

Mōteatea – Ka ara ake rā

Kaitito / Composers – Hana O'Regan
Rohe – Akaroa - Kāi Tarewa, Kāti Irakehu

Whakamārama / Explanation

He waiata tēnei mō Akaroa i titoa i te tau 1997. Nā tētahi tino pōua o Kāi Tahu, a Henry Robinson kā kōrero mō te waiata nei i a māua e noho tahi ana i tōna marae i Ōnuku. I kōrero mai te pōua rā mō tōna pirika ki taua wāhi a Ōnuku me tōna aroha ki kā āhuatanga miharo o tōna whenua, ā, nā reira te wairua o te waiata nei. Heoti anō, i karakahia ia e te hākui o te pō i mua i te titoka o tēnei waiata, ā, i mau anō ahau i taua taniwha o te amioka.

This song is about Akaroa and was composed in the year 1997. The themes in the waiata come from a discussion with a well known Pōua of his time, Henry Robinson, during a short time spent together on his marae at Ōnuku. He told me of his deep attachment to the place that is Ōnuku and his love for the glorious attributes of his land, and it is these things that form the essence of this song. It is with regret however, that he was called by the mother of the night before the waiata was composed, and again I felt the consequences of the curse of procrastination.

Ka tikaka whakamahi mō te waiata nei / Notes on appropriate usage of this waiata

He pai tēnei waiata hei waiata kīnaki i te wā o te pōwhiri.
This waiata is appropriate for formal pōwhiri as waiata kīnaki.

KA ARA AKE TE RĀ

Ka ara ake te rā i te paeroa
Tau iho ana ōna hihi ki ruka
i kā taiwhenua o Irakehu
Nā rātou mā i tapa kā awa, kā waipuna
I whakakākahu te whenua
i kā hua a Haumie, a Roko
hai ō mā te iwi e

Kapukapu ana te wai o Akaroa
I te ihi, i te wana o te ata hāpara
Tomo ana te wai i kā pūmahara o kā tīpuna
I hoe i ōna karu whakateo
Ka taki kā riporipo o te wai
I kā kupu a te huka kua karo
I te Ara-Whānui-a-Tāne ki tua o Paerau e

Takamiri tonu ana te kōhu i te takutai
E pokapoka ana tōna korowai i te ao marama
Ka roroku tōna awe,
Kia kite atu ai i te tai torehape
Ko te tai kauawhi i te kāika e

Ka marumarū te whare o Ōnuku
I a Ōteauheke mā
Tiro iho ana kā ihoiho o te pō
Ki te Aitaka a Irakehu
E whakakā ana i kā ahi
whitawhita rawa ake e.

AS THE SUN RISES

*As the sun rises behind the range
Its rays fall upon
the lands of Irakehu
They who named the rivers, the springs
Who clothed the land with the fruits
Of Haumietikitiki, of Rongomatāne
To sustain the people*

*The harbour of Akaroa gleams
below the dawning sun
Filled with the memories of the ancestors
Who rowed upon its cresting waves
The ripples recite the words
Of those who have been lost
To Te Ara Whānui-ā-Tāne, and beyond Paerau*

*The morning mist still caresses the shore
But its strength is weakening
As the light cuts through its cloak
To reveal the rugged shores
That embrace the kāika of our people*

*The house of Ōnuku is sheltered
By Tuhi Ariki and his peers
They who no longer walk the earth
Keep a watchful eye on the descendents of Irakehu
Lighting the fires below
That burn so brightly.*