

KO TE REO TE TĀHUHU O TĒNEI WHARE

Aroha Te Rangihau Ruha-Hiraka Registered Nurse

TŪWHARETOA, TE ARAWA

Ko Aroha Te Rangihau Ruha-Hiraka tōku ingoa. Ko Ngāti Awa, Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau, Te Arawa me Tūhoe ngā iwi. Ko Pahipoto me Patuwai ngā hapu.

I was born in Palmerston North and raised in Wellington. I'm the eldest of five children. My first language is Te Reo Māori. I'm a Kura Kaupapa Māori student, an all in the one place education; so, I grew up with most of my friend's right through my schooling years. Throughout my senior years at high school, I also completed a Bachelor of Mātauranga Māori. I excelled in Māori studies because Te Reo Māori me ōna Tikanga is a passion for me. I believe upholding our Te Reo Māori is a lifelong commitment and one I always held closely throughout my education.

I honestly didn't know what I wanted to do when I left school, not for sure, but I did know that I loved to travel. So, out of high school I completed a certificate in Travel and Tourism. But after working two-years in tourism and with encouragement from my Mum, herself a registered nurse. I began my nursing journey in 2015 at Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi in Whakatane.

I completed my Bachelor of Health Science Māori Nursing at Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi in Whakatane, Bay of Plenty, under Te Ōhanga Mataora Paetahi.

Te Ōhanga Mataora Paetahi is accredited by the Nursing Council of New Zealand and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority. It prepares students for registration as a nurse focussing on primary health care and community development, as well as areas of nursing and clinical health practice.

Kia Ora Hauora

Everyone needs a little help and I first heard about Kia Ora Hauora as a first-year nursing student. I found them very helpful in terms of looking for scholarships to support my study costs. I also worked part-time as a Health Care Assistant, which helped the finances a lot.

“ Rukuhia te
Mātauranga, ki tōna
hōhonutanga ”

Study Focus

When it came to study I found the academic side tolerable; however, at times I struggled to write my assignments in English as Te Reo Māori is my first language and we didn't do much English at school. Nonetheless, Awanuiārangi have fantastic student support in Awhi Taura, who supported me with essay writing.

Support is so important and I'm grateful for my whānau, without their support I wouldn't been able to continue with my studies. During my second year, I gave birth to my first child, my daughter Tewaituarangi, which made the support all the more important.



My Future

I'm hoping to work as a practice nurse in the community following state finals. It's only part of my ambitions as I want to further my health pathway and someday become a Doctor. My ultimate dream is to work in rural communities as a General Practitioner, I believe it is important to help improve the health status of Māori in those communities.