



Ōtepoti. February, 2023.

## Tuituia te Hononga

*“Tuituia te Hononga” friendships and connections bonded with meaningful intentional, tripping up and holding close — sharing, teaching, celebrating, the incline and decline of progression individually and together.*

Kairaranga:

Reitu Cassidy — Ngāi Takoto, Ngāpuhi, Te Rarawa  
Hurihia Luafitu — Te Whānau-a-Apanui, Kāi Tahu

I arrived late to raranga and toi Māori, late in my reclamation journey in te ao Māori and it changed my life. I began to notice harakeke on the side of the roads I'd travelled many times, in town, out of town, in my neighbourhood, in yards and on fence-lines. A strong sense of responsibility for harakeke and for whenua developed. I've been privileged to learn raranga and toi from weaving and art expert friends, who come from generations of weavers. It was a slow start to lockdown, processes and the right order of things, algorithms and prompters. At some point, my

breakthrough arrived when I was told to ‘get on the table’! That was my graduation to have hands in the mahi, I was up to standard and accepted, a moment I thought was never gonna come. I am not an expert, I’m confident and can get going, seek advice and support often and complete projects on my own. After many projects, from putiputi to waka tūpāpaku, I now take any opportunity to trial and test our designs and techniques. It’s very similar to my psychodrama pathway so far.

This piece was a farewell gift for a close friend, a work colleague and one of my weaving teachers. Using mostly left-over whenu from our multiple projects together, Hurihia and I made sense of my ‘bright idea’ to bring this work together. ‘*Tuituia te Hononga*’ weaves together, in fact stitches together, the bonds of our friendship, our adventures and mis-adventures and our short journey together, developed alongside learning and experimenting in traditional and contemporary styles of weaving.

Reitu Cassidy

raranga - weaving toi Māori - Māori art te ao Māori - the Māori world harakeke - flax	whenua - land/earth/soil putiputi - flowers waka tūpāpaku - woven vessel for burial whenu - flax strips
--	--