



**RURI
RONGOĀ**
WITH HINEMOANA BAKER

**A rōpū for takatāpui writers and poetry-
lovers explore the rongoā of reading
and writing indigi-queer poetry**



Karakia Timatanga: Whatua Te Mauri

Kaituhi: Te Kurawhiti Hitchens

Kaitito: Vanessa Karakia-Kore Gray

**Whatua te mauri o te mana tipua
He mana tuku iho, he mana ora
Whakairia ake ki ngā pātū o te whare
He whare takatāpui.
He whare tū tonu
Hei tūrangawaewae mō tātou katoa
Tūturu whakamaui kia tina
TINA! Haumi e, hui e, tāiki e!**

Weave together the life essence of our takatāpui communities, particularly our trans, non-binary and intersex whānau.

Passed down from our ancestors,
it continues to live within us

Adorn the walls of our whare with this weaving

It is our whare

One that stands strong

And gives us a place to belong

Truthfully fixed, established, ready

DONE! We draw together, united!

Karakia composed by Te Kurawhiti Hitchens for Mana Tipua in response to Elizabeth Kerekere's Te Whare Takatāpui framework, which is also where Mana Tipua gets its name. Waiata chords composed by Vanessa Karakia-Kore Gray.

MANA TIPUA

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Kaupapa


“Ruri” is one word for a “short love ditty, poem or jingle”. Rongoā is most often understood as being something medicinal and healing, though it can also be described as a way of life, where interconnectedness and whakapapa are key.

We intend these sessions to be about community, solidarity and repair, as well as offering some creative stimulation for the hinengaro.

During the sessions, Hinemoana will offer a poem from someone indigenous, queer and amazing.

The rōpū will do some close reading of the poem, with opportunities to share both emotive and analytical responses.

From there, writing exercises based on the shared poem will be offered. You’ll not be starting from a blank page. There is no pressure to share your writing, although this will be welcomed.



There is no requirement to attend every time and there's no homework. You will be emailed a zoom link and the week's poem prior to the session.

Takatāpui/Queer Māori folx from all over the world are welcome to tune in, if your timezone allows!

Kawa

Ruri Rongoā is a space to come together and share, and is named for the healing this can bring. It is not a professional therapy space, it is a shared group session of like-minded peers. We're mindful of each other's capacity, so our kawa is to check in before sharing heavy things in our poems and our kōrero!

We also understand that poetry can bring up vulnerabilities in us, as readers as well as writers. Quite often queer poetry talks about or makes reference to sex and the body in ways which, while they are radical and wonderful and celebratory, can also be difficult for some. We encourage you to read the poem for each week before the session, to be sure that it is a text you want to spend time with.



Hinemoana Baker she/her

Hinemoana Baker comes from Raukawa, Toa Rangatira, Te Āti Awa and Kāi Tahu on her Dad's side, and Germany and England on her mum's side. She grew up in Nelson and in Whakatane.

Hinemoana lives and works in Te Whanga-nui-a-Tara Wellington, still quite fresh off the plane from nine years living in Germany. She is currently writing a collection of poems called 'Exhaust World'. You can read more about Hinemoana here: www.hinemoana.co.nz

Mana Tipua

Mana Tipua is an Ōtautahi based kaupapa that supports the hauora and mana of Takatāpui. Ruri Rongoā is one of our kaupapa. You can find out more at manatipua.org





Karakia whakakapi: Tēnei te Huinga

**Tēnei te huinga o te tangata ka oki
Tēnei te mauri o te wānanga ka moe
Ko te ngākau me te wairua kia wātea
Ko te ngākau me te hinengaro kia tā
Whano, whano
Haramai te toki
Haumi ē, hui ē, tāiki ē!**

This gathering of people will now rest
The deliberations are suspended
The heart and soul are free to rejuvenate
The body and the mind has time to relax
And may these words progress Into conclusive actions
Because we all agree in unison

This closing karakia was composed by Leon Heketū Blake and allows us to transition from what we have been doing into a space of rest. For pronunciation see:
<https://www.reomaorimai.co.nz/blogs/news/karakia-whakakapi>