Hei Waiata, Hei Whakakoakoa

13. E PAPA WAIARI

E auë, ka mate au  
Oh, I will surely die

E hine, hoki mai rā  
My darling girl, please return to me

E papa waiari  
My grief overwhelms me

Taku nei mahi  
And all I do

Taku nei mahi  
And all I do

He tuku roimata  
Is to shed tears relentlessly

E auë, ka mate au  
Oh, I will surely die

E hine, hoki mai rā  
My darling girl, please return to me

Māku e kaute ō hīkoitanga  
I will count your every footstep

Māku e kaute ō hīkoitanga  
I will count your every footstep

E auë, ka mate au  
Oh, I will surely die

E hine, hoki mai rā  
My darling girl, please return to me

This is one of the most commonly recognised Māori songs and is ideal to use with tī rākau (short sticks used in pairs) to keep the rhythm. It is easy to play on the guitar. Develop actions for each line with students sitting in pairs opposite each other. Each pair can develop their own routine. Consultation with the school community, whānau, and the local marae/iwi will provide a guide to the types of actions that are commonly used for this waiata.

On a copy of the waiata chart, ask students to circle any words they know or have heard before. Use this activity to reinforce the words and their contexts. For example, the teacher could discuss the word “roimata” for “tears” then discuss the phrase “tuku roimata” (shed tears).

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