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Ā kō ake nei - Coming up

- Te Manu Kōrero, Ōtautahi (Christchurch) 6th-7th June, Haeata Community Campus
- Matariki Holiday - 28th June
- Te reo Māori emersion taster: South Canterbury TBC
- FLAVA Festival Timaru September 6th-7th



Ko Whaea Kēkē te Haumi | Aunty Ally: A waka is not a canoe



Tēnā koutou katoa, ko Holly Bodman tōku ikoa. Nō Kōtarana, nō Ikaraki me Airaki ōku tīpuna, nō reira he takata Tiriti ahau. Hello everyone, I'm Holly Bodman. My ancestors migrated to Aotearoa from Scotland, England, and Ireland in the 1850s. Being non-Māori I identify as takata Tiriti, a person of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, as this founding document paved the way for my forebears to settle in this place. I would like to acknowledge all the Māori and non-Māori activists, educators, and scholars who have contributed to the important kōrero of how non-Māori can walk as allies alongside Māori in decolonising Aotearoa.

You may have heard my talk on becoming an ally by taking responsibility for my unconscious bias in my teaching practice. In this column I will share the next chapter of my journey: being an ally in my role as a curriculum writer with Kōia te Mātauraka. As a fourth-generation, middle-class, Pākehā mother and teacher living in Tāmaki Makaurau, this is the position from which I discuss being an ally. Not everything shared in this column will resonate with you, so please swipe left as you need. This said, hopefully there will be something to take away from each instalment, and if not, please get in touch to suggest a topic or ask a pātai (holly.bodman@ngaitahu.iwi.nz).

Recently, I was reminded by my colleagues about how bringing awareness to the language we use can be a subtle but significant disruption to colonisation. We were about to present on Rākaihautū, eponymous ancestor of Kāi Tahu and captain of the Uruao waka, who was the first person to discover Te Waipounamu. Nicole asked me to delete the word “canoe” which I’d included as a translation of “waka”. When we hear the word “canoe”, Kalinia explained, we imagine a narrow 2–4-person boat between 4–6m long. Polynesian voyaging waka were five times this size at up to 30m long (some were over 30m which was longer than Cook’s Endeavour). Voyaging waka had sails and rigs, with single or double masts. Being double-hulled, they could accommodate up to 180 people with space to store food and resources including seeds, plants, and animals. “Canoe” is a clear misnomer that has stuck firmly in our minds. Join us in re-framing the way we talk about waka, to whakamana (restore the mana) to voyaging histories.

Email us to share other kupu Māori which need re-framing, and we will shine a spotlight on it!



Mihia ki tēnei
kura -
School Shout
out

We want to hear from
YOU!!!

Share with us how you are
demonstrating equity for mātauraka
Māori and we will promote it in our
next pānui!