

tauranga art gallery  
toi tauranga

# WHOSE WATER ARE YOU

*Whose Water are You?* at the Skövde Art Museum  
Sweden. Image: Johan Fransson, courtesy of the  
artist

**Jeanette Schäring** grew up on the west coast of Sweden, surrounded by water, lakes, rivers, the deep forest and a biodiversity of species. She traveled extensively, but returned to Sweden to study health and human biology, turning to traditional art sculpture and painting. She has a BFA and MFA from the University of Gothenburg. During her studies, Schäring made field studies in remote indigenous villages in Asia sponsored by the Swedish Institute for Development Abroad.

She has studied and researched natural dye – colour from plants and its possible application - for over 20 years. She works with complex biological colour processes and water, and teaches the subject in a broad sustainable perspective. Schäring is the co-author of essays, and actively participates in global conferences in various transdisciplinary fields and collaborates with scientists and people in all disciplines. She has exhibited internationally, holds workshops, social and place related art projects and lectures all around the world. Her work is for all ages, about learning and sharing in the field of reconnecting with nature. She has received many awards, and grants from the Swedish Arts Grants Foundation.

Schäring works with artistic research with colour from plants, water, matter and light and its deep connections with us humans perception, life, wisdom, health and nature. She is interested in how we use our senses and sensuality to understand complexity, materiality and spirituality in our world, and uses an ethical and ecological, philosophical approach to nature and colour as an indicator of our sensitive ecosystem.

Transdisciplinary partners include Professor Jonas Bergquist analytical neurochemistry Uppsala Univ.(led to innovations), Professor Anders Hagfeldt physical chemistry, Ångströms Laboratory, National Heritage Board and Department of Conversation, Navet Science Centre and Textile Museum Sweden.

This water is from the Warrakee stream which is mainly stormwater and undrinkable. The reserve land on either side has been designed to flood as a way to manage excess stormwater after heavy rain events. Introduced carp help keep the weed at bay and it is inhabited by ducks, pukekas, grey heron eels, swallows and the occasional Swan.

WHOSE WATER ARE YOU? MY WATER.

The Practical; water tank.

When in bed, I love the comforting and cosy feeling hearing the rain falling on the roof. As well as the somniferous effect, the knowledge that the water tank is filling gives additional satisfaction. This satisfaction is extended at a later date whilst watering the vegetable garden fulfilling the desire to be a steward of this precious resource. The pleasure is further extended with the ability to use this saved water to grow foodstuffs that can be picked and consumed, frozen for later use, or shared with friends and neighbours..

Marlene Ware

The Pleasurable; the birdbath.

Chaffinches and goldfinches slake their thirst whilst sparrows take a quick dip. Wee tauhou, (waxeyes), join in the fun. The lone and maybe lonely tui takes time over its ablutions – dipping in and out of the water, fluffing its wings and then preening in the kowhai branch above. These passerines are unaware of the pleasure they give to the observers.

Marlene Ware.

In 2009, she initiated and invited NZ artists to Sweden for an exhibition, funded by Creative New Zealand.

She has taught at Massey University, Wellington and the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. Recently, the artist completed a number of artist in residence/internships including Srishti Art, Design and Technology, Bangalore, and at Visva Bharati – Santiniketan Kolkata. After this, she spent three months in Madagascar in her self-created Residency and participated in the conference Plants, Ecology and Colour in Antananarivo. In between she travelled to Kenya, Kisumu for a social design and research project “Beyond the Basket” invited by Mistra Urban Future.

Schäring has researched craft, art and science with the theme of water at Navet Science Center in Borås and has collaborated with professors in natural science at Uppsala University for many years.

Whose Water Are You? has been previously shown in Sweden and Finland, with the most recent installation being commissioned by the Swedish Ministry for the Environment

In 2017, Schäring published her book “Matter in Motion and the Mysticism of Nature’s Colour” which includes her own writings as well as essays from seven different authors from seven different disciplines, from four different continents. With the book, she aims to open up new thinking around a contemporary art practice around colour and nature, art and science and eco-philosophy. The book is available for purchase at Tauranga Art Gallery.

The artist lives with her family in Mount Maunganui. She will return to Sweden this winter for two large solo exhibitions that also include communities and social involvements.

[www.jeanettescharing.net](http://www.jeanettescharing.net)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Claudette & Philip<br>Tap water Aongatete                | 15 Ross McCurran<br>Spa Pool Papamoa   |
| 2 Claudette & Philip<br>Tap water Aongatete                | 16 Alan Bone<br>Waikareao Estuary  |
| 3 Harrison Read<br>Swimming pool                           | 17 Jo Bond and Graham Crow<br>Rain Water Tank Maungatapu                         |
| 4 Harrison Read<br>Tap Water - Pyes Pa                     | 18 Jennifer and Peter Glausiuss<br>Solar Heating Water Overflow                  |
| 5 Harrison Read<br>Memorial Park Estuary                   | 19 Tina Harris-Ririnui<br>Tap Water Maungatapu<br>(with cidar vinegar and lemon) |
| 6 Jeanette Schäring<br>Waitao Stream Welcome Bay           | 20 Christine Dawson<br>Stone Pond Otumoetai                                      |
| 7 Pacha Juana Lema Amaguania<br>Spring Water Kaimai Ranges | 21 Jillian Peck<br>Morning Shower  |
| 8 Mataora Rongoā Hōtoke<br>Kaiate Falls Welcome Bay        | 22 Marcus and Molly<br>Tye Park Beach  |
| 9 Liz Wilson<br>Fountain Memorial Park                     | 23 Lindsay Bowles<br>Omanu Beach   |
| 10 Martine Pierhagen<br>Tap Water Welcome Bay              | 25 Michele Sainsbury<br>Mount Maunganui Main<br>Beach                            |
| 11 Linda Inglis<br>Water from Ohauti bore                  | 26 Ella Mae McGowan<br>Spring Water Waitao                                       |
| 12 Gary Ware<br>Entrance to Tauranga Harbour               | 27 Peter Anderson<br>Harrisons Cut Stormwater<br>Discharge                       |
| 13 Marlene Ware<br>Bird Bath Otumoetai                     | 28 Peter Anderson Omanawa<br>Stream  |

**Three days after Christmas 1950, when I was just 13 years old, a disaster struck the small town of Tauranga. The Ranui, a kauri passenger launch of 45ft., capsized and was wrecked in tempestuous seas at the entrance to the Tauranga Harbour. The ship was returning to Tauranga from Tuhua (Mayor Island) with 20 holiday makers and 3 crew.**

**The sole survivor was 19-year-old Phillip H.G. Smith (Bluey). The tragedy affected the whole town as we all had a friend or relative who perished, or knew someone who did.**

**Gary Ware**

**(Water sample from the entrance to the Tauranga Harbour)**



*The Ranui*



*Wreckage of the Ranui*

**Omanu School Junior School Swimming Pool**  
**Water.**

**I feel that this school swimming pool water is important because.....**

This is the start of a journey that all kids have to take someday in life. It's a big step to go from kindergarten to primary school and an even bigger step to pluck up the courage to step into the water and learn to swim. Imagine getting used to working in the classroom and the next minute you are asked to learn to swim. A baby bird leaving the nest only to find an endless sea of new experiences. Learning to swim is hard but once you know how to it gets a lot easier. I think that learning to swim is just as unpredictable as life itself, it is a book waiting to be opened. It is like a seal waiting to surface because the thing is once you know how to swim you will always know how to.

I think that this water is important because the kids who swam in it had to face their fears. They became more independent because they had to get changed in the changing rooms on their own and they made friends that might later on become their best friends. At Omanu school the pool is the first step in learning to swim. Sadly I never got to experience the excitement of swimming for the first time in this pool but I do know what it does feel like to swim for the very first time and believe me it is an amazing feeling.

Water itself is very, very important because on Earth there is only 1% of water that is actually drinkable for humans and animals alike. It is precious, life giving and wonderful.

**By Susie Harte From Room 2 At Omanu School.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 29 Lucy Aitken Read<br>Stream Water Waitawheta<br>Karangahake                       | 39 Shona Keachie<br>Back Garden Rain Fall<br>Welcome Bay              |
| 30 Lucy Aitken Read<br>Tauranga Public Toilets                                      | 40 Mary Rose<br>Johnson Reserve                                       |
| 31 Jo Wills<br>Rain Water collected in garden<br>Mount Maunganui                    | 41 Stef Hendra<br>Bethlehem College Primary<br>Drinking Fountain      |
| 32 Paige Fraser<br>Tauranga Harbour - from the<br>Jetty                             | 42 Stef Hendra<br>Bethlehem College Primary<br>Swimming Pool          |
| 33 Bike Barn<br>Bottled Water left behind<br>by customer (origin: Kaimai<br>Ranges) | 43 Stef Hendra<br>Bethlehem College Primary<br>Water from Downpipe    |
| 34 Bruce Clark<br>Tap Water Bike Barn Mount<br>Maunganui                            | 44 Stef Hendra<br>Bethlehem College Primary<br>Puddle Water           |
| 35 Martha Redman<br>Harbourside Central<br>Backpackers Tap Water                    | 45 Stef Hendra<br>Bethlehem College Primary<br>Water Play Table       |
| 36 Rebecca Graham<br>Cooled Tap Water from the<br>Fridge                            | 46 Stef Hendra<br>Bethlehem College Primary<br>Conservation Area Pond |
| 37 Jesus Jovan Medrano<br>Water with Black Tea from<br>China 25 Years Old           | 47 Jem Thompson<br>Tap Water Hamilton                                 |
| 38 Jo Turner<br>Seawater at Kulim Park  | 48 Jude Priest<br>Tauranga Harbour 5th Avenue<br>Reserve              |
|   | 49 Lynn Williams<br>Garden Bird Bath Te Puna                          |

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|---|---|
| 50 Norma Hudson<br>Lily Pond Cliff Road Tauranga                    | 62 Quintessa Davies<br>Sea Water Papamoa<br>Beach Road        |
| 51 Norma Hudson<br>Rain Water Water feature Cliff<br>Road Tauranga  | 63 Barbara Hill<br>Garden Fountain Bethlehem                  |
| 52 Julie Carnell<br>Dog Bowl and Hot Water                          | 64 Barbara Hill<br>Tauranga Harbour                           |
| 53 Hannah Wilson<br>Storm Water Drain<br>Tauranga South             | 65 Mikaela Jones<br>TCC Cameron Road Office<br>Tap Water      |
| 54 Claudette Martin<br>Waste Water Purple Hair<br>Shampoo Aognatete | 66 Liz Bryce<br>Avon River Source<br>Christchurch             |
| 55 Beau Stuart<br>Bath Water Judea                                  | 67 Liz Bryce<br>Avon River Central<br>Christchurch            |
| 56 Fiona McWilliam<br>Filtered Drinking Water<br>Omokoroa           | 68 Liz Bryce<br>Christchurch Tap Water before<br>Chlorination |
| 57 Jo Torr<br>Waimapu Estuary                                       | 69 Candice Benfell<br>Drinking Water Brook eld                |
| 58 Lena Kovac<br>Waiotaha Stream<br>Welcome Bay                     | 70 Candice Benfell Reiki treated<br>Water                     |
| 59 Carol Lobb<br>Wairakei Stream Papamoa                            | 71 Sandra Carrod<br>Tap Water from Bore<br>Welcome Bay        |
| 60 Linda Inglis<br>Trough Water Paddock Ohauiti                     | 72 Sandra Carrod<br>Rain Water Welcome Bay                    |
| 61 Linda Inglis<br>Waste Water from Tomato<br>Relish making         |   |

**Memory: Summer 1977**

Burst out of the pool

Standing

Feet soak hot concrete

Steaming

Drip bloom dark edges

Fading

Gone



**Papamoa Storm Water Drain**

We have a stormwater drain running through Papamoa. The drain helps to stop flooding but also cleans the storm water before it drains to the sea. Where we collected this sample were hundreds of tadpoles – which is a good indicator of the health of the waterway.

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|--|---|
| 73 Katarina Carroll<br>Bathtub Tap Gates Pa                          | 86 Bridget Cummins<br>Kitchen Tap Water Tauranga                        |
| 74 Marama Mateparae<br>Kaiate Falls Welcome Bay                      | 87 Fiona Wilcock<br>Tap Water Rotorua                                   |
| 75 Marama Mateparae<br>Storm Water Drain Papamoa                     | 88 Melissa McDonald<br>Ohakune  |
| 76 Cindy McQuade<br>Awahou Stream Rotorua                            | 89 Meagan Davis<br>Tauranga Estuary                                     |
| 77 Omanu Primary School<br>School Swimming Pool                      | 90 Pillans Point School<br>Classes Tui 2 and Tui 4<br>Waikareao Estuary |
| 78 Omanu Primary School<br>Bathroom Tap Water                        | 91 Anahhira Ace<br>Tokaanu Stream                                       |
| 79 Hella Bauer<br>Matua Estuary                                      | 92 Anahhira Ace<br>Tongariro River                                      |
| 80 James Theodore Coxon<br>Storm Drain Omanu Beach                   | 93 Liz Wilson<br>Pool water   |
| 81 Amy Board<br>Rain Water from Yurt<br>Papamoa Hills                | 94 Anne Bengtsson<br>Water from Mount stream                            |
| 82 Gulielma Dowrick<br>Tap Water Tauranga                            | 95 Toni Maree<br>Bore Water Arataki                                     |
| 83 Rana Collett<br>Shower Wastewater                                 | 96 Laura Wragg<br>Tap water Welcome Bay                                 |
| 84 Hannah Wilson<br>Wastewater from Painting<br>Tauranga Art Gallery | 97 Laura Wragg<br>Fountain  |
| 85 Bridget Cummins<br>Water used to remove makeup                    | 98 Laura Wragg<br>Stream  |

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| 99 Kate Stedds<br>Off my roof (out of a rain barrel) Greerton    | 200 Jeanette Schäring<br>Omanu Beach   |
| 100 Burdenia McDonnell<br>Waiorotti Stream                       | 201 Jeanette Schäring<br>Tap water   |
| 101 Kate Flanagan<br>Mount Maunganui<br>Intermediate School Pool | 202 Jeanette Schäring<br>Filtered tap water  |
| 120 Elwin Clark Schäring<br>Experiment with Tap Water<br>Arataki | 205 Jeanette Schäring<br>New icebreaker jersey soaked overnight                    |
| 121 Elwin Clark Schäring<br>Experiment with Tap Water<br>Arataki | 206 Jeanette Schäring<br>Waste water from natural<br>Indigo dye bath               |
| 122 Elwin Clark Schäring<br>Experiment with Tap Water<br>Arataki | 207 Bruce Clark<br>Pilot Bay   |
| 123 Elwin Clark Schäring<br>Experiment with Tap Water<br>Arataki | 208 Jeanette Schäring<br>Waste water from natural dye                              |
| 124 Elwin Clark Schäring<br>Experiment with Tap Water<br>Arataki | 209 Jeanette Schäring<br>Mount Hot Pools   |
| 129 Jeanette Schäring<br>Wastewater from Natural Dye             | 210 Jeanette Schäring<br>Waste water from swimming<br>suit soaked overnight        |
| 133 Jeanette Schäring<br>Rainwater Puddle<br>Welcome Bay         | 211 Jeanette Schäring<br>Rinsing of natural Indigo<br>fermentation vat after dying |
| 134 Jeanette Schäring<br>Waitao Stream Welcome Bay               | 212 Jeanette Schäring<br>Water infused with lavender                               |

Rainwater that I collect off my roof. I have lived in this house for 24 years and water my vegie garden with it, and give my hair it's final rinse with it.

There's nothing like rainwater to make your hair feel lovely and soft.

K. Steeds  
128 Oropi Road  
Greerton.



### What water means to me....

Water is my happy place. Since I was young I love being in the water, swimming, diving and jumping in the waves. I love living in New Zealand as we are close to the ocean pretty much anywhere we are. The ocean gives me a sense of peace and tranquillity that nothing else can. Once I swam in the calm waters of Mairangi Bay when I saw a diamond shape from above just to realise I was just swimming on top of a stingray who rested in the shallow sand. That was one of the most beautiful memories I have swimming in open waters. Oceans can be dangerous if you underestimate their power, but it never felt so to me. I guess I always approach the sea with a fair bit of respect and never take conditions for granted. If you look out for yourself and are cautious I believe the ocean cannot harm you. I wish the world's ocean wouldn't be so polluted – it's horrible to think this is what I'm leaving behind for my children. Let's all do our bit to clean up Mother Earth so it can be enjoyed by generations to come!

LK

"I am interested in a softer society, this art work is a communication through water and colour from nature to visualise our environment and nature; its fragility, the beauty, changeability and spirituality through a social-ecological and socially engaging art exhibition"

~ Jeanette Schäring

### Kaiate Falls

This water is taken from the Kaiate Falls, a stunning waterfall and stream in the hills between Welcome Bay and Papamoa – about 30 mins drive from central Tauranga. The falls are a series of cascades with a natural swimming hole at the bottom. Many walkers and tourist enjoy this beautiful spot and in summer it is a popular swimming place, especially with older teenagers who enjoy the thrill of jumping and diving from the high rocks around the swimming hole.

Our home is about 4km from our home at the top of Reid Road, and is the closest swimming place for our family. We regularly swam here until about four years ago – though we avoid swimming in any streams or rivers after heavy rainfall due to possible contamination due to run off.

In late early 2015, after spending an afternoon swimming at Kaiate Falls, Sam, who was six years old developed severe diarrhea and vomiting. Shortly after he received a permanent health warning was issued by the Medical Officer for Health for the falls and stream. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council monitoring had shown high levels of bacterial contamination.

A creek runs from hills behind Welcome Bay down through the Johnson Reserve, into the sea at Welcome Bay.

This water looks clear.

One day my grandchildren, Luke and Roza played in the water under willow trees.

They had a wonderful time.

Another day, before we picnicked by the creek, I ~~asked~~ phoned Tauranga City Council to ask if ~~they could~~ creek is safe for children to play in. A man said 'probably not' and that he didn't really know.

I don't know either.

Mary Rose

### TAURANGA HARBOUR WATER

At the harbour's edge where the Pohutukawa tree dips its branches in the water and an old drain spills a constant stream onto the sand, I come to collect the water. Memories wash over me. As a child, running from the corrugated iron changing shed to the water's edge, shrieking and shrinking back at the shock of cold water on sun-warmed skin. Nana keeping a watchful gaze while we played and swam, walking further and further out in search of deeper water before being called back to safety. My own children swam here too; their first baby steps wobbly forays into the shallow water followed by a sudden sit-down and tears of fright, quickly replaced by laughing, squealing and splashing. Later they would spend hours digging intricate sandy networks of canals and pools to channel the water from the drain to the sea. Generations of my family have swum and played in this water. We have rowed boats and paddled kayaks, water-skied, wind-surfed, sailed and fished. We have cast fishing lines and netted silvery sprats - scooping them up in a bucket to take home for the cat. I was married here, on a summer's day at high tide - under the Pohutukawa tree, beside the sparkling water, at the harbour's edge. When the ceremony was over the kids went swimming; when the tide receded, they played touch rugby on the damp sand. Water is life and this water is interwoven with my life. **This is my water.**

*When I collected my water, I found a large red and yellow warning sign had been erected nearby. 'Temporary Contamination - No Swimming, No Fishing, No Shellfish Gathering. Do Not Touch the Water.' I felt sad and worried for the future of my water.*

Jude Priest, 2018

### #94 The Lifegiving Elixir of Life - Water -

As old as our solar system - 4.6 Billion years  
When our Sun was just forming  
it travelled throughout Cosmos  
Carrying with it a LifeForce with an incredible  
Power to Create and Transform.

It is the single most abundant element on Earth  
- 70% of you and me is Water...

It's Vibrational Field shifts from  
gas - liquid - solid matter...

It's forever changing and amazingly -  
It is programable to hold the frequency  
of our inner feelings and thoughts

Love and Gratitude  
creates  
Beautiful Water.

I am because You are - OBUNTU



## Water

### And what it means to me

I like swimming in water. I like having water fights with my brother.

Toby (age 7)

I jumped, let go and splashed into the water, then swam back for another turn on the Tarzan swing. After that, I went to the peddle boats and had lots of fun. My friend peddled off and left me to swim after him. Then we went paddle boarding and raced each other. I love water.

Harrison (11)

I like swimming in the water and the ocean, and having water fights.

Grace (4)

This summer we bought our children a backyard swimming pool. Money well spent. I realised my children don't need toys. They are content with water. If only I had clicked sooner, because my fondest childhood memories are of water too. We didn't have much growing up but our swimming pool was a blessing. Hours and hours of summer day fun and freedom. Water is our memories of childhood.

Kathryn

This water is from the Awahou Stream on the Northern Shore of Lake Rotoua. It was taken after heavy rain - hence the slightly brown colour. Usually it is crystal clear, green and icy cold. The tangata whenua of this Awa is Ngati Rangiwewehi who believe Awahou is a place of healing. Awahou is protected by the Taniwha Pekehaua. The sample was taken by Eli Simpkins-Simmonds who is a member of the Ngati Rangiwewehi Iwi. ~~Elery~~

"Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink". The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772 - 1834)

Salt Water - The Sea.

It has dominated my entire life and ordered my working life for over 50 years. My parents were in the Navy and extended family have been sailors for several centuries. I grew up by the sea, I learnt to swim in the sea and I have spent my entire working life as a professional seafarer both shore based & sailing the sea.

The sea has provided the mundane – a livelihood and the sublime – nature in all her moods. The sea is never still, a ship is always moving as the water heaves and surges.

Calm - the sea reflects the sun, moon and stars, the beauty of a tropical sunset.

Stormy - the flying spume stings, flying like bullets, while the deck is buried under the next giant wave. The ship rises, casting off the water on deck, readying itself for the next deluge.

A ship on the ocean is a metaphor for life. Change is a constant, there is a never ending flow, the water resists movement, energy is needed to forge ahead and yet, ultimately, a destination will be reached, a safe haven, where all is still.

The influence of water on my life has been immense and I am truly grateful for the years I have spent on and around ships and the sea.

WWD2018 Christchurch Water: *Avon river-head to city.*

Purpose:

This project will contribute to Jeanette Schärings' work in the Tauranga Art Gallery. *Whose water are you?*

Idea:

1. To acknowledge the pureness of Christchurch's drinking water under threat from climate change and human contamination or overuse.
2. To celebrate the route of the Avon 'river' from its source in the suburbs of Avonhead past well known Christchurch places to the inner city.
3. To collect samples of water for Jeanette Schärings exhibition.

#### ***Sample One: Christchurch Tap Water***

The sample is collected from my home kitchen tap (in the suburbs of Avonhead). It's significance lies in the fact that our tap water is to be temporarily(?) chlorinated on March 26. This is because of a worry of contamination.

About 18 months ago there was concern that our water sources which are from aquifers beneath the huge river plain that is Canterbury, were being contaminated. Possible causes were that the drain on them from domestic, industrial and agricultural use had lowered the aquifer thus causing the access point to become spoilt. Many wells were drilled deeper but there is caution around temporary contamination of the access point.

One of the high points of living in Christchurch is the pure (delicious!) tap water. The proliferation of underground waterways throughout the city make for lush gardens and many well kept parks and recreation areas.

#### ***Sample Two: Water from the spring source of the Avon River.***

Avonhead School is close to the source of the Avon - and backs onto Ferrier Park - one of the many small parks which is well used by the school and community. Just through the park is the end of a street where you can hear and see the Avon source, a spring which is fed by other small streams from further up Avonhead. The private property which hosts the Avon source has a stunning well kept garden setting making good use of the spring and keeping the location attractive.

The sample was obtained by kind permission of the property owner under close canine vigilance!

The owner mentioned that last summer the spring dried up for a while - she reported it to the council as she was concerned about the eels which live in the spring pond. They said they did not know what could be happening but the spring resumed flowing a few days later.

I'm talking about the beautiful Te wai Ū o te Whaea or the Tokaanu Stream, a freezing and beautiful stream where I grew up, my Mum grew up, my Nanny and so on. Te Whaea, the mother is Pihanga maunga and te wai Ū is the nourishing breast milk from Pihanga which flows down to her pepe Maunganamu and Tongariro is the Papa. So we all grew up at Te Whare o Koura right beside and between the Tokaanu Stream and Maunganamu.

My earliest memories of Tokaanu stream was when I use to love playing in the swamp beside the stream and there were also blackberries everywhere. Te Whare o Koura is the name of our house beside Tokaanu Stream because Koura use to live in the banks but I never got to see the koura, because something destroyed their habitat.

You might know the Tokannu Stream and the Tokaanu Power Station and the famous Tongariro River famous for trout fishing. We love our electricity and we love our trout fishing however we also loved our koura and koaro (climbing fish similar to whitebait). When I was about 11 I remember riding on my bike to school to Turangi 5/6 km away and on my way home again the road had disappeared. I'm telling you this because the change in the road affected the Tokaanu Stream because the Tokaanu Power Station was been built (1966-1973). In order to build the power station the Tokaanu stream was rediverted under a bridge over the Tokaanu tailrace/canal. Apparently, it is quite a unique engineering feat.

The beautiful swamp was drained during the development of the power station so the frogs are gone. And the koura and koaro no longer live there anymore, why? Maybe it is the silting up of the river after the rediversion or maybe it is trout who feed on koura and whitebait as Tokaanu Stream was made a spawning stream and fishing is prohibited in the stream.

In my mother's wisdom Te Whare o Koura has been given a special reservation Papakainga status so the generations that follow can never be pushed out by others.

Ki te taha o toku Papa

Ko Mauao te maunga

Ko Tauranga te moana

Ko Mataatua te waka

Ko Ngai Te Rangi me Ngati Ranginui nga iwi

Ko Tauwhao me Te Ngare te hapu

Ko Rangiwaewa te marae

Ki te taha o toku Mama

Ko Tongariro te maunga

Ko Taupo te moana

Ko Te Arawa te waka

Ko Ngati Tuwharetoa te iwi

Ko Ngati Hikairo, ko Ngati Turangitukua nga hapu

Ko Otukou te marae

Ko Anahira Ace aka Veronica Gardiner oku ingoa

No reira tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.

