

I tono atu mātou, te rōpū whakaemi, ki a Lynn Vare māna e tuku whakaaro mō tēnei whakaaturaka. Ko Lynn te Kaiārahi Ratoka Tamariki me te Rakatahi kei Kā Kete Wānaka o Ōtepoti. E mihi atu ana mātou ki a ia mō tana tirohaka.

“ I a au e titiro ana ki kā taoka i kohikohia mō te whakaaturaka nei, i roko au i te maumaharataka ki taku tamarikitaka i Tāmaki ki te Toka. Ko *House of the People* nā Bacon rāua ko Jahnke, ko kā pūrākau Māori o Reed, ko kā rātaka whare kura me te āhuataka, te rahi hoki e kākaunuitia ana, me kā uhi pepamārō mīharo. Heoi anō, pērā i ētahi atu i tipu ai i te tekautau 1970, ko te tino pukapuka e maumaharatia ana ko *How Maui-tiki-tiki-a-Taranga Found his Mother* nā Peter Gossage. Kāore e kore, ko kā whakaahua mīharo e mōhiotia whānuitia ana e te nuika hei tauira o te pukapuka whakaahua Māori, ahakoa i tuhia, i whakaahuatia e te takata Pākehā.

Iti noa iho kā pukapuka Māori i kitea i kā whare pukapuka i a au e tipu ai, he mea tuhi noa i kā pūrākau Māori. Kua 1990 pea te wā tuatahi e maumahara ana ahau i te kiteka o tētahi pukapuka he tino Māori te āhua, ehara i te kōrero mō kā atua. Ko *The Kuia and the Spider* tērā, nā Patricia Grace te tuhi, nā Robyn Kahukiwa kā whakaahua. I puta i te tau 1981, he tūreiti mō aku tau i te kura tuatahi. E whakarae tonu ana tēnei hei kōrero inati, he ātaahua kā whakaahua, ā, i puta hoki i te reo rakatira i whakamāoritia e Hirini Melbourne. He matatū te pukapuka rā, ā, e kākaunui tonutia ana.

Ka whakanui te whakaaturaka nei i kā kaituhi me kā rikatoi Māori nā rātou me ā rātou mahi i whakatūturu i ō mātou kōrero, tō mātou reo, tō mātou ao me ō mātou tikaka kia tirohia e kā whakatipuraka e whai ake nei. E whakamaumahara ana ki a mātou i ā rātou ara, ā, kāore e kore ā rātou whawhai hoki, kia mau ai ēnei taoka ki kā rikarika tamariki, ki kā kura, ki kā whare pukapuka.

Ka tipu tonu te kohikohika pukapuka i te reo Māori ia rā, ia rā. E pārekareka ana, e pānuitia ana kā kōrero me kā whakaahua mīharo e te katoa. Pai noa ana te mōhiotaka, ka kī tonu kā paeka whare pukapuka kura o Tāmaki ki te Toka ki kā pukapuka Māori ātaahua, e tuhia ana e kā kaituhi Māori, e whakaahuatia ana e kā rikatoi Māori, i tuhia ki te reo Māori me te reo Ingarihi hoki. Mehemea tērā he waimārie rātou kia tū tonu te whare pukapuka i ō rātou kura. ”

Lynn Vare (Ngāpuhi, Te Rarawa)

Kaiārahi Ratoka Tamariki me te Rakatahi | Kā Kete Wānaka o Ōtepoti

As a curatorial rōpū, we asked Lynn Vare for her response to this exhibition. Lynn is the current Youth Services Supervisor at Dunedin Public Libraries. We are grateful for her perspective.

“ When I looked over the items being considered for this exhibition I could feel the pull of childhood memories growing up in South Auckland towards a number of the books. Bacon and Jahnke's *House of the People*, the various Reed Māori legends, School Journals with their familiar shape, size and glorious cardboard covers. However, like many who grew up in the 1970s, the pukapuka I remember the most would have to be Peter Gossage's *How Maui-tiki-tiki-a-Taranga Found His Mother*. Its striking illustrations are probably the most well known images people have of a 'Māori' childrens' picture book, ironically, written and illustrated by a Pākehā.

The few Māori children's picture books that I saw as a child on library shelves were generally a retelling of pūrākau/legends. I don't remember seeing a children's fiction picture book that was uniquely Māori and not about ātua until the 1990s when I first read *The Kuia and the Spider* by Patricia Grace and illustrated by Robin Kahukiwa. Published in 1981 it appeared too late unfortunately for my primary school years. It still stands out as an exceptional story, beautifully illustrated and published at the same time in te reo Māori with the translation by Hirini Melbourne. It is timeless and as popular as ever.

This exhibition celebrates Māori writers and illustrators whose work made sure our stories, our reo, our world and way of being would be visible to our tamariki. It reminds us of their journey, and no doubt struggle, in getting this material into the hands of children and into schools and libraries.

Our collection of books in te reo Māori seems to grow daily. Wonderful stories and illustrations, enjoyed and read by all. It is great to know that the shelves of the school libraries in South Auckland will now be lined with beautiful pukapuka by Māori writers and illustrators in te reo Māori and te reo Ingarihi. That is of course if they are lucky enough to still have a school library. ”

Lynn Vare (Ngāpuhi, Te Rarawa)

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