



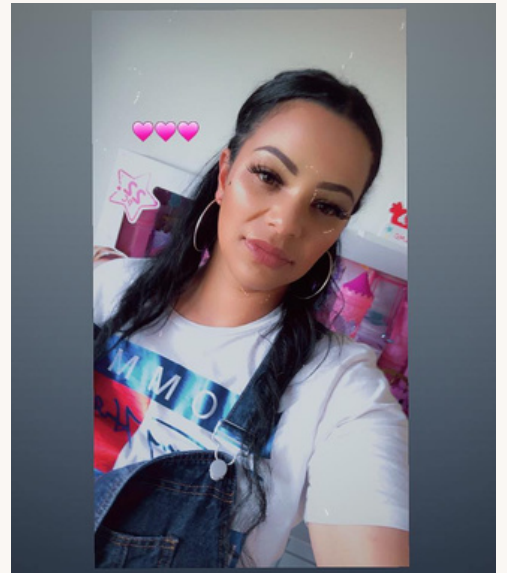
Maori Owned & Operated

Jasmine Emma Marina Thornton

Kia Ora, my name is Jaz Thornton! I currently live in Raupunga. I have three children, work part-time for Ngāti Pāhauwera Development Trust, and have a small printing clothing business on the side that I run in my spare time.

I started printing in 2017, self-taught two years prior. At the time, I had only family and a few friends supporting me, buying my printed clothing. This allowed me to further re-invest and make my options wider to learn more about the system. A few years passed, and business was slow to none, so I sold it all and gave up! Then two years ago, the opportunity to print clothing again fell in my lap from my cousin and then my Aunty Theresa helped me get back into it.

This was a sign to start again, only this time I already had the experience and knowledge. In this short time, my business grew, so big that I am barely keeping on top of it. My business page gained thousands of followers/customers. My orders have been 100+ t-shirts per customer. It's all very overwhelming! People of all ages especially our rangatahi have asked for help to teach them how to do this. And when I am not so busy, I would really like to take up this opportunity and allow them to learn with my help rather than how I went about it, self-teaching. **I print custom designs**, so this allows for a larger audience. People have the opportunity to design their visions and bring them to life to be worn.



Sounds busy right? Well, it can be in a way, but the saying goes **"If you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life."** And if you are ambitious, a go-getter and want to achieve your goals, you will push through everything life puts in front of you.

Jaz

Bless the Food before us,
the Family beside us,
and the Love between us.

- **Where did you grow up?**

Raupunga, Wairoa, Napier.

- **What was your favourite subject at school and why?**

Art was my favourite subject in school. I looked forward to art every day because I enjoyed how drawing, creating, sketching and designing made me feel, it was like some sense of fulfilment.

- **Have you ever failed at something?**

Yes, for sure. I still do, to this day - but I will not let that stop or define me. Failure just creates lessons and allows me to learn what improvements are needed.

- **How did you get into your mahi?**

Let's just say I took my chances! I spent every dollar I had on printing gear to print clothing. I had no clue how to do it, what to or where to even start. All I knew is that I wanted to print custom clothing. After purchasing my gear, I got to work. I spent hours, days and even years researching how to use the gears. There weren't many tutorials for this machine in particular so I basically self-taught for at least two years on the design software before I started to create and print.



Jaz



- **Can you share your whakapapa to a Pāhauwera ancestor?**

My mother is Christina Thornton, her mother and so on... Emma Thornton nee Te Urupu, Paora Rerepu Te Urupu 2nd, Ereti Turi Kahumarina, Ropihana, Paora Rerepu 1st, Waewae, Ngapo Takerau, Te Kahu-o-te-rangi, Puruaute-Matukainga, Rangitohumare-Te Huki.

- **What do you recommend to help someone get through a bad day?**

Breathe, reset and restart! There will be better days ahead.

- **Tell us about one of your favourite whakataukī and why it's a favourite.**

"Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari ke he toa takatini." To acknowledge the support of many.

- **Can you share a link to your mahi?**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/256345254816096>



I am very proud of everything I have achieved in this mahi, of how far I have come to date: from not knowing a thing about printing at all, to teaching and inspiring other people. It's been a long but amazing journey and it was all worth it.

Jaz