHS)**

**NGĀTI KAHUNUNU,
NGĀTI APA, NGĀI TAHU**

For our kids, I want them to be able to speak Māori well, but also for it to be natural for them. I think the only way that this will happen is if they are first language speakers of Māori.

Yes, there will be opportunities for them to learn later in life, but leaving it till later means taking the risk that they might not want to learn it! There is also a cost attached to learning the language later in life. Now people have to pay to learn Māori language. If we have the choice not to, why would we put our kids in the situation where they have to 'learn' their own language as opposed to acquire it and what's more, have to pay for it – something that is part of their identity. Learning Māori later in life can also be a struggle too and I don't want that for our kids.

If we want our kids to grow up to speak Māori as adults so that they can raise another generation of Māori speakers, then our kids need to be able to speak Māori naturally – more naturally than I can.

It will always be easier for me to speak English. I don't think that will ever change. My preference, purely in terms of ease of use, is obviously to speak English. However, it has become normal for me to speak Māori because that is what we have chosen to do

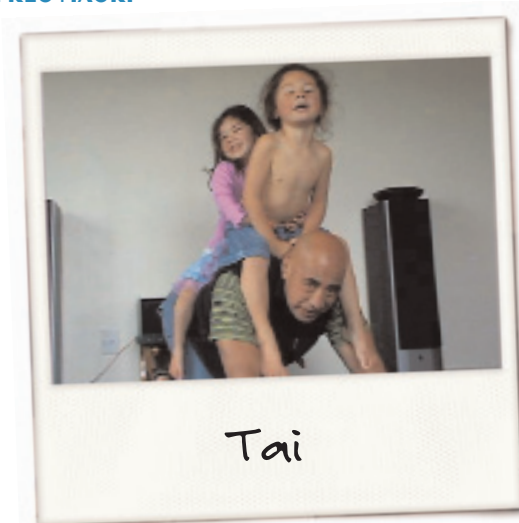
for our family – we only speak Māori to our children. But does it feel natural for me to speak Māori? No – and I don't ever want my kids to feel like that. I want them to feel that it is as natural for them to speak Māori as it is for them to speak English.

If we speak English to our kids then that just adds to the disproportionate weight that English language has in our society. So, for me, to address that imbalance it's really important that we give our kids as many Māori language learning opportunities as possible.

Because English is so strong in our society, I know that there is going to be a time very soon in the near future that our kids will prefer to speak English. I'm realistic about accepting that this is going to happen and that they are going to choose not to speak Māori to me. There is a time factor involved, so I need to make sure that our kids have as many Māori language learning opportunities as possible before they make that choice. The most important thing is that they have the ability to make that choice. If we do not give them Māori language, then we are denying them their ability to even have a choice. I believe that there will come a time when they will want to speak Māori again, so I need to take responsibility to ensure that they have the language they need for that point in time.

At the end of the day I see us as being part of a process to look after the language. If we want our language and culture to survive, then we need to take responsibility to ensure that it does. I don't know that we have the right not to look after the language, because if we make that decision not to pass it on then we are making that decision on behalf of our children to come.

Ultimately for me, it is our kids' birthright. They were born in to this culture and they need to feel good about the 'skin that they're in'. Knowing their culture and identity means knowing their language – these things are all bound together.



**KORO TO TAIROKI (4 YEARS)
AND HITIRA'A MAHANA (2 YEARS)
NGĀTI TŪWHARETOA, NGĀI TŪHOE**

When I grew up, Māori was it – that was the number one language. My parents spoke fluent Māori and they spoke Māori all the time to us. That was a long time ago, but I could understand the language well. Now I have lost it a bit, probably because I live away from home, Waitahanui. So it's only natural to lose the language if you are not around it all the time.

I learnt English at an early age too, but at that time, a lot of parents were made aware that their kids had to speak English. When I was at school, our kapa haka was really strong. But at the same time, they were cutting it out from school to try and get us to speak English. I was in that generation that got whacked at school for speaking Māori, so when I had kids, I never spoke to them in Māori.

But now I am a grandfather and times have changed. When my daughter came to me and said she wanted her babies to learn

Māori, I wasn't quite sure about it myself. I hadn't even thought about it. But now, seeing my mokopuna in kōhanga reo and hearing them talk Māori, I know my daughter and her partner have made the right decision.

Hearing my mokopuna speak Māori makes me think, and I can remember things from when I was young. I think my mokopuna are benefiting from it in every way. Even when I look at my wife, Chris, with our mokopuna – she is Pākehā, but she uses what Māori she knows and she is learning all the time. She is really supportive and I think she does really well. She learns from the kids and she enjoys it. It amazes me to hear my mokopuna say something in Māori to me and then turn around and say it in English to their Nanny. It's so easy for them.

I wouldn't have it any other way for my grandchildren. I am thrilled that they are learning Māori. I want to be able to help them learn, but in my own way. I think, as a grandparent, I have something that I can offer them that will help them learn the language. I know that they will grow up being confident in themselves and I'm thrilled about that.





TE MĀMĀ O AMERIA (4 YEARS)
NGĀI TŪHOE

I whāngaihia au e taku koroua me taku kuia i Ruatoki. I pakeke mai au i reira. Ko te reo tuatahi o taku koroua me taku kuia, ko te reo Māori. Ko te āhua o tō rāua whakapakeke mai i a mātou, ko te ao i tipu mai ai rāua. Ko ngā āhuetanga i tō ki roto i a rāua i whakatō rāua ki roto i a mātou, ngā mokopuna whāngai. Nā reira, i mau tonu, kei te mau tonu. I whāngaihia mai, kei te mau tonu, nā, e whāngai ana ahau i ērā āhuetanga i tērā ao ki aku tamariki kia noho tonu.

I te whānautanga mai o Ameria, e rua māua ko ōna mātua i whāngaihia e te kuia, e te koroua, e rua māua ko te reo Māori te reo tuatahi me tā māua mōhio anō ka pai noa iho tana ao Māori i te mea e kaha ana māua ki tērā taha. Nā reira, i whakaaro iho māua me haere a Ameria ki roto i ngā kura kōhungahunga a tauwiwi nei kia waia ia ki tērā momo ao i a ia e tamariki ana.

Ko tā māua i whakaaro iho me kaha māua ki te pupuri i tōna ao Māori. Ki te kaha māua, ka kaha ia – ki te kaha māua ki te pupuri i tana taha Māori, ka kaha ia ki te kawē i tana taha Māori. Ki te kaha anō hoki māua ki te tautoko me te pupuri i tana taha Pākehā, ka kaha anō hoki ia, ka mauritau tana noho ki roto i ngā ao e rua.

Nā reira, mai i te wā e whitu marama ana tana pakeke tae noa ki tēnei wā, kua haere ia ki tētahi kura kōhungahunga tauīwi me te mōhio e kaha tonu ana ia i tōna ao Māori nā te mea e whāngaihia ana ia e māua i te kāinga ki te reo Māori.

I nāianeī, kei te kite māua i ngā hua maha kei te puta i roto i a ia - tana whakawhanaunga ki ētahi atu tamariki; tana mōhio ki te whakawhitiwhiti whakaaro i roto i te reo Pākehā; me tana āhei ki te whakawhiti i tana ao Māori ki roto i tērā ao. Kāore noa iho he aha ki a ia ki te kuhu i a ia ki roto i tērā momo ao tangata. Engari i ngā wā ka hiahia ia ki te whakaputa i ōna whakaaro i roto i te reo Māori, ka whakaputa hia e ia.

Nā, pērā nei ia i tēnei wā. Kua whā ana tau, e mauritau ana tana haere, tana takahi i roto i ngā ao e rua. Kāore ana āwangawanga, kāore ana māharahara mō tana kōrero Pākehā, me tana kōrero Māori. E mōhio ana māua ka ōrite tana kōrero i roto i ngā reo e rua. Ka noho rite ngā reo e rua ki roto i a ia.

Kāore pea ia e whakaaro ana ko te reo Māori tana reo tuatahi, ko te reo Pākehā tana reo tuarua nā te mea kāore māua i te pērā ki a ia. Kāore māua i te kī, 'Anei tō reo tuatahi, anei tō reo tuarua'. Ko tā māua e whakaū ana ki roto i a ia kia pai āna reo e rua – mēnā ka kōrero Pākehā ia, kia pai te reo Pākehā; mēnā ka kōrero Māori ia, kia tika te reo Māori.

Ko te tino hua kua kitea e māua ko tana āhei ki te kawē i a ia ahakoa he aha te reo.

SECTION 9: RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

HE PUNAWAI

Some useful resources to look at on Māori language:

<http://www.koreromaori.co.nz>

<http://www.toitekupu.org.nz/>

<http://www.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz>

<http://www.maori.org.nz>

<http://www.nzei.org.nz/reo2/index.html>

<http://www.kohanga.ac.nz/>

<http://www.tpk.govt.nz/publications/subject/default.asp#language>

<http://www.kotahimanokaika.com/aura>

Chrisp, S. 1997. Home and community language use, in *NZ Studies in Applied Linguistics Vol. 3*

Te Puni Kōkiri. 2002. *The Use of Māori in the Family*. Wellington: Te Puni Kōkiri.

Te Puni Kōkiri. 2002. *The Health of the Māori Language in 2001*. Wellington: Te Puni Kōkiri.

Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori. 1996. *Proceedings of the Hui Taumata Reo Māori 1995*. Wellington: Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori.

Some useful resources to look at on raising bilingual kids:

<http://iteslj.org/Articles/Rosenberg-Bilingual.html>

http://www.cal.org/resources/faqs/RGOs/bilingual_children.html

<http://www.bwrdd-yriaith.org.uk/en/cynnwys.php?cid=1&pid=169>

<http://www.teangafein.ie/en.php>

Fishman, J. 1991. *Reversing Language Shift*. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.

Saunders, G. 1988. *Bilingual Children: from Birth to Teens*. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.

HE KUPU HEI ĀWHINA

bib – *tau kakī*

blocks – *poraka*

bottle – *pounamu*

cream (nappy) – *pani*

crib – *moenga pēpi*

dummy – *ngote/whakarata*

highchair – *tūru pēpi*

mobile – *kauī*

nappy – *kope*

pajamas – *kahumoe*

pram – *waka pēpi*

rattle – *kākara/tatangī*

safety pin – *pine mau/autui*

talcum powder – *paura*

teddy bear – *teti pea*

train – *rerewhenua/tereina*

truck – *taraka*

wipes – *ūkui*