



# Willie McNabb

My name is Willie (Wī) McNabb and I was born and raised in Te Wairoa. I attended Hillneath Primary School, Wairoa Intermediate, and Wairoa College.

After leaving college, I gained trade certificates in both appliance servicing and refrigeration. I have owned a refrigeration company in Te Wairoa and also worked as a branch manager for a multinational refrigeration company.

I gained my teaching degree in 2011 and have been working as a kaiako wharekura at the Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Kahungunu o Te Wairoa since 2012.

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

Woodwork, because I liked the theory side of it.



**"Ko te manu e kai ana i te miro nōna te ngahere, ko te manu e kai ana i te mātauranga nōna te ao"**

The bird that eats of the miro tree owns the forest. The bird that feasts on knowledge owns the world.



*Willie*



**Tell us about a piece of mahi and why you're proud of it.**

I am proud of all the research I did for the iwi and hapū papers of my masters degree. This mahi helped to strengthen my connections to Ngāti Pāhauwera and to my marae. Through this research I was also able to obtain my whakapapa to Te Kahu-o-te-Rangi and beyond.

**What's your favourite food in the whole world?**

Creamed pāua!

**Have you ever failed at something?**

Yes, I failed school certificate (Year 11).

**What is your favourite whakataukī?**

“Ko au te awa ko te awa ko au”

**Who was your favourite teacher and why?**

Mrs Langton was my Year 10 Math teacher. Although she often made me sit outside the classroom, she had a very gentle nature.

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

I spent 25 years working as a tradesman and was fortunate to get the opportunity to learn te reo Māori and gain a B.A. in Māori Studies. The natural progression from the B.A. was to work toward a postgraduate diploma in teaching.



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

Karakia or take time out to settle your wairua.

*Willie*