

Report from Te Waipounamu Region:

Tēna tātou katoa,

In light of the recent events down in Ōtautahi we have been very busy supporting our muslim community to grieve their lost ones in such a horrific crime that will be never forgotten. Sad times indeed. The coming together of whānau and the aroha shown has been much appreciated. But I have to acknowledge whilst we might go back to our lives, they will be in grief mode for sometime after.

2018 was a busy year. I had enrolled onto the Ngā Manukura Leadership Intensive Programme 2018 for Māori nurses and midwives to pursue organisational leadership in health. This course helped in providing frameworks for practice in my position on the National Board as a Ngā Māia representative. I was then in a position to think about building and re-establishing Ngā Māia Te Waipounamu region.

The overarching goal has always been to re-establish the māori midwifery roopu ki konei and provide support for our māori midwives within the region. Getting us all together in the one room proved to be more difficult than intended. Setting up the facebook page has meant we can communicate more with each other and has been a great platform to share information. It gives a sense of connection with each other, even in our somewhat busy lives. By also attending Canterbury college regional meetings has meant I've been visible as the Ngā Māia representative. I've managed to reconnect with māori student midwives and māori midwives to discuss our needs going forward. I have shared my vision for the future and provided some goals/objectives pathway to work on.

Project Goal/Proposal: Revitalise Ngā Maia in the region Te Wai Pounamu.

1. Re-establish midwifery relationships with each other.
2. To provide an environment that is safe to be who we are a Māori.
3. Promote the autonomy as Māori midwives.
4. Align ourselves with Ngā Maia o Aotearoa and network with others.
5. To strengthen our representative voice with Ngā Maia o Aotearoa and other governance boards.

Essentially we are a strong group of Māori midwives who see the need of getting together to support and awhi one another. Together we will explore the implementation of Tūranga Kaupapa along side our Standards Review. Utilising both tools to reflect on our practice. Out of this has come many other exciting adventures along the way. Conversations have been had with the new CEO Alison Eddy who is more than supportive in looking at ways in which the college can create future pathways at a local region. Hence Ngā Māia regional hui will commence soon and be held at the College headquarters. We also have been invited to contribute to the Canterbury NZCOM regional website which is exciting. So there is a lot happening, weaving wananga and improving access of them to our whānau especially as we go into the winter period.

If there is anything I have learnt is that good things take time. Building and maintaining tika, pono and aroha relationships are very important to the sustainability of any organisation. I

am also mindful as I lead with this roopu that I put aside my own strong views and focus on the needs of the roopu. Easier said than done!!!! With us already heading into April 2019 soon, I hope to secure some funding for our roopu to attend the next Hui-a-Tau in Northland this year. I'm working with management at CDHB to making this happen. And the Canterbury region also want to partake in supporting the māori midwives/student midwives in attending the hui also. There is always lots to do and getting involved but being mindful that we don't burn out, taking the time to look after ourselves is equally important. We look forward to sharing our goals, dreams and achievements.

Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa (Let us keep close together not far apart).

Nāku Noa
Diana Bates

The goal is to revitalise and rejuvenate the Māori Midwifery Roopu ki konei Te Wai Pounamu. Providing support to our Māori Midwives working within this region. Giving ourselves a voice from the ground up and on governance boards. Work on re-establishing relationships key to our roopu ie NZCOM region, Ngā Maia o Aotearoa, Mana Whenua, Ngai Tahu Hauora. Māori midwifery students would also be invited to join us as well as those who have a genuine openness to work with our people. This will ensure the needs of our roopu and the needs of whānau are being met. For some time we have been dormant, but now is the time to be present, aware and lead.

Tūranga Kaupapa is our professional safeguard and it gives us as Kaiwhakawhānau recognition. It an indigenous framework mechanism to which we reflect on our midwifery practice. It will be encouraged to utilise alongside Midwifery Standards Review.

By aligning ourselves with Ngā Maia o Aotearoa means we acknowledge ourselves as a treaty partner with others, having a voice locally and nationally. Nothing will be achieved by continuing to isolate ourselves. Our mindset needs to change in a way that we enter a positive space, be open to the possibilities, proactive by participating and be active in key positions. This would benefit the community by educating others on Te Ao Māori, in context of prepping our wāhine and their whānau for the birth of their pēpi.