

Tracing Tupuna Wellington City Libraries

Te Ara

- Why?
- Decisions along the way
- Benefits

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What was the “problem”?

- Gaps in early local heritage info
 - Waitangi Tribunal claims research land and iwi rather than tangata
 - Resources for secondary school students
- Basic whakapapa research duplicated many times by whanau

What was the “opportunity”?

- Index to Land Court Minute Books by John Laurie
- Covers: 1865-1910
- Searchable by
 - Land blocks succession orders,
 - Iwi / hapu Kaikōrero
 - Whakapapa etc.
- Many ‘minor’ players not named in the index

Options?

- Do nothing
- Wait for someone to publish the info
- advocate for others to do

Rationale : *Outside the library's role to “create” information*

- Undertake to meet a customer need and fill the resource gap

Rationale

- *Customer satisfaction - gap filled*
- *Business direction – local information a priority*

The path towards approval

- Researcher
 - Appropriate skills
 - Consider proof of concept
 - Commitment
- Iwi partnership
- Funding sources & preparing business cases

Green light early decisions

- Level of detail?
 - length of research time per person
- Who were the main customer(s)?
 - Purpose
- Beginning scope?
 - So many, where to begin?
 - “rationale”

Considerations along the way

- Degree of controversy?
 - Conflicting evidence in LCMB
 - Enhancement by ngā uri (o ēnei tupuna)
- Photographs or illustrations
- Copyright
- Permissions
- Taonga sensitivities
- Shortened consultations with wider whanau

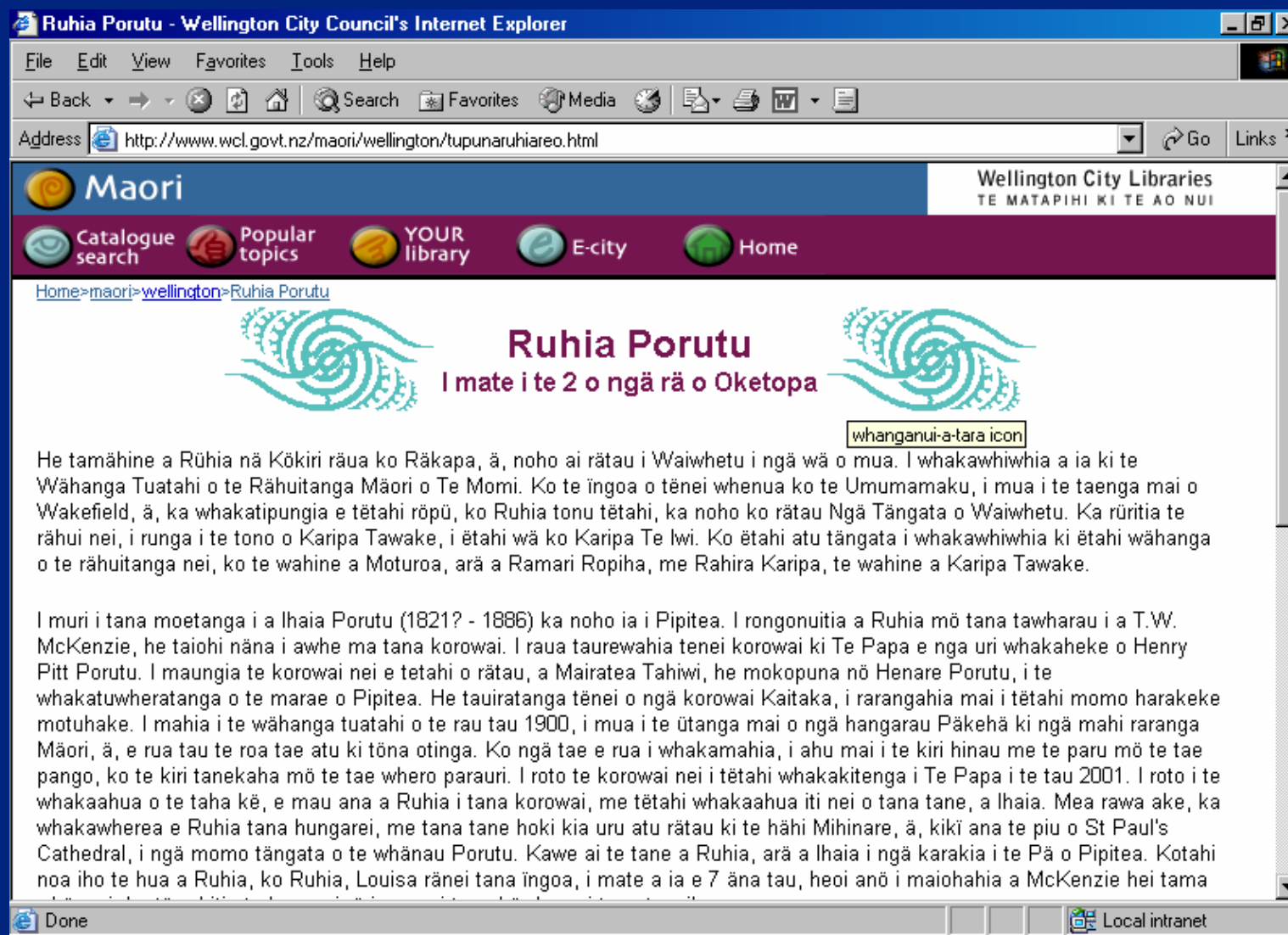
Project team and costs

- Project leader – Ann Reweti
 - One other main team member – Lotofoa Fiu (mainly the illustrations and permissions)
 - Other staff assisted with launch (e.g. food), taking photographs, promotions, index
- Project budget was 20,000 each publication

“Production” by WCC

- Out-sourced the printing/copying
- Consultation - whanau checking
 - Impact on draft formats
 - Often unearthed more last minute information or photographs
- Manual index (mainly name anyway)

Selected translation for electronic release



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Absolutely
POSITIVELY
ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE
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Release celebration



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Practical learnings – what was different?

- **Iwi contribution**
 - **More formalised agreement, earlier**
 - **Very regular project meetings**
- **Began illustrations permissions process earlier**
- **Drafts format remain in MSWord (editing)**

Benefits for Mana Whenua

- Another validation tool for Tribunal mandating
- Increased awareness of intricate intermeshing of relationships and strategic alliances.
- Found new links from the references.
- Creation of new taonga – given as koha by mana whenua

Benefits for Wellington and Council

- New collection resource –
which
- Fosters interest in Wellington's heritage –
- Has staff across WCC working together
- Increases contact with heritage researchers
- Promotes closer working relationship with mana
whenua.
- Provides positive feedback, satisfaction all round