# Te Whare Pūkenga – He Haurongo mō Tākuta Cathy Dewes

Tākuta Catherine Moana Dewes

I whānau mai a Catherine Moana Dewes i Whakatāne, i te 12 o Ākuhata i te 1951.

Ko ia te mātāmua o ngā tamariki tokotoru a Te Kapunga Dewes, nō Ngāti Porou, rāua ko Parekura Raureti, nō Te Arawa.

Nō Cathy i Te Kura Kōhine o Pōneke (Wellington Girls College), ka riro i a ia te tūranga amo taurima (head girl). Nōna i reira, ka tono ia ki tōna tumuaki kia āhei ia ki te ako i te reo Māori engari kīhai i whakaaehia. Nā konā hikaia ai te ahi i roto i a Cathy kia tohe mō te mōtika o te reo Māori.

Mutu ana te kura tuarua, ka tīmata a Cathy hei ākonga i Te Whare Wānanga o Wikitōria. I reira ka tūtaki ki tana hoa rangatira, ki a Rawiri Rangitauira. He mema rāua o Te Rōpū Reo Māori, ā, koia tētahi o ngā rōpū i kōkiri i te Petihana Reo Māori ki te aroaro o te whare pāremata i te 14 o Hepetema, 1972.

Nāwai rā ka moe a Cathy rāua ko Rawiri. Tokoono ā rāua tamariki. Mohoa nei, tekau mā rima ā rāua mokopuna.

Mutu ana te whare wānanga, ka hūnuku te whānau ki Rotorua. I reira tīmataria ai e Cathy me ētahi atu Te Rōpū Reo Māori ki Rotorua. I reira i te 1982 tīmataria ai e Cathy me ētahi atu he akoranga ako i Te Ātaarangi mā te hunga pakeke, arā, ko He Kāinga Mō Te Reo. I reira hoki i te 1987 whakatūria ai te kura kaupapa Māori tuatahi o Te Arawa, arā, ko Te Kura o Ruamata. I te 1993 whakatūria ai he akoranga whakangungu pouako kura kaupapa Māori, arā, ko Te Kura Pouako.

Ko Cathy hoki tētahi o te rōpū tokoiti i āta wānanga kia tuhia ngā mātāpono o Te Aho Matua o Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori i te tau 1988. Ka kōkirihia tonutia e Cathy tēnei kaupapa whakaako kia āpitihia hei amenemana ki te Ture Mātauranga i te tau 1999, ka whakaputaina hoki hei marautanga i te tau 2010. Kua roa ia e urungi ana i te waka o ngā kura kaupapa Māori Aho Matua hei tumuaki mō Te Rūnanga Nui o Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori, ā, kei te mura o te ahi tonu a Cathy e tohe ana hei kaikerēme matua ki Te Rōpū Whakamana i Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

I te 1994 i tohe a Cathy kia whai wāhi ai te wahine ki runga i Te Poari o Te Arawa. Ahakoa te taumaha o tērā kaupapa, ka wikitoria ia i tērā tohe, ā, ka noho a Cathy hei māngai mō tōna iwi, mō Ngati Rangitihi. Kua tata hoki te 15 tau ia e noho ana hei taratī ki Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi.

I te 2011 ka whakawhiwhia a Cathy ki Te Mētara Whakanui Ratonga a te Kuīni, ka whakawhiwhia hoki ki te tohu Tākuta e Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato. Ko aua tohu e rua he whakamihi i a Cathy i āna whakapaunga kaha mō te oranga tonutanga o te reo Māori.

I ngā tau 2008-2016 ko Cathy tētahi o ngā kaitohu o Whakaata Māori. He mema ia o Te Paepae Motuhake i te tau 2010, nā rātou ngā pūtea tautoko a te kāwanatanga mō te reo Māori i arotake, ka whakaputaina ko Te Reo Mauriora. I taua wā hoki, i whai wāhi atu a Cathy ki te Rūnanga Whakapiki Hauora kia whakaputaina he rautaki hauora Māori, ka hua mai ko Mauriora. I te 2016 ka noho ko Cathy te māngai tuatahi o Te Arawa ki runga i Te Poari o Te Mātāwai.

Arā noa atu ngā kaupapa kua arahina, kua tautokona, kua tohua hoki e Cathy i roto i ngā tau. Arā noa atu hoki ngā ariā motuhake o te mātauranga, o te poipoi tamariki kua tuhia, kua kauhautia e Cathy. *“Me raupā aku ringa, kia ao aku wawata.”* Koinei te whakatauākī a Cathy hei whakaatu i tōna manawatītī ki ngā kaupapa maha kia whai hua ai ōna iwi. Otirā, ko te whakatinanatanga o ōna wawata kei te hua mai i āna uri whakaheke.