



*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 Tirenī*. It was quickly followed by several

*Ko He Pātaka Kupu - te kai a te rangatira*, koia ko te papakupu reo Māori tuatahi i whakaputaina ki te reo kotahi mō te hunga pakeke. He mea whakarite mai te papakupu nei e ngā tohunga o te reo Māori i roto i ngā tau maha, ā, ka riro māna e whakamārama te reo Māori ki tōna ake reo me ōna ake pūtake. He maha kē atu i te 24,000 ngā kupu ka whakamāramahia, otirā, kāhore he rauemi i kō atu i tēnei mō te hunga matatau, mō te akonga hoki. Ka whakaatuhia i te pānui pārongo nei he kōrero whakamārama mō *He Pātaka Kupu*, me ētahi kōrero mō te tuhi i te reo Māori ki roto i ngā rau tau, tae atu ki ngā papakupu o aua wā.

#### ■ HE KŌRERO 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 taea 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 tuhituhi mō te reo Māori.

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 mai o 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 nūpepa reo Māori tuatahi, ko *Te Karere o Niu Tirenī*. Kāore i roa, ka whakaputahia ētahi atu, pēnei i *Te Hokioi*, nā te Kīngitanga, me *Te Puke*



other newspapers, including *Te Hokioi*, published by the Kīngitanga 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 Kōhanga 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 'atua 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](http://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 ora!āi

*Ki Hikurangi*, nā Te Kotahitanga. Heoi, ka memeha haere te reo Māori i te rau tau 20, ka pērā anō hoki ko ngā tuinga 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 kaumātua te Papakupu Reo Māori a Te Wīremu i ngā mahi whakaako i te reo Māori. I tāia te tānga tuatahi i te tau 1844, hei papakupu reo Māori-Ingarihi hoki. Ka tāia anō he tānga hou i 1852, 1871, 1917, 1957, i 1970 hoki. Nā Ngāti Wīremu ngā tānga tuatahi, engari nō muri mai, ka whakarauikatia mai ko ngā tohunga ki te reo Māori, pēnei i a Tā Āpirana Ngata rāua ko Pei Te Hurinui, mā rātau e ārahi ngā mahi.

## HE PĀTAKA KUPU

I hua mai te whakaaro mō te papakupu reo kotahi i ngā tau tuatahi o 1990-2000, i ngā kōrero a Timoti Kāretu (te heamana o Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori i aua tau) ki ngā kaumātua me ngā tohunga mahi papakupu. Ko te moemoeā, kia whakaritea mai he papakupu reo Māori e mau nei i ōna hohunutanga me ōna whānuitanga ki roto tonu i tōna reo me ōna pūtaketanga, i runga tonu i te whaiwāhi ki ngā hangarau o te wā.

Ka whakawhiwhia tuatahitia a Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori ki te pūtea ā-tau mō te kaupapa nei i 1999, ā, ka timata te āta karawhiu i 2001. I taua wā, ka noho a Te Taura Whiri ki te whakatakoto i ngā pūtake mō tēnei mahi, pēnei i te: whakaritea i te āhua o ngā whakamārama; whai whakaaro ki te hunga mā rātau te papakupu; hanga i tētahi puna kupu; whiriwhiri 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 whakaōrite ka tika.

Nō muri mai, ka 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 iwi nei mō te whitu tau, kia oti rā anō i te Paenga-Whāwhā o 2008. Ko ā rātau mahi, ko te tuhituhi i ngā whakamārama, ko te titiro ki ngā mahi a ngā hoa; ko te whakaōrite hoki i ā rātau mahi kia ōrite te kounga

me te rere o te reo. Me mihi tonu ki te hunga nei mō tēnei mahi nui kua oti i a rātau. Heoi anō, kua rite tonu te āwhina a Te Taura Whiri i ētahi atu reo Poronihia ki te kōkiri i ā rātau ake papakupu.

Kei te āhua 24,000 ngā whakamārama i te papakupu. Mō ia whakamārama, ka whakaatuhia ko te tikanga papareo a te kupu, ko te whakamārama tonu, me tētahi tauira hoki. Ka tohua hoki ko ngā kupu rite me ngā kupu ā-iwi. Ka whakamāramahia hoki ko te atua e hāngai ana ki te kupu (hei tauira ko Tūmatauenga, ko Papatūānuku). He tino āhuatanga motuhake tēnei e whakaatu ana i te titiro a Ngāi Māori ki tōna ao. I whakarewaina te papakupu rorohiko i te Wiki o te Reo Māori 2008, kei [www.koreromaori.co.nz](http://www.koreromaori.co.nz).

## HE KAPINGA KŌRERO

He tino ekenga taumata te tānga o *He Pātaka Kupu* i ngā mahi hei whakaora i te reo Māori. Ka whakatakotoria mai ko ngā mātauranga o ngā tohunga reo Māori, i kohikohia i ngā tau. Tūturu, e mau nei ko te mauri o te reo Māori. Ka whai hua te hunga matatau me te hunga e ako ana i te reo Māori i ngā mahi nei.

Ka tipu ngā reo katoa ki roto i ngā whakatipuranga. He rite tonu te kuhu mai o ngā kupu hou ki te reo Māori. Mā ngā kaikōrero, kaitautoko hoki i te reo Māori, he tūāpapa mārōrō a *He Pātaka Kupu* mō te whanaketanga o te reo haere ake nei. He reo tipu, he reo ora!



Front cover of *He Pātaka Kupu - te kai a te rangatira*





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