

Looking after our rivers

Rui, Ruia

with



Te wai — Manaakitia!

NGA mihi nui ki a koutou Kath, koutou o too roopuu e whakaora ana i te awa o Whangawehi me ngaa whenua e paatata ana ki te awa. He tika taua koorero, 'Maa o mahi ka kitea koe e te ao, e to iwi Maori' Kua tino kitea koutou e te ao, ngaa mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

He mea nui te wai ki o taata tiipuna. Anei eetahi koorero. Ko Hine-parawhenua-mea te matua o te wai. Kua rongo taatau i te whakataukii, 'Kaore e rere a Parawhenua-mea ki te kore a Rakahore'. Ko Rakahore te toka. Ka piki ngaa kapua i ngaa pae maunga, ka heke te ua, katahi ka rere te wai o ngaa awa. Ko tetahi atu koorero, na te toka i raro i te vwhenua, i rere ai a Parawhenua-mea. Mehemea kaore te toka i reira, kua heke te wai ki roto i te whenua, ngaro tonu atu. Ko Hine-parawhenua-mea te tamaahine a Tane raaua ko Hine-tuu-pari- maunga. Noo teetahi waiata eenei koorero, 'Ka heke koe i a Hine-kohu, i a Hine-ihorangi, ka tau ana koe ko Hine-parawhenua-mea'. (Iputa eenei koorero i roto i te pukapuka a Elsdon Best, Maori Religion and Mythology Pt 2)

Anei eetahi whakataukii e paa ana ki te 'wai'. 'Matariki taapuapua' — koinei te waa o Matariki, koinei anoo hoki te waahanga o te hootoke. Ka heke ana te ua, ka takoto haere te wai. Tetahi atu, 'Ka rite te wai nei ki wai Kimihia' — Te aahua nei, i te taenga mai o Turi ki Patea, koinei tana koorero moo te puna wai i reira. Ko Kimihia teetahi puna

pai ake!' — Ko te huahua ngaa manu i kohuanga katahi ka waiho i ro hinu. Ki te pirangihia ka tangohia mai i te hinu ka whakamahanatia, ka kangiai. He tino kai tenei ki to taata iwi engari ki te kore he wai, ka mate taatau. 'Te wai o Tane-pi' — Koinei te wai e pirangihia e te tangata e tata hemo ana. He mea nui rawa atu te wai.

We should all be looking after our rivers

Congratulations to Kath and her team of workers for receiving the award for all their hard work to improve the Whangawehi river. We should all be doing this.

Well done Te Mahia, you are an inspiration to the whole country. There is a proverb which says: "By your works will you be seen, by the world and by your people". You have done just that.

Water was very important to our old people. Hine-parawhenua-mea was the parent of running water, she was the daughter of Tane and Hine-tuu-pari-maunga. This saying was in a song: "You are descended from the Mist Maiden, and from the parent of the rain, Hine-te-ihorangi, right to you Hine-parawhenua-mea". (From Maori Religion and Mythology Pt.2 by Elsdon Best)

Here are some proverbs relating to water. 'Matariki tapuapua' — Matariki appears in the winter when the rain puddles lie around.

Another proverb 'Ka rite te wai nei ki te wai Kimihia' — When Turi arrived in Patea and drank the water there, he likened it to the spring water in Kimihia in Hawaiki.

In this proverb, 'He huahua te kai pai! He wai te kai pai ake! Preserved birds are a delicacy but water is essential.

The last proverb, 'Te wai o Tane-pi' is referring to the last drink given to a dying person. Water is