



ANNE FRANK
NEW ZEALAND
let me be myself

600 NZ SCHOOLS TO GET DIARY OF ANNE FRANK / TE RĀTAKA A TĒTAHI KŌHINE IN TE REO MAORI

Six hundred schools across New Zealand will receive a complimentary copy of Te Rātaka a Tētahi Kōhine / Diary of Anne Frank in te Reo Māori, bringing the story and its enduring message to an entirely new audience and generation for the first time.

Te Rātaka a Tētahi Kōhine was translated into te Reo Māori in 2019 under the guidance of Anne Frank New Zealand in celebration of Anne Frank's 90th birthday, with sponsorship from several key Māori partners including the Māori Language Commission – Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori.

The book is published and distributed in New Zealand & Australia by the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand.

“Anne’s story is as relevant today as it was 90 years ago with the rise of hate speech and acts of discrimination and violence against some communities. We need to ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust are not forgotten and to speak out against discrimination,” says Boyd Klap, Chairman of Anne Frank New Zealand.

The Māori Language Commission has welcomed the news.

“It is ironic that at the time Anne was writing in her diary, te reo Māori was banned in classrooms here. We are honoured to help share her story with Māori speakers in classrooms across our country and we would like to pay tribute to Māori language exponent, Te Haumihiata Mason, for her guidance and leadership throughout.” says Maori Language Commissioner, Professor Rawinia Higgins.

“We want to use this unique publication as a learning tool, to empower our tamariki and rangatahi to take a stand against prejudice and acts of hate speech. Reintroducing it into schools is a great way to bring that message to young people – some of whom are the same age as Anne when she wrote her diary – and to give speakers and students of te Reo Māori an opportunity to hear her story as well”, says Mr Klap.

The Māori translation is the 73rd of the Diary, and it is especially significant that it is in a language once banned in many places – including the classroom – as an act of discrimination against Māori.

“The Diary embodies the values of māia (courage), te manawanuitanga (endurance) and tūmanako (hope)”, says Mr Klap, and “we want it to inspire our rangatahi to be strong in the face of discrimination”.

“Nearly a year ago we saw how prejudice can turn into violence, with the mosque attacks in Christchurch targeting the Muslim community. Many other communities, including Māori, have also faced prejudice in the past and continue to do so, and we must stand against it” concluded Mr Klap.

Te Rātaka a Tētahi Kōhine is available in both hard copy and eBook from the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand at www.holocaustcentre.org.nz/annefranktereio.

For further media comment please contact Boyd Klap: 021 901 375.

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