



## **Ko wai tēnei?**

I am passionate about identifying ways to enable whānau to live on their ancestral land. My post-graduate research examines the impact of post-war Government policies on the Mōhaka community historically, and assesses landowners' ability to use their land for housing today.

## **Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Wellington. My nana Huia Pere Karaitiana was born in Mohaka and lived in our farmhouse at 307 Mohaka Township Road in the 1980s. I have great memories of visiting her, roaming the hills on our land and attending Mohaka School.

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

I am not very good at singing in tune!

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

I work as a Principal Policy Advisor on Māori Housing at Te Puni Kōkiri. I have been interested in housing since I built my own home in Wellington in the last year of my undergraduate degree. Starting post-graduate research on Māori Housing issues enabled me to build knowledge and understanding of key issues and advise decision-makers in my current role.



## **What's one of your favourite whakataukī?**

Ahakoā he iti, he pounamu.

Even the smallest contributions can make a big difference.

*June*





## What can help get through a bad day?

When I'm having a bad day, I try to 'walk it off' by exercising, breathing and quietening my mind.

## How do you whakapapa to Pāhauwera?

The whakapapa I understand best is from our tipuna Tipene Te Aho (1 of the 10 owners listed as kaitiaki for Ngāti Pāhauwera when the Mohaka block was first investigated by the Native Land Court in 1868). His daughter Katerina Te Aho and Ngari Huka were parents of Mate Huka. Mate Huka and Tamihana Pere were parents of Hawi Pere. Hawi Pere and Marie Taaringaroa McIlroy (Ngāti Porou) were parents of my nana Huia Pere Karaitiana, who was my mum, Kiwi Karaitiana Osborne's mother.

## Can we see some of your mahi?

<https://www.weag.govt.nz/> I was a team leader of the Secretariat that supported the Welfare Expert Advisory Group to perform an independent review of the welfare system. The recommendations contained in their report "Whakamana Tangata: Restoring Dignity to Social Security in New Zealand", influenced positive change to the benefit system under the 2017-2023 government.



*Four generations. June Osborne (right) with her mother Kiwi Karaitiana Osborne, holding a photo of grandmother Huia Pere Karaitiana, with photograph of her great-grandfather, Hawi Pere, in background.*

June