

28. HE ROUROU MĀ KOUTOU

He rourou mā koutou *With your food basket*
He rourou mā mātou *And our food basket*
Ka ora te manuhiri *Together we will feed the multitudes*
Ko te rau aroha kia mau *Let us hold fast to the ideals of love*
Ngā mahi o te kura *In all we do here at the school*
Hei orangatanga mō te ao *This is our contribution to the world*

Nō Pōneke nei mātou *We hail from Wellington*
Mātou te rangatahi e *We are the young generation*
Ka tū te ihiihi *We stand with fear and dread*
Ka tū te wanawana *We stand bristling with expectation*
Hei orangatanga mō te ao *This is our contribution to the world*

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The rourou was a traditionally woven basket made from flax leaves in which cooked food was placed, especially food for visitors. Rourou are still a symbol of giving and sharing. The waiata's meaning is to encourage young people to continue sharing and giving. It is a waiata ā-ringa.

Use your own place or school name instead of “Pōneke”. Sometimes the word “manuhiri” is replaced by “iwi”.

Use the sentence structure “Nō ... nei mātou” (We are from ...) and have students complete the sentence using the most appropriate place. Distinguish between “koutou”, “mātou”, and “rātou”.

The following is a whakataukī about rourou and can be used to build on the value of manaakitanga and the symbolism of sharing and giving to empower people:

Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora te manuhiri.
With your food basket and my food basket, the guests will be fed.

Te Reo Whakataukī, (Ministry of Education, 2001, page 13) includes a whakataukī about flax:

Tūngia te ururua, kia tupu whakaritorito te tupu o te harakeke.
Clear the undergrowth so that the new shoots of the flax will grow.

101 Kiwi Kidsongs includes a song about flax, “Te Rito o te Harakeke”, which students can also sing and learn about.

Use these resources to introduce the tikanga around gathering and preparing flax for weaving.

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