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Nō Rereahu, Ngāti Maniapoto me Hāmoa.  
Nō konei aku tamariki me tōku tāne.  
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- **Observations on arrival in Kaipara** to teach te reo Māori 12 years ago. Reo nearly non-existent. No whānau speaking te reo in their homes. Only encountered one native speaker who was from elsewhere but lived in the area for over 50 years. Struggling to get kaikōrero to service the marae. The kura was dilapidated and not much reo was spoken on site by tamariki.
- **History of current kura.** Established in March 2007 by a group of whānau who decided that they would continue to use the Oruawharo School site that was gazetted as closed on Feb 8th 2001 with an initial roll of 36. The first principal was Te Aroha Shelford who took the brave move to establish the kura with limited reo but a huge desire to improve te reo in Kaipara. Harata Fairburn was the 2nd principal and was from Ngāti Hine. The original short term prefab classrooms are still being utilised with the addition of a new LSM portacom arriving at the start of 2023. Although the Board of Trustees have upheld their duty to maintain the current site in Ōruawharo, big injections of capital cannot be spent on an inadequate site. The old building looms in the background of the kura in front of a dilapidated court and there is not enough land for a school field. This is in conjunction with a pot-holed 8km stretch of road before getting to the kura.
- **Roll Growth:** There has been great roll growth over the past 5 years from 17 students to the current 57 with approximately 10 starting at the beginning of 2024 and 4 year 8s leaving. Most of the students attend from outside of the Ōruawharo area. 9 of the 57 students live within a 5km radius of the kura. They come from Ruawai- 65.5km away, Puatahi 44.8km, Warkworth 41.4km, Mangawhai 35.8km with the majority coming from Wellsford 22.7km, Kaiwaka 16.8km and Maungatūroto 32.3km distance from Ōruawharo. These are vast distances that our tamariki need to travel daily and particularly on the final unsealed portion of the journey. We are managing teaching and learning in our current 3 classroom spaces and are looking forward to the new classroom expected next year to account for further roll growth. The main issues with the current site is the lack of room for our tamariki to play and to engage in sporting activities, its rural location preventing further growth and the poor roading leading to the kura. If we were located in Tawa Ave the commute time would be significantly shorter for most of our tamariki. Ruawai- 51.5km (less 14km) away, Puatahi 42.4km (less 2.5km), Warkworth 39km (less 2.4km), Mangawhai 18.1km (less 17.7km) with the majority coming from Wellsford 20.3km (less 1.4km), Kaiwaka (0) and Maungatūroto 18.2km (less 14km). Our Ōruawharo whānau would have to travel 13.7km.
- **Statistics:** As at 1 July 2023, there were 25,824 students enrolled in Māori medium education, representing 3.1% of the total school population (Education Counts,

2023). This statistic is growing annually. In 2016 when I conducted my research, there were 2.4% or 18,444 of the total school population enrolled in Māori medium education.

In 2013 26.3% of adults from Te Uri o Hau felt they could hold a basic conversation. We are still awaiting an update on the recent data.

- **Key findings from research**

- Students who stay in Māori medium education perform better than students from

- Māori medium who transition into English medium secondary schools

- All whānau said that they would have kept their tamariki in Māori medium education if there was a local wharekura

- Students who transition into English medium schools see a deterioration of their reo skills, eventually struggling to engage in conversation in te reo Māori.

- A change from a values and whānau based system to mainstream is difficult

- Academic English proficiency upskilling is lacking

- No specific transition for Māori immersion learners into English medium and no resourcing available as they are not NESB, there is an assumption that everyone born in NZ can speak and write proficiently in English

- **Effects personally with a lack of access to wharekura and ECE**

- 3 tamariki attended this kura

- eldest son struggled in mainstream but found his niche here

- 118km one way trip to wharekura everyday from Maungatūroto to Swanson

- 2nd son thrived here. This has been his only primary schooling.

- sold house and moved from a community we loved

- bought a house in a community that doesn't reflect us

- ECE my tamariki come to kura with me- must work part time

- ECE Puna Reo o Ngā Tupuranga- reo Māori play group so I must attend with them

- Y11 son transitioned into English medium and struggled

- Encouraging a great teacher and good friend to teach elsewhere so that our year 8 tamariki are being cared for pastorally and academically at another wharekura

- **Te Aho Matua**

- values based system that steers our educational pathway. NZ Gazette 21 Feb 2008.

- Te Ira Tangata= 1.5 He tapu te tangata ahakoa ko wai... We do not discriminate entry into our kura.

- Te Reo= 1.1 He tapu ngā reo katoa. Our tamariki learn te reo Māori and other languages and cultural studies too.

- Ngā Iwi= 3.3 E tika ana kia tū whakahihī te tamaiti i roto i tōna ake iwi, engari kia whai koha anō ki ngā iwi katoa. Growing up with an innate knowledge of your background is important as well as learning about the wider world.

- Te Ao= 4.4 Kia whai koha ngā tamariki ki a Papatuanuku raua ko Ranginui me a raua tamariki e tiaki nei i te ha o ngā moana, o te whenua, o te rangi me o ratau ahuatanga katoa. Our tamariki are kaitiaki. We don't have a rubbish issue currently and don't foresee one in the future.

- Āhuatanga Ako= 5.10 He mea tino nui te wahi ako hei whakaohoho i te wairua o te tamaiti ki ana mahi whakaako. No reira, kia kikii tonu te kura i ngā mea whakaihiihi i a ia, i ngā mea pupuri hoki i te ha o te ao Māori. Me whakawhanui hoki tona wahi ako

ki ngā marae, ki ngā ngahere, ki waenga parae, ki te taha moana, ki ngā whare pukapuka, whare taonga me era atu whare whāngai i te puna o te mōhio. We need to provide interesting learning environments for our tamariki to stimulate wānanga.

-Tino uaratanga= 6.12 Kia tū pakari, tū rangatira ia hei raukura mō tōna iwi. Be staunch advocates and leaders for their people.