



Miriam Postlethwaite - Doctor of Philosophy

Ko Tūhoe te Iwi, Ko Ngāti Raka te Hapū.

“For all of the graduates receiving their awards, the day was the result of a culmination of much hard work and sacrifice not only by them but also the whānau.

I was asked by a reporter how I felt about becoming a Doctor, I said it was humbling, something I did for my whānau and my hapū Ngāti Raka of Te Waimana.

My doctorate applied a traditional framework that stemmed from the pepeha: Waimana Kaaku: Te horana o te kurarangi (The unity of the Waimana people is like the spreading vines of the chiefly kumara). This frame supported my study that was about wairua and motivation to learn and achieve.

I interviewed Tūhoe with doctorates who shared their beliefs about what motivated them in their doctoral studies. Their responses confirmed the importance of wairua that was imbued in one’s identity, reo, whenua, and relationship with whānau and hapū particularly when facing challenges. For our Rangatahi, this study illuminates for me the power of wairua that is aroha to embrace and encourage them in their journey through study and life.”

Teaching in Kura Kaupapa is Egypt Mika’s (28) goal. Graduating **Te Awa Tūāpapa** is her first step toward her Bachelors of Education towards her goal.

In 2016, to support her pēpi Ngākohupera (3) and self-initiate her own learning and experience in an ECE, Egypt took on a role at Little Orchard Preschool Douglas Street. In doing so, she grew the use of her reo by implementing it into her role. This was fully embraced and encouraged by the Preschool.

“I come from a generation where we didn’t speak te reo at home and we attended a mainstream kura. I picked up on my reo at kura, through kapa haka and my two kuia. I grew my love and understanding of how important it is to learn and sustain our reo for my pēpi and whānau. I can count using one hand, how many fluent cousins I have on my mum’s side. Alot of us understand our reo. But, look at the beauty of how your life can change if you have this taonga already. You can also gain mahi to help sustain our reo.”

Her longer term goal, at this point, is to return to mainstream teaching to uplift Te Reo Māori to encourage and support our younger generation whānau to learn te reo.

Egypt’s closing words... “He ao hurihuri tēnei mo tātou te iwi Māori. Knowledge is power. Whaia te matauranga! Kia kaha ki te ako i te reo Maori.”

Egypt Mika - Te Awa Tūāpapa



We hope to hear from Darlena Stewart in the next issue of Te Manu...