

HENARE KING

Nga Waka E Rima

The book “The Tail of the Fish” was published in 1968 and written by a Te Aupouri kuia, Matire Kereama (nee: Hoeft) of the far north of Aotearoa, New Zealand. I grew up with this book as my grandmother would read the stories to me at bedtime. Although my comprehension of each story was very vague and unrelatable to my life at that time, today, I find myself totally absorbed by the historical content and knowledge encapsulated in each chapter.

I completed a Master of Applied Indigenous Knowledge at Te Wananga o Aotearoa in 2017, entitled; Tales of the singing fish: He tangi wairua. I composed twelve waiata (Maori songs) of which ten of the waiata was information extracted from ten chapters of the book. The other two waiata were composed specifically for my people of the Te Rarawa tribe, of Ahipara.

This waiata acknowledges the waka (canoes) and respective captains of each waka during the great migration from Ra'iatea (the original home of the Māori) to Aotearoa, New Zealand. Many descendants of the northern tribes acknowledge the Ngātokimatawhāorua, Tīnana, Māmari and Kurahaupo canoes, but the Ruakaramea waka is not acknowledged as much as the others.

Ko Ngātokimatawhāorua
Ko Ruakaramea
Ko Tīnana
Māmari
Kurahaupo

Ko Nukutāwhiti
Mirupōkai
Tūmoana
Ko Ruanui
Ko Pōhurihanga
Ko Tinana te waka e