



Where did you grow up?

I was born and raised in Tāmaki Makaurau. Both my parents worked in the Navy, so I spent most of my youth in and around Devonport on Auckland’s North Shore. My father Rewi is connected to Pāhauwera through the Waaka whānau from Mōhaka and Raupunga.

How did you get into your mahi?

I’ve never seen music as mahi but as an extension of who I am and I started writing my own songs at the age of 14 when I was gifted my first acoustic guitar from my parents.

After high school, I decided to study Live Sound and Music Production at MAINZ (Music and Audio Institute of NZ) which gave me the technical skills to produce my own music, as well as work as an AV technician in the commercial sector.

As a musician, I’ve worked and played alongside notable NZ artists including Troy Kingi, Trinity Roots, KITA, Melodownz, Louis Baker and Andy Lovegrove of Breaks Co-Op to name a few. My song ‘Revolution’ was nominated for ‘Best Music Video’ at the 2020 Maori Music Awards, and a Semi-Finalist in the prestigious International Songwriting Competition 2021.

I am also currently working at Tāmaki Paenga Hira, Auckland War Memorial Museum as an AV Technician, which allows me to balance my creative and commercial careers.



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

My favourite subject at High School was Māori. Mainly because of the friends and connections I made in that class. My fondest memories were lunchtime acoustic jams in the back of the class and it was a place where I fell in love with the acoustic guitar and singing.

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

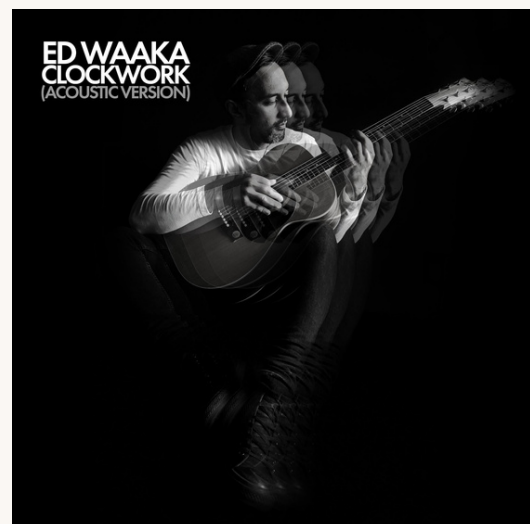
I don't see anything I've done as a failure, I just see them as learning. They have helped me develop, grow and lead me to where I am today. You only fail if you stop.

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

Everyone is different, but for me it's coming home to my family. I have a 2-year-old daughter Māhina and she's my light. Everything is better when I hang out with her. Something about a child's perspective to ground you and remind you not to take things so seriously.

- **What is your favourite whakataukī and why?**

‘Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu koe me he maunga teitei.’
Seek the treasure you value most dearly. If you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain. This whakataukī is all about aspirations and aiming for what you want regardless of what challenges you face. Life is challenging, embrace and overcome them until you reach that mountain.



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Tell us about a piece of mahi you're proud of.

My proudest work to date would have to be my first Te Reo Waiata 'E Kura'. It was originally written during the 2020-2021 lockdown, when I also welcomed the birth of my first child, Māhina. Initially, I was overwhelmed with self-doubt. The experience uncovered past traumas around Māori identity that I didn't expect. When my daughter Māhina was born that thinking quickly changed and it became about being a voice for her.

Reconnecting was important, so I enlisted the help of my cousins, Māori language experts, Stephanie Fong and Dr. Jennifer Martin.

Writing a song in Te Reo with whānau is one of the most uplifting and humbling experiences of my musical journey so far. I searched the piano for inspiration while we spoke of childhood memories. Three hours later we had a finished song. My unborn daughter Māhina was there with us, kicking around inside my partner's belly while we wrote the song.

The generations above and beneath us guide each word with a message that no matter where life takes you, you take your tīpuna with you and you are the tipuna for those to come. Their light lives in you, so let it shine bright. Let it be seen.



**'No matter where life
takes you, you take your
tīpuna with you.'**

Ed