

Koroneihana 2024 Kaihautū Māori

To Executive

Te Huarahi Māori Motuhake

From. Kaihautū Māori

Kanohi Kitea attendance at the 18<sup>th</sup> Koroneihana celebration of Kingi Tūheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero VII.

In line with the kanohi kitea strategy, Kaihautū Māori – Miriama Barton & Angela O'Donnell-King on 21 of August, 2024; attended the 18<sup>th</sup> Koroneihana celebration of Kingi Tūheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero VII.

Kaihautū Māori arrived early morning to a sea of people covering the tiriti marae front. For those that have never attended, the Koroneihana celebration is special and unique. Tūrangawaewae marae was built in the 1920s under the guidance of (Princess) Te Puea Herangi, a haven for the people living with the impact of colonisation.

On the day we experienced the kōrero of Aotearoa/ New Zealand's experts in te reo me tikanga Māori. Rāhui Papa, Tukuroirangi Morgan, Paraone Gloyne and Ngira Simmonds on the paepae representing Kingi Tūheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero VII and Selwyn Parata, Bayden Barber and Hone Harawira etc... on the tangata whenua side. The iwi performed kapa haka, poi, waiata as well as Hīmene and Karakia.

The King and Queen of Tonga including royal dignitaries from Hawaii and Alaska sat on the mahau alongside Kingi Tuheitia and his wife. Thousands of people felt the manaakitanga of Tūrangawaewae marae with shelter and kai provided through the hard work of the many iwi doing the mahi in the background to ensure Kingi Tūheitia is honoured.

Two of our delegate members were in attendance; one enjoying some well-earned PLD, through the cultural leave provision and the other Kaiako had brought a group of ākongā to experience Koroneihana. Prominent Māori in attendance included experienced educators, iwi chairs/ CEO and Māori author, Witi Ihimaera.

The whakapapa connection of Miriama Barton who worked for over twenty years as HOD Māori at Hamilton Boys' High School and lives and has lived in the Waikato for over thirty years, is strong and valuable for increasing engagement in Māori Medium settings.

In his heartfelt speech, Kingi Tūheitia Potatau Te Wherowhero VII encouraged a collective focus on the future, highlighting the importance of kotahitanga among Māori and the wider community. Though we may need super glue. He went on to say "while we are currently facing a storm, we don't need to worry because in this storm we are

strong together. The wind in our sails is kotahitanga. Our kotahitanga shouldn't be focused on fighting against the Government. Instead, we need to focus on getting in the waka and working together. Mana Motuhake has room for everyone". He also sent a challenge to Te Kawanatanga, "are you listening, Wellington? There is a better way!"

Attendance at Koroneihana, being seen and representing PPTA Te Wehengarua is the Executive actioning practical initiatives to affirming and advancing te Tiriti o Waitangi through supports for Kaihautū Māori.