

17. WHAKARONGO AKE AU

JOHN TAPIATA



Whakarongo rā	<i>I listen</i>
Whakarongo ake au	<i>I listen, where up high</i>
Ki te tangi a te manu	<i>A bird flies</i>
E rere runga rawa e	<i>Its cry rings out</i>
Tui, tui, tui, tuia	<i>Sew, stitch, bind it together</i>
Tuia i runga	<i>From above</i>
Tuia i raro	<i>From below</i>
Tuia i roto	<i>From within</i>
Tuia i waho	<i>From outside</i>
Tui, tui, tuia	<i>Sew and bind it together</i>
Kia rongo te ao	<i>During the day</i>
Kia rongo te pō	<i>And the night</i>
Tui, tui, tuia	<i>Sew, stitch, bind it together</i>

This is another song using a familiar tune. The lyrics develop the idea of the birds singing together as a metaphor for unity. The phrase “Tui, tui, tuia” indicates this.

Compare this song with other bird songs, for example “Kiwi” on *101 Kiwi Kidsongs* and the bellbird in “Hutia” on *Kiwi Kidsongs Waiata 15*. The sound of birds here is like their actual sounds and is a good example of onomatopoeia.

The spoken form of the lyrics is often used by a kaikōrero (speaker) when addressing an audience in a whaikōrero situation. This song would also work well with poi.

Use the question “Kei hea te ...?” (Where is the ...?) and the response “Kei raro te ... i te ...” to reinforce learning of the directional words, “runga”, “raro”, “roto”, and “waho”, as well as reinforcing vocabulary. For example:

Kei hea te kapu?	<i>Where is the cup?</i>
Kei runga te kapu i te tēpu.	<i>The cup is on the table.</i>

Add new words to the ngā kupu hou chart.

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