



## Te Marautanga o Aotearoa has taken Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Rotoiti outside of the classroom to learn

For years our kura used the classroom as the dynamic place of teaching and learning and it was deemed not appropriate to learn outside of the normal classroom setting. With the implementation of Te Marautanga o Aotearoa things changed and so did the learning of our tamariki from our school.



Our environment became the new place of learning and life experiences changed the way our tamariki perceived the world. 'Ko au ko koe, ko koe ko au'

The Marae has become an important place of learning where our tamariki often visit. We encourage our tamariki to participate in pōwhiri, hui and tangihanga as this is the perfect time to observe kawa and tikanga in practice and to hear the language nuances of our elders. We are fortunate that our lake is surrounded by many marae so we encourage our children to be familiar with each one. This was highlighted when our kura learnt a local pātere. On completion of the learning our whānau took the ancestral voyage as dictated in the pātere and we followed the path of our ancestors. This type of learning can happen outside the classroom. To experience the wairua of this type of teaching and learning you must experience the journey.

Mana whenua and mana moana are very important to our tamariki and community. There is no better way of teaching our children respect than connecting them with the environment. *Utilising the mana whenua we have in our local district is imperative for kaitiakitanga to occur within our tamariki.* The health and welfare of our lake is extremely important and our kura has endeavored to instill the concept of kaitiakitanga into our young by becoming kaitiaki of the Lake Rotoiti's first floating wetland.



This is an initiative that was supported by EBOP, Rotorua District Council, Te Arawa Lakes trust and Kauri Park. Our kura has also been fortunate to be the pilot school to create a resource for Māori medium kura on floating wetlands.



We have also encouraged our children to become kaitiaki of our environment by recycling and gardening, where we grow our own vegetables such as lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, potatoes, corn and beans.

We have also planted an orchard so that in time our school can be self-sufficient. The long-term goal is for our children to take the skills they have acquired at school, home to share with their whānau. Instilling the desire of growing our own food has been extremely rewarding and in the future will benefit our community and Ngāti Pikiao.

As the current leader of the school I have no qualms in encouraging staff to step outside the square and to encourage learning that is connected to the environment through Te Marautanga o Aotearoa. The benefits of learning outside the classroom are endless and have so many opportunities that were not available ten years ago in teaching.

