



Ngā kōrero a te Akonga Onamata

Te Amohaere Jefferies – Ngā Mana Whakairo ā Toi – Bachelor of Māori Performing Arts

Te Whakatōhea, Te Whānau ā Apanui, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Raukawa

He ao i ahu mai me te Reo, Waiata, me te Whānau

Ko te whānau, ko te reo mē ōna hononga whakapapa ki te whenua te tūāpapa mo te huarahi i whaia e Te Amohaere Jefferies'. I pakeke mai ia me ana tāina e rima, ka neke haere ki waenga o ngā kura mē ngā hāpori i poipoi i ā ia e pakeke haere ana i roto i te ao Māori.

“I haere mātau ki te kohanga reo me te kura i roto o Ōpotiki i Ōmarumutu, ana ko te reo pākeha te reo e kōrerotia ana i tērā wā. Kātahi ka neke mātau ki te taha moana ka haere ki Te Kura Māori o Maraenui, I reira ka piki ake o mātau mōhio ki te reo.

“I ngā tau i te kāreti mātau, i haere mātau ko aku tuāhine ki te Kāreti mō ngā Kōtiro Māori o Hato Hōhepa ki roto o Napier, ana ko aku tūnane i noho tonu ki te kāinga ana ka haere ki te Kāreti o Ōpotiki, ana no muri mai ka haere ki Hamilton Boys High School.

“Ahakoa te horapa o te whānau ki ngā tōpito o te motu, i noho piri tonu mātau me te mārama hoki ki ō mātau whakapapa hono atu ki te whenua, ia wā kua hoki mātau ki te taha o to mātau matua ki roto o Kirikiriroa mō ngā hararei me ngā huihuinga nui a te whānau.”

Tamariki noa iho a Te Amohaere ka ū te ao waiata ki roto i ā ia.

“I tīmata mai taku hiahia me te ngākau nui ki te waiata i Maraenui. I konei ka akonga ahau ki te purei kutā, ki te whakaōrua, me te harikoa ka waiata ana. Koi nei ētahi o ngā hokinga mahara tino piri ki tōku ngākau, ka waiata haere tonu ahau me aku hoa i runga i te papa tākaro, me ngā wā whakatā.

“I te kura tuarua i whakamātautia e mātau te tito waiata, kaore noa iho mātau i te mōhio e aha ana mātau, e mōhio rānei a tōnā wā ka pūāwai ēnei mahi auaha.”

I runga i ngā mahi tito waiata kapa haka, a ōnā hoa, ka whakaohotia tōnā ngākau, ka haere ia ki te whare wānanga, ana na te kaha o tana whānau ki te akiaki i ā ia, ka tīmata tana toro pono atu ki ana pukenga. “I was at Uni when I was encouraged to compose *Tangia*, a waiata inspired by covid, reminding people to pause, breathe, and remember where we come from. The message is about the importance of rest in a busy world.”



“I te whare wānanga au ka akiakitia au ki te tito i a Tangia, he waiata i ahu mai i te mate urutā, e whakamaumahara ana ki ngā tāngata kia mauri tau, ka whakatā, ka hoki ngā mahara i ahu mai tātau mai hea. He kōrero tohutohu kia whakatā i roto i tēnei ao hurihuri.

Kaore i roa ka hapū au.

“Ka tutuki i au a Tangia, ana ka whānau mai taku pēpi he tuatahi mōku te noho hei māmā, ana ka whakairitia e au aku mahi waiata ka noho ki te manaaki i taku pēpi. Engari kore rawa i wareware i au tērā taha o te auaha, ana ka titotia e au taku waiata tuarua; Rongo Tuku Iho.”

Mai rānō tana ngākaunui ki te puoro, tae atu ki te kapa haka. “Tekau tau ia e tū ana mo Ōpotiki Mai Tawhiti, ana ngā ērā whēako ia i pakari ai. Ngā ēnei mahi i whakakaha ngā hononga ki aku whānau whānui me te whakatuwhera mai hoki i ngā kuaha neke noa atu ki tāku i matakite ai. Pēnā kaore ēnei tākoha, enei whēako, me ngā aheitanga, kaore ahau e eke ki tēnei taumata.

I te tau 2024, ka tutuki i a Te Amohaere tana Tohu Ngā Mana Whakairo a Toi-Bachelor of Māori Performing Arts i Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi. E kii ana ia, “He mahi nui te mahi ia rā, te manaaki i taku pēpē, me te ako, engari he momoho me te huringa.

“Kaore te haka i te whakataetae kapa haka noa iho; he mātauranga, he hitori, he akoranga, me te tuakiri. Ka uru katoa ēnei mea ki roto i ngā āhuatanga o tēnei ao, ana he tino mīharo ka mārama ana koe kātahi ka tīmata te honohono haere i ngā kaupapa.”

“I te wā e ako ana ahau i tēnei tohu i roto i te tikanga Māori i raro i ngā manaakitanga a Te Kahautu Maxwell, i tāea ai e au te torotoro ma roto i ngā pepa akoranga, na tērā i whakaoho taku ngākau whiwhita ki te puoro me te auahatanga, i hōhonu kē atu taku whakamaiohatanga mo te mātauranga o te kapa haka me te Whakairo a Toi.”

Kaore i roa muri mai i te tukutanga o tana tohu, ka tonoa atu ia ki te whai tūranga Kaiako i Awanuiārangi. “I ako ahau hei kura māhita ki roto i ngā kura tuatahi engari i te reri ahau ki te kōkiri whakamua. He huarahi anō te wānanga mōku ki te whakahoki i ngā hua o aku mahi ki ngā whānau, hapū, me te iwi. He māmā noa iho tēnei ngā ōku herenga whakapapa ki tēnei Whare Wānanga, me te iwi o Ngāti Awa mai i ōku mātua.

“Ko te ahurei o Awanuiārangi ka noho tūturu ki ngā āhuatanga Māori. Ko te āhua ako ki konei kua takoto ke te tūāpapa e whai tonu ana i ngā uarā, ana e hāngai ana ki ngā ahurea taonga tuku iho.”

Ka whakarewatia e Te Amohaere tana *EP Tōku Ao from Haanaa*, i wawatatia ai e ia, ana ka whakaatuhia mā runga i ngā tūāpapa ipurangi mai i te Paraire 28 o Noema.