

**Ngā Uri ā Te Wai-o-Taiki Cultural Group
Report to CIOFF New Zealand Committee
Sunday, 29 September 2019**

Group Representation:

Matua Blackie Tohiariki	Kaumataua/Tour Manager/Senior Performer
Ann Makea	Senior Performer/Youth Portfolio Manager/Tour Manager
Georgie Thompson	Senior Performer/Marae Manager/Tour Manager
Liz Thompson	Senior Performer/Language Interpreter Assistant
Eli Marino	Taiohi Performer/Marae Board Representative
Waharua Haven Henare-Heke	Taiohi Performer/Performance Manager/Stage Choreographer
Jadein Henare	Taiohi Performer/Youth Performance Manager
Deborah Misiuepa	Senior Performer
Christian Makea	Taiohi Performer/1 st time traveller
Santana Kaiaruna	Taiohi Performer/1 st time traveller
Seth Makea	Rangatahi Performer/1 st time traveller
Rosie Thompson	Rangatahi Performer/Traveller since the age of 5 (now 12 years old)

Tena koutou te komiti o Aotearoa CIOFF

Thank you for giving Ruapotaka Marae the opportunity to present at the CIOFF NZ Committee and table the following report:

Background

Since the conception of Ngā Uri ā Te Wai-o-Tiaki Cultural Group in 2007, Ruapotaka Marae has supported our community-based group to continue to undertake amazing opportunities of travelling extensively, including 10 CIOFF Festivals.

As cultural ambassadors participating in CIOFF Festivals, we continue to be proud of promoting Aotearoa through Kapa Haka and Tikanga Maori to showcase our unique culture.

Once again, having the opportunity to participate at The Netherlands and Poland Festivals far exceeded our expectations and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Being our second visit The Netherlands and performing at the Op Roakeldais Festival - our first being in 2017.

Once again the manaakitanga of the local host families in Waffrum made all members of our roopu feel at home and continued the close whanaungatanga that was created in our first visit. We have all made lifelong whanau connections with our host families – and will continue our whanaungatanga when some of the families plan to visit Aotearoa in 2020.

Mr David Ramon, Festival Artistic Director of Op Roakeldais Festival and President of CIOFF, The Netherlands has to be commended on another successful professionally managed and well organised festival.

The festival theme of 'Dance With The World' demonstrated a true gathering of all the countries that participated and all countries positively engaged with learning and sharing in each other's culture.

A highlight of the Festival, was when the Festival Director made a request to our roopu to learn and then perform the haka Ka Mate, Ka Mate on stage in full kakahu maori at the finale to a packed crowd. David's performance was enjoyed by all.



8th – 17th July 2019

On our arrival to Poland after our 20+ hour bus trip from The Netherlands through Germany, we were received by Festival Organisers excited with anticipation of the arrival of a group from New Zealand.

Accommodation was offered at a University with surrounded sports facilities and local shops. The community of Myślenice was surrounded with mountains and was a pleasing site on arrival. Shared triple rooms and shower facilities made our accommodation comfortable and enjoyable.

The hospitality shown by the Festival volunteers was always friendly and inviting, and everyone made a conscious effort to be respectfully supportive to all groups.

This Festival allowed our roopu to be fully immersed in the Polish customs and even though there was a language barrier, we were at an advantage to have one of our performers as an interpreter of the basic Polish language which helped us immensely with the festival arrangements.

Festival activities and performances gave us a vast visual of significant sights around the community of Myślenice and a well organised event in Krakow, one of the oldest cities of Poland was attended by a large audience who appreciated all performances of the countries.

As a roopu and our extensive participation in overseas festivals, we have to express our appreciation for the amazing stage and performing spaces that were offered during this festival. Lighting, sound, stage and visual management of the main festival performances were of a very high standard and professionally managed.

Having the opportunity and pleasure to have a brief conversation with Mr Nibert Müller, Vice President of World CIOFF and receiving his personal acknowledgement and appreciation for our professional performances of which he thoroughly enjoyed.

Huge acknowledgement from our roopu was expressed to the Festival Director, Mr Piotr Szewczyk for his professionalism in ensuring that we were well looked after. A highlight of one of the extracurricular activities that was organised to visit a Salt Museum in Warsaw, will be a lifelong experience for all our roopu participants.

Conclusion

On behalf of Ruapotaka Marae and Ngā Uri ā Te Wai-o-Tiaki Cultural Group, we appreciate your continued support as an organisation and our ongoing positive relationship.

Appreciation is also given to Matua Blackie Tohiariki and Tui Hawke-Tohiariki for their continued tautoko to our roopu and many other groups for their assistance in ensuring we take opportunities such as with CIOFF New Zealand.

If there should be an opportunity where Ngā Uri ā Te Wai-o-Tiaki Cultural Group could develop more opportunities within the organisation – especially within the youth area, we would be more than happy to discuss this further.

Ngaa mihi nunui mo to tautoko!!!!

Ngā Uri ā Te Wai-o-Tiaki Cultural Group