



Prime Minister's Educator of the Year

Tākura Ēnoka Murphy

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Nō Ngāti Manawa, nō Ngāi Tūhoe me Ngāti Ruapani ki Waikaremoana ngā tātai hono o Ēnoka Murphy. I whakatipuria ia ki te ao Māori, ā, he mea nui te mātauranga ki tōna whānau, arā, he rongonui ōna mātua mō ā rāua mahi whakaako e pā ana ki Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Nā whai anō, mai anō i tōna ohinga e ngākaunui ana a Ēnoka ki te ako, ki te kōrero hoki i te reo Māori. Ko te reo Māori tōna ao, tōna pou whirinaki e tū tangata ai ia, ā, he pērā anō te āhua o tana whakatipu i āna tamariki.

Kua neke atu i te 30 tau a Ēnoka e whakaako ana ki ngā taumata katoa o te ao mātauranga, mai i te Kōhanga Reo ki te Kura Kaupapa Māori, tae atu ki ngā pakeke nō tōna anō iwi. He hōhonu, he nui anō tōna mōhiotanga ki ngā mahi o te whare tapere, o te reo irirangi, ā, kua tū ia hei kaiwhakawā ki ngā whakataetae kōrero me ngā whakataetae haka. He ākongā ia ki te kura whakangungu kaiako rumaki reo Māori o Rangakura, kua mahi hoki ki Te Kura Matatini o Taranaki. I tēnei wā, kei te whakaako ia i te reo Māori me ōna tikanga ki te Whare Wānanga o Waikato.

Ko te ao Māori te pūtake o ngā mahi a Ēnoka. Kua takea mai tana kaupapa whakaako i ngā atua me ngā āhuatanga o te ao tūroa; mai i te orokohanganga o te ao, o te whānau marama, o ngā moana me ngā wai, o ngā mea ora katoa, ka puta mai tātou te tangata ki te ao marama. Koinei te pūtake, ā, ka hoki ia ki ngā kōrero tuku iho hei tūāpapa mō āna mahi whakaako. E whakapono ana a Ēnoka, ko ngā mahi whakaako reo Māori tētahi o ngā pou e tū anō ai te whare o te reo Māori, ā tātou tikanga me ō tātou mōtika.

He tohunga ia ki te whakaako i te reo mā te reo Māori, ā, he mōhio hoki ki te whakahihiko i te wairua o ngā ākongā hou o te reo, kia kuhu atu rātou ki ngā akoranga rumaki i runga i te harikoa me te wairua hīkaka. Kei te āta whakaako a Ēnoka i te katoa o te tangata – ko te taha whānau, ko te ngākau, ko te taha wairua me te taha hinengaro. E tino whakapono ana ia ki te whakaaro me noho mātāmua te ākongā, arā, kia nui te wā me te kaha e whakapaua ana ki runga i a rātou i te mea, kei ō rātou pokohiwi te oranga o te reo me te tuakiri o te Māori.

E whakapono ana ia ko te ākongā te aronganui o te akomanga whakaako reo, arā, me hīkaka te wairua, me nui te kōrero, me ngahau hoki ngā mahi. He koanga ngākau ki a ia te noho ngātahi me te ākongā kotahi ki te āta whakarongo, ki te wetewete, ki te whakamātau anō, ki te akiaki, ki te tuku urupare hoki i runga i te koa me te ngākau whakaiti hei whakanui i ō rātou

whakapaunga werawera. Ka tae moata ia ki te akomanga ki te āwhina i te hunga e noho tōmuri ana, i te hunga pākikī rānei. Ka whakarongo ia ki ā rātou kōrero whaiaro, ka āwhina ia i te ākongā ki te whakahāngai i ōna whakaaro, ka tirohia ā rātou mahi, ka tāpae atu anō rānei i ētahi atu mahi hei whai mā rātou.

“Ka mau noa tōna ngākau hīkaka me tōna wairua ngahau.”

“E mātau ana tēnei kaiako ki te whakaako i te reo; he ngahau te akoranga, he hīkinga wairua, ka werohia te hinengaro, ā, he wā tōna, ka noho noa mātou i runga i te ngākau pāpaku.”

Kei te whakamanahia te tangata e āna mahi whakaako i te mea ka waihanga ia i tētahi wāhi haumarua kia ako te tangata. Ka kōrero ia i runga i te wairua mārire, i te mauri tau me te ngākau tuwhera.

Ko tētahi o ngā tohu nui o te mahi whakaako a Ēnoka ko tana kaha ki te hāpai i ngā hangarau hou. Kei te mihi ia ki ōna hoamahi, nā rātou ia i āwhina ki te whakatū i ngā momo ara hou hei aromatawai i ngā tūmahī reo Māori mā te hangarau, mā ngā tūmahī ā-waha hoki. Kei te taunakihia ngā kōrero mō te pai o tana mahi whakaako e ngā raraunga arotake mai i ngā akoranga e ono e whakaakohia ana e Ēnoka ki te Whare Wānanga o Waikato. Otirā, hei tā tētahi 94% o āna ākongā he “tino pai” āna mahi whakaako.

Kua whakanuia a Ēnoka i tōna ngākaunui ki te whakaako i te reo Māori. I te tau 2013, ka whakawhiwhia ia ki tētahi ‘Faculty Teaching Excellence Award’ i te Whare Wānanga o Waikato. I te tau whai muri mai, arā, i te tau 2014, ka riro i a ia te ‘Sustained Excellence Award’ mō āna mahi whakaako i raro i te kaupapa Māori o te Ako Aotearoa Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards. I taua wā, ahakoa he pai ake ki a ia te noho whakaiti, i kite hoki ia i te hiranga o te tohu, me tana mihi ki ngā kaiwhakaako whakahirahira kua hia tau e whakaako tonu ana, e whakaako tonu ana.

I te tau 2020, ka whakaurua atu a Ēnoka ki te ‘Divisional Teaching Excellence Award’ me te ‘Nola Campbell Memorial eLearning Excellence Award’ i te whare wānanga. Ka whakanui ngā kōrero a ngā ākongā i tōna kaha ki te whakawhanake tonu i āna tikanga whakaako;

“...nā tōna manawaroa, nā tōna wairua whakahoahoa me tōna aroha ki te reo Māori, he kaiako whakahirahira, he kaiako ahurei ia.”

“Ka waihanga ia i ngā ara hou hei whakamārama anō i ngā kōrero. Kei te rangona tōna aroha me tōna hīkaka ki āna akoranga, kia eke ngā ākongā katoa ki te angitu.”

“He nui te aroha o Matua Ēnoka, kei te tino whakapono ia ki āna akoranga me te kaha o āna ākongā katoa. He tangata atawhai, e toro atu ana ki te whatumanawa o te tokomaha – ehara ia i te kaiako anake.”

Kei raro i tana tūranga hei kaiwhakaako ki tētahi whare wānanga, kua manaaki hoki a Ēnoka i ētahi atu kaupapa ki te taha papori. Kua toro atu ia ki ngā tāngata ki te hōhipera, ki ngā kōti, kua tuhituhi ia i ngā reta tautoko mō ngā ākongā, kua tae ia ki ngā wānanga me ngā momo mahinga wairua. Ka tautoko ia i ngā Māori kei ētahi atu wāhanga o te Whare Wānanga o Waikato, ā, kua mahitahi ia ki te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga ki te tautoko i te hōtaka reo Māori o ‘Poipoiā te Reo.’

Ka kuhu atu a Ēnoka ki ngā momo wānanga e pā ana ki te ao Māori, ā, ka whakapuaki ia i ngā take o te ao hou e tohea ana e te Māori o nāianei. I te tau 2022, ka whakapuaki a

Ēnoka i tētahi kauhau mō 'Ngā tohunga wāhine o te rautau 19' ki te taha o ngā tohunga mātauranga o te ao Māori. He wāhi tana kauhau o tētahi wānanga i tū ki te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi ki Whakatāne e kīia ana ko 'Te Whare Makatea'. Ko te aronga matua, ko te wāhi o te mātauranga Māori me te mātauranga o te ao whānui hei whakatutuki i ngā tini hiahia o ō rātou hapori.

Koia nei a Ēnoka Murphy!



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Ēnoka Murphy has proud tribal links that extend from Ngāti Manawa, Ngāi Tūhoe and Ngāti Ruapani ki Waikaremoana in the Eastern Bay of Plenty. Steeped in te ao Māori/ the Māori world, he was raised within a whānau who value education and where both his parents are highly acclaimed as Te Tiriti o Waitangi educators. As a result, Ēnoka has been an avid learner and speaker of the reo since his youth. He regards the Māori language as everything in his world, his refuge, and his whole identity, and has raised his children in the language in the same way.

With over 30 years of teaching at all levels of education, from Kohanga Reo and Kura Kaupapa Māori, to adults within his tribal community, Ēnoka has brought a rich, wealth of experience in the performing and oral arts of theatre, radio work, judging Māori language competitions and kapa haka. He was a student of Rangakura/ Teacher Training in total Immersion te Reo Māori, with experience at Te Kura Matatini o Taranaki/ Western Institute of Technology. He is currently teaching te Reo Māori me ōna tikanga/ the Māori languages and associated cultural practices at Waikato University.

Centered in the Māori worldview, Ēnoka has a teaching philosophy that originates from the spiritual elements and the natural forces of the environment; from the time when the world was created, including the stars, the oceans and waters, all kinds of life, and we as humans were formed as part of this world. This is his reference point, and he uses the cultural stories and narratives to underpin his teaching. Ēnoka believes that teaching te reo is at the core of the reclamation of our language, our culture, and our rights.

His chosen specialty is teaching language through total immersion, and making people who are new to the language happy and excited about immersion. Ēnoka actively teaches in a holistic way, addressing the social, the heart, the spiritual, as well as the thinking dimensions of his students. He believes strongly that putting the student first and spending one's time and energy on them is crucial, because the life of the language and Māori identity rests on their shoulders.

He believes that a language classroom should be learner-focussed, vibrant, noisy, and enjoyable. He thrives on the one-on-one interactions with students to actively listen,

analyse, try again, encourage, and provide positive feedback in humble ways that value their attempts. He arrives early to class to help those who are behind or who have questions, listens to their personal stories, assist the student to seek preciseness in their thinking, checks their work, or provides extra challenges. Of this approach, his learners say,

“His enthusiasm is infectious (as is his) sense of humour”.

“This kaiako had a knack for teaching te reo; it was lively, it was energetic, it was challenging, and at times humbling”.

His approach to learning is empowering because he creates a safe environment for learning, his communication style is calm, collected and approachable.

Embracing new technology is a hallmark of Ēnoka’s teaching style too. He acknowledges the support of his colleagues to assisting him to develop new ways of combining technology and oral forms of reo Māori assessment tasks. Recent evaluation data from the six classes Ēnoka teaches at Waikato University, reinforce the success of his teaching style, and 94% of the students are “highly- satisfied” with his classes taught in this way.

Ēnoka has gained recognition for his dedication to teaching te Reo Māori. In 2013, he was recipient of a ‘Faculty Teaching Excellence Award’ from The University of Waikato. The following year in 2014, he received the ‘Sustained Excellence Award’ for teaching in a kaupapa Māori context at the Ako Aotearoa Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards. At the time he expressed that while happier not being in the limelight, he recognised the importance of the award, acknowledging that there are already excellent Māori teachers who continue to do this for many years.

In 2020 Ēnoka was promoted for the ‘Divisional Teaching Excellence Award’, and ‘Nola Campbell Memorial eLearning Excellence Award’ from the university. Student feedback of his teaching style emphasise how Enoka has continued to develop his teaching style with:

“...patience, charisma, and his devotion to Te Reo Māori make for an outstanding and unique teacher”.

“He creates opportunities for further explanations and is so passionate and enthusiastic about what he is teaching and wants every student to succeed.”

“Matua Ēnoka wears his heart on his sleeve, believes wholeheartedly in what he teaches and believes in the ability of all his students. A very kind human being, who touches the lives of many, he is beyond a teacher.”

Being a university educator carries some social responsibility too for Ēnoka. In his position he has done many things over the years for people, hospital and court visits, letters of support for students, various seminars and spiritual activities. He supports Māori within other parts of Waikato University, and has been working with the Ministry of Education, sponsoring their Māori language program ‘Poipoia te Reo’.

Ēnoka contributes to intellectual discussions in the Māori world by opening contemporary and contentious issues facing Māori right now. In 2022, Ēnoka presented a keynote address on ‘19th century Ruahine (tohunga wahine)’, alongside some of the leading mātauranga tohunga/ experts in the Māori world. This presentation was part of the ‘Te Whare Makatea’ Symposium hosted by Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi in Whakatāne. The focus was on how mātauranga Māori and mātauranga o te ao are utilised to meet the many and varied needs of their communities.

This is Ēnoka Murphy!
