

Huhana Rokx-Potae Profile

Huhana Rokx-Potae

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Tēnā tātou e arahī nei i ngā āhuetanga o te hauora

Ko Tītīrangi te maunga
Ko Ūawanui a Ruamatua te awa
Ko Te Aitanga ā Hauiti te hapū
Ko Ngāti Porou te iwi
Ko Makere Te Materonea te tipuna

Ko Marotiri te maunga
Ko Mangahauini te awa
Ko Te Whānau a Ruataupare te hapū
Ko Ngāti Porou te iwi
Ko Te Potaeaute te tipuna

Ko Pūtauaki te maunga
Ko Rangitaiki te awa
Ko Te Pahipoto te hapū
Ko Ngāti Awa te iwi
Ko Te Rangakāwehea te tipuna

Ko Huhana Rokx-Potae tōkū ingoa

I whānau au i te wā e ora tonu ai ngā tikanga o te wao nui a Tanemahuta, arā, ka kohi haere ai ōna tipu, ōna hua, hei rongoā mō te iwi. Katahi ka huri te ao, ka matemate haere aua tikanga, ā, ka uru mai ko ngā tikanga a tauwiwi. Ināianei ko te rongoā Pākeha te tino rongoā mō te iwi me te mea anō, kāhore anō te nuinga o te ao Māori kia hoki mai ki ōna ake hua e tipu tonu mai ana i ngā ngahere Māori.

Nā reira, anei a Huhana e hiahia ana ki te whakaora anō i nga tikanga rongoā. Nā reira au e whai ana i tēnei tūranga hei māngai mō Te Tairāwhiti i runga i Te Kāhui Tāwharautanga mō ngā Rongoā.

E tino whakapono au kei reira te rongoā mō ngā hapū, ngā iwi o te ao Māori, kei ngā tikanga a kui a koro mā, otirā kei onā ake tipua, kei tōna ake Taiao.

I am pleased to accept the nomination to represent Te Tairāwhiti on Te Kāhui Tāwharautanga mō ngā Rongoā.

I have been nominated by the Board of Trustees of Te Aitanga ā Hauiti Hauora, and I am the Kaiwhakahaere Matua of the organisation. I am prepared to make the commitment and contribute fully to the responsibilities of Te Kāhui Tāwharautanga mō ngā Rongoā. I also look forward to adding my expertise to the relevant projects that will no doubt evolve for Te Kāhui Tāwharautanga mō ngā Rongoā at this inaugural stage of its development.

I am a strong believer that the solutions to the health issues currently experienced by Māori lie within our own cultural framework. The causes clearly evolved during the critical colonisation period of this country as our history shows that we were relatively health-issue free prior to colonisation. Therefore if we are to address our current health issues, we must seek solutions from within the framework that encompassed us as a people at a time that we were truly healthy, vital and, therefore, powerful.

My work background has been extensive and varied. I began my working career in early childhood education and, specifically, Te Kōhanga Reo.

I also worked for the Government sector for over 20 years in Māori education, Māori language publishing, Māori health and Te Reo Māori. My roles have included:

- Specialist work - Māori Education Trust; Families Commission; Plunket NZ; Ministry of Education
- Senior Management roles with Early Childhood Education and Māori language publishing
- Health Management: Ministry of Health Māori Provider Development Scheme, Te Kete Hauora
- Chief Executive: Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori

My professional background and experiences have consolidated my thinking regarding Māori health and well-being. I am now in a leading role with Te Aitanga ā Hauiti Hauora, a hapū-based Māori health provider, where I find the true purpose of my previous work and roles and the learning and understanding that I gained over the years. And that true purpose to me is to be an instigator and advocate of kaupapa Māori philosophy and methodology within services to Māori, thereby ensuring that the services are appropriate, relevant and effective.

Rongoā has always been the means by which our people regained and maintained their health and well-being. Cure and therapy was ingested in physical, mental and spiritual ways and the whole person was treated within the relevant contexts of whānau, hapū and iwi. Cure and therapy was sourced through our reo, our values, our whakapapa, our history, our native flora and fauna, our rākau, our waiata, our culture, ourselves.

Should I be fortunate enough to be elected to Te Kāhui Tāwharautanga mō ngā Rongoā, I would have gained the opportunity to instigate and advocate those important factors.

Whaia te iti kahurangi, ki te tūohu koe, me he maunga teitei.

Nākū noa, nā Huhana Rokx-Potae