

# Report for Te Puni Kokiri

## 1 MOTELO MARAE, THE BEGINNING

REF NDOE/HG.1728.13380.30604

Moteo Marae started their **Maara Kai Project** in February 2012 and established an area that would be suitable for easy access to the gardens by marae whanau, users of the marae, the nearby Kōhanga Reo and the local Puketapu Community.



*Pictured above: Areas that would be used for the gardens.*

Months later, the gardens were measured and the raised beds were built. We used recycled posts from a neighbouring vineyard and old sheets of roof iron which were donated by whanau including their free labour. Lots of rubbish needed to be removed before we could get started.

Mixed garden soil was to be purchased for the garden plots from Marae fundraising. The rest of the layout was marked out (*refer below*) – a walkway between the carpark and the rear garage; an area where a shade house would be erected; an area for an herb garden readily accessible from the kitchen and an area for Tamariki to play.



*Above: Marking out the plots*

*Intended Walkway from the carpark*

*Play area for Tamariki*

Marae whanau, kaumatua, mokopuna and tamariki all pitched in to work on the garden plots. Unused pavers were found and uncovered from an area behind the garage. They were perfect for our walkway from the carpark once they were cleaned up.

*Below: Iron roof cladding used to box in the plots.*



*Stacked pavers ready to be laid for the walkway.*



The gardens were left barren during the winter months due to insufficient funding to purchase more good soil, materials and climbing plants. We had a good supply of seeds but nowhere to propagate them. Then in April 2013, we were given pūtea to continue our journey. Soil was purchased, seeds were sown, raspberry climbers and passionfruit were planted, and vegetables of potatoes, kamo kamo and sweet corn were sown. All we had to do was give them water, keep them free of weeds and watch them grow. Our first crops matured and everyone enjoyed the bounty. When winter came again, the gardens became bare and once again the plots were left as is. The soil needs further cultivating and extra nutrients to bring them back to life. As the gardens are looked after by volunteers as and when available, their continuity is not always ongoing.

## 2 MOTEO MARAE, THE CURRENT OUTCOME

HG.1728.13380.30604

In May 2016, the Marae applied for and received funding from Te Puni Kokiri for our **Maara Kai Project**. Marae whanau interest was re-ignited and plans were made to obtain the garden soil and nutrients needed to get our plots back into production. With these funds, we want to complete our shade-house to help us to carry out further propagation of native seeds, shrubs and trees.

During the weekends of 13-14; 20-21; 27-28 May, 2016 the Marae hosted rongoā maori wānanga. The kaiako, Oriwa Morgan of Putaruru facilitated the wānanga giving those present, loads of information relating to the kawakawa tree and its healing properties. She also gave the marae a koha of three small kawakawa plants to help whanau learn about rongoā māori. We will be planting these trees in amongst our other native trees around the marae.



*Whanau taking notes during the wananga.*



*Far right: Kaiako Oriwa Morgan with her koha of kawakawa.*



The wānanga will continue for another two weekends giving opportunities to our whanaunga to gain invaluable knowledge relating to rongoā māori. We will discover where they may be found during our hīkoi to Tangoio Walkway to gather and harvest rongoā. As we approached Tangoio, we stopped near the beach where our ancestors had journeyed before us and said karakia before entering the ngahere. Our intent was to gather kawakawa to drink, make oils and make a bathe.

Oriwa demonstrated how to identify and harvest the kawakawa. She also reported that we should not harvest when it's raining. Use all our senses – smell the leaves, listen to the ngahere and the kawakawa will show itself to you. *“Take what you need and use what you take”*. Leave the sick plants and the young ones. Look for both the male and female leaves.



On our return to the marae later that day, we prepared inu and oils that will be used on a daily basis for our good health and well-being. We covered Self-Care with massage of the hands and feet; How to make a Poultice for the eyes and other mamae areas; also How to make a Basic preparation process for rongoa.

From these wananga, the whanau of Moteo were inspired to plant native shrubs that would benefit their whanau and mokopuna. Also they wanted to learn the internal and external uses of rongoa maori. From the wonderful information provided, everyone should be able to take something away that they can create themselves and their whanau will benefit from.



Oriwa left us with her whakaaro...  
*“Rongoa will not work if it's still in the bottle”.*

### 3 MARAE MAARA KAI EXPENDITURE REPORT

CONTRACT: HG.1728.13380.30604

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#### Income

Te Puni Kokiri                      \$2,000.00

#### Expenses

Garden Soil Mix                      \$430.00

Fence Netting                        \$309.97

Shade Cloth                         \$319.90

Poly Clips                            \$ 70.00

Native Trees & Citrus                \$465.00

Watering equipment                 \$206.00

Petrol for mower etc                \$200.00

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Total                                    \$2,000.87

*On behalf of Moteo Marae, the Trustees wish to give thanks to Te Puni Kokiri for their Grant which has enabled us to hold wananga to get in touch with marae whanau, bring them back to the marae to learn about the healing properties of rongoa maori. It has also allowed us to prepare our garden plots with new soil and ready them for planting. Whanau discussions were had and decisions were made as to what herbs, plants, shrubs and trees etc should be grown at the marae; which ones are best for flavouring our kai and which ones are more beneficial for our wellbeing.*

*We want to make those decisions a reality.*

Annette Purves  
Moteo Marae Trustee & Administrator

