

# Te Kāhui Mātauranga o Puke Ariki

# Pre-visit information

Ko Te Raranga, Ko Te Poi 2021

Year 11- Year 13



We look forward to sharing Puke Ariki's collection of Taranaki raranga from *Te Takapou Whāriki* Gallery with you and your students.

*"Unuhia te rito o te harakeke kei whea te ke komako e ko?*

*Take away the heart of the flax bush and where will the bellbird sing?"*

This lesson focusses on Raranga (weaving), studying traditional methods and materials, transitional pieces and examples of 21<sup>st</sup> century methods of work linked to the contemporary Māori art movement. Focusing mainly on harakeke, students can also look at various other endemic plants that have been used for Raranga, and continue to be used today.

*Ko Taku Poi Te Manu* features the work of artists Ngāhina Hohaia and Matthew McIntyre Wilson, both of whom explore the huge significance of poi manu.

Puke Ariki provides Learning Experiences Outside the Classroom supported by the Ministry of Education

**Puke Ariki**



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu  
NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

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In Taranaki, the use of poi interwoven with hand movements, karakia and waiata become one. The message carried is complete as it delivers pivotal documents in the form of oral literature to each generation. *Ko Taku Poi Te Manu* shares a glimpse into the powerful and poetic taonga of poi manu. This exhibition honours the words and works of the women and men who have protected and carried it through to today.

Students will investigate and compare varied uses and the significance of raranga and poi. They can also learn about the skill involved in tukutuku panel making and other raranga techniques.

## For senior (Year 11 - 13) students

This topic is also suitable for students at NCEA levels – see achievement standards below.

**Visual Arts:** Level 1: AS 90917, Level 2: AS 91325, Level 3: AS 91460

**Art History:** Raranga and poi taonga in *Te Takapou Whāriki* Gallery may be used as references for several Art History achievement standards which can be linked to resources in the Taranaki Research Centre and examples of artworks and other taonga Māori in the Puke Ariki Collection. Teachers are welcome to contact the educators regarding this.

## Key Questions

- How can harakeke be used?
- What are the names for different parts of the harakeke plant?
- Can you locate and describe some of the harakeke pieces in *Te Takapou Whāriki* Gallery?
- Explain and discuss the traditions and tikanga (protocols) around using harakeke?
- How have techniques and materials of Māori weaving changed over time?
- What are some of the materials used for poi in *Te Takapou Whāriki* Gallery?
- How are the artworks by Ngāhina Hohaia and Matthew McIntyre Wilson different to the traditional pieces on display?
- What are the purposes of Tukutuku paneling and where do you find them?

## Key Competencies

Thinking; Using language, symbols, and text: Managing self; Relating to others; Participating and contributing

## Important Vocabulary

### Types of Garments

**Kākahu** cloak or garment

**Korowai** cloak with hukahuka thrums, also a common word for any kind of cloak

**Piupiu** skirt of dyed flax

# Pre-visit information

<b>Tāhei</b>	fibre necklace
<b>Potae</b>	hat

## Techniques

<b>Raranga</b>	weaving the flax leaf into baskets, mats, kete etc.
<b>Tāniko</b>	weaving on a warp and weft by hand, by twisting muka fibre that has been prepared into twine.
<b>Whatu</b>	a weaving twist /weaving technique.

## Fibres and Dyes

<b>Harakeke</b>	flax – (Phormium tenax).
<b>Muka</b>	the fibre within the flax leaf
<b>Kiekie</b>	a climbing plant (Freycinetia baueriana)
<b>Pīngao</b>	a coastal grass that is the source of a yellow dye.
<b>Tānekaha</b>	a tree that is a source of a tan coloured dye.
<b>Hīnau</b>	black dye source (Elaeocarpus dentatus)
<b>Paru</b>	thick swamp mud that is the black dye source.

## **Weblinks**

- [Story: Flax and flax working, Te Ara Encyclopedia.](#)
- [National New Zealand Flax Collection, Manaaki Whenua \(Landcare Research\).](#)
- [Katarina's kete, Manaaki Whenua \(Landcare Research\).](#)
- [Ali Brown Flax weaving instructions.](#)
- [Māori flax weaving, Teddy Tamaiti, YouTube](#)