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**Archdeacon Anaru Takurua**  
**Ko tōna whakapapa, whakapono me tōna whakatika**



**“I am what I am”**

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of  
Master of Philosophy in Māori Studies  
at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Ngaio Petra Keelan  
2013

## Abstract

Archdeacon of Waiapu Anaru Takurua from Te Whānau-a-Ruataupare in Tokomaru Bay was an accomplished kapa haka exponent in his time, with over 60 years of kapa haka experience. He was also a Mihingare priest for Te Pihopatanga o Aotearoa for over 40 years, and a tutor of Te Hokowhitu-a-Tū kapa haka. However, up till now there had been no full-length biography written about him, due to the dearth of published literature.

This research explores the history and background of Anaru focussing on the themes whakapapa, whakapono and whakatika. This thesis is organised in a chronological structure centred on the thematic selection based on the rationale that they frequently feature prominently in Anaru's life story. This study utilised a Māori-centred research approach in conjunction with a biographical narrative method in analysing the data collected.

Anaru's own personal transcripts that transpired last year from an interview conducted shortly before his passing ten years ago, also complements this research. Supplementing these transcripts are the narratives of kaumātua rangatira participants, who knew him personally, grew up with him or worked with him throughout his life.

This study found that Anaru worshiped God in his own true authentic voice, and affirmed his identity as a man of God in Aotearoa –New Zealand. He implemented the guitar, haka, poi and waiata-ā-ringa into his karakia services as cultural tools of worship to express the highest activity of the spirit and love of God.

Anaru understood the value of whakapapa and as a result committed himself to using his innate gifts, talents and leadership qualities in the church, on marae and in the community. He remained committed to his love for God, his family, marae and church. As a result he devoted years to maintaining and retaining the knowledge endowed to him and transmitted this kōrero tuku iho, and tāonga tuku iho onto the next generation. Even when at times it was met with resistance from both māori and non-māori, believers and non-believers.

## Acknowledgements

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An interview taken 10 years ago was ordained in preparation for this research and would not have been the same without Anaru's personal voice. Likewise the privilege to have read and listened to kaumātua rangatira whose voices has also paid tribute to this study. Without their voices we miss a part of this unique history.

This thesis could not have been articulated and reminiscent of Anaru Takurua's life story without the personal transcripts and collaboration of Archdeacon Turi Hollis. The transcripts comprise Anaru's uninterrupted interview of his life journey undertaken at the whānau homestead Waiparapara, Tokomaru Bay in 2002. He mihi nui rawa atu ki a koe Turi mō tōu mahi ātawhai, mo ngā kape tuhi o tō mātou Pāpā Anaru. Ko runga tēnā.

I am deeply indebted, truly grateful and thankful to those who gave of their precious time, resources and opened their hearts to share their recollections of Anaru: Archbishop and Primate Brown Turei, Piri Sciascia, Heneriata Maxwell, Reverend's Connie and Prince Ferris, Reverend. Tamati Kaiwai, Reverend. Morehu Te Maro, Renata Kururangi, Dr. Api Mahuika, Reverend. Jack Papuni, Reverend. Stephen Donald, Te Riu Chaffey, John Coleman, Kohi Coleman, Tate Pewhairangi, Patari Maraki, Doug and Hine Wilcox, Mearl Pewhairangi, Terewai and Connie Pewhairangi, Huka Takurua, Pauline Kumeroa, Keri Kaa, Rose Stainton, Parekura Kupenga, Ngaire Kupenga, Rhonda Milner, Kelly Houia, Maryanne Maraki, Lani Maraki, Judy Maraki-Reedy, Makere Smith, Tumarangai Sciascia, Jill Carlyle, Doris Aspinall and the late Phil Aspinall.

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Kia tau te aroha me ngā manaakitanga o te Atua ki a koutou katoa, ā, ki tōku pāpā anō hoki.

Nāku noa,  
Ngaio Keelan

## **Front Cover Acknowledgements**

The title “I am what I am” was penned by Anaru’s wife Evelyn and scribed underneath this particular photo in the whānau album.

She has gathered photos and memoirs over the years they had been married knowing that one day they would be viewed again.

Evelyn describes how Anaru was the only priest she knew who would swing his guitar around his back and haka to the altar as a way of saying I am what I am and Thank you Lord for creating, accepting and loving me for what I am.

The photo was taken during Anaru’s last haka performance on stage at the Matatini festival Takaparawha Auckland 2002. He is delivering his whaikōrero during Ahikaaroa’s performance – a Christchurch based group that is tutored by his son Tauira.

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## The Chronological Life

<b>1933 - 1940</b>	Anaru Kingi Takurua born 19th February 1933, at Te Pāhau, Hikuwai, Tokomaru Bay  Attended Arero school, Hikuwai
<b>1940 – 1948</b>	Attended Tokomaru Bay Native School
<b>1949</b>	Attended Tokomaru Bay District High School
<b>1949 - 1953</b>	Attended Te Aute College, Hawkes Bay
<b>1954 -1957</b>	Entered Saint Johns Theological College, Auckland
<b>1958</b>	Commissioned Deacon of the Anglican Church. Curate of Gisborne
<b>1959 – 1962</b>	Ordained Priest of the Anglican Church. First pastorate of care Tūranga, Gisborne
<b>1962</b>	Married Evelyn Matehaere Dewes at Holy Trinity Church, Gisborne
<b>1963 – 1968</b>	Vicar Waipawa pastorate, Central Hawke’s Bay, living in Pōrangahau
<b>1968 – 1975</b>	Vicar Waiapu pastorate, East Coast, living in Tikitiki
<b>1975 – 1979</b>	Vicar Tūranga Pastorate, Gisborne, living in Manutuke
<b>1979 – 1982</b>	Vicar Wellington Māori Pastorate, living in Waterloo, Lower Hutt
<b>1983 – 1985</b>	Minita-a-rohe Ngāti Porou, East Coast, living in Ruatoria
<b>1984</b>	15 July, Commissioned Canon
<b>1985 – 1992</b>	Chaplain at Te Aute College, Hawke’s Bay
<b>1993 – 1994</b>	Chaplain at Waikeria Prison, Waikeria
<b>1995 – 1998</b>	Minita-a-rohe Ngāti Porou, East Coast, living in Tokomaru Bay
<b>1998</b>	4 January, Commissioned Archdeacon
<b>1999 - 2001</b>	Kaumātua, St Johns theological College

<b>2002</b>	Living in Tokomaru Bay. Passed away 10th December 2002
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**The rōpu kapa haka Anaru was involved with over his life time**

<b>1942</b>	Te Hokowhitu a Tū entertainers
<b>1954 – 1958</b>	Waipatu Mōteo Culture Group
<b>1959 – 1963</b>	Whāngārā Pāriha Kapa Haka
<b>1963 – 1968</b>	Waipawa Pāriha
<b>1968 – 1965</b>	Waiapu Pāriha
<b>1971 – 1972</b>	New Zealand Māori Company (Toured the United States of America)
<b>1975 – 1979</b>	Tūranga Pāriha Mangatū
<b>1979 – 1982</b>	Wainuiomata Culture Group Māwai Hākona Maraeroa Ngāti Pōneke (Polynesian Festival)
<b>1985 – 1992</b>	Te Aute College Tamatea Arikinui (Canada Tour) Te Hokowhitu a Tū (Tutor/Performer) 1992 Aotearoa Traditional Māori Performing Arts Festival ATMPAF, Ngaruawahia
<b>1986</b>	National haka judge, ATMPAF, Christchurch
<b>1995 – 1999</b>	Porou Ariki (Tutor/Performer), Tairāwhiti Regionals Wīwī Nāti (Tutor/Performer), Ngāti Porou Festival
<b>2000 – 2002</b>	Wīwī Nāti (Tutor/Performer), Ngāti Porou Festival Te Ahikaaroa (Tutor/Performer) ATMPAF Ngaruawāhia 2000 Te Ahikaaroa (Tutor/Performer) Takaparawhā 2002 Passed away 10th December 2002