



## Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Ruanui

Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Ruanui is based in the tribal boundaries of Ngāti Ruanui beneath Mount Taranaki. Aotea is their ancestral waka. This is a kura kaupapa that has a very close relationship with their iwi.

The kura is in the township of Te Hāwera which is centrally placed within the tribe. Since the kura was established it has come under the mantle of the tribal rūnanga. On the kura board a seat is available for a rūnanga representative.



Soon after the settling of their land claim with the crown a tribal education position was established to develop education initiatives within the rohe. a Ngāti Ruanui education strategy was developed. One of their main aims was to support their own kura kaupapa. They understood the need to utilise the kura to promote Ngāti Ruanui language, tikanga and educational aspirations.

Therefore during the early whānau hui in developing the kura vision it was important the tribe was involved in the graduation profile discussions.

Involved in those early discussions was Jenny Kershaw who sits in the tribal education position. It is her role to drive the education aspirations of the tribe and to be a conduit between the kura and the iwi. The tribal seat on the kura board is filled by one of the main tribal elders Turangapito Parata.

Principal, Mama Kumeroa says they are an important voice on behalf of the iwi and are able to also inform the iwi of the kura whānau aspirations.



Although the iwi representative is not able to attend all hui and some of the whānau hui attract only small numbers, the graduate profile has still been developed with strong input from both the iwi and the immediate kura whānau.

Mama describes the graduate profile being grounded at the base of Taranaki maunga. The base of the kura is grounded in te reo ‘my language is my gift my gift is my



language’. This is a major goal of the tribe and the kura to strengthen language proficiency in Ngāti Ruanui.

The template of the graduate profile is based on the appearance of the mountain.

The students are encouraged to achieve, to reach their full potential, that is, the peak of the mountain. Whilst at kura they are prepared for the wider world.

The graduate profile proclaims that ‘the student is the main focus’ and they are grounded first within their tribal world of Ngāti Ruanui and so are able to reach out to the world. The whānau realise once they are grounded here they walk into the wider world with pride. The student ‘has respect in themselves’ and so stands proudly with mana and strength as they move into the future.

However the final statement on their graduate profile is that ‘the kura will work as one with the whānau, tribe, hapū and board’. It is clear to see that the kura and Te Rūnanga of Ngāti Ruanui is indeed working together.