

Blog 22.8.2026

On 26th September 1986 Tiakina Te Ora opened with a dawn ceremony conducted by the head of The Ringatu church to clear the way forward. Later knighted for his services to community and the Waitangi Tribunal, Sir Monita Delamere was related to me through his mother Taua Hana Te Au from Murihiku. After Uncle Mo, The Right Reverend Manuhia Bennet, Head of the Maori Anglican Church blessed Tiakina Te Ora, and he was followed by the Maori Queen Dame Te Atarangiāhu's Spokesman, Rua Cooper on behalf of Ngati Tamaoho of the Tainui waka who hold manawhenua over Papakura. There also were two of our most prominent Maori Health Workers. PutiPuti O'Brien of Ngati Awa, one of our very first formally trained Maori Nurses who had worked in the community from Matamata and amongst Tuhoe, even riding weekly the 10 miles into Mangapohatu. Inez Kingi a dental nurse, the President of the Women's Health League and her husband Bishop Kingi of Ngati Whakaue came too. It was an auspicious opening 40 years ago. That Monda and complicated rigmarole today, but it did seem a hurdle at the time when I had no business training at all. Some of those that were there are still with us besides the Bruntons, Margie Smith Rua's stepdaughter and George Hawkins. Others came in the first week, months and year, so that I can say I have continuously looked after some families for 6-7 generations. A privilege all of it that I hope to continue for some years yet.

So, on 26th September 2026 we will celebrate by going back to Papakura Marae. That is where we all adjoined for breakfast after the Dawn Opening ceremony in 1986, though this time it will be lunch! We will assemble outside at 10.30am and my ex husband Haare [Sir Haare Williams] who organised the original ceremony will explain the protocols. He is one of the last original members of the Trust left who fundraised and built the marae. After talking with Tony Kake, the Marae's CEO who has been very helpful and supportive to arrange the day I came away very mokemoke [sad, nostalgic] as I had looked after nearly all those people including his mum Noeline and her mother, even right thru their terminal illnesses.

About 11 am we will go onto the marae to be welcomed there. If it's inclement weather we will go right through into the whare Te Ngira, and sit in warm, dry and comfortable. That whare can hold over 500 people if needed which is another reason besides the catering I really would like anyone who wants to come to ring the surgery to add their names to list of who will be coming. All our patients are very, very welcome, but I can tell you it is a Maori women's nightmare to not have enough food to feed the guests generously! So, I would like to have some idea of numbers. Please either just ring Jamie when the Surgery is open, ph 2980778, or email Meriana admin@tiakinateora.co.nz.

After the welcome- it will be both in Te Reo as well as English- we will adjourn to the Whare Kai for lunch. It will be a help yourself finger food set up given the 'No idea how many we need to feed' but I can promise some seasonal treats from my takiwa [iwi boundaries] from the southern South, the first patients curious about the new doctor negotiated the boards laid down over the yet to be laid carpark, ignored the builders still converting the upstairs area of what had been a family home, and came into the door to be greeted by Lil Joyce, our first receptionist. My first and only practice. Prior to this I had been working over in East Coast Bays, travelling daily from Papatoetoe because the two GPs, John Pollock and John Wellingham there were exceptional GP's acknowledged as such by their peers. It was better training with them than the fledgling GPEP1 training based practice now compulsory for all GPs who wish to be Fellows of the Royal NZ College of GPs. Even if I still had to do the same exam, now called Primex, at the end of the first year. Their nurse Kathy Brunton who also was there at the opening ceremony with her two young boys shivering with cold of the early hour, who I have been good friends ever since. Around the time at the Browns Bay practice and opening Tiakina Te Ora I did 12 months of short term locums from Ruakaka to Te Aroha learning about how to run a practice by looking at lots of different ways of doing things. It was the Mayor of Papakura, George Hawkins who convinced me to start a practice in Papakura and facilitated the way through the council hurdles of finding a suitable building, and sorting out the consents, nothing like the expensive Island and Rakiura/Stewart Is as well as safe options for those with different cultural and dietary needs. There won't be oysters from our strait: this season's rahui [ban on harvesting] is because of the need to increase numbers after the ravages of bonemia [a destructive parasite] and overfishing in some areas. I understand even

if I am missing them heaps and some of my cousins and nephews with expensive boats to maintain and income lost, are even more affected. After lunch we can talk a bit more and then meet and mingle. I expect it all to be over by 3pm. Please come. Without our patients there would be no need for our surgery. This is our way to celebrate 40 years of service to our community.

It's a long newsletter. Briefly our surgery is settling in with the new staffing arrangements. Dr Ranche Johnson is now working Thursdays as well as Fridays, and our new registrar Dr Roshan Kandel who is with us for 6 months before Dr Nav returns permanently, is fitting in well.

Haere mai, Haere mai Naumai ki Papakura Marae. Be well, from Dr Jacqueline and kind regards from all the staff at Tiakina Te Ora.

Photo from the opening:

Bishop Manu, Putiputi, Rua, myself and Aunty Mere [Uncle Mo's wife]. Its 40 years ago- no wonder I look much younger and slimmer!

