**MANA ELIZABETH HUNKIN (QSM)**

Iwi: Ngāti Rākaipaaka

Mana Elizabeth (Liz) Hunkin (QSM), also known as Whaea Liz, has made significant contributions to the revitalisation of te reo Māori, particularly through her work with Te Ataarangi. Te Ataarangi, an innovative language learning method introduced by Kāterina Te Heikōkō Mataira and Ngoi Pēwhairangi, uses coloured Cuisenaire rods to encourage natural communication and build confidence in learners. Originally from Nūhaka, Liz has been deeply involved with this method since the late 1970s, and her influence spans over four decades.

In 2012, she was recognised for her excellence in teaching with an award from Ako Aotearoa, acknowledging her dedication to Kaupapa Māori education. She co-founded Te Kura Motuhake o Te Ataarangi, which provides Māori language courses from introductory to advanced levels. Her teaching philosophy emphasises nurturing learners' confidence by creating a supportive environment, ensuring students are not discouraged by mistakes. This approach aligns with her broader goal of making te reo Māori accessible and empowering communities through language education.

Beyond teaching, she has also been recognised with the Te Tohu Aroha mō Ngoi Pēwhairangi Award, reflecting her lifetime commitment to strengthening Māori language and culture. Her efforts have extended beyond New Zealand, contributing to international initiatives to teach te reo Māori, including in Australia. She was also awarded a Queens Services Medal in 2004.

She continues to inspire as a community leader, running night classes and expanding access to te reo Māori in her hometown of Nūhaka. Her dedication reflects her belief that language learning should be free and available to all, ensuring that te reo Māori is passed on to future generations. She epitomises the ethos of ngākau māhaki (humility).

**TE REO MAORI**

He nui te wāhi ki a Mana Elizabeth (Liz) Hunkin (QSM), e mōhiotia nei ko Whaea Liz, i te whakarauoratanga o te reo Māori. Ka mutu, e tino pērā ana i āna mahi me Te Ataarangi. Ko Te Ataarangi tētahi rautaki ako reo auaha nā Kāterina Te Heikōkō Mataira rāua ko Ngoi Pēwhairangi. Ka whakamahia ko ngā rākau Cuisenaire hei akiaki i te māori o te whakawhiti kōrero, hei whakapiki anō hoki i te māia o te hunga ako. Nō Nūhaka a Liz, ā, kua āta whai wāhi atu ia ki te rautaki nei nō te hiku o ngā tau 1970. Hōrapa ana tōna awenga ki ngā ngahurutau e whā.

I 2012, i mihia te kairangi o tāna whakaako mā te tohu a Ako Aotearoa, e whakamihi ana i te nui o tāna i hoatu ai ki ngā akoranga Kaupapa Māori. Ko ia tētahi o ngā kaiwhakatū i Te Kura Motuhake o Te Ataarangi, e tuku ana i ngā kōhi reo Māori mā te hunga tauhou tae noa ki te hunga tautōhito. Whakamātāmua ai tana tautake ako i te poipoitanga o te māia o te hunga ako mā te whakarite i tētahi taiao tautoko me te whakaū i te kore o ngā tauira e manawa pā ki te hapa. E hāngai ana tēnei hātepe ki tana whāinga whānui, arā, kia māmā noa iho te toro i te reo me te whakakipakipa i ngā hapori mā roto mai i te ako i te reo.

I tua atu o te whakaako, kua mihia ia mā Te Tohu Aroha mō Ngoi Pēwhairangi, e whakaata ana i tana manawanui ki te whakapakari i te reo me te ahurea Māori. Ko āna mahi kua puta ki tua o Aotearoa, i whai wāhi rā ia ki ngā kaupapa ā-ao ki te whakaako i te reo Māori, tae ana ki Ahiteiria. I whakawhiwhia hoki ia ki te Mētara Whakanui Ratonga a te Kuīni i 2004.

Whakaawe tonu ana ia i tana tū hei kaiārahi i te hapori, e whakahaere ana i ngā karaehe pō me te whakawhānui i te toroa o te reo Māori i tōna kāinga tipu, i Nūhaka. Ko tōna manawanui e whakaata ana i tōna whakapono ko te ako i te reo me utu-kore, ā, me wātea ki te katoa, e whakaū ana i te tuku iho o te reo Māori ki ngā reanga o āpōpō. Ko ia te whakatinanatanga o te ngākau māhaki.