

Whakamahana i te Marae

(Warming the Marae)



Reflecting back to the early years, almost 50 years ago, where our Whanganui whanau (families) first learnt the craft of tukutuku from Uncle Henry Bennett, Bill Bennett, George a& Piki Waretini, Lois Gilbert and uncles, aunts and distinguished Maori artists such as, Cliff Whitting, Para Matchett including the network of Nga Puna Waihanga, NZ Artists and Writers Inc. Their contribution to the restoration of many marae and revival of our Maori arts and crafts gave inspiration to my journey within Nga Mahi Toi that has always stayed with me.

The opportunity to adorn Te Puawaitanga with a great team of Whanganui weavers, carvers and artists has been a privilege and honour. More than just adornments we feel confident the respect and mauri of te ao Maori has been upheld in our journey over the last eight months. It has been a great community effort and brought together four generations who can now ensure the art of tukutuku will not be lost in this region.

Although our wananga had adapted to the recent covid lockdowns and isolations our teams have still managed to bond with a focused commitment to honour the vision of our tupuna (ancestors). Guided by our Kuia Piki Waretini and Barbara Bennett it has been inspirational as our teams creative expressions have come to the forefront.

Please enjoy our journey over the months as we have worked together to bring to fruition the stories, traditions and dreams of those who have gone before us.

“Paiheretia ki te harakeke, ka motu Paiheretia ki te aroha, e kore e motu”

*Na,
Doreen Bennett*



Te Ao Hou Marae, Aramoho Whanganui

In Dec 2021 there was a call for Whanganui weavers, artists and whanau who wanted to take part in the making of 24 six-foot tall arapaki/tukutuku for Te Puawaitanga (whare) at Te Ao Hou marae. The response was overwhelming and there was a keen desire to relearn for some and learn for others. Our wananga were virtual online and when we needed to come together our safety and protection from covid-19 was always a priority. The patterns are traditional, reflecting kai, nature, our stories and history and the medium used is harakeke (NZ Flax). Because this is a taonga of old, tikanga and kawa (traditional protocols) practices were upheld, karakia (prayer), respect for our natural resources was maintained and the acknowledgement of our tupuna (ancestors) who teach and guide us is always remembered. our Arapaki will be placed on the marae walls end of July and a open celebration on 30th July 2022.

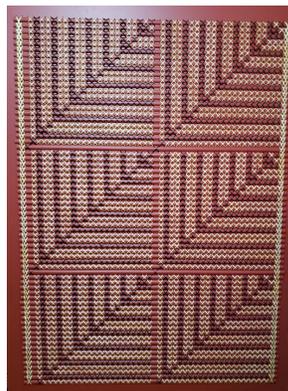
Nga Arapaki, weaving together people and time



Nga Ripo

*Naa, Maehe Ranginui,
Nadia Tamihana, Myra Tamihana
& Huingapatu June 2022*

Pattern is the Whanganui-a-Mumu which is specific to the region, each section relates to a story.



Ngahue (Ngaati Pamoana)

*Naa, Olive Hawira, Cathrine Hawira, Hine Potaka-Gardiner
June 2022*

Pattern is based on the Silver Fern often used in kete designs



Kaokao

Naa, Katrina Thompson, Dave, whanau and friends for June 2022

‘The stance of the Warrior’ this pattern reflects the strength of the warrior and protection



Poumanawa

Naa, Doreen Bennett, Aaliyah-Ivy Bennett-Opai April 2022

“Remembered in our hearts” E maumahara tonutia ana ta tatou e aroha nei i roto i o tatou ngakau



Kaiwharawhara

Naa, Rāwiri Tinirau, Marama Warera, Teira Warera, Cruz Pauro, Manaaki Hogg April 2022

Pattern is the paatikitiki or flounder



Purapura Whetu

Naa, Doreen Bennett, Aaliyah-Ivy Bennett-Opai April 2022

Representing the stars likened to the many people of a Nation



Taki Toru

Naa, Irene Paama, Lyn Gundersen May 2022

Although this pattern has very old meanings, this particular pattern is an acknowledgement of religion that was introduced to Iwi, it reflects the sign of the cross.



Kaokao

Naa, Christina Shepherd June 2022

‘The Stance of the Warrior’ This pattern was dedicated to the warrior who came under the protection of the War God, Tumatauenga

Poutama



Starting with ‘Poutama’ the front and back walls have been prepared in a traditional design that reflects our spiritual and education beliefs. The stepped pattern symbolises levels of attainment and growth, striving ever upwards for the betterment. *Produced by Matt Biddle, Doreen Bennett and supported by whanau June 2022.*

It has been a pleasure working beside our Whanganui artists, a team that has remained focused and true to this journey.

*“Ka Mahuta a Matariki i te pae, ka Mahuta o tatou tumanako ki te tau”
When Matariki rises above the horizon, our aspirations rise to the year ahead”*