

2. TĒNĀ KOUTOU

Tēnā koutou	<i>Greetings to you all</i>
E hoa mā	<i>Dear friends</i>
Kua tae mai nei	<i>Who have arrived here</i>
I tēnei wā	<i>At this time</i>
Nō reira rā	<i>And so it is</i>
E hoa mā	<i>Our dear friends</i>
Kia ora rā	<i>That we extend our greetings</i>
Koutou katoa	<i>To you all</i>
Kua rongo hoki ahau	<i>I had heard of course</i>
Kei te haere mai koutou	<i>That you were coming</i>
Nō reira rā	<i>And so it is</i>
E hoa mā	<i>Our dear friends</i>
Kia ora rā	<i>That we extend our greetings</i>
Koutou katoa	<i>To you all</i>

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This waiata is used to greet and welcome people at a pōwhiri or used just as a welcome song. It is easy to learn because each line is repeated or echoed. It is often performed with one person leading. It has part-echo and part-unison lines. Ask the students to listen for the unison part.

This waiata can be used to teach and learn greetings, such as “tēnā koutou” or “kia ora rā koutou katoa”, that are appropriate when addressing large groups. The students can practise using the correct greeting when addressing the class or a wider audience. They can cut up the lines of the song in Māori and English and then match them.

New words and simple phrases can be added to the ngā kupu hou chart. For example, “e hoa mā” and “kia ora koutou katoa” can be grouped as welcoming words.

The song sheets for all waiata and haka are at the back of this book.