

The Kaupapa Game

An update

BY MURRAY SHORT

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou ngā tāngata o Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri.

The Kaupapa Game is a beautifully crafted board game designed to encourage participants to learn and use te reo Māori whilst playing. It is designed mostly for secondary students and adults. The game was created and produced by Rosie Remmerswaal and Kuruho Wereta with the assistance of a grant from the Testimonies Fund. They introduced the game to Friends at Yearly Meeting 2021 and the minute from the session reads as follows:

Kuruho Wereta gave an inspiring presentation of the journey he and Rosie Remmerswaal have been on leading to the production of the Kaupapa Board game. Now through the Kura Rēhia company they established, the game has been formally launched and is available.

The vision Kuruho and Rosie had was to promote a bilingual Aotearoa through making te reo Māori learning fun. Based on values of kaitiakitanga they have paid attention to all production aspects being as sustainable as possible and made in Aotearoa. They have ensured that the game is inclusive for all levels of te reo. It provides opportunities for engaging in fun and learning, face to face in different environments, for young and old, individuals and teams.

We see this game as a treasure and there is further opportunity for Friends to provide support. We agree that Yearly Meeting purchases 200 Kaupapa games for Monthly Meetings to distribute to local kura, kōhanga reo or other appropriate organisations which may find it difficult to meet the costs of the game.



A Quaker Support Group was established to provide mentoring and support. The initial plan developed by this group was to ask Monthly Meetings to distribute the games to educational and other organisations responsible for teaching te reo Māori in their areas. At a meeting of the Support Group on 19 June, it was decided that a proper way to proceed would be to first engage with Te Taura Whiri i te Reo, who may be able to assist with identifying appropriate groups to receive the games and perhaps with the logistics of distribution.

Te Taura Whiri were very supportive indeed and identified that 295 games needed to be distributed to Kura Kaupapa, and Māori language schools throughout Aotearoa. The 295 copies will be divided amongst the 113 kura or



Some of the attendees at the Kaupapa launch event at Umupuia Marae in May 2021

language schools, based on the number of students on the roll; this was the approach decided upon between Te Taura Whiri and the Ministry of Education. Both agreed to assist with arranging distribution. Te Taura Whiri also agreed to meet the cost of the extra 95 copies of the game, which is tangible confirmation of the value they see in making the game as widely available as possible.

Kuruho has been handling the meetings with people from Te Taura Whiri and the Ministry, and whilst he was doing that, production of the games, which was still in the very early stages at the time of Yearly Meeting, ramped up. The production of the full 295 copies was completed in late 2021.

Although the original plan was to have Monthly Meetings involved with the distribution of the games, the Support Group decided it was wise to work through Te Taura Whiri. Distribution is a major task with the need to carefully identify appropriate groups and arrange the physical delivery. The Support Group has been encouraged by the number of Meetings that have enquired about when the games will be available because they have contacts who are

keen to receive them. As indicated in the updates in the Yearly Meeting Clerk Letter, Meetings have been encouraged to purchase further copies to distribute to such contacts.

The Yearly Meeting Outreach Committee, at a meeting in February, suggested that it would be good to have the gift of the games acknowledged in some way so that amongst other things the recipient schools would know of the Quaker commitment to promoting te reo. Te Taura Whiri and the Ministry of Education had already suggested to Kuruho that the name Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri could be included in an insert in the package of each game alongside their names and logos. The wording of the insert therefore includes the following:

Your kura has been selected to receive a copy of KAUPAPA as a gift from Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri (Quakers in Aotearoa, who supported the game's development), Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori, Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga, and the team at Kura Rēhia to celebrate your mahi revitalising te reo rangatira in our kura Māori across the motu.