



Te Mura o te Ahi Kura Kaupapa Māori E-Sports 2025



Kupu Whakataki

He Mihi Nui

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā karanga maha. Ko Oranga Matihiko tēnei e whakarere ana i ngā hau o mihi kia koutou e ngā pītau whakarei o rātou mā. Koutou anō e kōkiri ana i ngā uaratanga tuku iho o ngā mātua tupuna hei ara tauwhāiti mō ngā tini raukura o āpōpō, kia ora ai te iwi Māori, otirā tātou katoa. E kore te puna aroha e mimiti ana. Nō reira, kei te mihi, kei te mihi, ka haere tonu ngā mihi, tēnā rā koutou katoa.

Nā, Te Whānau o Oranga Matihiko.

Executive Summary

Oranga Matihiko continue to advance its mission of empowering rangatahi Māori through culturally grounded digital education. Our flagship initiative, Te Mura o te Ahi, exemplified this approach by hosting two e-sports tournaments, League of Legends and Valorant, delivered entirely in te reo Māori.

Tauira from Te Pi'ipi'inga Kakano Mai i Rangiātea and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngā Ruahinerangi participated after completing a series of training workshops in Term 4. These events showcased not only technical skill but also the values of whanaungatanga, kotahitanga, and māia, reflecting the resilience and strategic mindset inspired by the Māori Battalion narrative.

Challenges remain around equitable access to devices and connectivity, as well as balancing programme participation with cultural and academic commitments. Mitigation strategies include flexible scheduling, kanohi ki te kanohi delivery, and targeted pastoral support.

Looking ahead, we will continue to embed kaupapa Māori values in digital learning, expand engagement opportunities, and ensure rangatahi have the tools and confidence to thrive in both cultural and technological spaces.

Key achievements include:

- 59 unique rangatahi engaged in Taranaki, with an average attendance rate of 78%.
- Delivery of kaupapa Māori digital programmes across multiple kura with a wider community impact.
- Strengthened whānau engagement through hui ā-whānau and feedback loops.
- Successful integration of language, identity, and digital fluency in all activities.

KAUPAPA

Te Mura o te Ahi

Te Mura o te Ahi refers to a story about the Māori Battalion, recounting the valiant efforts of Māori soldiers during World War II. This narrative highlights their bravery, resilience, and experiences while fighting far from their homes and whānau.

This kaupapa is deeply significant. It embodies courage, determination, strategic thinking, and adaptability in challenging circumstances—qualities that resonate strongly with the journey of our taurira throughout the delivery of the Ī-Ātea programme. These attributes were not only learned but demonstrated, culminating in the e-sports tournament that showcased their skills, teamwork, and growth.



TAIOPENGA EVENTS

As part of our flagship initiative, Te Mura o te Ahi, taura from Te Pi'ipi'inga Kakano Mai i Rangiātea and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngā Ruahinerangi participated in two competitive e-sports events: League of Legends (12 November 2025) and Valorant (3 December 2025).

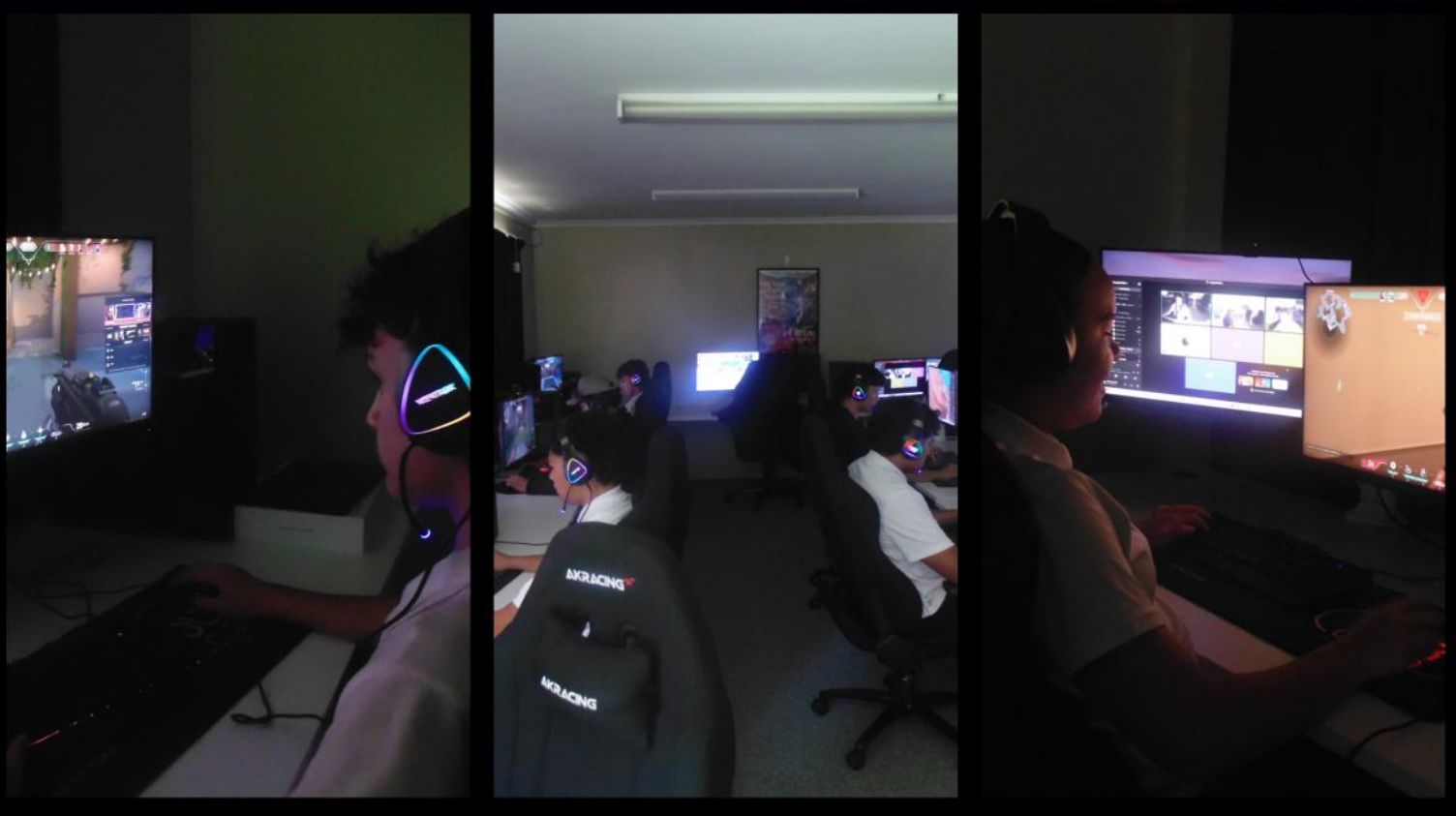
Both tournaments were delivered 100% in te reo Māori, ensuring that language and cultural identity were central to the experience. These games require strategic thinking, teamwork, and adaptability under pressure—skills that mirror the attributes of the Māori Battalion story that inspired this kaupapa.



TAIOPENGA EVENTS

Throughout Term 4, taura attended structured training workshops to develop these capabilities. Their progress was evident during the tournaments, where they demonstrated not only technical proficiency but also collaboration and resilience.

This activity aligns with our Annual Workplan objectives by embedding kaupapa Māori values into digital learning and fostering leadership among rangatahi. It also complements our broader programme delivery in Taranaki, which achieved an average attendance rate of 78% across 59 unique rangatahi this quarter.



Te Pae ā Whiro

League of Legends

The inaugural League of Legends tournament marked a significant milestone in our mahi, providing taura with a dynamic platform to apply the skills developed through our Ī-Ātea programme.

League of Legends is a strategy-based game that demands critical thinking, teamwork, and adaptability—qualities we have intentionally nurtured through kaupapa Māori digital workshops. The event featured two teams of five players, each supported by two substitutes, creating a competitive yet collaborative environment.

Alongside the players, four teachers and three whānau members attended to support and celebrate the taura. Tech Step was also present to record and capture media, ensuring the event was documented for future learning and promotion.

Delivered entirely in te reo Māori, this tournament strengthened digital fluency and cultural identity, demonstrating how technology and tikanga can coexist to create meaningful, future-focused learning experiences.



Hautoa Valorant

Our second e-sports event featured Valorant, a fast-paced tactical game that builds on the principles of strategy, communication, and adaptability central to our Ī-Ātea programme.

Delivered entirely in te reo Māori, this tournament reinforced cultural identity while challenging taurira to apply teamwork and problem-solving skills under pressure.



The event included four teams of five players each, supported by one substitute, creating an exciting and competitive environment. Attendance extended beyond players, with two teachers, two whānau members, and two representatives from Te Kāhui o Taranaki present to support and observe.

Their involvement reflects strong community and iwi endorsement for initiatives that integrate digital innovation with kaupapa Māori values. This tournament, like our first, demonstrated how technology can be leveraged to strengthen identity and build future-ready skills among rangatahi.

Hautoa Valorant

A unique highlight was the way some taura stepped into the role of commentators during matches they were not playing in, providing live commentary in te reo Māori.

This not only showcased their confidence and communication skills but also added a dynamic, culturally rich dimension to the event, reinforcing leadership and creativity within a digital space.



Ngā Tatauranga i ia kaupapa

Event statistics

Rōpu (Groups)	Te Pae Ā Whiro (League of Legends)	Hautoa (Valorant)
Katoa ngā kaitākaro/ Total competitors	Tama/boys - 13 Kōtiro/Girls - 0	Tama/boys - 17 Kōtiro/Girls - 2
Kaititiro/Spectators	8	10
Kaiako/Teachers	4	2
Whanau/Family	3	2
Māngai Iwi	0	2 - Te Kāhui o Tarnaki
Pāpāho	2 - Tech Step	2 - Te Kāhui o Tarnaki
Kōrero/Commentator	0	5 3 - TPKMIR 2 - KKMOR

Kura participation: Te Pi'ipi'inga Kakano Mai i Rangiatea (TPKMIR) Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngā Ruahinerangi (KKMONR)

Iwi presence: Te Kāhui o Taranaki representatives at Valorant

Whānau support: 5 whānau members across both events

Kaiako involvement: 6 teachers across both events

Pāpāho/Media: Tech Step captured footage and media assets (League of Legends)

Leadership & reo: Tauira took up commentary roles in te reo Māori (Valorant), showcasing confidence and communication skills

Ngā Pūkenga Kaimahi

Intern Report

Joseph contributed significantly to both e-sports events this quarter. For the League of Legends tournament, he served as an umpire, ensuring fair gameplay and adherence to rules throughout the matches. His role required focus and impartiality, supporting a smooth and competitive environment for all participants.

For the Valorant tournament, Joseph managed the production side, including setting up and monitoring the live stream and controlling the in-game spectator view for the audience. He supported ākonga commentators by guiding their delivery and encouraging consistent use of te reo Māori during the broadcast.

Joseph handled technical challenges such as stream crashes and lag, while keeping commentators engaged and confident. Despite the fast-paced nature of Valorant, he maintained production quality and captured gameplay effectively. His reflection highlights growth in technical problem-solving, confidence-building for students, and the importance of backup planning and improving production aesthetics for future events.

Overall, Joseph's internship provided valuable hands-on experience in event management, live production, and cultural integration, reinforcing our kaupapa of combining digital innovation with Mātauranga Māori.



Ngā Pūkenga Kaimahi

Intern Report



Byron contributed to both e-sports tournaments as a Judge/Referee, ensuring fair gameplay, safety, and the upholding of tikanga throughout each event. For the League of Legends tournament, he focused on preparation and smooth execution, guiding taura to their roles and enforcing rules.

Despite minor technical issues with microphones and character selection, Byron maintained order and supported positive engagement between kura. His efforts helped create an environment where te reo Māori was consistently used and communication flourished.

In the Valorant tournament, Byron again served as referee while adapting to unexpected challenges, including a sudden game update, technical issues with streaming and commentary, and time constraints when one kura had to leave early. His adaptability under pressure kept the event enjoyable for taura, and he encouraged commentary in te reo Māori, which became a highlight of the day.

Byron's reflection emphasises the importance of planning, flexibility, and cultural integrity in event delivery.

Overall, Byron gained valuable experience in event management, problem-solving, and leadership, reinforcing our kaupapa of integrating digital innovation with Mātauranga Māori.

His ability to uphold tikanga while managing fast-paced tournaments demonstrates strong growth and commitment to creating culturally safe, future-focused learning spaces.

Conclusion

This quarter has demonstrated significant progress toward our mission of empowering rangatahi Māori through culturally grounded digital education.

The successful delivery of Te Mura o te Ahi, our flagship e-sports initiative, reflects the integration of kaupapa Māori values with future-focused digital skills.



Both tournaments, delivered entirely in te reo Māori, provided a platform for taurira to apply strategic thinking, teamwork, and adaptability, reinforcing identity and confidence in a digital context.

Key achievements include:

Engagement of 59 unique rangatahi in Taranaki with an average attendance of 78%, indicating strong commitment and whānau support.

Delivery of high-impact activities such as League of Legends and Valorant tournaments, supported by teachers, whānau, iwi representatives, and media partners.

Strengthened community partnerships and whānau engagement through hui ā-whānau and collaborative planning.

Conclusion

These outcomes align directly with the objectives outlined in our Annual Workplan and the priorities of the Hauora Māori Services Agreement fostering identity, belonging, and digital fluency while creating culturally safe learning environments.

Looking ahead, we will continue to address challenges such as equitable access to devices and connectivity, and balance programme delivery with cultural and academic commitments.

Our mitigation strategies, flexible scheduling, kanohi ki te kanohi support, and targeted pastoral care, will ensure rangatahi remain engaged and supported.

In summary, this quarter affirms that our kaupapa is not only on track but delivering meaningful impact.

By embedding Mātauranga Māori into digital learning, we are equipping rangatahi with the skills, confidence, and cultural grounding to thrive in an increasingly digital world.



Kupu Whakakapi

E kore e mimiti te puna o te aroha me te ngākau nui i tukuna mai e koutou katoa ki tēnei kaupapa. Nā koutou i whakakaha, i whakakotahi, kia ū ai te moemoeā kia hono te ao hangarau me te ao Māori.

Ko ngā mahi i oti i raro i te maru o Te Mura o te Ahi he tohu o te kaha, te māia, me te manawanui o ngā rangatahi, ngā kaiako, ngā whānau, me ngā iwi i tautoko mai.

Nō reira, e mihi kau ana ki a koutou i whakakāi i ngā wāhi katoa o tēnei haerenga, mai i te whakaritenga, ki te whakataetae, tae atu ki te hāpai i te reo Māori i roto i ngā mahi hangarau. Kia mau tonu tātou ki te whāinga kia toitū te reo, kia toitū te tikanga, kia toitū te mātauranga Māori i roto i ngā ao hou.

Ngā manaakitanga ki a koutou katoa, kia ū, kia manawanui, kia mau ki te ara tika mō ngā uri whakatipu. Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa.

Special thanks

Te Kura Kaupapa O
Nga Ruahine Rangī



Te Pi'ipi'inga Kakano
Mai I Rangiatea

