



# **Faith & Whakapapa:** ***Navigating Te Ao Māori in the Church***

Henare Whaanga | Ngāti Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairoa, Ngāti Pākehā o Ingarangi



# — Intended Outcomes

## Greater Understanding

- The Footprint of Faith
- Impacts of Church culture on Māori
- Bi-culturalism & Multiculturalism

## Courage and Confidence

- To faithfully navigate the intersection of Faith & Whakapapa
- Meaningfully honour our Bi-cultural heritage
- **Glorify the Lord in this Space**

# — Whakawhanaungatanga

1. Small groups of 4
2. Find out;
  - a. The church your neighbour goes too.
  - b. Why are they in this session.
  - c. 1x random fact about them.
3. Discuss what you or your church is doing well in navigating Te Ao Māori ( Write these on Sticky Notes)



**“Tuhia ki tō rae.”**

*“Don't forget it.”*

# 1. Faith & Whakapapa:

*The Footprint of Faith*

# 1. Faith & Whakapapa:

## *The Footprint of Faith*

### Group Activity

- Small groups of 4
- Who are the mana whenua? Who are the local iwi of your area?
- What is the marae relevant to your rohe? Proximity to your church?  
Who does it belong to? What does the marae do for the people?
- How and when did the gospel come to wellington?
- What are some stories you know in connection to this region?
- Who are some notable historical figures of this region?

Arama Toiroa  
Prophesied about  
'*Son-Who-Was-Killed*  
,



1766

1769

Capt. J Cook Arrives on  
the East Coast - Feat.  
**Tupaia**



Rev. Samuel  
Marsden Preaches  
from **Luke 2**



1814

Henry & Marianne  
Williams arrive in the  
Bay of Islands

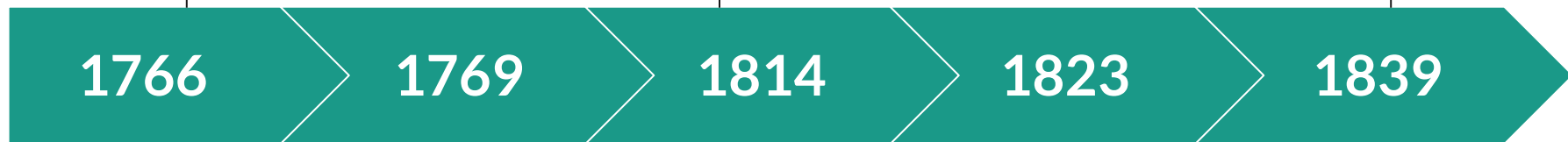


1823

Octavius Hadfeild  
arrives in Kapiti with  
Henry Williams



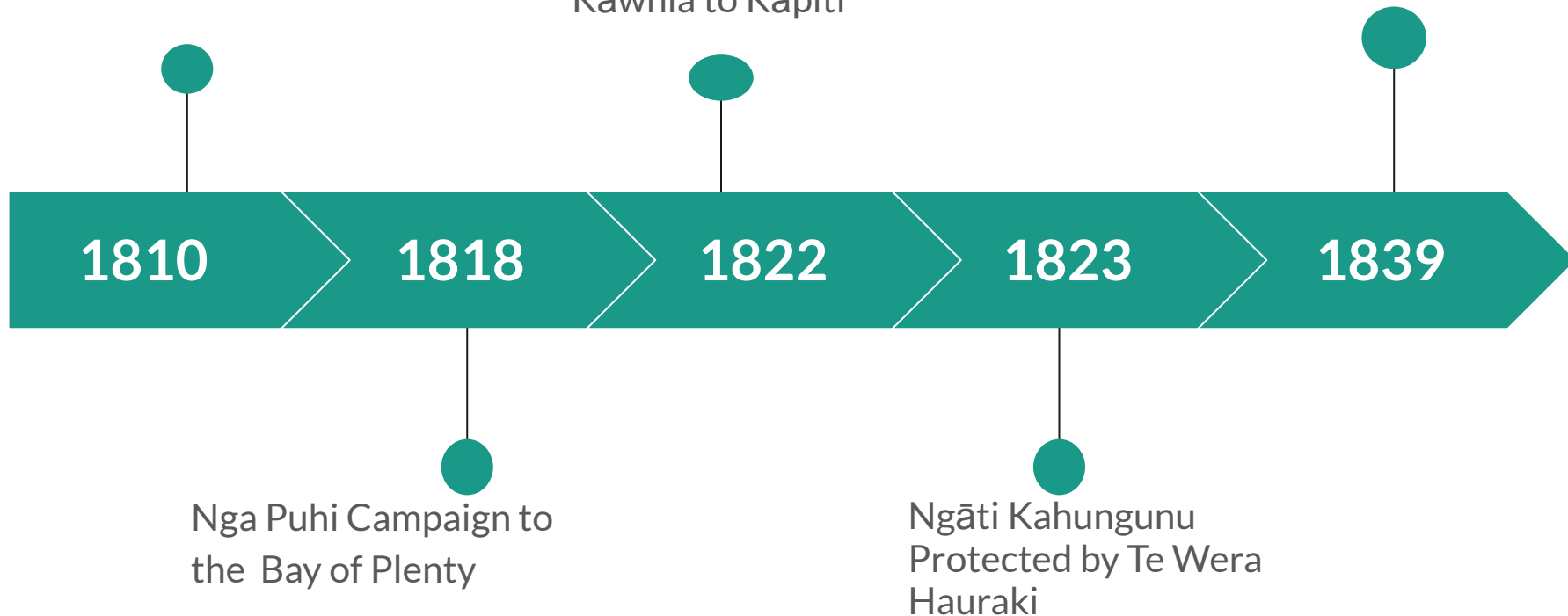
1839



The Great Battle of  
*Hingakaka*

Ngāti Toa begin their  
famous exodus from  
Kāwhia to Kāpiti

Ngāti Toa & Te Ati Awa  
receive the Gospel



## 2. (Initial) Impacts of Church Culture on Māori



### Honour, Education & Growth

- Māori is the language of the day. For bible teaching, debating, singing, praying, gospel proclamation.
- The bible is the mechanism of education.
- Te Reo Maori is given a written form (1816)

### Enthusiastic Mass Conversion

- By 1850 - 90% of the māori population became Christian.

### Māori expressions of Faith

- Architecture: Te Rangiatea Church, Otaki, Te Aro Pā, Wellington.
- Māori lead the unravelling of truth from error with in their own culture. *E.g. Ngāti Haua, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Porou, Nga Puhi, Ngai Te Rangī*



**“Na te Hahi, i kore te kikokiko tangata I  
waenganui i oku niho.” - *Ngāti Porou***

“Because of the Church, there is no longer human flesh between my teeth.”

**“Na Karuwaha, e kore a matou pu e pupuhi.”  
- *Nga Puhi***

“Because of Henry Williams, our guns would not fire.”

**“Kia kotahi ai tatou i raro i te mana o Ihowa.”  
- *Ngāti Rakaipaaka***

“Let us be one under the authority/power/ prestige of God.”

## 2. (Initial) Impacts of Church Culture on Māori



### Honour, Education & Growth

- Māori is the language of the day. For bible teaching, debating, singing, praying, gospel proclamation.
- The bible is the mechanism of education.
- Te Reo Maori is given a written form (1816)

### Enthusiastic Mass Conversion

- By 1850 - 90% of the māori population became Christian.

### Māori expressions of Faith

- Architecture: Te Rangiatea Church, Otaki, Te Aro Pā, Wellington.
- Māori lead the unravelling of truth from error within their own culture. *E.g. Ngāti Haua, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Porou, Nga Puhi, Ngai Te Rangī*
- *Holistic, Scholarly, Theological & Philosophical, Deep.*



## 2. (Modern) Impacts of Church Culture on Māori

### Cultural Suppression & Spiritual Abuse

- Māori language, theology, cosmology, practise & custom wrongly labelled as '*demonic*' or '*Pagan Supersition*'
- OR fully embraced without wisdom or discernment producing confusion or sin.
- Māori custom and taonga viewed as *time consuming* or *impractical*.
- Forced identity choices; **1 Corinthians 5:17** - '*The old has gone/ the new has come*'.

### Unenthusiastic Attendance & Disunity

- 2023 Survey showed **29%** of the maori population (Over 1 Million people) Identify as ANY form of Christian.
- Marae-Centred Worship - Separation of the nations (Un-doing Galatians 3:28)
- Rejection of Western Church Authority, institutions & structure as false/ of a '*different Spirit*'.

### Māori Expressions of Faith

- Tokenism, fear and anger amongst non-māori believers towards Te Ao Māori.
- Surface level



### 3. Multiculturalism vs Bi-Culturalism

1. Our **Multicultural reality** is built upon our **Bi-cultural heritage**.
2. By acknowledging, understanding and honouring the Bi-cultural **foundation** of our nation, we legitimize/ justify/ ground the Multicultural **structure** which we live in today.
3. The Scriptures are a testament of **multiculturalism** - but also a testament to the unique relationship between **2 entities: God** and his chosen people, **Israel**.



# 3. Courage and Confidence

1. Small Groups of 4
2. Discussion: Any changes or ideas to better navigate Te Ao Māori in the church.
3. Any Scripture come to mind to bring encouragement and/ or clarity?

## Resources



WHAKAARO  
HŌHONU

[www.thinkingmatters.org.nz](http://www.thinkingmatters.org.nz)  
[www.shininglightstrust.co.nz](http://www.shininglightstrust.co.nz)  
[www.maoripostal.co.nz](http://www.maoripostal.co.nz)





# Questions?