

Rua Pōkai Ngā Māia I Te Rauroha.

Rua Pōkai Ngā Māia I Te Rauroha is a newly formed rōpu in Tamaki that has become affiliated to our national body - Ngā Māia O Aotearoa.

Our name, 'Rua Pōkai i te Rauroha' is the name of our kaupapa that intertwines our vision and passions as a collective of Māori professionals/tikanga practitioners of midwifery. The sacred kupu gifted to our name represents the intention and purpose of our rōpu while strongly connecting to the foundation of Ngā Māia O Aotearoa. Rua are the sacred beings who nurture the growth of passion; Pōkai is an ancient term that describes the cycle of pregnancy; Ngā Maia whilst directly linking us to Ngā Maia o Aotearoa it also expresses our intuition, intellect and bravery as midwives; Rauroha encapsulates absolute love, enhancing the energy of the next generation.

As a rōpu, our desire is to share mātauranga through the vessel of manaakitanga to gain deeper understandings from each other, and others. To achieve this and strengthen our kaupapa we plan to meet within a wānanga framework.

The structure of our rōpu will be defined by those who attend our upcoming hui. However as our name suggests, these will be embedded within tikanga and kawa as taught to us by our tīpuna collectively. Irrespectively, to reflect the need for a space to kōrero about issues specific to Māori midwives, wāhine birthing, students and whānau, membership (and attendance at wananga) will be for those whom whakapapa Māori.

Currently our rōpu consists of midwives whose experience range from 1 – 20+ years. We have representation on the Midwifery Council, NZCOM Auckland Regional Committee, NZCOM Education Team, AUT Midwifery Educators, Counties Manukau DHB management positions, MFYP mentors, MSR reviewers, Maternal Mortality Committee member, midwives engaged in postgraduate education including the Doctorate pathway, Core midwives and LMC midwives. Collectively we are, and have, a strong voice for wāhine Māori, whānau and midwives. We are now committed to growing our number, and our voice, both regionally and nationally.

Our inaugural hui is set for Friday 5th April 7pm – Saturday 6th April 4pm. This will be held at Te Kura Kaupapa Māori O Te Kotuku, 92 Simpson Rd, Ranui, Auckland. All Māori midwives, students and whānau interested in being a part of our kaupapa are welcome!