

Nga Kohinga

o Ngati Porou

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Whangaparaoa School Trip to the East Coast



Students and whanau of Whangaparaoa school visited the northern region of Ngati Porou to trace the connections between Te Whanau a Apanui and Ngati Porou.

Throughout the year the school travels to neighbouring Marae to learn the history of other Hapu and Iwi. For this trip they planned their travel from East Cape through to Ruatoria and spent two nights at Tinatoka Marae. Shortly after arriving many found they had links to Tinatoka through their grandparents. Principal Tuihana Pook was aware of the linkages to this marae and felt right 'at home'. Many of the thirty five students and twelve adults visited and learnt the history of some of the many icons here in Ngati Porou.

The first stop was at Tikitiki's St Mary's Church. The children were in awe of its beauty and one of the students Floyd Haerewa took a special interest in the carvings and tukutuku panels. Next on the three day trip was a stop

at Te Kura Kaupapa o Tapareniui a Whatonga where they spent time with John and Matiria Manuel. Highlights for the children included visiting the waka 'Te Aio o Nukutaimemeha' out at the "Ngutu Awa – Waiapu rivermouth". Their hosts spoke about the Waiapu River, the traditional fishing customs of the inlet and its renown kahawai. Principal Tuihana Pook likened the korero about the Waiapu Kahawai to korero that they have about their ika(fish) the Moki saying "a lot of the tikanga surrounding these fish are very similar".

The morning of Day 2 was spent at Radio Ngati Porou where three students were given the opportunity to go live on air. When asked what their favorite part of the trip was the replies came fast "the beach", "the Marae" and "the people". The group spent time singing to the RNP staff, and after Kahu finished recording them live he had to reciprocate with their request and

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