

Toi Māori ki Nawton (Māori Art in Nawton) with Teresa Koroheke

COURSE OUTLINE

Whether youarea beginner oran advancedweaver, comealong and learn from this dedicated weaver who has a passion for teaching and passing on the knowledge of her tupuna (ancestors). This is a great class for all ages, no matter what ethnicity or gender.

This 8-week course takes you on an exciting haerenga (journey) of learning Toi Māori (Māori Art) from weaving with harakeke (flax) to making a Matariki Mobile and finishing with a Tukutuku Panel.

Come along and learn the basic weaves and techniques used to create taonga (gifts) for your whānau (family) as well as tīkanga (customs and traditions) around harakeke (flax). It is an opportunity to connect with Te Taiao (the Environment). Raranga (flax weaving) is therapeutic and good for the soul. This course is a safe place to connect, to korero (speak), to katakata (laugh) and be yourself.
Ifyou are available on Wednesdays from 9.30-2.30pm come along and create items that have practical use and connect with ancestral practices and teachings and come and add more knowledge to your Kete. The next course runs from **Wednesday, 4th November 2026.**

You can register at the Western Community Centre or book online on their website: ***westerncommunitycentre.org.nz***

Week 1 	**Weave a PUTIPUTI (flax flowers)** You will learn: • to identify which species of flax to harvest • the Do's & Don'ts of harvesting flax • how to cut the leaves • customs (tikanga) around harvesting and weaving • using the pasta maker to create harakeke ribbon
Week 2 	**Weave a WRISTBAND with flax** You will learn: • to identify the correct species of flax to weave a wristband • to create patterns while having fun at the same time • play and experiment with coloured flax (harakeke) • how to dye harakeke & the different dyes
 Week 3	**Make a KUPENGA (fish net) around a KOHATU (stone)** Kupenga is a type of open weave net used for fishing or gathering food (kai) e.g. seafood (kaimoana), riwai (potatoes) or kumara (sweet potato) You will learn: • resources other than flax (harakeke) that can be utilised e.g. string • this open weave to make other taonga (treasures) e.g. jewellery holders

 Week 4	**Weave a small contemporary TUKUTUKU panel representing your PEPEHA** (a traditional oral recitation given when introducing yourself. Pepeha tells a story of your connection to the whenua, your iwi and hapu. You will learn: • What materials were used e.g. kākaho, toetoe, kiekie, raupo • Contemporary resources that can be used now and that are easily accessible • Patterns and their meanings

Week 5 	**WAKA HOE -** while the hoe was primarily a paddle, it also doubled as a weapon when the need arose. Paint and design on one side, hot poker machine burn on the other side You will: • Research designs relating to the moana e.g. Mangōpare (hammer shark that is often depicted in traditional kōwhaiwhai and carving. It is a fundamental symbol in Toi Māori and communicates values of strength, determination, leadership and levelheadedness • Choose a Whakatauki (proverb). These embody the values, wisdom, wit and common sense of tangata whenua. They are usually short and concise using symbolism and metaphor to convey key messages • Use a hot poker machine to burn designs
Week 6 	**KOWHAIWHAI PATTERNS** tell a story e.g. history and are specially designed for the iwi/hapu. Kowhaiwhai are painted on the tahuhu (ridgepole) of the wharenui stretching the length of the building and represents the whakapapa of the iwi/hapu You will learn: • Common patterns and their generic meanings: o Kaperua -this pattern represents things doubled.This pattern is thekoru repeatingand turning back into itself- this may continue to infinity. The koiri is a symbol of self-reflection and nurturing, it also means to flourish. o Mangopare - this design comes from the hammerhead shark and represents strength, courage and power. o Patiki - the design represents the Patiki or flounder. It is a symbol of hospitality
Week 7 	**WEAVE A WATER BOTTLE HOLDER USING HARAKEKE** Weave your very own unique water bottle holder using natural resources. This truly is a sustainable creation. You will learn: • Basic takitahi weave technique (over-one, under-one pattern alternates from row to row so that the stakes are also going over one, under one vertically)
Week 8 	**KOHA KETE** Prepare yourself for better things to come by starting to learn how to make a 2-cornered Koha Kete.

Tauira (Students) can expect to create all these items over eight weeks. The key to success is: Showing up to every class, having a good laugh and enjoying yourself. Some tasks require numeracy such as counting harakeke and dividing into separate strips – you got this!!

What to bring
Your own kai, big smile and a positive attitude

Other costs / Tools required at session 1
Students will need to bring some tools and resources to start i.e. Sharp Scissors, Sunshine Clothes Pegs (Woolworths) & Paint Pens (black and white from Gordon Harris)

About your Kaiako (Tutor)
My grandmother was a Master Weaver and I grew up watching her weave kete, baskets and whariki (mats). Everything she made were for practical use for the whānau. She was my inspiration. I learn through doing and experiencing (kinesthetic) and am excited to be able to teach what I have learned to others. I believe I have a high level of patience and tolerance toward students and a good sense of humour. Coming up with new ways to engage students is incredibly important so creativity and imagination are vital.

By sharing knowledge, we not only contribute to the collective intelligence but also foster innovation, facilitate decision-making, promote a sense of Kotahitanga (unity) among fellow tauira (students), creativity and continuous learning. Sharing is caring.

Teresa Koroheke
Tutor (Kaiako)