He Pātaka Kupu - te kai a te rangatira is the first monolingual Māori language dictionary to be produced for adults. It has been prepared by leading Māori language scholars and linguists over several years, and describes the Māori language in its own culturally authentic terms. With approximately 24,000 entries, it provides a rich Māori language resource for proficient speakers and learners alike. This factsheet provides some background information about He Pātaka Kupu, together with a brief history of the written Māori language, including previous dictionaries.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WRITTEN MĀORI LANGUAGE

Prior to the arrival of European missionaries, Māori was an oral language, with no written form. The missionaries immediately began to develop an alphabet, grammar and lexicon for Māori, so they could advance their purpose of converting Māori to Christianity. In 1820, Professor Samuel Lee of Cambridge University worked with the chief Hongi Hika and Waikato to systemise the written language.

From this time, the volume of Māori language documents grew steadily. The first books were typically lesson books or religious tracts. Through the course of the 19th century, more than 1,500 Māori language publications were produced. In 1842, the first Māori language newspaper was published, Te Karere o Niu Tireni. It was quickly followed by several

HE KÖRERO TUKU IHO MŌ TE TUHI REO MĀORI

He reo kōrero te reo Māori i mua i te taenga mai o te Pākehā, arā, kāhore ōna tuhituhinga. Ka tae mai ngā mihingare, ka tahuri rātau ki te whakarite mai he arapū, he kaupapa reo, he papakupu hoki mō te reo Māori, e taa ai te whakaako te Māori ki te Paipera. Nō te tau 1820, ka mahi ngātahi a Samuel Lee, nō te Whare Wānanga o Cambridge ki ingarangi, me Hongi Hika rāua ko Waikato ki te whakarite mai he tikanga tuhituhinga. Mai i taua wā, ka piki haere te maha o ngā pukapuka reo Māori. Ko ngā pukapuka tuatahi, he whakaakoranga, he karaipiture rānei. I te roanga mā i te rau tau 19, he kō atu i te 1500 ngā pukapuka i tāia ki te reo Māori. Nō te tau 1842, ka tāia te nōpepa reo Māori tuatahi, ko Te Karere o Niu Tireni. Kāore i roa, ka whakaputahia ētahi atu, pēnei i Te Hokioi, nā te Kingitanga, me Te Puke
other newspapers, including Te Hokioi, published by the Kingitanga and Te Puke Ki Hikurangi, published by the Kotahitanga Movement. However, the decline in the health of the Māori language through the course of the 20th century is reflected in the decline of written material in Māori through this period.

There has been a significant revitalisation of the Māori language over the last forty years, with a special focus on Māori language education through Te Kohanga Reo and Kura Kaupapa Māori. There has been an ongoing programme of publication of education resources to support learning in these settings, including the development of Te Kete Kupu and Tirohia, Kimihia both in 2006. Te Kete Kupu is a monolingual Māori learner dictionary for children of 5 – 10 years, with 304 entries. Tirohia, Kimihia is a monolingual Māori learner dictionary for children of 8 – 12 years, with some 6,500 entries.

The Williams Dictionary of the Māori Language is a venerable institution. The first edition of the Williams Dictionary was published in 1844, as a Māori-English dictionary. Further editions were published in 1852, 1871, 1917, 1957 and 1970. In early editions, the dictionary was edited by members of the Williams family. In latter editions, panels of leading Māori scholars, including Sir Āpirana Ngata and Dr Pei Te Hurinui Jones, led the work.

HE PĀTAKA KUPU

The idea of a monolingual Māori language dictionary for adults was mooted in the early 1990s in discussions between Tīmoti Kāretu (the Chair of the Māori Language Commission at that time), kaumātua, and experts in the collection of lexicon. The vision of the project was to create a rich lexicon of the contemporary Māori language, described in its own culturally authentic terms and supported by the latest corpus technology to ensure its longevity.

Annual funding for the project was first allocated to Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori in 1999, and work began in earnest in early 2001. Te Taura Whiri undertook initial work to lay the foundations for the project at that time, including: confirming the structure of the dictionary entries; identifying the target audience; building a lexical database; accessing exemplars; developing an approach for selecting the words to include in the dictionary; and quality assurance processes. It was decided to produce an on-line version of the dictionary to complement the hard-copy version. This approach required further work to ensure consistency across the two platforms.

Subsequently, Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori assembled a team of lexicographers to undertake the work, comprising some of the leading Māori language scholars and academics. This team worked solidly on the dictionary until it was completed in April 2008. Their work included writing entries, peer-reviewing the work of their colleagues, and cross-referencing the various entries to ensure consistency of style and quality. The project team should be congratulated for completing this monumental task. Throughout the course of this project, Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori has consistently provided advice and support for other dictionary projects and lexical databases among Polynesian languages.

The dictionary has approximately 24,000 entries. Each entry sets the grammatical description of the word, defines the word, and provides an example of usage. Synonyms and tribal variations are also identified. In addition, the entry includes an ‘ata category’, that is, each word is associated with an atua that reflects the focus of the word (for example, Tūmatauenga, Papatūānuku, etc). This unique feature reflects the Māori worldview that has been applied to this project. The on-line version of the dictionary was launched during Māori Language Week 2008, and is available at www.koreromaori.co.nz.

CONCLUSIONS

The publication of He Pātaka Kupu is a significant milestone in the history of the Māori language. It draws together the expert contributions of Māori language scholars and academics, collated over several years, to capture the essence of the Māori language as it is spoken and written. The results of their work will benefit proficient Māori speakers and language learners alike.

Languages grow and evolve from generation to generation. New words are constantly being added to the lexicon of the Māori language. For all speakers and supporters of the Māori language, He Pātaka Kupu provides a strong foundation for continued developments. He reo tipu, he reo orālāi
Ki Hikurangi, nā Te Kotahitanga. Heoi, ka memeha haere te reo Māori i te rau tau 20, ka pērā anō hoki ko ngā tuhiinga reo Māori.

Kua ora haere te reo Māori i ngā whā tekau tau kua hori, me te aro nui ki ngā whakaakoranga reo Māori i Te Kōhanga Reo, i te Kura Kaupapa Māori anō hoki. Kua rite tonu te tā pukapuka hei rauemi mō ngā mahi whakaako i ngā kōhanga me ngā kura. Ko Tirohia, Kimihia tētahi tauira, arā ko te papakupu reo kotahi mō ngā tamariki, e mau nei i onā whakamārama e āhua 6,500.

He tino kaumāturua te Papakupu Reo Māori a Te Wāremu i ngā māri whakaako i te reo Māori. I tāia te tāngā tuatahi i te tau 1844, hei papakupu reo Māori-Ingarihi hoki. Ka tāia anō he tāngā hou i 1852, 1871, 1917, 1957, i 1970 hoki. Nā Ngāti Wāremu ngā tāngā tuatahi, engari nō mōri mai, ka whakarauiatia mai ko ngā tohunga ki te reo Māori, pēnei i a Ta Āpirana Ngata a Tā Āpirana Ngata rāua ko Pei Te Hurinui, mā rātau e ārahi ngā māhi.

**HE PĀTAKA KUPU**

I hua mai te whakaro mō te papakupu reo kotahi i ngā tau tuatahi o 1990–2000, i ngā kōrero a Timoti Karetu (te heamana o Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori i aua tau) ki ngā kaumātua me ngā tohunga mahi papakupu. Ko te moemoea, kia whakaritea mai he papakupu reo Māori e mau nei i onā hohunutanga mē onā whānuitanga ki rito tonu i tōna reo me onā pūtaketanga, i runga tonu i te whaiwahi ki ngā hangarau o te wā.

Ka whakawhia tuatahitia a Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori ki te pūtea ā-tau mō te kaupapa nei i 1999, ā, ka tīmata te āta karawhiu i 2001. I tāua wā, ka noho a Te Taura Whiri ki te whakatakoto i ngā pūtāke mō tēnei mahi, pēnei i te: whakarite i te āhua o ngā whakamārama; whai te whakaaro ki te hunga mā rātau te papakupu; hanga i tētahi puna kupu; whirihirihī i ngā kupu me rau atu ki te papakupu; me ngā pūnaha kounga. I whakatauria, me whakaputa he papakupu ā-rorohiko, ā-pukapuka anō hoki. Tērā tonu ngā āhuatanga o te pēnei me whakaorite ka tika.

Nō muri mai, ki whakahuihuitia mai e Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori ko ngā tohunga ki te reo Māori, mā rātau tēnei kaupapa e kōkiri. Ka whakapau kaha te āwana nei mō te whitu tau, kia oti rā anō i te Paenga-Whāwhā o 2008. Ko ā rātau mahi, ko te tuhitahi i ngā whakamārama, ko te tītiro ki ngā māhī a ngā hoa; ko te whakaorite hoki i ā rātau mahi kia ōrite te kounga me te rere o te reo. Me mihī tonu ki te hunga nei mō tēnei mahi nui kia oti i a rātau. Heoi anō, kua rite tonu te āwhina a Te Taura Whiri i ētahi atu reo Poronhiha ki te kōkiri i ā rātau ake papakupu.


**HE KAPINGA KŌRERO**

He tino ekenga tautuma te ātaanga o He Pātaka Kupu i ngā mahi hei whakaroa i te reo Māori. Ka whakataktoriora mai ko ngā mātauranga o ngā tohunga reo Māori, e mahi kounga. Tohu porānehi ki te hunga ā-aroha i te āhuatanga me te hunga i āhuatanga i te kōrero. I whakarewarea te papakupu rorohiko i te kōrero a ngā whakamārama i te reo Māori. Ko ā huahe i te reo Māori ko te whakatākore i te whakamārama i te whakamārama i te whakamārama.