



Cook Islands Heroes: Art work from Apii Nikao

COOK ISLANDS HEROES

An anthology of writing from secondary school students
of the Cook Islands, 2018

TAKU TUA NEI E WAKAMAYALANGA IA
MARIANA TERUIA
E TOE NO ANTHONY PIIRA, APII NIUA, PUKAPUKA
NA PAYAKO I TE AYO LAU LUA MA TAI O TIULAI MATAWITI 2018
I MURI UAKE TE OTINGA O TE TUA A ANTHONY NA LE AI IANA

This collection is dedicated to the memory of
Mariana Teruia
sister of Anthony Piira, Niua School, Pukapuka,
who passed away 21st July 2018,
a short while after Anthony wrote his award winning story

THE COOK ISLANDS' SECONDARY SCHOOLS' WRITING COMPETITION 2018

Kia Orana

The theme of this year's writing competition was **Cook Islands Heroes**, inspired by the wonderful book of the same name by David Riley and Michel Mulipola. Students could write in English or Maori, about their hero. A hero could be... a person admired for achievements and noble qualities, an illustrious warrior, one who shows great courage, a mythological or legendary figure often with great strength or ability, or what ever they wished...

All Cook Islands' school students from years 7-13 were eligible to enter. Almost 230 entries were received from schools throughout the Cook Islands, with an amazing number coming from the Pa Enua; particularly Pukapuka, Mauke and Atiu.

Winners in the 2018 Cook Islands Secondary Schools Writing Competition were announced on Friday 7^h September 2018, in conjunction with International Literacy Week. The competition prizes were kindly sponsored by CITC, Moana Gems and the Ministry of Education.

Judges of the Maori sections were Vae Papatua and Anna Roumanu. The English sections were judged by Rachel Smith and Thomas Wynne. Winning entries were published in the Cook Islands News.

Stories published in this anthology include the prize winners and a selection of other stories the judges thought also worthy of publication. They appear in no particular order.

Congratulations, and meitaki maata to all those fine young writers who entered, and to the teachers and parents of participating students for their encouragement and support of good writing in the Cook Islands.

Kia manuia e kia toa

Jessica Le Bas

Advisor, Language and Culture
Ministry of Education, Cook Islands

JUDGES' REPORTS

Kia Orana,

Te anoano nei au i te oronga atu i taku akameitakianga ki te au tamariki apii tei piri ki roto i teia tarereanga maata o te tata tua 2018. Meitaki maata no te maroiroi tei rauka i te koikoi mai anga i te au manako tei tataia e pera te karape i rauka ai i te atuituianga i te au manako tuketuke kia roiro mai ei tua okotai. Te anoano katoa nei au i te oronga atu i taku akameitakianga ki te au tamariki tei iki i te reo maori ei tataanga tua. Pumaana tikai te ngakau i ta kotou i rave. I roto i te au tua maori taku i tatau kua mataora tikai au i te tatauanga i te au manako o te au tamariki no runga i tetai au tangata tei riro ei akaraanga meitaki ki roto i to ratou oraanga. I tetai taime kua kata au, kua maromaroa, kua akaaroa e kua topa te roimata. Meitaki maata no tei riro kotou i te akaari mai i tetai au tutu tei riro ei umeremere anga naku. Kare e aiteia te muka e te manea i te tua tei tata e te anau a te Kuki Airani.

Kia Manuia

Vae Papatua

Anna Roumanu

Kia Orana tatou katoatoa,

Meitaki maata to all the students who shared their stories. It was an honour for Thomas and I to read your work, to learn of your heroes and in the process what is important for you and your community.

Heroes ranged from legends and family members, to everyday people in the community and well-known Cook Islanders, and further afield to international sports players, scientists and activists.

Judging a writing competition is never an easy task. How do you compare one persons' hero to another, one heartfelt story to the next? In our top stories we found originality in the voice of the writer and in the story being told, a gripping start, and strong storytelling that enabled the reader to connect to each personal hero.

Kia Manuia and congratulations to the winners.

Rachel Smith

Thomas Wynne

MY MUM

Hey you! Want to know who's the best superhero with no super powers whatsoever, but a hero to me? My mum!

Of course, why wouldn't my mum be my superhero? Who wouldn't want their mums to be their superhero? The only reason why you are here, is because of your mum.

The reason why my mum is my hero, is because my mum is always there for me and always wants to get involved whenever something bad happens to me, or to my siblings. Like for instance when I get into trouble, she will always be in the principal's office apologising for my actions. So whenever we get home I'm wary of my mum, because she looks scary.

The second reason is that she looks after my disabled, little sister every day. Probably, as you are reading this, she is feeding her right now. We all love our little sister so much, and wouldn't want anything to happen to her because she is a precious treasure to us all. Every morning I help my mum bath her, and carry her around if my mum asks me to. She dresses her and feeds her three times a day. Most times, we put her in her wheelchair and take her outside to get some fresh air. She has severe cerebral palsy.

She cries a lot because she is hungry or thirsty. Every day the nurse checks up on her to see if she is healthy or sick. Every day my mum always tries her best to do whatever she can do to help her out. We do everything we can to support my mum and my sister.

My mum will always be my hero, for the rest of my life, and I wouldn't be here without her because she is everything to me.

Anthony Piira

FIRST PLACE, Y11-13

Apii Niua, Pukapuka

JOY IN HIS EYES

My hero doesn't have to be someone who shoots lasers out of their eyes, or can read people's minds. It can also be someone who is kind, giving, but most of all selfless.

He races through the bush careless of what is in it. He is determined to get to his daughter. He leaps out in front of her and scoops her up into his large arms and quickly turns so he can out run the giant wasps. He gets hit a few times but he doesn't care, for his daughter is safe in his arms once again. He puffs as he rushes up the giant hill. Finally, he reaches his bike. Without much use of strength, he starts it and heads towards the closest tipani tree.

His daughter is bunched in his arms, crying for she can't bear the pain much longer. He carefully sits his daughter on the side of the road then begins applying the sap of the tree on to her bee stings. The cold sap slowly drips down her arms and legs, her body aching with pain. But the thing that makes the moment better is her father's soothing voice, gracefully slipping through her ears, saying, 'It's going to be okay. I've got you now.'

He carefully raised her to his soft brown eyes and gently kissed her forehead. They slowly drove home, letting the kind wind brush through her air. He looked down at her with joy in his eyes and gave her a reassuring smile to let her know that everything was going to be okay.

Danika Ataera

HIGHLY COMMENDED, Y7-8

Apii Arorangi, Rarotonga

TAKU TUMU TOA

Taku tumutoa, ko toku papa Rubena. Na wanau iana i te ayo 22 no Me 1942. Na wano iana ki te apii Niua School. I te matawiti 1953 wano atu ai iana ki te apii i Rarotonga kona te toe tikola (scholar) na tuku ina ki te apii. I te matawiti 1959 maka tana apii wano atu iana ulu angaanga, lilo mai ai iana wai kalaka (clerk) no te Aponga uira (power) o Rarotonga I te vaia ia. I muli mai, lilo iana wai kalaka no te Public Service. E wolo tana angaanga I te vaia naai Rarotonga ai iana ia. Na winangalo ina ileila I te vaia ia ke tai kalaka o Wale nei, apalai (apply) I leila iana I te vaa ia peke loa kia ana. Niko mai iana ki wale nei I te matawiti 1971. I te matawiti 1973, akaao atu tana wawine e 8 a laua tama. Kona I leila te tangata tale kako (teller man) I te vaia ia, na loa tana angaanga nga I te kongia ia. Iki ina atu ai iana wai konitala e 30 ona matawiti konitala. Tu mai oki iana wai mayor no wale nei matawiti 1991. E 6 ona matawiti na mayor ai iana no Pukapuka nei. I te matawiti 1997 topa iana mai lunga o te taoanga mayor lilo iana wai tautulu akavanui (GR) I te vaia ia. Te tumutoa ko papa Rubena, Ko ona te JP mua o Pukapuka nei. Na akapine ina iana e te mata o te aliki wawine. E tumutoa maloilo I te wii yanga pau, na yanga o te pae kopapa nei peia kotoa ki te pae vaerua. Na taelia katoa tona 30 matawiti tiakono, I te vaia nei na lilo mai iana wai eleta (elder) no te akonanga CICC. E tumutoa mawutu ma te tautulu katoa I te tangata. Te lolo oki o taku tumutoa nei, na akaaite ina iana pe te computer no te la ko mau iana te wi mea pau. Kona taoanga oki o taku papa nei na lapa loa ena ki lunga o ana mokopuna. I te vaia nei na noo wua iana, koa ye mamao ana yaelenga. Koa 76 ona matawiti I te taime nei. Eye ngalo koe toku matua lelei taku tumutoa I loto o toku ngakau vaia, vaia wua atu. Atawaiwolo te Atua te aloa

Potulin Rubena

YEAR 9

Niua School, Pukapuka

AN HONOURABLE SOLIDER

Facing the enemy, he pointed his rifle. Without hesitation, he ran onto battlefield and fired.

Frank William was born in 1889. He was a soldier for the Cook Islands when WW1 started (World War 1). He started training in New Zealand for the upcoming war. He lived and died for our nation to protect it from harm's way.

Frank William moved to Rarotonga after 4 years in Mauke. His parents moved to Rarotonga to find jobs. He was the only child in his family. Before the age of 25 he marched straight onto the battlefield with his platoon.

He was known for his heroic deeds on the battle field. He saved many lives and also took lives. He was shot multiple times in the chest during the hellfire in the middle of no-man's land. The blood wound was deep which he wouldn't be able to survive.

I chose Frank William because he died with honor and pride. Also because he was from the same island as me and its inspiring to hear that he fought for the nation. His family will always remember him. He fought bravely.

Frank William was an honorable soldier who inspired me with his heroic story of battle. It's an honor to hear that he is related to me, and that he is my great, great uncle. I am proud to know him. To know that someone older than me fought in WW1 is insane.

David Cork

HIGHLY COMMENDED, Y9-10

Titikaveka College, Rarotonga

TOKU TUMUTOA

E tumutoa noku ko toku aka Papa (uncle). Te tumu i riro ei aia ei tumutoa noku, no te mea mei te metua tane rai aia kiaku. Kua riro aia i te ngaki e te utututu i toku oraanga mei toku makeke anga e tae mai ki teia ra.

E tangata maroiroi i te tanutanu, te tautai e te vai atura. Koia te tumu o te ora i roto i to matou ngutuare. Ko tana angaanga mareka roa atu i te rave e tanutanu. E arara matau nana kiaku, "E moni teia angaanga e tanutanu." I te au taime ia matou i raro, e noo ana au ki te pae iaia i te akara i tana au angaanga me rave. Iaku e rave nei i teia, e tamou mai ana au i teia ei meitaki rai noku.

I te au popongi ravarai, e ara vave ana aia. Tu mai aia ki runga, ano ki raro, angai i te puaka e oti akatoro atu i ta matou au puakanio. Me oti tana au angaanga i raro, oki mai aia ki te kainga. No reira, i mua ake ka oki mai ei aia ki te kainga mei raro mai, ka tu mai au ki runga i te anga i tetai ti nana, i te akaari i toku rekareka iaia. Me oti I reira aia i te kaiti, kua ano aia ki te angaanga. E metua tane maroiroi tikai.

I tetai taime me kare aia i raro, tei te pae tai aia raua ko tona taeake tautai ei. Kare ua rai e taime me oki mai aia kare e ika. E inangaro ua ana au i te aru iaia tautai inara, no te nui o toku maki i te pae kopapa nei kare oku ravenga i te ano. Noatu ra te reira, e maata ua atu rai tana au angaanga ka rauka iaku i te rave.

Te maara ua nei rai iaku i toku makekeanga, nana e angai ana iaku ki te au maanga raurau e te ika. E pirianga ketaketa tikai toku kiaia noatu e kare oku pirianga toto kiaia. No teia oki kua matau au i te kai i te au maanga raurau e te ika. Kua akariro aia ia aku ei tamaine nana ma te inangaro tikai. Kua akariro atu i reira au i aia ei metua tane tikai noku no tona meitaki kiaku e pera no tana au angaanga meitaki e rave nei no to matou ngutuare tangata. E tangata mataora aia I tona oraanga e te katakata.

No reira e tauta ua ana au i te akarongo ki tana au akoanga e pera i te tauta i taku apii kia kore tona inangaro iaku e motu.

Emily Upoko

YEAR 10

Apiti Enuamnu, Atiu

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

Oh man, Ina was really in for it now. This was serious. It was so serious that she felt the need to run away. Ina was afraid that her family wouldn't accept her again if they discovered what had happened. So she left her family, left her island and sailed away.

But where would she go? Panic and terror gripped her youthful face. Then she thought of her friend, Tinirau. Ina sailed away to the island Tinirau was located. The two were happy to see each other. Tinirau had always liked Ina from the first time they met. Now she was here with him. He could not believe fate had brought them together. Ina and Tinirau grew closer and closer as the days and months passed by. One day Ina became pregnant and gave birth to a beautiful child. But always, Ina thought of the family she left behind and her heart filled with pain.

Meanwhile, Ina's brother Rupe, had been searching for his beloved sister. He sailed from one island to another, then one day he found Ina. Ina cried when she saw her brother. The love for her family overwhelmed her. Rupe then told Ina of how much her family missed her and that the incident of the family treasures going missing had been forgiven. All her family wanted was to see her again. Rupe sailed back to his home island to retrieve their mother. Ina fell to her knees and cried loudly, she missed them so much. Her family covered her with their love.

The story of Ina is a story of the love within a family. Ina's love for her family could never be broken. This is why she is my hero.

Hannah Hosea

THIRD PLACE, Y9-10

Papaaroa Adventist School, Rarotonga

MY PAPA, JOHN JOSEPH HERRMANN. MY HERO

My papa, John Joseph Herrmann is my hero. He is seventy-two years old, with a long white beard, and is sometimes forgetful. Today he is mama's full time chauffeur and keeps himself busy with family and community commitments.

In June this year, my Papa was awarded a Queen's Award for his services to the Cook Islands in Education and Community. When the Queen's Representative Tom Marsters presented Papa's award, I was amazed to hear of the many achievements of Papa and his services to our people over many years.

While I am proud of my Papa for his Queen's Award, what makes him my hero is some of the following. First, Papa is always encouraging about school work. Almost every day, he asks me if I've been reading, then tells me I have to read, read, and read some more if I want to do well at school. Papa says reading is the key to success and he never gets tired of encouraging us to read and write.

Second, Papa believes in working hard if you want to succeed at school and in life. He has worked hard all his life, and even now, he does chores every day. He always encourages me to do my chores and help others whenever I can. Throughout his life, my Papa has helped many people.

Papa is also my hero because despite all his achievements, he remains humble. He is a softly spoken man most of the time, except when we don't listen. He is also a talented songwriter. One of his favourite things is to play his guitar and sing in the evenings at home. He has composed some well-known songs, such as 'Tuatau' which is still being performed 40 years since he composed the song.

To me, a hero is someone who is encouraging, dedicated to service to others, has humility and is caring. For me, this is my Papa.

Teau Herrmann Tuaiwi

HIGHLY COMMENDED, Y7-8

Apii Nikao, Rarotonga

MY FATHER THE HERO

My father is a tall and healthy man. He likes feeding animals and has two pet birds. He has responsibilities in the village. One of his responsibilities is looking after the chickens and the pigs on the reserve island. He has to make sure to feed them twice a week. He always paddles his canoe there and feeds the chickens.

One beautiful morning, he asked me to go with him to the motu. He took his canoe and we paddled to the motu. Once we got there, we anchored the canoe and he went straight with his knife and bag to get coconuts for the chickens and pigs. I went and fetched water. I was waiting for him but there was no sign of him, so I followed him. I saw him holding a bird with a broken wing. I could see his sad face. He asked me to go and feed the pigs and chickens with the coconut, and he would go and prepare the canoe. So I did what I was told and rushed to the canoe. He paddled hard home.

When we got home, he ran to get his local made oil and massaged the bird with it. My siblings were there and felt sorry for the bird. The bird was still lying on his lap helplessly. So he put it down, and went to cut a small stick and tied it to the broken wing. He put it in a small box and put it in his room. He massaged the bird for three days, three times a day. He never tired of going and fishing for small white bait to feed the bird.

One early morning, I heard him laughing with joy. I ran to his room and saw a bird standing in the box with outstretched wings. I said to him, 'Dad, you saved that bird's life!' He looked at me with a smile, and put the bird on his shoulder, and went outside. He let the bird fly away.

Even today, the bird still comes back to my dad every morning for its white bait fish to eat.

Yes, he is my father and my hero!

Coroner Rubena

HIGHLY COMMENDED, Y9-10

Niua School, Pukapuka

MY HERO, MY DAD

For a start my hero doesn't fly, he doesn't have super strength and he can't read minds. I like to think he does. My hero is my father. I know this sounds cheesy, like what everyone else says, but I am a daddy's girl. Ever since I can remember it has been him and I.

To me my father can fly, because he always does his best to succeed and tries to do everything right.

He has super strength, because he has carried our family through all our rough times and always makes life better.

My Dad can read minds, because he knows what to do when things go wrong and he can see it.

My Dad is not like other people you will meet because other people come and they go, but I know for sure he will always be there. When I was little he would look after me in the day and leave to work at night when I was asleep. Every morning when I woke up he was there, not once having failed me - no matter what I do. Still today I wake up and he is there, when I lay awake at night he watches over me. And since he has put all his effort into making sure I have a life of opportunity, everything I do is for him. To make him proud and I never get tired of it.

Like Ru the explorer, my Dad found us a new home in Rarotonga.

Like Mautara Te Mangaia, a high chief, my Dad tries to find peaceful solutions.

Like Tinirau, the love of Ina, my Dad's love is unconditional.

My Dad doesn't wear a cape, but he will forever be my hero.

I love you Dad!

Manea Ave

FIRST PLACE, Y7-8

Nukutere College, Rarotonga

TUMUTOA NOKA

E tumutoa noku, ko toku metua tane e toku tupuna vaine. Te tumutoa mua, ko taku metua tane. Te tumu i tumutoa ei aia noku, no te mea e tangata tautai moana aia, kua kite aia I te arapo tano no te tautai. E tangata rama ika katoa aia I te po, me tano tai kiaia.

E tangata tanutanu aia mei te taro, pota, e te vai atura te au manga enua tana e tanu ana. E tangata kite katoa aia I te maani i teia vairakau e karanga ia ana e vairakau ati. Me ano aia ki te moana tautai, e tokorua raua, me manuia mai ta raua tautai, kare aia e noinoi I te ika, e tua ana aia na raua ko tona taeake kia aiteite raua.

E tumutoa katoa aia i te opu animara mei te puaka, puakanio, te moa e te vai atura tetai au animara tuketuke tana e opu ana. E metua tane angai animara katoa toku metua tane, meite puaka, moa, e pera te puakanio. E tangata maroiroi aia I te rave i tana tuanga angaanga i roto I te kavamani koia oki te Akava, koia katoa rai tona maroiroi i roto I te ngutuare. E tangata kite katoa aia I te tau manga umu. Me maoa tana umu manga, manea, ka inangaro koe I te kai. E tumutoa katoa aia i roto i teia angaanga e titia e aru ana au iaia. Ko tana titia e eke e pera te ruku paua. E reka ana au I te aru iaia pupui ika. Kare toku metua tane e matakua ana I te mango, no te mea kua matau aia I te kite ua ite mango.

Te rua o toku tumutoa, koia oki ko toku tupuna vaine. E tupuna vaine maroiroi I te akono iaku mei toku pepe mai anga e ranuinui ua mai au i teia ra, e vaine tanutanu tiare katoa aia mei te daisy, tiare maori, oketi, kaute, te tipani e te vai atura te au tiare tana e tanu ana. E aka te au tarenui a toku tupuna vaine, inara ka akakite ua atu e toru. Te mea mua ko te akatangi ukarere, te rua tumu imene i roto I te arepure, tukatau I te araara i mua I te tangata.

E vaine meitaki katoa e te maroiroi i roto i teia angaanga rangaranga apuka e te oini. E vaine ano e te rave I te angaanga evangelia. E tumutoa katoa aia tama are, pua kakau, e te vai atura. E vaine maroiroi katoa aia I te rave i tana angaanga kavamani i roto I te opiti nui ote kavamani. Ko toku ia nga tumutoa kia akarongo mai kotou.

Marc Punua

YEAR 8

Apii Enuamanu, Atiu

MY GRANDFATHER

My hero is my grandfather, Takeremarama Tapoki. I choose my grandfather to be my hero because he was a hardworking husband and father, and successful in life. And he is a good man to his family and friends.

He was born in 1934 and grew up on a small island called Mauke. His intention was to become a police officer. And that's exactly what he did. Most of his primary education was at Mauke school. Later he travelled to Rarotonga to attend Tereora College for further education. Later he joined the police force. From there, he never looked back until he graduated in 1966.

When he finished school, he fell in love with Rima Tapoki and had seven beautiful children. He was a dedicated family man, and a humble and responsible servant in the community.

He was very passionate about his job, until his retirement. Today two of my grandfather's grandchildren are police officers. They wanted to follow in my grandfather's footsteps and continue his legacy.

Apart from being in law enforcement, he was also a skilful fisherman and a planter too. He uses the phases of the moon, and the tides for the best time to fish for certain fish. This also applies to planting. My grandfather believes that following the phases of the moon and tides is a very useful and an important guideline, and you will never go wrong.

My grandmother once told me that my grandfather was a wise man. He saved a lot of coins. In the end, he realised how much money he saved and was able to travel around the world with a group from Mauke.

I admire my grandfather for being a great believer and for his perseverance. He had a goal in life and worked hard to achieve it. I want to be like my grandfather; determined, knowledgeable and successful. My grandfather is my inspiration in life.

Mason Tapoki

THIRD PLACE, Y11-13

Apii Mauke, Mauke

TAKU AITO KUKI AIRANI

Ko toku papa ruau, ko John Joseph Herrmann taku aito Kuki Airani. E itu ngauru ma rua ona mataiti e, e tangata uruuru ta’a teatea e te roaroa. I tetai au taime, manga ngarongaro rai te manako. I teia tuatau nei, koia to toku mama ruau tangata apaipai i a ia ki tera ngai, ki tera ngai. E tangata maroiroi i te utuutu i tona ngutuare tangata, pera te au angaanga ki roto i te oire.

I roto ia Tiunu i teia mataiti 2018, kua akararangi iatu toku papa ruau ki te tapa’o o te Ariki Vaine, no tana au angaanga memeitaki i rave mai ana i roto i te tu’anga o te apii, e to te oire. I te tuatau i oronga ei te mata o te Ariki Vaine i te tapa’o ki toku papa ruau, kua poitirere tikai au i te akarongo anga i te au angaanga memeitaki ta toku papa ruau i rave mai ana i te au tuatau i topa.

Ngakau parau tikai au i te mea e, kua oronga iatu tetai tapa’o o te Ariki Vaine ki toku papa ruau. Ko tetai tumu teia i karanga ei au e, ko toku papa ruau taku aito Kuki Airani: Te mea mua, e akamaroiroi ua mai ana rai a ia iaku kia umuumu pakari au i te rave i te au apii ta te au puupii i akaue mai kia raveia i te ngutuare. Ka ui mai a ia i te au ra ravarai e, me kua tatau puka ana au, e ka akamaroiroi mai iaku kia tatau, tatau, tatau, e kia tatau uatu rai me ka inangaro au kia meitaki toku turanga apii. Karanga mai toku papa ruau e, ko te tatau te taviri e puapinga ia ai koe, e kare rava a ia e akaro’i i te akamaroiroi mai ia matou kia tatau putuputu, pera kia tata.

Te rua, irinaki toku papa ruau e, me angaanga pakari koe, ka puapinga ia koe i taau apii, e i roto i toou oraanga. E tangata maroiroi toku papa ruau i te angaanga i roto i tona oraanga, e tae ua mai ki teia tuatau nei, te angaanga pakari nei rai a ia i te au ra tatataki tai. E akamaroiroi ua mai ana rai a ia iaku kia rave au i taku angaanga i te ngutuare, e me oti, kia tauturu atu i tetai. E manganui uatu rai ta toku papa ruau au tangata e tauturu ana i roto i tona oraanga.

Noatu e, e manganui te au angaanga memeitaki ta toku papa ruau i rave mai ana, e ngakau maru e te akaaka ra tona, e no reira rai au i karanga ai e, koia taku aito Kuki Airani. E tangata reo maru, mari ua, me taringa turi matou. E ta’unga tata imene katoa a ia. Ko tetai angaanga reka rava atu tana e rave ana i te au aiai ravarai koia oki, ko te akatangī i tana kita e te imenemene. E maata tana au imene i ‘atu ana, mei te imene, “Tuatau”. Te imene e te ura ia nei rai teia imene, mei tetai angauru mataiti i teia nei.

I toku manakoanga, ko te aito, e tangata akamaroiroi atu i tetai, e te akaatinga atu anga i tona tuatau no te tauturu atu anga i tetai. E tangata ngakau maru e te aroa. Kiaku, irinaki au e, kua rauka i toku papa ruau teia au mea katoa. Ei taopenga:

“Manganui ratou mei i a koe rai, e tuke ra koe i rotopu ia ratou”

Teau Herrmann Tuaivi

FIRST PLACE, Y7-8

Apii Nikao, Rarotonga

TOKU AITO, JEROME TURA

Kua iki mai au ia Jerome Tura ei aito noku no te mea e tamaiti tueporo a ia, maru, e te mataora.

I toku tamarikianga, e inangaro ana au i te kanga tueporo mei i aia rai. E rekareka ana au i te karokaro i a ia me tuki i te tangata ki raro.

E tauturu ana a ia i aku i te taki i te moina vai o te puakatoro me roiroi au. E apai ana a ia i aku ki Vaitango i te au Tapati katoatoa, mome vai. Me oti ta maua mome vai, ka ano maua takapine i te enua.

Noatu e, e aka mamao to maua mataiti, kare a ia e akaruke ua i aku, no tona au taeake. Ka apai rai a ia i aku. I tetai taime ka varea maua e te moe, me rua arara ua maua.

Ka akaaiteite a ia i ta maua manga me kai. I tetai taime ka oake mai a ia i tana tuanga manga naku me kare toku kopu e ki.

E tamaiti kavekave manako a ia mei i aku rai. Ko tona ngai meitaki ra, e tamaiti maroiroi i te angaanga e te mataora. E tamaiti tumutumu a ia e te taurekareka

Jaidyn Tura

THIRD PLACE, YEAR 9-10

Apii Mauke, Mauke

TUMU TOA MAWUTU

Ko mea mai penei te talatala nei, matua e ola nei tilatila tu ai te tamaliki me ngalo te matua neneva te tamaliki.

Ko taku tumu toa na winangalo ke tala atu au no lunga I toku matua wawine na wanau ina mai au ki te ao nei. E matua wawine wolo ona waiva peia mina ina e te tangata no ona tu lelei, ata waiwai ki te tangata peia mata katakata ki te tangata.

Na wanau ina toku matua wawine nei I lunga o te wenua ko Pukapuka I te matawiti 1962. E 56 ona matawiti I te vaia nei. Na akaipoipo atu ia ana ki tana tane I te matawiti 1998. E 12 te loa I to laua nononga I te olaanga akaipoipo mate atu ai toku matua tane I te matawiti 2012. I te vaia na mate ai to matou matua tane ko toku matua wawine ileila na akonoina matou oko mai wua atu ki te vaia nei. E matua wawine vave I te wii yanga takatoa peia lelei ki te wii tangata takatoa.

Toku matua wawine e wawine tauwaiva I te tipoti, tanutanu, tautai, imene, ata tunu kai peia akono iona matutua takatoa I loto o tona kopu tangata. E wawine mina ina e ona tuakana peia e ona taina ma ona wii matutua no ona tu lelei atawaiwai. E wawine alu i na akauweanga a te oile, tawa peia ki tana ekalesia.

I te matawiti 2005, na wano atu toku matua wawine ki Nutileni ulu puapinga no te ngutuale peia kave I toku tuaine makimaki ulu lavenga no tona makimaki. I te matawiti lai ia ina malama I muli mai na tutaki mai toku matua wawine ia matou ma to matou matua tane ki Nutileni. I te matawiti 2018 na niniko mai matou ki te wenua wanau ma te lelei peia ma te puapinga. Noatu oki na ngalo to matou matua tane ko lelei lai to matou olaanga I te wakayaele a toku matua wawine.

Anthony Piira

THIRD PLACE YEAR 11-13

Niua School, Pukapuka

MY HEROINE

A girl gave birth to her first baby when she was only 16 years old. At that time, it was considered a disgrace to a family when a daughter fell pregnant at such a young age, under 21 years old, here on Atiu.

Instead of taking whatever medicine she was offered to lose the baby, she chose to keep it and took the risk. Of course she had the worst torture of her life, both verbal and physical. The impact left an agonizing scar of shame and hurt in her heart.

The mother had a very rough road. As if she hadn't had enough pain, the man would beat her up so miserably because he was a total drunkard. As for the child, she would hide under her bed when the fight was on. But she was always untouched because her mother protected her. Despite all the misery embedded into her wounded heart, she still managed to put food on the table with her job as a shopkeeper. She spent her spare time educating her daughter, so that she would develop good integrity and not repeat her mistake.

She made a mistake but she did not spend her time regretting, but embraced that mistake into something of her own.

She's my hero, because she proved to be the best mother she could ever be to me. Now, I have three siblings. My mother is now working as Atiu's Tourism Officer. My home has a shine to it because of her positive mind. She not only saved me and loved me but also sacrificed everything to make my life better. Sometimes, you just fall hard to know where you stand firm.

Everyone is a hero in their own imperfect ways. Only a few have the courage to prove it.

Aumai Teiotu

FIRST PLACE, Y9-10

MOANA GEMS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Apui Enuamanu, Atiu

TOKU TUMUTOA

Toku tumutoa ko toku papa e tona ingoa ko Aerenga. E aka te au tumuanga i riro ei aia ei tumutoa noku. Te tumu i riro ei aia ei tumutoa noku no te mea kua akono aia iaku mei toku anau mai anga.

E tamaiti angai au nana kare toku mama e toku papa anau i akono ana iaku. E inangaro toku papa iaku pera tana au tamariki e inangaro ana aia ia matou. Me aru aia i te pairere ki Rarotonga ka oke mai aia i tetai moni naku e pera tetai au pakau taku e inangaro kia apai mai aia.

E papa maroiroi toku i te tanutanu manga mei te taro, pota, vipuaka, motini, meika e te vai atura ei angai i tana au tamariki. E nui tana pae taro i raro enua e kua kainga tetai e te puaka taetaevao. E okooko taro maoa ana aia e pera te pute taro mata kia rauka mai te moni ei oko manga na matou. Ka tiki katoa aia i te manga ki raro enua e ka tunu kia papa ei kai na matou i te au ra ravarai me oki matou ki te kainga no te apii.

E papa maroiroi katoa toku i te angai manu mei te puakanio. E aka tana au puakanio i raro enua inara, kua kainga tetai pae e te puaka. Noatu te reira, kare aia e tuku i te angai puakanio ei kai na matou.

E papa kite toku i te tautai mei te takirikiri marau, moi, ku, tio e te vai atura. Ko tana tautai reka teia i te rave. Me rauka tana ika, ka tunu taakari aia no te mea e reka ana matou i te kai i te ika taakari kinaki ki te taro.

E tangata maru tokua papa, kare aia e kaikava ana e te kai avaava. E papa maroiroi toku i te ano ki te pure. Ka ano ua rai aia ki te pure i te au ra pure katoatoa. E apii mai ana aia ia matou auraka kia kaikava e te kai avaava. Kia aru matou i tana apiiangā e tana e rave nei.

Me rave matou i te tarevake kare aia e riri, kare katoa aia e papa ia matou marira ka apii marie mai aia ia matou i roto i te reo maru. Kare aia e inangaro ana kia aue tana au tamariki marira kia mataora matou. E papa mataora to matou e tamataora mai ana aia ia matou.

E akaroa ana au i toku papa no te nui roa tana angaanga. E tumutoa aia noku no tona tu meitaki, inangaro e te maroiroi. Kare au e inangaro i te akaruke i a ia.

Jomase Touna

YEAR 8

Apii Enuamanu, Atiu

A TRUE COOK ISLANDER

My hero is Sir Albert Henry. I chose him as my hero because he is the bravest man in the political history of the Cook Islands. I also chose Sir Henry as my hero because he is a Maukean man. He is the first Premier, and a great leader in the Cook Islands for a very long time.

Sir Albert Henry was a strong believer; he believed that we in the Cook Islands can rule our own country. He knew we had the brains, skills and the will to do it. He was also a knowledgeable person too. Sir Henry was a strong Cook Islands' Party (CIP) member. He made a wise choice for the benefit of all the people in his country.

Today we are living and celebrating his dreams. Every year on the 4th of August, we remember and celebrate this day when we became self-governing with free association with New Zealand.

Furthermore, we also became New Zealand citizens with a New Zealand passport. We have free entry to New Zealand and Australia to live, work and to attend school.

I am grateful and proud for what he did for me and my country, the Cook Islands. I want to be like Sir Albert Henry, a strong believer and a knowledgeable person. He inspired me to what is right and to have the determination to achieve it.

If it wasn't for my hero, we would be colonised by Britain or France. Our country could be a bomb testing ground, like Mururoa in Tahiti. I think the scariest thing would be, we would have no culture, no identity. This country would not be peaceful. So Sir Albert Henry is a true hero, a true Cook Islander.

Ngatokorua Oti

SECOND PLACE, Y11-13

Apii Mauke, Mauke

TAKU TUMU TOA

Taku tumutoa ko Mataliki no te mea e tangata ia Mataliki tilatilatatu ma te tauwaiva. Ko Mataliki nei na tupu mai ai to tatou wenua ko Pukapuka Te Ulu o te Watu. Ko Pukapuka nei te wenua tuke wua lai tona tupu mainga peia tona wanonga. I te tuatau na tupu mai ai te wenua nei e tayi tangata nai loto o te watu nei na noo ai. Ke ngalepe te watu nei tu mai e tangata manea ma te vave koia oki ko te tupuna o Pukapuka ko Mataliki. E lopa manea, tauwaiva, mawutu ma te lelei.

Ko Mataliki nei kona te tangata mua na noo I lunga o te wenua peia kona katoa te tangata na akakatiliina ia Pukapuka nei. No te malomaloa I tona olaanga I lunga o te wenua no te la kona wua tokotayi manatu loa iana ka wano uluulu kina toe wenua. Na maua mai te tiniu a Mataliki mai Tongaleleva ko Malike I te vaia nei. E lua a laua tama na wanau ko te tuatau tenei na akakatili ina ai ia Wale nei ki te tangata. Tuketuke te akanononga a Mataliki ina yanga I lunga o te wenua. E tangata mawutu ia Mataliki, peia na apii iana I lua ana tama.

E wolo na yanga ma na mawutu o Mataliki na maka mai kiana tama peia ki te wenua takatoa oko wua mai ki te vaia nei. Ko lilo ia Mataliki nei wai manatunga maku I te tuatau na tupu mai ai te wenua peia na yanga tupuna oko mai wua atu ki te taime nei ko vai lai na yanga ia ko ye ngalo.

Na lilo katoa iana wai tumutoa puapinga ki te iti tangata Pukapuka enei e yayaki ai I tona ingoa I te wii vaia takatoa mai lunga o te wenua wanau oko wua atu ki na atuyiva.

Tango Juliet Ravarua

YEAR 10

Niua School, Pukapuka

MY NEIGHBOURHOOD HERO

Hero is a word that sends visions of capes, superpowers and out-of-this-world beings through our minds. Or perhaps a hero is a person who risks their own life for the sake of others, by leaping into burning buildings to save trapped souls, risking life and limb to help those less fortunate than themselves.

However, have you ever considered that there are heroes among us? Heroes don't need a cape or hammers forged by the gods. Heroes that do not need a dangerous event to display the superman qualities we admire. Average men and women who do extraordinary things. Acts of service that elevate them to hero-like status, in my eyes at least.

Our neighbour, Ma, is an ordinary man if compared to the likes of Batman or Thor. Your average Joe, when compared to Martin Luther King. But the qualities he has shown truly make him a modern day hero. Ma showed selflessness by coming over and mowing our lawn a few times or by giving me a lift to school without expecting anything in return, without even asking. It was a real act of kindness that touched my heart.

He has shown caring and compassion by asking if I'm okay when I look down. He has the patience to listen to my responses and really shows an interest in what I have to say, a rare quality in people today who rush through formalities without actually listening to the responses that have become a conditioned reflex. He is polite and always greets me, shows kindness and is just generally a nice guy.

I am honoured to know this gentleman, my neighbourhood hero.

Ethan-Caleb Dixon

SECOND PLACE, Y9-10

Nukutere College, Rarotonga

TOKU TUMUTOA

E tumutoa noku ko toku metua tane. Te tumu i iki ei au i toku metua tane ei tumutoa noku no te mea kua riro aia ite utuutu e te tauturu iaku no runga i taku apii e te vai atura. Kia tae mai ki tetai tuatau kua roko ia toku metua tane e te maki kua riro te reira tuatau e maki ra toku metua tane ei manamanata ki roto i to matou ngutuare. Inara kua tae kite tuatau e kare e rauka iaia i te akakoromaki i tona maki e kare rai e rauka i te neti i runga nei i te enua i te rapakau i te maki o toku metua tane, kua rere atu matou ki nutireni i roto i te aremaki note karokaro anga e me ka rauka i te rapakau i tona maki. E metua tane inangaro ia e matou pera te iti tangata o Enuamanu penei no tona tu katakata, maru e te inangaro i te iti tangata. E metua tane tei riro ei tumutoa i roto i te au ngaru e popoki i te tuatau meitaki e pera te tuatau kino, kua riro ra te taunga maata i Giliada ei akamama i te reira au koatiati anga kopapa. E tumutoa i te ara tiroa, e pera ki te ara tipapa. E metua tane noku kare e roiroi i te ngaki ia matou tana au anau. Kia tae ki tona tuatau e maki kua noo matou ki te enua Nutireni taena e tai marama te roa. Kare i roa kua akakite mai te taote e kua meitaki tona au maki kua riro te reira tuatau ei mataora kia matou tana au anau. Kia meitaki tona au maki kua tae te tuatau e ka oki matou ki to matou enua anau anga. Ia matou e oki mai nei ki te enua anau kua ki ia mataora e' kua meitaki te maki o toku metua tane. E metua tane akono ia matou mei to matou makeke anga e tae mai matou ki teia tuata noatu to matou tu akateitei ka inangaro rai aia ia matou. Kua iki au i toku metua tane ei tumutoa noku note mea kua oro aia i te tai oro anga meitaki i roto i to matou ngutuare e pera kua riro aia ei tauturu i te iti tangata o Enuamanu. E metua e ora nei tiratira tu ei te oranga ote tamariki. Kua riro toku metua tane ei tumutoa noku. Ei taopenga i taku tua te karanga nei te tangianga o teia irava "e tamaiti kite ra e rekareka anga ia na tona metua tane kareka te tamaiti neneva ra e aue anga na tona metua vaine".

March Porio

YEAR 10

Aprii Enuamanu, Atui

TREASURE

It was a dark, stormy day. Thunder roared, and lightning flashed. Everyone was home, wrapped up warm. Everyone but me.

I walked in the icy cold rain to the bridge by our house to see what wonders I might find. I knew rain often brought treasure. Brown muddy water was flowing over the bridge. I thought to myself, I should go back, but I didn't. It would've been a waste of time getting soaked and chilled to the bone coming here, just to go back.

I searched for treasure in the murky water and saw something silver and sparkly glistening on a branch stuck on the bridge. It was just out of reach, so I edged closer until I had it in my hands. Before I could see what it was I was swept off the bridge into the raging river.

I screamed hoping that someone would hear me, but my screams were muffled by the thunderous sound of the roaring river that threatened to gobble me up. With each breath I took I wondered if I was going to survive.

I clung on to a vine hoping that someone would come find me. Someone did, it was Mama! She was driving up our road and heard my cries.

Using a long wooden pole from the back of her truck she pulled me up. So relieved that I was safe in her arms, I told her what happened. She growled at me harshly for being on the bridge, but I didn't mind. She saved me! Always loving and caring, Mama is my hero.

I remembered the shiny silver thing. Miraculously I still had it. I looked at it, it was a packet of Twisties! I thought angrily to myself, my gosh all this trouble for a packet of Twisties!!

Maiata-Mahana Newnham

SECOND PLACE, Y7-8

Apii Avarua, Rarotonga

TOKU TUMUTOA

E tumutoa noku ko toku nga tupuna, toku tupuna vaine e pera toku tupuna tane, i na ra ka na mua au i te iriiri atu no runga i toku tupuna tane. E tumutoa noku ko toku Tupuna Tane, tei noo ki runga i te enua ko Enuamanu, tei pareia ki te pare korona o Ngati-Paerangi mei po kerekere mai. E metua tane maroiroi i te ngakianga i tana anau e pera tona ngutuare tangata. Kua riro teia tupuna tane i te utuutu i aku mei toku anau anga mai ki teia nei ao e tae ua mai ki teia ra. I toku tupuanga i te pae i toku tupuna tane toku kite anga i tona tu maroiroi e te meitaki e tae ua mai ki teia ra nei. E tupuna tane maroiroi i te aere ki raro enua i te tanu i te au kai ei kai na matou. E riro ana teia au kai tanutanu na toku tupuna tane ei kai na matou me ngere matou i te kai. Kua apii katoa mai teia tupuna tane i aku i te tanu kai ei meitaki rai noku e pera i te tauturu i aku i te au ra te ka aereia e au. E tupuna tane maroiroi katoa i te aere ki te pure e pera i te umuumu i aku kia aere au ki te pure i te au pure popongi, pure avatea e pera i te pure aiai i te au Tapati. E akamaroiroi katoa ana a ia i aku i taku apii. Kua noo teia tumutoa tane noku ki tetai tumutoa vaine tei riro ei metua vaine katoa noku. E tupuna vaine maroiroi katoa i te akono i aku. Kua apii mai teia tupuna vaine i tetai apiianganga meitaki tei tau kia rave au, e tumutoa vaine maroiroi i te tunu manga, te tama are, te pu'a kakau, te akono i aku me rok ia au e te maki. Te tauturu e te umuumu anga i aku kia meitaki au i taku apii ete vai atura. Kua ngaki e kua akono meitaki toku nga tupuna i aku. Kua akaperepere katoa raua i aku mei te mea atu rai e e tamaine tikai au na raua. Kua arataki raua i aku na te aranui tei tau kia aru au. Ka mou mai raua i aku me inga au, e pukuatu maroiroi raua noku mei toku tupuanga mai. Kua riro toku nei tupuanga ei maaraaraanga naku ia raua i te au ra. kua angai e kua tauturu katoa mai raua i aku noatu toku taringaturi ia raua. E nga tumutoa inangaroia e au i te po e te ao. Te karanga nei oki teia araara e "metua e ora nei tiratiratu ei te tamariki, me ngaro ake te metua auouo aere te tamariki"

Jacqueline Boaza

HIGHLY COMMENDED YEAR 9-10

Apii Enuamanu, Atiu

MY HERO, MY FATHER

A wild man. Fearless, strong and clever. He keeps his legs moving, his mind open and his family safe.

My father has been a shotcreter for 17 years, helping people build their dream houses and pools. He has been a sportsman for the whole of his 51 years, and a teacher for the whole of my life.

Donald Poaru Tua was born October 17 1966. When he was a young boy he dropped out of school to help his parents. He didn't learn much then; his life was hard but he always made most of it. He taught himself how to read and write properly. He taught himself about the plants and nature around him.

He never made it in athletics, so to gain speed he ran up and down a hill near his home, chasing after his dogs and little piglets. He was very fast, like a cheetah. He was a very good sportsman, and is very well known in playing rugby league.

He's an animal lover. He spent so much time with his chickens, goats, pigs, horses, dogs, cats and birds in his own wild jungle.

He is my hero because he never relied on his parents and teachers to look after him. He always has courage in himself. He taught himself everything he needed to know, he even teaches me everything he knows. He is the best teacher/sportsman/wild man/hero, and best father ever.

His phrase to me... 'Stop dreaming. Get up and make them come true.'

Baila Moana Tua

YEAR 9

Titikaveka College, Rarotonga

TOKU TUMUTOA

E tumutoa toku papa ruau ko Papa Moe Akai tona ingoa. E 86 ona Mataiti. Te tumu iki ei au iaia e ko toku tumutoa no te mea ka akaara ua rai aia iaku i te au popongi apii katoatoa. Ka inangaro aia kia tu popongi matou no te apii, akateateamamao ia matou e ta matou manga apii i mua ake ka ano ei ki te apii. I te au popongi katoatoa ka rave aia i to matou pure ngutuare i mua ake ka ano ei matou ki te apii. E apii mai ana aia ia matou kia pure I te au popongi katoatoa e kia irinaki I te Atua. Me popongi apii ka akaunga aia i to matou mama kia ano tiki manga apii na matou. Ka oke aia i te moni i tetai taime ei oko manga apii me kare ra ka kaiou na toku papa ruau e ka tutaki aia me moni aia.

E akaroa ana au i toku papa ruau no te mea kua tuapuku tana aere i teia taime. E tangata maroiroi i te akono pure e te irinaki ki te Atua. Me ano aia ki roto i te are pure ka mou mai aia ki runga iaku i te tauturu iaia me aere no te mea kare aia e inangaro i te mou tokotoko. E tangata tamou irava aia, ka mou iaia te au irava tukeke. Ka tataua rai aia i tana Bibilia i te au popongi katoatoa.

E papa ruau maroiroi toku i te tanu taro i te taime mua inara, kare e rauka akaou tana pae taro i te tanu. E tunu varaoa ana toku mama, ka riro na oku papa ruau e vavai i te vaie no te varaoa. E tanu ana aia i te au manga tuketuke mei te kumara, mereni, tomato, koni e te vai atura. E tua ana aia i tana manga tanutunu na te orometua e tetai au ngutuare.

E papa ruau meitaki toku ka inangaro aia kia mataora matou I te kainga. E inangaro ana aia ia matou tana au mokopuna. E inangaro ana au iaia no te mea koia te papa ruau meitaki roa atu. Kare au e inangaro i te akaruke i toku papa ruau.

Lopez Samuel

YEAR 8

Apui Enuamanu, Atiu

TIARI AND THE TREES

It was a bright summer's day, when a little girl named Tiari was strolling through the long grass. She lived on the island of Rarotonga, in a small village with little wooden huts and neat kikau-covered rooves. In the village was a place where the villagers loved to meet and sit down under the shade of the massive, old trees, the guardians of the land. Their long arms stretching out like a huge shade cover; great for hot days. Their strong roots held together the land, preventing mud from washing into the lagoon.

Tiari wasn't a normal girl, she had the ability to empathise with trees and feel what they felt. They were her friends. One day, she hurried down to her favourite spot, at the base of a tall beautiful, flame tree. But she spotted something. A vine had grown throughout the trees! Its long, green body slithering through its canopy, suffocating it. The trees once strong branches were now drooping down, bruised and in pain.

Luckily, Tiari knew what to do and she was the only one who could stop it, so she sprang into action. She ventured further into the forest, quickly noticing the noxious creature, twisting and turning, strangling the poor trees. Nothing stopping it in its path. Tiari didn't see any other way except to pull the vicious vine out of the trees. So she began, working days, even weeks on end. The power of empathy fed her determination. At last she found the root of the vine at the bottom of a bulky, chestnut tree and got rid of that too. She then piled it all up and started a fire. The dangerous villain disappeared.

Tiari and the villagers enjoyed a happy life under the relaxing shade of the trees.

Grace Milanovic

YEAR 8

Apii Avarua, Rarotonga

MY HERO, TUIVA

I have chosen Tuiva as my hero, because he was a legendary, mighty warrior.

Tuiva lived on an island called Te Ulu O te Watu, which is another name for Pukapuka. Tuiva was a helpful, kind and humble warrior, and also an unbeatable warrior. Many centuries ago, Tuiva was a smart and brave hero. He was the hero of Pukapuka. He was a great hero, because he helped to prevent people from dying of starvation by gathering food for them to be shared out equally. This is a quality that I really admire, because it portrays his generous and caring nature.

Tuiva was not a super hero. He had no super powers; nor did he wear a Halloween costume. Tuiva was only an ordinary warrior who used his strength to help and save people. Tuiva did many good things. He protected people from being massacred by wicked marauding warriors from other neighbouring islands. He also saved lives from the dead, by praying to god, and the people he saved came back to life. Tuiva also helped people to build their houses, and he helped women clean their taro patches.

That's why I decided to choose him as my hero, because of his helpful and trustworthy nature, and because of the positive role model he represents.

One day the village of Yato decided to send Tuiva far away from Pukapuka. There is a reason why they sent him away. It is because he was a powerful warrior. They thought Tuiva would kill them all, so they sent him to a far distant shore. However, Tuiva was not evil. He had a kind and unassuming heart. By the time he became the hero of Pukapuka, he had many enemies. I really wish he would still be alive and have me by his side. Tuiva my one and only hero.

Kenny Tukia

YEAR 10

Niua School, Pukapuka

MATE KI TAWHITI O TE ATARUA

My great, great, great grandma lived to 81 years old. She grew her own veges and fruits. She was fabulous for making rewana bread. But that's not all. She was a heroic woman who looked after her 15 kids, and a strong, fearless lady who I was named after.

She had a tough life. The skill of cooking took her to the army for two years making sure each person would eat, and be ready for war. By her side was her truthful husband. They met in the army and they fell in love. Shortly after, they had their first child. But with sadness her second child died as a baby, and her 8th child also died as a kid because he refused to eat food. She was abused a lot because she could not speak English, only Maori, when she was in New Zealand. Her husband often had to save her.

Sadly, my great, great, great grandma passed away with cancer and diabetes. She died in 1995. Her 6th child, Te Atairehia Rapana looked after the house and made rewana bread to remind her of their mother. She also grew veges everyday like her mother, and made sure they were fresh, clean and ready to eat.

I wish I could see my great, great, great grandma today. I chose her because she was a lady who went through a hard life with five kids. She had to make sure every child ate and drank a lot.

She is my hero because of the way she looked after her family. We have so much in common. I look after my family as she did, and I make breakfast and make sure my family eat and drink like she did. I hope to be as powerful, courageous and caring as she was.

Te Atarua Raina

YEAR 7

Apii Arorangi, Rarotonga

INSPIRATIONAL

I like this person because he was considered as a brilliant mind. He enjoyed studying about the universe, space and stars, just as I do. Best of all, he was a Cook Islander who lived down the road from my house.

I personally have never met my hero. Sadly, he passed on in 2007, and I was born in 2005. His goals and achievements inspire me to be just like him. My mum told me a story once that as a voyager, he sailed himself to Harvard University in Boston to study a doctorate. Sometime later he helped form our Cook Islands' health system and hospital. I like that my hero didn't limit himself to just one of his dreams. He tried his very best and ended up being a very important man in society. I'm not definite on what I want to be when I grow up, but this is a perfect reminder to love my variety of options. I find this encouraging so that when I do get older I will not only give my dreams a shot, but to hopefully score!

The most exciting part of his career that I enjoyed was when he worked for NASA (the National Aeronautics and Space Administration). At NASA he led the project called 'Monkeys in Space'. He saved a test monkey's life by giving it mouth to mouth, CPR! This was in the 60's. They did unusual things back then. I know I would freak out if I had to do that.

No surprise, after all of this, he went on to become the Cook Islands' Prime Minister... twice. This man inspires me so much because he started out as one of my neighbors. His courage allowed him to do so many amazing things. I hope someday to have as much courage as he did. I definitely want to thank Papa Tom Davis for being my inspirational hero.

Mia Matapuku

YEAR 8

Apii Nikao, Rarotonga

MORE THAN JUST A MAN

'E ma! Kia Orana,' Matou yelled.

This man Matou was a very kind and commendable, selfless man. He lived on Rarotonga as a normal person, but all that was about to change.

Matou ran to the market with his bananas in his big, brown basket. He gave his mother the biggest grin. His mother smiled a giant smile back at him. When they got home Matou ran inside with happiness, eager to see his children. Later on that day Matou heard a knock on the front door. Outside stood a tall man with a little appealing piece of paper. His mother glared at it, and cried in horror. Matou's wife ran outside to see what was wrong. Matou walked to the man holding the paper knowing whatever was in the man's hands must be trouble.

Matou stretched his arm out gripping that fearful piece of paper. He read it, then suddenly he felt a shiver down his spine. He fell to his knees now knowing what it meant. His happy smile faded away into a sad pout. He had been drafted for war.

Then the darkest day came when he had to say goodbye to his family. He promised not to look back. He did not know if he would be coming home. He travelled far, then suddenly he was in France fighting for his country, charging towards a gruesome battle, not really understanding the meaning of war. With no clean water or food, he got a very revolting sickness. And after months on end, he sadly died. Matou was a very courageous and brave man. He was very young when he went to war. I never got to meet him, but one day I hope I do.

Matou was my great-great grandfather, and somehow there is an astonishing way I can imagine him, just by repeating this quote over and over. 'The lord is my helper What can men do to me.' Amen.

Niki Smith

YEAR 7

Apii Arorangi, Rarotonga

TAKU TUMU TOA

Taku tumutoa no lunga i toku papa Manila Matenga. E tangata tauwaiva, lelei peia ma te akono tamaliki. E papa tauwaiva i te tipoti, yiika peia e tangata kona ko tamataola ina te wii tangata e lomamai mai na wenua peia ki te kakai takatoa i lunga o te wenua.

Na wanau ina toku papa i loto o Mati 1958. Na akaipoipo atu iana ki tana wawine i te matawiti 1975 e 9 a laua tama. E papa tauwaiva peia tu lelei ki te tangata tautulu katoa i te wii tangata. E 25 matawiti o toku papa na akamata ai iana i te angaanga Konitala. Na loa iana i te noonga i te taoanga nei e Konitala no te oile Yato. Iana na angaanga konitala ai e yii ona toe taoanga na lave. E tautulu mayor, e teketele no te alonga mana. E tangata wolo tona taoanga i lunga o te wenua. E tiakono katoa iana no te ekalesia CICC o Pukapuka. Na loa tana noonga i lunga i te taoanga tiakono nei. E tangata akano ina akauweanga I loto o te evangelia peia ki na angaanga a te oile. E tangata katoa iana tautulu I tona oile peia lave ina angaanga.

I te matawiti 2015 na iki ina iana e te ekalesia CICC wai tautulu wolomatua. Kona te tautulu wolomatu I te vaia nei. E papa mina apii iana tama ke lilo mai wai tamaliki lelei no na vaia ki mua.

I te matawiti 2017 na maua tona pine MB na akapine ina iana e te mata o te Ariki wawine ko Tom Marsters I te ayo 22 no Aukute. E papa aloa koi te tangata wua peia ma te tauvalovalalo. Ko toku papa ko mina iana iana wii tamaliki peia ana mokopuna.

E papa vave peia ko maua iana e te akayako ina takayala o ana tama ma te apii ia latou. Na lilo toku papa nei wai onoononga naku no na ayo la mua nei.

Lucy Ruarau

YEAR 9

Niua School, Pukapuka

MY HERO, PAA TEURUA

Paa Teurua is my hero because he has helped people all his life, without expecting any payment. He is amazing with plants and natural medicines. I love that he has kept 68 generations of healers alive. It is so cool that he has been able to do what he loves and make money out of it. Paa is an amazing guy. He has a gift for natural medicines and can fix almost anyone, physically, mentally and spiritually. He didn't go to school, instead he studied plants and natural medicines.

Paa is inspiring to me. Paa learned about the healing power of plants when he was to pick and prepare plants for his grandmother, a traditional healer who accepted cans of corned beef or bread as payment, but never money. She belonged to the 68th generation of healers. She never taught Paa how to make medicines, but through her he saw for himself that natural healing worked. Instead of going to school, he collected plants.

Paa is well known on Rarotonga. People come from many different countries to meet Paa and to learn from him. Paa is quite a character and is a great role model for everyone. He is also an excellent ambassador for the Cook Islands.

When I was just a baby, my family all got sick with dengue fever. I was very ill with pneumonia so my parents went to Paa for help. Paa gave them medicines made from plants which helped me recover. Paa is my hero.

Morgan John

YEAR 7

Nukutere College, Rarotonga

E TUMUTOA NOKU

E tumutoa noku ko toku metua vaine, te tumu i tumutoa ei aia noku no te mea, kua anau mai aia iaku ei purotu manea i roto i teiane ai. Kua apai iaku i roto i tona kopu e iva Marama. Kua anau aia iaku i te ra taingauru ma toru o Aukute mataiti rua tauatini e rima.

Te maara nei rai iaku i tei tupu kiaku i toku makeke anga. Kua ano mai tetai nga tangata i te pati iaku inara, kare roa toku metua vaine i akatika ana iaku kia apainaia e raua. Kua pati mai raua e, me ka tika kia akono raua iaku, pera kia apai raua iaku ei tamaine na raua, kare rai toku metua vaine i tuku ana iaku.

I roto i teia ra, e akamaroiroi ana toku metua vaine iaku kia ano au kite pure i te au ra katoatoa, e kua rave au i tana i akaue mai kiaku. I roto i teia tuatau, e ano ua ana au ki te pure i te au popongi katoatoa. I roto i te apii Enuamanu, ko au tetai tamaine i ikiia ei mema Konitara (Councilor) i te tauturu anga i te au puapii i te tiaki anga i te tamariki i te apii.

I teia mataiti i topa akenei ki muri, kua tapuru ia atu toku metua vaine ki roto i te are maki i Rarotonga no te mea, kua ati tona vavia, ko te ngai o te turi kare raoki aia i manako ana e ku ati. E rima ora i toku metua vaine ki roto i te ngai vava'i anga. Kua puta rava te mamae ki roto i toku ngakau no te mea, i taua ra, kare au i kite e kua ano atu toku metua vaine ki runga i te are maki. Kua tae toku vai mata i te kite anga i toku metua vaine i runga i tona roi maki no te mea, kare au i runga i te are maki i te taime i ano atu ei aia ki roto i te ngai vava'i anga. Kua tauta aia kia rapakau te au taote pera te au neti i tona vavia kia meitaki. Kua ano atu i reira aia ki roto i te ngai vava'i anga.

Ko toku metua vaine koia te tangata puapinga roa atu i roto i toku ngakau. Noatu toku taringa turi ki toku metua vaine, kare roa tona inangaro iaku e ngaro ke.

Kare au e inangaro kia ngaro vave toku metua vaine no te mea kare atu e mama ke e kite i te inangaro ia matou. Ko toku metua vaine te puera tiare o toku ngakau e koia anake ua.

Berlina George

YEAR 8

Apii Enuamanu, Atiu

MY COOK ISLANDS' HERO

Dear great, great, grand-father Teura Fa'atau Lucky Mave

My name is Nau. We have not met, but I feel that I already know you. I have been told that you were only 14 years old when you moved to Rarotonga, in the Cook Islands from Huahine, Tahiti. You were so young and brave, and I can't think of how you must have felt travelling so far on a boat. You coped with change and this makes you my hero.

I also know that you were 18 years old when you joined the Cook Islands' Battalion in the New Zealand Army. It is amazing to know that my great, great, grand-father was in the army fighting for my freedom. You were fearless and strong, and it makes me proud to know that you fought for our country.

From all the stories I hear from my mum, I think you were a hard-working man. A father to 16 children, planting crops and fishing to feed your family. You made sure they were well fed and happy. You provided for your family and gave them the best in life. When I grow up and become a father one day, I hope to be hard working and loving like you.

It is now 2018 and so much has changed since you were alive. I heard that in your time there were not many vehicles on Rarotonga. You would be surprised to see all the traffic. I sometimes think how interesting it would be to talk with you and learn more about your time and your life.

I am so proud to be your great, great grand-son. The life you had sounds very interesting and what you have done for your country, your family makes you my perfect hero.

Yours Sincerely,

Nau Iona

YEAR 7

Nukutere College, Rarotonga

TOKU METUA TANE METUA VAINĒ INANGARO IA E AU

E tumutoa noku ko Tuainekore Samuel. Te tumu i tumutoa ei a ia noku no te mea ko ia te metua tane i tauturu mai ia matou i ta matou angaanga tunu varaoa. E metua tane inangaroia e tana au tamariki e tana au are mokopuna e metua tane peapa teitei, e kua riro mai a ia e konitara no te oire Areora e te angaanga nei a ia ki ko i te Infrastructure. E metua tane rekaia e tona oire tangata Areora. I te taime e mapu ra a ia, e inuina ana a ia, te kite anga a ia i te inangaro o tona ngutuare tangata kua akaoti a ia i te inuina. E metua tane reka i te tatau pipiria e te akamaroiroi i tana au tamariki i te apii e te apii pipiria. E metua tane reka i te tautai, me ano nake a ia na runga i tona poti tautai e apai ana a ia i tana nga tamaroa koia a Lopez e Kerekere. E metua tane maroiroi e metua tane angaanga pakari. E metua tane ano ki te pure, e metua tane inangaroia e au, kare roa e rauka i aku i te akakoromaki me ngaro koe i te pae i aku.

E tumutoa noku ko Tumoe Akai. Te tumu i tumutoa ei a ia noku no te mea ko ia te metua vainē tei anau mai i aku e te metua vainē i akono mai i aku. I angai mai i aku e tae ua mai ki teia tuatau. E metua vainē inangaroia e au e pera tana au tamariki. Tana angaanga e rave ana e tunu varaoa, e metua vainē maroiroi i te ano ki te pure e te angaanga. E metua vainē tauta i tana au tamariki i te ano ki te pure e te tauta ia matou ki ano ki te apii. E metua vainē reka ana i te tama are pure e te akamanea tiare i roto i te are pure. Me akamanea aia i te tiare i roto i te are pure manea tikai te reira, e mataora ana te au mama i te kite i tona karape i te akamanea tiare. E metua vainē pua kakau, tama i te are, tunu manga na te ngutuare tangata, te paraku tita e te vai atura. Noatu toku taringa turi kare roa te inangaro o te metua vainē e ngaro. E metua vainē kare roa e ngaro mei roto mai i toku ngakau. Ko teia te tumu i tumutoa ei raua noku me ngaro ake raua i te pae iaku kare roa toku vai mata e ngaro. E aka inangaro toku ia raua.

Jorayna Samuel

YEAR 8

Apī Enuamanu, Atiu

MY GREAT GRANDPA

My great grandpa Taringa Tamaka was a true hero in the olden days.

Once upon a time on the little island of Mauke lived a handsome man called Taringa Tamaka. One day a boat arrived to bring the island cargoe. My great grandpa was working unloading cargo from the boat. Suddenly the beam of the boat fell down on a man called Mareko standing on the boat. He fell in to the sea. My great grandpa jumped into the sea. He dived deep down to Mareko's body and rescued him.

At the same time, the sharks were coming, because Mareko was wounded. But my great grandfather was brave. He swam with Mareko to the nearest reef. Mareko was taken to the hospital. His wounds were treated until he was good to return to Rarotonga. A while later, after the accident, my great grandpa received a message from the government that he was to receive the Life Saving Medal for rescuing Mareko.

My great grandpa was awarded this medal. He was the first man to receive such an honour. My great grandpa drinks. He always drinks with his friends. One day while he was drinking with his friends one of them composed this lyric;

*I lift my glass
Your life saving
Medal glistens
My brother
Taringa Tamaka*

Today I hear my grandfather and dad singing this lyric, when they are drinking. I feel proud and remember my great grandpa.

Teakataurira Tamaka

THIRD PLACE, YEAR 7-8

Apii Mauke, Mauke

MY STRONG AND HARDWORKING GRANDFATHER

My grandfather is a man like no other. He is strong, healthy and hardworking. I look up to him because he has taught me a lot. I am truly lucky to have a grandfather that cares for me. I've learned a lot from him. Although he's old, his mind is still young and still working hard. He's an early bird person that always thinks of his animals, his plantation and work that needs to be done. Whether working on plantation or it could be fishing in the sea, I love every moment of it.

I have chosen this person because he has always cared for me. He is also the person who looks after me on Mondays and Thursdays. My grandfather loved sports. Sports such as soccer, rugby and cricket. He is skinny, just as a stick, and he is very healthy. Sometimes when there is no food or he can't afford any, he catches and kills a chicken, and he cleans it. Sometimes my cousins, my brother and I don't like eating it, because he doesn't clean it properly. There could either be left over poo or some hairs on the chicken's skin. My grandfather is also brave. Sometimes he kills the chicken with the gun or uses a trap with coconut inside. He catches more chicken in the trap, then using the gun.

My grandfather is not that smart, but creative. He creates things using dumps on the side of the road, or things that are old in their house. It is cool when you see him do it, as if it's easy, but it's not. When he feeds the pigs he doesn't just feed them, he talks to them like his children. He is so pure hearted and never gives up on something that involves work.

I love every bit of him because he also showed a good example to all my relatives and siblings. In fact, my grandfather is a great man. He believes in everything he does. He has no care for big things, like sores and cuts, he just doesn't care. He is hardworking and loves sport and nothing can change how brave he is. My grandfather.

Victoria Fatiaki

YEAR 8

Apii Arorangi, Rarotonga

REFLECTION

Out of all the people who support me, I chose her to be my hero, my role model. But like any ordinary person she has goals to achieve. She supports me a lot. That doesn't mean no one else supports me. My family and friends are huge supporters. I guess I chose her. I don't have to tell her why I'm scared, happy or sad. At the times I want to be comforted, she knows exactly how to comfort me.

My role model is funny, smart, responsible and kind. My hero listens a lot. Well sometimes she listens but sometimes she doesn't. She is extremely playful. Especially with her friends. Sometimes they tell each other funny moments in their lives or they just talk a lot. That gets them into a lot of trouble. That's not why she is my hero or my role model. She is my role model because she makes me realise that perfection isn't bought at the store, nor is it handed to you. Her qualities have some good and some bad. Still she strives for excellence.

My hero might not be good in sports like everyone else. I think she is extremely good in netball. She could even be the best. I have now realized how hard she tries to be good at things she is not good at. She is very good at singing, dancing and speaking confidently. My hero is like any other hero. But specifically Batman, although she isn't a guy. Anyway I say she's like Batman because he is an ordinary person that makes himself extraordinary. Everyone has a hero in them that makes them who they are.

I am my own hero.

'Don't look any further than your own reflection for a hero'.

Tipoki-Tei Puna

YEAR 8

Apii Nikao, Rarotonga

TAKU TUMU TOA KO WATUMANAVANUI

Ko Watumanavanui e toa iana ko tuke wua I te wii toa o Wale nei. E toa iana vave peia tautulu ulu lavenga ke lelei te olaanga o tona iti tangata. E toa yakili kai ia Watumanavanui no tona iti tangata. I te vaia ia, I lunga o te Motu ko Ko tona ingoa e tayi iti tangata na nono I lunga. Ko te iti tangata nei na lomamai latou mai te atuyiva enei ko Watumanavanui to latou tiaki. Ko ta latou angaanga na kape latou ina uwi I Ko. Kiai te wenua na kite e tayi pupu tangata ko nono I lunga o Ko. No te mawutu o Watumanavanui na peia ai. Ko te ingoa o te iti tangata nei koia oki ko te Tini o Yayake.

Ko Watumanavanui ko tana angaanga e yakili ika I te moana. Kona wua te toa ko tuke ko pepeke te manu ulu kai. E toa katoa iana ata kowikowi I tona iti tangata nei keye mamaki peia keye o ki te manamanata ina vaia kino. Na nono ia Watumanavanui nei ma tona iti tangata I te keonga I Ko I te kongā ei kiai ai te kongā payilele. Ko te toa nei ko mina ina e tona iti tangata peia ko ilinaki ina iana no ona tu lelei kia latou.

I na vaia I muli mai na iloa e te wenua e tai toe iti tangata ko nono I lunga o te motu. Winangalo loa te wenua ke patu I te pupu tangata nei. Na akalongo katoa latou e tai tangata ko tuke wua ia latou nei ko maua e te pepeke pe te manu. Na mate ia Watumanavanui I te vaia na patu ina ai tona iti tangata e lua toa. Na velo ina tona ponapona vae ki te tao.

KA UWI TATAOU E WEA TE TUMU E PEPEKE AI TE TOA NEI? ko te tumu na pepeke ai te toa nei e valu ona watumanava no kiai tona ingoa na tauvalo ina ai ko Watumanavanui.

Rimakatau Ruarau

SECOND PLACE YEAR 9-10

Niua School, Pukapuka

PAPEHIA

Centuries ago, on the island of Rarotonga, chiefs lived fiercely, fighting against each other. A paradise, without love or peace. People lived wildly on mountains because they were afraid. All day, every day, families suffered in darkness, knowing it would never end. Or would it?

Out in the deadliest oceans, in the mountains of waves, a ship of very little men wrestled the launching waters towards our island. A pack of wind charged toward the ship, hacking at the sails. Clouds angrily twirled, covering the bright smiles of the sun. Finally, after a hard day of work, the crew could rest.

On this ship was a truthful man named Papehia. He was a faithful missionary. As he set foot on the shores of Rarotonga, he met the chief of Te Au O Tonga. When he did, the chief furiously drove Papehia away. Papehia left Rarotonga, and sailed to Aitutaki, where he met another chief. The chief was glad to have Papehia, but also wanted Rarotonga to have peace. He told Papehia to sail back to Rarotonga and meet with the chief Tinomana of Puaikura. Normally when strangers are seen, warriors were ready to start a fierce battle, but Papehia did something surprising. He walked ashore with the Bible on his head. None of the warriors knew what to do, so they did not harm Papehia. The warriors chilled and waited. Papehia asked, 'I'm here to see your master, King Tinomana.'

The wind whistled in the soft breeze, tickling the grasses as he waited for their reply. Tinomana came towards Papehia. He stood up and said, 'There is only one glorious god you all should worship, for he is in the heavens above.' During the old times if you spoke without permission you'd end up desperately dead. However, Tinomana and his tribe all looked up in relief and realized their mistake.

Papehia is my hero because without his bravery, our days of darkness would never have ended. A true hero doesn't need a red cape like a superman, or shoot lasers from their eyes, but has a heart full of trust, faith and courage.

Teupoko Tuariki

YEAR 7

Apii Arorangi, Rarotonga

PUKAPUKAN BORN HERO

Willie Katoa and his wife Ana Katoa recently moved to live on his birth island, Pukapuka. Ana is the principal of Niua School, and Willie is working as a government builder. They have three beautiful kids with two grandchildren. Willie is a very quiet, humble and hardworking man. In his spare time, he stays home and babysits his granddaughter Rosaline, and on weekends he goes fishing on the reef. He always lends a hand to those who need his help in building their houses.

On the first day of November in 1997, when he and his wife worked in Manihiki, the island was suddenly hit by a strong cyclone called Martin. They only had two beautiful girls and the wife was carrying at that time. When the cyclone siren alarmed, he rushed to his family and prepared things needed for them. The sky was covered with dark clouds. Heavy rain continuously fell and big waves came onshore which caused the flood. The island was flooded.

His pregnant wife and his children were washed into the lagoon, but Willie was able to steer the aluminium dinghy towards them and her grabbed the rope and Willie tied her to the outboard motor so that she wouldn't float away. He then went to get his children and helped them on board. Suddenly their boat was overturned but he was able to put it up again. Sadly, he couldn't find his younger daughter.

They spent a night on the boat and when it was morning he saw some people helplessly floating in the sea, so he paddled towards them and got them onto the boat. He was able to save his family and some other old people's lives.

Soon the wife gave birth to a son and they named him Moana which means 'sea', in remembrance of the incident where they spent most of their time floating in the sea.

He is a very brave and fearless local hero whom I admire and respect.

Philip Minatama Teopenga

YEAR 9

Niua School, Pukapuka

TOKU TUMUTOA

Taku tumutoa ko toku papa e ko tona ingoa ko Aerenga. E aka te au tumu i riro ei a ia ei tumutoa noku. Te tumu maata i riro ei a ia ei tumutoa noku no te mea kua akono a ia i aku mei toku anau mai anga.

E tamaiti angai au nana. Kare toku mama e toku papa anau i akono ana i aku. E aka inangaro to toku papa i aku e pera tana au tamariki katoatoa. Me aru a ia i te pairere ki Rarotonga ka oake mai a ia i tetai moni naku e pera tetai au pakau taku ka inangaro kia apai mai a ia.

E papa maroiroi toku i te tanutanu manga mei te taro, pota, vipuaka, motini, meika e te vai atura. E nui tana pai taro i raro enua e kua kainga tetai e te puaka taetaevao. E okooko taro maoa ana a ia e pera te pute taro mata kia rauka mai te moni ei oko manga na matou. Ka tiki katoa a ia i te manga ki raro enua e ka tunu kia papa ei kai na matou i te au ra ravarai me oki matou ki te kainga no te apii.

E papa maroiroi katoa toku i te angai manu mei te puakanio. E aka tana au puakanio i raro enua inara, kua kainga tetai pae e te puaka. Noatu te reira, kare a ia e tuku i te angai puakanio ei kai na matou.

E papa kite toku i te tautai mei te takirikiri marau, moi, ku, tio e te vai atura. Ko tana au tautai reka teia i te rave. Me rauka tana ika, ka tunu taakari a ia no te mea e reka ana matou i te kai i te ika taakari kinaki ki te taro.

E tangata maru toku papa, kare a ia e kaikava ana e te kai avaava. E papa maroiroi toku i te ano ki te pure. Ka ano ua rai a ia ki te pure i te au ra pure katoatoa. E apii mai ana a ia ia matou auraka kia kaikava e te kai avaava. Kia aru matou i tana apiiangā e tana e rave nei.

Me rave matou i te tarevake kare a ia e riri, kare katoa a ia e papa ia matou marira ka apii marie mai a ia ia matou i roto i te reo maru. Kare a ia e inangaro ana kia aue tana au tamariki mari ra kia mataora matou. E papa mataora to matou e tamataora mai ana a ia ia matou.

E akaaroa ana au i toku papa no te nui roa tana angaanga. E tumutoa a ia noku no tona tu meitaki, inangaro e te maroiroi. Kare au e inangaro i te akaruke i a ia.

Jomase Touna

THIRD PLACE, YEAR 7-8

Apīi Enuamanu, Atiū

MY HERO, TIKOVE PIIRA

My hero is Tikove Piira, because he is good at working at Tereora College. He passed his NCEA Level 1 in 2017. Now he is working on Level 2. Tikove has three sports that he plays: cricket, boxing, athletics. The reason why he is my hero is because he went to Tahiti for boxing in the holidays. He is the first scholar to go to Tahiti for boxing.

Tikove Piira lived in Pukapuka. He was born in 2000. He went on scholarship to Rarotonga in 2016. His name is famous on Pukapuka. When his mother heard that Tikove had gone to Tahiti, she was so happy and proud. In last week of Term 4, the principal of Tereora College sent his report to Niua School and to his mum.

When Tikove Piira came back from boxing, he went to New Zealand for cricket with his team. When they finished playing cricket, they went back to Rarotonga to complete their NCEA Level 2. Tikove Piira is the fastest runner in Tereora College. He beat the fastest boy from Nukutere College. The Pukapukan scholarship students were so happy because Tikove had beaten the fastest boy in Nukutere College. The boys from Nukutere were jealous, because Tikove Piira was fast at athletics.

When Tikove Piira was in Pukapuka, he was so skinny and tall, but when he got to Rarotonga his body became fit and strong. In 2014 when Pukapuka played every game like running, volley etc, he was the best boy in the village. The last game was athletics. Tikove Piira was so happy because he was going to run against his big brother whose name is Malu Malukole. When they were ready a man called 'GO.' They started to sprint. When Tikove Piira got in the middle of the field, he left his big brother far behind. The people were surprised. Malu was embarrassed because he lost.

I really admire Tikove because of the way he has worked so industriously at Tereora College.

Rimakatau Ruarau

YEAR 9

Niua School, Pukapuka

THE LEGEND OF CANNIBAL NAPA

Deep in the lush jungle of Rarotonga, Horaborabora Napa stood seeking revenge.

The hatred ran through his boiling blood and seeped through his veins. It was his land, and only his! How dare they take from him! The jealousy and bitterness destroyed every part of his soul, eliminating every thought in his brain except vengeance. This was about land, and he wanted his land. It was only his to take and he would do whatever it took to get it back. They were outsiders from the other side of the island and they had no business on his land! They had taken what was not theirs, and he would make them pay! A swoop of wings awoke Napa from his vicious thoughts. Taungaroa, the demon of the sky, in the form of a hemongamanuahi bird plunged past him. Taungaroa was right; it was time.

His sharp eyes picked up movement in the forest below. His 'visitors' were arriving. Walking briskly down the path, his thoughts were imbedded in bloodshed. He had tasted flesh before, and could not resist. Soon, he would be satisfied.

His feet touched the first stone of the sacred place. The deep pit stood at his left, ready. Then, they entered, a tribe from the northern side of the island. Horaborabora Napa opened his arms in welcome, but it was not so.

Suddenly, his noble warriors surrounded the tribe. Horaborabora Napa shut out the sounds of their petrified screams as they fell into the cooking pit. 'Bring on the kikokiko kai he ahi!' he shouted, pleased that his enemies would get their due punishment.

The voices of the screaming victims echoed throughout the island that never slept; the island of death and destruction. There was no peace. But, on the horizon, a faint ray of light appeared in the form of a beautiful sailing ship. Hope had arrived, and a new dawn was rising.

Marama Napa

YEAR 7

Apii Avarua, Rarotonga

TAKU TUMU TOA

Taku tumutoa koia oki ko Kaliwi. Ko Kaliwi nei oki e tane loa kili vela I te ao nei. Ko ye maua I te akakolomaki ke vela ina iana. Ia Kaliwi e tane ko wano ki lunga o na niu tiketike e ye maua e te tangata e te wekake ki lunga.

Na iki mai au ia Kaliwi nei no te la lelei yau ma te vave I te kake ki lunga o te niu. E tangata katoa lelei ma te ye kalapi ki te wii tangata e wo la tawa o tona wale. Ko Kaliwi nei kona lai iana ko lapu ina I te pae o te tunu kai peia I te yakili kai nana ka kole oki ana wawine yau la ko maua lai iana e te lapu I tona olaanga ke lelei.

E tangata vave ia Kaliwi I te angaanga ko ye ngaengaea e te angaanga peia ma te ulu lavenga ke lelei tona olaanga. Ko ye winangalo oki iana ke tatutulu ina iana no te mea e vave iana ka maua lai iana e te lave iana angaanga. Ko te tangata nei oki ke moe iana ko winangalo wua iana ke tai kongā angiangi ke moe ai iana ko ye mina iana I te kongā vela no te la e tangata kili vela.

Ko tona olaanga I Leila ko wano iana kake ki lunga o te niu noo ai no te angiangi. Ko te mate o te tangata nei koia oki na to mai iana mai lunga o te niu. Na kake iana ki lunga o te niu talatala kina matangi ke pupuyi iana ke to ki lalo. Pupuyi mai na matangi kiai iana na to ki lalo. E tayi I Leila matangi na to ai iana ki lalo koia oki ko te matangi anu. Na pupuyi mai loa te matangi ia anu ina ona lua lima ye maua e te liko ina launiu to ki lalo yoka ina e te lakau mate. Ko te mate teia o Kaliwi e tangata kili vela ko maua I te tamaki ki te matangi.

Potai Rubena

YEAR 9

Niua School, Pukapuka

MY BRAVE GRANDPA

Out of all my family members, my grandpa is my hero. Why? Because without his determination and bravery to risk his own life to save more lives, including men and my family, we would have turned into ash. My grandpa saved many lives that day from a terrible incident that was caused by an accident.

My three cousins and I were looking after the shop. My mum was helping my grandma cook breakfast, while my grandpa was writing the prices for his plates of cooked arrowroots. For the first time in our lives, there was something wrong with the oven's gas bottle. We have never experienced that kind of situation with the gas. but now... The problem with the gas bottle was that it wouldn't turn off. Although my grandma switched it off, the oven was still running. When my grandma accidentally pulled the pipe out of the gas bottle, it exploded gas out from the hole in the gas bottle. A small rough tornado burst out of the small hole. It sounded like a nuclear bomb that just exploded from miles away.

Everyone began to panic. My cousins and I were crying and scared at the same time, predicting what might happen next. My grandpa ran quickly and grabbed the flaming top of the gas bottle and dragged it fast and carefully. He briskly took the bottle of flames out of the house, before it could damage anything or anyone. Although his hands were burning red, he placed the gas bottle on the grass then he rushed to fetch the hose to extinguish the fire, before it was too late.

We all ran outside the shop. But my grandpa didn't. He managed to put out the fire without any explosions. Before the firefighters and the police arrived, the job was done by my fireproof hero; my grandpa.

I am so proud to have such a great grandpa like this. His determination is what made our family survive the incident. His strength and courage is what made us a family again, and his bravery is what made him my hero.

Victoria Tearea

YEAR 10

Nukutere College, Rarotonga

TE AU TOA O TE KUKI AIRANI

I runga i te enua ko Mangaia te noo ra tetai tuputupua tona ingoa ko Tamangori. Ko teia tuputupua e toru topata rima mita tona teitei e tana kai reka rava atu e tangata. E noo ana a ia ki roto i te ana. Kare e tangata i kite e, e noea mai a ia. Pera ua ake, teia e tu mai nei. E au aereanga muna oki tona. I tetai ra te oki mai ra te au ravakai ki te kainga. Ia ratou e aere mai ra kua opuia tetai pae ia ratou e Tamangori. Ko tetai pae kua ora e kua oro atu ki te ngutuare. Kua vinivini e te mataku maata tikai ratou.

Kua noo te Ariki o te oire i te tiaki i te au ravakai. No te mea kare ratou i oki mai. Kua akaue atu a ia i tetai o tona au toa kia aere kia kimi ia ratou. Teia ta te au toa i kite i to ratou taeanga ki te ngai tei taiaia te au ravakai. Ko te toto e te au ivi tangata. Kua taitaia tikai ratou e kua oki kua akakite i te Ariki.

I tetai tua o te enua te noo ra tetai nga tamariki to raua ingoa ko Pe e Pa. E nga toa oki raua no te amani puereere no te manu, tupa e te kiore toka. Kua tae te rongu o Tamangori kia Pa e Pe. Kua kimikimi atu raua i tetai ravanga no te tamate atu i te tuputupua. Teia ta raua i rauka mai ka aere raua ka puereere kiore. Ka tunutunu e me ongi mai te tuputupua i te aunga o te kiore maoa penei ka aere mai a ia.

I reira kua aere a Pa e Pe i te opu kiore ei tunutunu na Tamangori. Kua rava meitaki ta raua kiore e kua rekareka raua. Kua ta'u raua i ta raua a'i e kua tano no te tunu atu i te kiore. Tukutuku atura raua i te kiore ki runga i te a'i e kua tunutunu atu.

I a Tamangori e noonoo ra kua ongi a ia i te aunga kakara o te kiore tunutunu. Kua aere atu a ia i te aru i te aunga o te manga e kua tae atu ki te a'i a Pa e Pe. Noo atura a ia ki raro e kua kaikai.

Te kaikai ra a Tamangori kua parani a Pa e Pe e ka akapeea raua i te tamateanga i a Tamangori. Kua papa ta raua korare e kua ki te kopu o Tamangori. Kare e maroiroi akaou i te aere. Kua takoto atura a ia ki raro e kua varea e te moe.

I a ia e moe ra kua aere mai a Pa e Pe mei te ngai i pipini ei raua. Kua ko atu a Pe i te mimiti o Tamangori e kua tuku atu a Pa i te toka vera ki runga i tona mata.

Ko te opeanga rai teia o te tuputupua ko Tamangori.

Ko Pa e Pe e nga toa rongonui raua no te mea e maata ua atu te au toa i timata ana i te tamate i a Tamangori. Kare ra ratou i manuia. Kia tae kia Pa e Pe na raua i ta i te tuputupua e kua noo 'au te enua kare e tangata e kainga akaouia.

Grace Taiti Toroma

HIGHLY COMMENDED YEAR 9-10

Papaaroa Adventist School, Rarotonga

HEROES CHANGE YOUR LIFE

I chose my Papa Tai Tura to be my hero because he is a professional rugby player during his time, a Member of Parliament for Mauke, a story teller, planter and a fisherman. But most importantly, he is my grandpa.

Every day of my life he would take me into the woods and cut down some trees. He would tell me the different types of trees and what they are used for. I didn't pay attention to what he is saying, I only enjoyed listening to his voice.

Everyday my Papa would tell me stories of him, when he was young. He would hop on his horse and go inland to feed the pigs, and take his horse to Pirikura beach to clean.

On Saturdays my Papa would take me on the reef to catch octopus. He would put the octopus on the stick and then tie it around with a string. He told me that if you want to catch eels you have to poke a stick into the opening rocks to see if there are eels. To make the eel come out you have to squeeze the flying fish juice to attract the eels, and hook it up.

I admire my grandpa telling me his stories and also the skills and knowledge he has. People think that heroes are people who get medals and people who come back from war, but heroes are people who change your life and that's why my Papa is my hero.

Jaidyn Tura

YEAR 9

Apii Mauke, Mauke

HE WILL ALWAYS BE THERE

My hero is Jake Numanga. He was born in Oneora, Mangaia on the 31st of January 1940. He has two sisters and five brothers. He married my Nena Kate Tauriki Williams Numanga. He has three girls and four boys, and many feeding sons.

There are many reasons why my papa is my hero. My papa is always encouraging me and my family. He encourages us to work hard, to study hard and to try our best in whatever we do. He always asks me about my school work and sports, especially my tennis. He tells me to try my best.

My papa is my hero because he taught me how to plant taro, vegetables and fruit. He taught me how to husk and grate coconuts. He taught me the best way to roast pork. He taught me how to feed our pigs and chickens.

My papa works hard for our family. He sings for all the international flights. He mows the lawn for all our family homes. He cuts the hedges and water blasts our homes. He always looks after my family.

My papa is my hero because he is kind and polite to people. He smiles and waves to everyone. He gives people food like fruit, taro and pork. He likes to give people rides when they have no transport. He always goes to church too because it is good for us. He helps us and strangers.

My papa is my hero because he is a good example to me. He loves my nena, and all his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He gives us everything he has. I am proud of my hero, my papa. I know he will always be there for me.

Katee Wearing

YEAR 7

Nukutere College, Rarotonga

TOKU METUA TANE METUA VAINÉ INANGARO IA E AU

E tumutoa noku ko Tuainekore Samuel. Te tumu i tumutoa ei a ia noku no te mea ko ia te metua tane i tauturu mai ia matou i ta matou angaanga tunu varaoa. E metua tane inangaroia e tana au tamariki e tana au are mokopuna. E peapa apii teitei tona e kua riro mai a ia ei konitara no te oire Areora e te angaanga nei a ia ki ko i te Tuanga Kimi Puapinga.

E metua tane rekaia e te oire tangata Areora. I te taime e mapu ra a ia e inuinu ana a ia. Te kite anga a ia i te inangaro o tona ngutuare tangata kua akaoti i reira a ia i te inuinu. E metua tane reka i te tatau pipiria e te akamaroiroi i tana au tamariki i te apii pipiria. E metua tane kite i te tautai me ano a ia na runga i tona poti tautai e apai ana a ia i tana nga tamaroa ko ia a Lopez e Kerekere. E metua tane maroiroi i te angaanga. E metua tane ano pure e metua tane inangaro ia e au. Kare roa e rauka i aku i te akakoromaki me ngaro koe mei te pae i aku.

E tumutoa noku ko Tumoe Akai. Te tumu i tumutoa ei a ia noku no te mea ko ia te metua vaine tei anau mai i a ku. Nana katoa i akono e te angai i aku e tae ua mai ki teia tuatau. E metua vaine inangaroia e au e tana au tamariki katoatoa. Tana angaanga e rave ana e tunu varaoa. E metua vaine maroiroi i te ano ki te pure e te angaanga. E metua vaine tauta i tana au tamariki i te ano pure e te apii. E angaanga reka nana te tama are pure e te akamanea i a roto i te are pure. Me akamanea a ia i te tiare i roto i te are pure, manea tikai te reira. E mataora ana te au mama i te karokaro i tona karape akamanea tiare. E metua vaine pua kakau, tama ngutuare, tunu manga, te paraku tita e te vai atura. Noatu toku taringa turi kare roa te inangaro o te metua vaine e ngaro. E metua vaine kare roa e ngaro mei roto i toku ngakau. Ko teia te tumu i tumutoa ei raua noku me ngaro ake raua i te pae i aku kare roa toku vai mata e ngaro. E aka inangaro toku ia raua.

Jorayna Samuel

HIGHLY COMMENDED, YEAR 7-8

Apai Enuamanu, Atiu

PUPUI PUAKA

I tetai ra kua aere taku ngutuare tangata ki runga i te maunga no te pupui i tetai puaka ei kai ei kai na matou. Kua kite au i tetai toa puaka ma'atama'ata. Kua kapiki au ki taku ngutuare tangata, "E kotou ma teia tetai puaka i konei."

Kua aere mai toku Papa i te akara i teia puaka me ka tano i te pupui. Kua karanga mai toku Papa ki āku, "Ae, tano meitaki teia puaka. E aere koe e taku pepe tueru mai te puaka ki konei i aku e ka pupui au i aia." Kua pau atu au, "Aue! Naku e rave te au apinga pouroa!"

Kua aere muteki uatu au na muri mai i te puaka e kua rutu au i te tumu rakau i te pae i aku no te mea kua manako au e ka oro te puaka ki mua inara, kua uri mai te toa puaka ki āku e kua oro viviki mai a ia ki te ngai e tu ra au. Kua matakau au e kua oro au ki te pae i toku metua tane e toku metua vaine. Kua akara au kia raua ma te matakau ki roto i toku mata inara kua oro katoa raua. Aue!

Te tu uāra toku papa, te akara ua mai ra aia ia matou e oro ra. Kua kapiki mai a ia ki aku e, "auraka kotou e keukeu." E kua pupui a ia i te puaka. Kua akamutu matou i te oro e kua uri matou i te akara i te puaka, kua mate. Kua uri au ki toku papa e kua karanga atu au ki aia e, "Tano ta'au." Kua pau mai a ia, "kare toou papa i te kanga ine." Kua takave mai a ia i aku e kua kata maua. Ko toku papa taku tumutoa.

Maiata-Mahana Newnham

HIGHLY COMMENDED, YEAR 7-8

Apii Avarua, Rarotonga

TOKU PAPA RUAU, JOHN JOSEPH HERRMANN TOKU AITO, MAPU TAIA

I e ko ko! Ko taku aito I iki mai au koia oki ko Papa Mapu Taia. Kua anau ia aia I te ra 28 no Aperira mataiti 1939. Kua iki mai au iaia ei aito noku no te mea e tangata rongo nui aia kiaku.

E riro ana aia ei apii mai iaku no runga I te tua taito e te korero o Mauke nei. E ano katoa mai ana aia ki te apii I te ruaraara ki te tamariki no runga I te korero, pe'e, peu e te akonoanga o Mauke nei. Kua riro teia ei ngakauparauanga na matou I to matou tupuanga mai.

E taunga atu, tiunu, tata e te uri imene katoa a Papa Mapu Taia I tona tuatau. E manga nui uatu rai tana imene tuki, ute, pe'e, imene tamataora e te tai au tu akatangitangi I atu I tona tuatau. E au imene navenave e te reka. Te au kupu kua atui atu ki te imene e te oonu katoa te aiteanga. Me tae ki te tuatau o te Maeva Nui, na toku aito na Papa Mapu Taia e atu e te tata ana I te ute e te imene tuki a te Mauke. Kare e ekoko teia au imene nana ka autu ua rai. E mareka uana toku ngakau me akarongorongo au I teia au imene nana. Navenave e te tangi reka kia akarongo ia.

I puapii nui katoa ana a Papa Mapu Taia I Apii Mauke mei te mataiti 1984 ki te mataiti 1996. Kua akarongo au e, e puapii meitaki e te kino katoa aia. Inara kua riro teia ei apiianga ki te au tamariki I tera tuatau. Kua papa aia I tetai au tamariki no tona inangaro kia riro mai ratou ei au tamariki meitaki. Kia rauka ia ratou tetai turanga teitei mei tona rai. Ko te au tamariki I mou mai ia ratou tana au apiianga kua upokotu ratou I teia ra.

No reira ka inangaro au kia riro mai au mei toku aito rai ko Papa Mapu Taia. Tangata kite, ngakau maoraora e te meitaki.

Ngatokorua Tuakanangaro

FIRST PLACE, YEAR 11-13

MOANA GEMS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Apia Mauke, Mauke

TOKU AITO, DENNIS TARARO

Ko taku aito i iki mai, koia oki ko Dennis Tararo. E aito kua moe. Inara e manotini uatu rai tana au tareni i teia ao mei te tueporo tarape e te pa poro tepere.

Kua rauka i a ia tetai turanga teitei. Kua mata ana a ia i to tatou basileia i roto i te tarekareka tipoti. I te mataiti 2014, kua iki a Dennis i tetai au tamariki e kua tereni atu ia ratou i te pa poro tepere, no tetai tarekareka ka raveia ki Rarotonga.

E tangata maru e te meitaki a Dennis, kua akanoonoo a ia i tetai tepere pa poro ki tona ngutuare ei kanga na te tamariki. Ko tetai metua tane aroa teia, kare a ia e kaipenu ana i tana au pakau. Kua oronga atu a ia e tai tepere pa poro na tetai tamaine e tereni ana a ia.

E Konitara katoa a ia no te tapere ko Parai. I tona tuatau konitara ei, nana e tama i to ratou tapere. Ko Dennis tetai tangata maroiroi i te apii i te tamariki Cups e te Scouts, i roto i te akonoanga Katorika. Ko teia tetai tangata mataora taku i kite. Mari ake teia tangata i te apii mai i te ture me kare te totouanga a te Scouts. Nana e tamataora ana i te tamariki, na roto i tana araara e tana akatutu. Kare e ngaropoina i aku te tu mataora e te peu a Dennis Tararo.

Noatu e kua ngaro teia aito, inara ko tana au tareni, kua akaruke mai a ia kia tatou. Te anoano nei au kia rauka mai i aku tana au tareni tuketuke. Me rauka i aku teia tareni, ka riro teia i te apai i aku ki te au basileia nunui. Kia riro teia ei ngakau parau anga na Dennis Tararo.

Mason Tapoki

SECOND PLACE, YEAR 11-13

Apai Mauke, Mauke

E VAINE TOA

Kua anau mai tetai purotu manea, e tama mataiapo. E tai ngauru ma ono ona mataiti i tupu ei tetai mea taitaia e te akama tikai ki a ia koia oki ko te anau tamariki pī. I te reira tuatau, e riro ana teia tu anau tamariki ei mea akama tikai ki te ngutuare tangata, me tō tetai tamaine tei raro ake tona mataiti i te rua-ngauru ma tai, i Atiu nei.

Noatu e kua kite aia e utunga tona e tiaki maira, kua iki aia i te paruru i te pepe ki roto i tona kopu e te apai i te utunga rikarika o te akakinoanga e te tamamae i tona kopapa. Te akaroa.

Kua anau mai te pepe i te ra 9 no Tepetema mataiti 2003 e kua tukuna iatu te metua vaine ki Rarotonga no te akaoti i tana apii i Tereora.

E aranui taitaia tikai to te metua vaine. I te au atianga ravarai, ka kuru te metua tane i te metua vaine, kore ake rai e kare i rava ua tona mamae. Ka pipini ua rai te pepe ki raro i te roi me tupu teia, inara kare roa aia e o ki roto i te mamae no te mea kua rave te metua vaine i te paruru i a ia. Noatu ra teia tu, kua rauka mai te manga ki runga i te kaingakai no te angaanga tiaki toa a te metua vaine. I te au taime ravarai i muri ake i tona ora angaanga, ka rave aia i te utuutuanga i tana tamaine kia pakari aia e kia rauka te ikianga tau no tona oraanga, e pera kia kore aia e aru i te tapuae vavia o tona metua vaine. E ikianga tarevake ta te metua vaine i rave inara kare aia i akaapa i a ia ma te tatararaa, mari ra, kua akariro aia i te tarevake manako koreia tei tupu ki a ia ei akapuapinga i tona oraanga.

E vaine toa aia noku, no te mea, kua akaari mai aia ki aku e koia tetai metua vaine maroroi e te meitaki tikai. I teia tuatau, e toru oku teina. E angaanga ana aia ei Opita no te Pae Turoto o Atiu. E kainga manea toku no tona tu meitaki. Kare aia i rave ua i te paruru e te inangaro iaku mari ra, kua iki aia i te au mea memeitaki katoa noku i te akameitaki atu anga i toku oraanga no te tuatau ki mua.

I tetai taime, ka riro toou inga anga ei tu akaouanga ketaketa noou a muri mai. E toa te au tangata ravarai i to ratou au manamanata, inara, e iti ua tei rauka te maroiroi i te akaari mai e, e tumutoa tikai ratou.

Aumai Teiotu

FIRST PLACE, Y9-10

Apai Enuamanu, Atiu

TOKU PAPA RUAU

Toku papa e tangata meitaki e te matutu. E noo ana a ia ki Arorangi. E itungauru ma a ona mataiti. Ko toku papa ruau ko Taio Tiputoa. Kua iki au i a ia no te mea e tangata maroiroi a ia i te angaanga. No atu e kua tae a ia ki teia turanga mataiti, te tauta pakari nei rai a ia i te angaanga.

Toku papa e tangata inangaro a ia i te angaanga kia oti vave. I tetai au ra, e aere ana matou ki te pai taro. E apii ana a ia aku i te vaere pai, pao, tapoki e tanu atu. I tetai au taime, e aere ana matou tautai. E taangaanga ana toku papa ruau i te kupenga ei taei ika. I tetai au ra me kare e maata ana te ika, e tieni ana a ia i tana tautai i te kimi eke. E tangata matutu a ia i te rave i teia au angaanga e pera katou te opuopu moa kainga. Me kare e ika i roto i te tai, me kore, kare ana moni, ka pupui a ia i te moa ei kai na matou. Kare ra matou e reka ana i tera moa, no te mea e marokiakia tikai tona kiko.

Kua angaanga ana toku papa ruau ki ko i te ngai tamate ai i te tuatau mua. Kia tae tona mataiti te onongauru kua akangaroi mai a ia. Kua angaanga atu a ia ki ko i te ngai puaanga kakau ko te Snowbird Laundry. Kia akara ra a ia e angaanga tera na te kope. Kua akaruke takiri atu a ia i te angaanga na tetai tangata. I teia ra te tanutanu nei a ia, angai manu e te tautai ei angai ia matou.

E aito a ia noku no te mea kua akaari mai a ia i te tu meitaki ki aku, toku ai taeake e toku kopu tangata. Kua riro a ia ei akaraanga meitaki ki aku.

Victoria Fatiaki

SECOND PLACE, Y7-8

Apii Arorangi, Rarotonga

MARGARET MATENGA

They say a hero is a legend. I say a hero is someone who fights to the end. This is why I chose Margaret Matenga. To me, a hero is someone who never gives up, and always tries their best to achieve or accomplish something, not for themselves, but for the people around them.

Margaret is a well-known person in her village and community, for being a very decent person and a talented netball player. She has become the first Cook Islander to play in the Silver Ferns team. I guess I relate to this because my favourite sport is netball. My dream is to become like Margaret, and to make history for the Cook Islands through this sport.

Margaret faced a lot of challenges while playing this sport. She got bitten by a poisonous stonefish on her thumb, and it was a major problem. This didn't stop her from playing a game; she had so much passion.

She also had some hard times with her family life, and some minor injuries. This only meant that she trained extra hard to make it back in the team, and so it was achieved. This shows true commitment and her love of the game of netball.

From this I've learned one simple thing, and that is to never give up. No matter what happens, no matter how bad the circumstances, no matter what gets thrown at you. If it really matters to you, you'll do everything in your power to make it happen.

Margaret teaches me to never give up on my dream, and if I really want it to come about, I've got to give it my all – 110%. Margaret Matenga is a true hero, and I believe that we can all be like her as well.

Trina Ahau

YEAR 10

Nukutere College, Rarotonga

TANE KAMAATU, TOA –TOKU PAPA RUAU

Ko Teariki William Heather toku papa, E tamaiti a ia na William Heather Snr (Tiapani) e Niotangi Heather. Kua angaia ra oki a ia e Manoa Heather raua ko Puretu Heather. E teina no William. Ko toku papa te numero toru o te tamariki a William raua ko Niotangi, toko itu ratou i te katoatoanga. Kua anauia toku papa i te mataiti 1959. Kua akaipoipo toku papa ki tana vaine purotu ko Tarome Heather (NEE AKANOA.) E rima a raua au tamariki, e rua tamaroa e toru tamaine. I na ra, kua takake atu te tamaine mataiapo, te meangiti ua ra a ia. I teia mataiti i topa (2017) kua tumatetenga maata toku papa ruau i te takakeanga o tana vaine e pera te opeanga o tana tamaine. Kua riro teia mataiti ei taitaiaanga nona pera tana anau tamariki e tona kopu tangata katoatoa.

Kua riro mai a ia ei akatere [Chairman] no te putuputuanga mapu no te tapere Ruau i te au mataiti i topa raua ko tona tokorua. Kua rave maroiroi raua i teia turanga e pera kua piri katoa atu ki roto i te au angaanga ravarai a te mapu pera ta te Ekalesia. Kua riro katoa mai a ia ei Arataki ki roto i te tuanga o te Konitara oire. E maata uatu ei tana au putuputuanga tei na roto mai.

E tangata angaanga toku papa ruau. Kua tupu mai a ia ki roto i teia kopu tangata Ngati Tanire. I au mataiti i topa kua riro mai toku papa ei akatere I ta ratou kamupani koia oki ko te T&M Heather LTD. I teia ra e 70 tangata e angaanga nei na teia kamupani. Kua rongonui e pera kua ngateitei toku papa ruau i te mea e kua riro mai ana a ia ei mema paramani i te mataiti 2004 no Akaoa/Vaiakura. Kua tavini a ia i teia tapere no tetai 14 mataiti. Kua akataoangaia a ia ki te tauturu Parai Minita [Deputy Prime Minister] i te mataiti 2013. Kua noo a ia kia runga i teia turanga e rima mataiti.

E ngakau aroa e pera te tauturu to toku papa ruau. E maata e maata ua atu tana au angaanga oire [Community], akanoanga [Church/youth], basileia [nation], pera tetai au angaanga ke.

Kua ngakauparau au i teia ra i te turanga ta toku papa ruau i na roto mai mei tona tupu mai anga e tae mai ki teia tuatau. Ka umuumu au kia riro mai au mei toku papa ruau rai, i te tauturuanga e pera te tavinianga i te iti tangata. Kua kite katoa au e, e irinakianga pakari tona ki roto te atua mana katoatoa. I roto i tana au tavinianga, kia tupu ruperupe pera kia ngateitei te turanga.

Ko tetai o te au tuatua tana i akamaroiroi mai ana ki aku ko ia oki 'E akangateitei atu i toou metua tane e toou metua vaine, kia akaroaia toou puke ra ki te ao nei.'

Henry Obedaia

YEAR 8

Apii Arorangi, Rarotonga

TOKU PAPA

Ko Mata Raeina toku papa. No Tupapa mai tona tupuanga. No roto mai aia ia Makea ariki. E tangata akamoeau aia I tona oraanga e tae ua atu i tona takake anga atu i teia nga marama i topa. E tangata Rarotonga aia, inara e pirianga katoa tona i te enua Aitutaki.

Kua akaipoipo aia i toku mama, ko Raera Tuariki, no roto mai ia Ngati Kaimarama o Arorangi. Kua anau mai raua e rua tamaine. Ko Tereapii te mataiapo, e ko Moeroa te teina. Kua angai mai raua iaku ei Tungane no Tereapii raua ko Moeroa. No roto mai au i te kopu o toku papa, koia oki te kopu tangata Raeina.

E tangata maroiroi toku papa i te angaanga moni ei angai ia matou. Me akamotu tana angaanga moni, e maani ana aia i te au apinga akaoro o tona au taeake, e pera katoa te kopu tangata. Ka riro ta ratou manga moni ka tutaki mai ei tauturu I toku kopu tangata.

E tanutanu katoa ana aia i te au kai mei te taro, maniota, meika ei tiaki i to matou oraanga. Me maata tana kai ka tua aia i te reira ki tona kopu tangata e tona au taeake.

Kua apii mai toku papa iaku kia akarongo au i te tuatua no atu e te roiroi ra au. Kua apii katoa mai aia iaku kia maru toku tu ki runga i toku au metua e toku ai taeake, e pera katoa auraka au kia paupau tuatua I roto ra i to matou oraanga, kua kite au i toku papa i te au maki tukeke. Kare ra au i manako e mei tera roa aia i te maki. Kua apaina ia atu aia ki Niu Tireni i teia mataiti i topa, no tona maki kopapa. Kua roa rai aia ki reira. Na tetai o toku tuaine i akono iaia i reira.

Kia takake ra toku papa kua maara iaku tana au apiianga. Te irinaki nei au e ka riro tana apii ei tauturu iaku i toku oraanga i te au tuatau ki mua. Koia toku aito, kare roa aia e ngaro iaku.

Samuel Raeina

YEAR 7

Apii Arorangi, Rarotonga

TAKU AITO KUKI AIRANI

‘Taku aito, taku akaraanga, toku metua tane, Nga Puna.’

Ko toku metua tane, ko Nga Puna taku aito Kuki Airani no te mea, koia toku tauturu atupaka rava atu i roto i te au mea pouroa taku e rave ana. Ka tauturu mai a ia iaku i taku au tu’anga apii no te ngutuare, i roto i te au angaanga tipoti taku e piri atu ana, e pera i roto i te au angaanga peu tupuna. Ka tua mai a ia kiaku i te au mea tana i kite mai, no runga tikai i te au tauiana mei te tuatau i topa, akaaiteia ki teia tuatau nei. Tetai akatau’anga, i te tuatau mua, kare e umu papaa. E taangaanga ana to tatou ui tupuna i te umu Maori no te tunu i ta ratou kai, me kore ra, ka ta’u te ai e oti, tuku te pani manga ki runga i te ai.

E tangata kite toku metua tane i tona tuatau i te apii. i tona tamariki anga, e ra’i uatu rai te taime e akaneke ia ana a ia ki runga i tetai pupu no tona kite, noatu e mamaiti ua a ia i roto i tona pupu. Mei te ono, me kore e itu rai ona mataiti, mou ngakau i a ia tana papa akapapaanga tare numero (timestables). E tangata kite pakari toku metua tane i te Apii Numero, e koia ana te puapii akatere o te tu’anga Apii Numero i Tereora. I teia tuatau nei, koia te pu akatere o Rob Tapaitau, irinaki au e, ka puapingaia te tipatimani i raro ake i te akatereanga a toku metua tane. E tangata kite katoa toku metua tane i te angaanga kete poro, kite a ia i te au tu karape o te tipoti kete poro.

E tangata kite katoa toku metua tane i te tu’anga korero e tetai uatu tu’anga peu tupuna. Aite rai a ia mei tona au tupuna rai. Kua apii mai a ia kiaku i teia pe’e, o to matou enua Araura:

‘Kukukina ki te pae rangi, Ko te mana ia o nga Ariki, Kare au e rauka, Noku ei toku purotu, No roto i te kutikuti o te rangi e, Te akaroa.’

E angaanga mataora na toku metua tane te akatangi kita e te imene. Akakite mai toku metua tane kiaku e, mei tona tamariki mai anga, rauka i a ia i te imene i te au tu’anga reo e a, te reo teitei, te reo akaaka, te reo tanguru, e te reo tau ua. E reka ana au i te akarongorongo ki a ia me imene a ia. E tangata reo reka, kaore atu. Te tauta nei rai matou kia aite matou mei a ia rai. E tangata tukatau katoa toku metua tane i te autara ki mua i te tangata, mei tona metua tane rai.

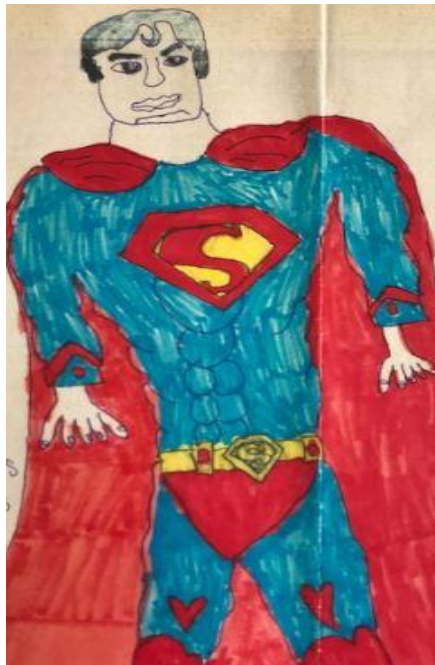
E tangata reo maru e te meitaki ki tana anau tamariki e tona tokorua. E rai, e ra'i uatu rai te au angaanga memeitaki ta toku metua tane i rave i roto tikai i te tu'anga o te apii e te oire. No reira au i karanga ei e, ko toku metua tane taku aito Kuki Airani.

'Ko koe rai e taku metua tane tei upoko tu i toou uki, e teia uki. Taku aito, taku akatau'anga. Taku metua tane, Nga Puna.'

Tipoki Puna

YEAR 8

Apii Nikao, Rarotonga



My Cook Islands' Hero, Metua Douglas, Titikaveka College

Meitaki maata to the very generous 2018 sponsors



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