

## 22. TŌIA MAI

<i>Kaea:</i>	Aha tōia mai	<i>Haul it! Drag it!</i>
<i>Katoa:</i>	Te waka	<i>The canoe</i>
<i>Kaea:</i>	Ki te urunga	<i>To its resting place</i>
<i>Katoa:</i>	Te waka	<i>The canoe</i>
<i>Kaea:</i>	Ki te moenga	<i>To its abiding place</i>
<i>Katoa:</i>	Te waka	<i>The canoe</i>
	Ki te takotoranga	<i>To the place where it will lie</i>
	I takoto ai te waka	<i>Set it down the canoe</i>
	Hī!	<i>Hī!</i>

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This haka pōwhiri can begin the welcoming of manuhiri (visitors) onto a marae or special place. It is performed just after the karanga (calls). It can also be used to discuss local marae protocol and kawa that the students may be familiar with.

At the start of a pōwhiri, a woman from the host side performs the karanga to indicate to the manuhiri that they should move forward onto the marae. A woman from the manuhiri then returns the karanga as the manuhiri make their way forward. These two karanga weave a spiritual rope, which will now be used to pull the waka of the manuhiri, with its paddlers and passengers, onto the marae.

After the women performing the karanga have woven the rope, the haka pōwhiri pulls the canoe of the manuhiri forward. “Tōia Mai” offers a powerful description of the waka being pulled up and, for this reason, it is a favourite at pōwhiri.

The meaning of the haka pōwhiri includes the pulling up of everything the manuhiri bring with them – their histories, languages, ancestors, and everything else that makes them who they are.

As with all haka, the whole body is used in this chant, and it is performed energetically. Consult with the school community, whānau, and local marae/iwi for support for this haka pōwhiri. This haka pōwhiri can be used by the whole school in a real context to welcome parents and whānau, visiting dignitaries, or other visitors.

Students can learn more about waka by reading “The Launching”, *School Journal*, Part 3 Number 3, 1990, which is about a girl lifting the tapu from a new waka before it is launched, and “Te Arawa Waka” in *Vote for Me!*, Journal of Young People’s Writing, 1994, which is a story about how Rena helped paddle a new waka. Stories about haka include “Geeks”, *School Journal*, Part 4 Number 3, 2004, and “Men of the School”, *School Journal*, Part 2 Number 3, 2000.

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