

# GIVE IT A GO KŌRERO MĀORI

## JOIN THE MĀORI LANGUAGE CLUB

**Tēnā koe!**

*Did you know that very few people use reo Māori in the workplace, at sports events or while socialising with friends and whānau? If we want our language to be used “every day”, these are the areas where we need to be speaking Māori.*

That’s why Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori has decided to trial a button/symbol system to encourage people at all levels to use te reo Māori.

A registration form to join an e-based ‘*Māori Language Club*’ is attached to this information sheet. Initially, the aim is to collect contact details from people interested in participating in the regeneration of our native language. Please fill in the form so we can contact you with information and ideas about how you, your whānau, work place or sports team or community group can contribute to the regeneration of the Māori language.

### **Why is it important to speak Māori?**

According to data from the latest National Māori Language Survey, many people identified kōhanga reo as the place where they made greatest use of their Māori language skills. Does this mean our language is becoming institutionalised? Spoken mainly in educational settings? These are questions that we should be asking ourselves, and we will be looking into these issues as we develop a nationwide Māori Language Information Programme to support the regeneration of the Māori language.

**“In order for the Māori language to be living and healthy, it must be spoken in homes and passed on in a normal every day way”**

*Use it or lose it!*

A particular focus for the programme will be on encouraging the use of Māori language by speakers of all levels.

Some people may be reluctant to use their Māori language skills for fear of making mistakes and being criticised. However the big picture is that people need to use Māori language or we’ll lose it – so encouraging each other and looking after each other is really important.

Māori Language Survey findings suggest that people were most likely to use Māori with people who have similar Māori language speaking abilities to their own. This gives you the opportunity to practice your skills at a level where you are comfortable and, lessens the risk of being embarrassed. Practicing your skills with

speakers who are at a higher level exposes you to advanced grammar and vocabulary and challenges you to learn and use your reo in new ways.

## So how do you identify speakers of similar proficiency?

As part of the development of the Information Programme Te Taura Whiri is piloting a concept used overseas to identify your language level and be part of a group that support each other to use their language. The concept is implemented through the wearing of badges or 'symbols' to show your individual stage of language development, proficiency and support.

**Te Taura Whiri has adapted this system and established a four button symbol system as follows:**

# THE BUTTONS



### **Inanga pounamu** (whiter in colour)

Native and highly fluent speakers

*Use te reo Māori with each other and with Pounamu button holders*



### **Pounamu**

Fluent speakers

*Use te reo Māori with each other and with dark Pounamu button holders*



### **Dark Pāua**

Can understand, and is still learning

*Use te reo Māori with each other and with light Pāua button holders*



### **Light Pāua**

Beginners

*Encourages all button wearers to speak to them*

# KIA ORA

*If you would like to participate in this initiative, please select the button you feel fits your language level and complete our registration form and we'll send a button out to you.*

# Māori language club registration form

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**KIA ORA,** Thank you for taking the time to read the attached information. If you're still reading then, chances are, you're just the kind of person we are looking for – you're keen to support the regeneration of one of *our greatest taonga – te reo Māori*.

Initially we'd like to be able collect information about you to enable us to create an extensive nationwide, eventually global database of people willing to support and use the Māori language.

We'd also like to tell you about new ideas and get your opinions, and we can send you information and the new resources that we will be developing.

*Please tell us:*

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town/City \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone numbers: work: \_\_\_\_\_ home: \_\_\_\_\_ cellphone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a parent?      Yes      No      (*Please circle the one that applies to you*)

If a parent, what ages are your children? \_\_\_\_\_

Iwi affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Which level of speaker are you? (*Please circle the one that applies to you*)

*Native and highly fluent speaker*

*Fluent speaker*

*Can understand and are still learning*

*Beginner*

Please use this space for any comments or suggestions you'd like to make

*Note: The information you provide will be used strictly for the purpose of internal research by Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori in developing concepts and resources for the national Māori Language Information Programme and associated language initiatives.*

**For more information please contact:**

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Send your completed registration to Māori Language Club, C/- Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori, PO Box 411, Wellington.