

About the Orator

The following story tells of Piripi Nga Whira Crown born at Te Papa-o-Whati-hua, at Aotea.

It tells of how history, story and custom is passed from generation to generation.

Piripi is an authority, elder, leading orator of Rere-ahu, of Mania-poto.

My father is Te Papi. Te Papi Te Manawa-nui-o-rangi Pehi-kino, that is the name written in the Birth Register. He was more commonly known by the name Bob Crown.

Makareta Nga Waiata Nikora Moke is my mother. The name Makareta (Margaret) belonged to a pakeha lady, Makareta Nicholls, she was from the Wesleyan church. Makareta Nicholls was the first Deaconess of the Wesleyan church in the Rohe-potae.

I was born in Aotea, at a place called Te Papa-o-Whati-hua on the 28th of February 1947. According to my mother the year I was born was a leap year, but the leap year was in 1948 and I was born in 1947, however our mother knew that it was the last day of February when I was born.

My grandparents, Te Whare-iaia and Te Uru-peke Tupaea lived at Aotea. Te Whare-iaia worked on the road and cleared the land for dairying. When my grandparents started to build their house at Aotea, my parents were living at Mokai Kainga. Old Tu-whangai, my great grandfather, had a ponga house at Mokai Kainga; the old people all lived in this kind of house.

My parents lived at Mokai Kainga, but when the time came for my arrival my mother wanted to return to her parents, Te Whare-iaia and Te Uru-peke. My mother was taken to Te Papa-o-Whati-hua. Their tent was erected there right on the very spot of Te Papa-o-Whati-hua. The carpenters were there building the house, but her parents stayed in the tent helping my mother. The whole day was spent in the tent.

My mother's brothers erected the tent on the very spot where the porch of the house of Whati-hua once stood. I was born on the porch of that house, the home of Whati-hua; the house he built for Rua-pu-tahanga. Te Whare-iaia and Te Uru-peke were the midwives and they provided the prayers to help my mother.



E toru rangi no muri mai i taku whanautanga ka puta mai tetehi o nga koroheke o Rere-ahu ko Te Kohinga Taniora raua ko te kuia nei ko Taumuri Tawhana te hoa wahine a Mahuri Tawhana. Ka puta mai nga kaumatua nei ki Kawhia. I haere mai raua ki te hari mai te ingoa, te ingoa o te tuakana o Te Kohinga ko "Nga Whira Nga Rua-te-topu".

I whanau mai te kaumatua nei a Nga Whira i te motu o O-Kapiti a kare a Nga Whira i atawhaingia e ona matua ake engari na ona huanga ano a ia i atawhai. I te hokitanga mai a Nga Whira i O-Kapiti ki Te Tiroa ka kite atu i reira, i Te Tiroa, ona matua ake.

Tekau ma wha tau te kaumatua o Ngawhira ka haere a ia ki te pakanga i O-Rakau i te taha o ana matua a Hitiri Te Paerata ma.

I mau pu a Nga Whira tamaiti i te mura o te ahi i O-Rakau?

Kao, he taiaha, he tewhatewha koina noa iho nga rakau e mau ana e ia i te pakanga, kare he pu. Heoi ano i ora a Nga Whira i taua pakanga.

Ko Nga Whira tetehi o nga tai-tamariki i whai i nga tapuwae o Hitiri Te Paerata rangatira o Raukawa. Mohio katoa te motu nei ki taua kaumatua Hitiri Te Paerata raua tona tuahine Te Ahu-mai. Ko ratou i tu i O-Rakau me to ratou matua a Te Paerata, ratou ko Nga Whira tamaiti. Engari ko nga matua ake o Nga Whira; ko Taniora raua ko Te Hereraina, i noho tonu atu ki Te Tiroa, ki Paraharaha. Kihai nga tokorua nei i haere ki te pakanga nui i O-Rakau.

I te taenga mai a Te Kooti ki te Rohe Potae kei reira ano te kaumatua nei a Nga Whira i Te Tiroa e noho ana.

Heoi ano nga kaumatua nei a Te Kohinga raua ko Taumuri nana ra i haria mai te ingoa me nga korero moku.

I takea mai ou nei mohiotanga i a wai ma?

Ko te koroheke . . . nana nga korero katoa mai i te kainga nei, mai i nga tupuna ko Te Manawa-nui-o-rangi Pehi-kino, te matua o taku papa a Te Papi. Ko te ingoa nei Te Manawa-nui-o-rangi i puta mai i Miringa-te-kakara. Ko taua ingoa, koina hoki te ingoa o te pou-toko-manawa o te whare ripeka. I whanau mai te koroheke i reira, i Miringa. I whanau mai taua koroheke i te tau 1899. Engari i tupu mai a ia i te taha o Ngati Pare-tapoko me Ngati Pare-uenga i runga i Te Aho-roa. Na nga kaumatua nei a Hira raua ko Te Whiu Te Whare i atawhai. He mea tikanga tenei na nga tupuna, kia tukuna atu e nga kaumatua nga tamariki ki tena whanau ki tena whanau ma era whanau nga tamariki nei e atawhai. Pera ano nga matua me nga tupuna o taku koroua a Te Manawa-nui. Na ratou hoki i atawhai tetehi o nga Te Whare, te matua o Buddy Morehu Te Whare,¹ na nga iwi o Te Ihinga-a-rangi me nga iwi o Rere-ahu i atawhai. Pera te ahua o ratou, o ratou tikanga.

Heoi ano ka tae te wa e kaha ana ia ki te hoki ki ona matua, ana i hoki atu a ia ki Te Miringa-te-kakara hei ngarengare mo nga mea o te marae. He kawae wai, he tapahi wahie, he tunu kai koina ana mahi.

¹ Nika Te Whare -
father of Buddy
Morehu Te Whare