

A background photograph showing four people from behind, standing on a rooftop and looking out over a city skyline. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue rectangle. The text is white and centered within this rectangle.

Embracing Culture at Odyssey School

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Who we are – about Odyssey School

- Part of Odyssey Youth Services
- Our rangatahi – incredible young people
- Kaupapa Māori model
- Young adults – tuakana teina

What does CULTURE look like at Odyssey School?

Dual Aspects of Culture:

1. Co-creation of a school 'culture' to empower learners
2. Cultural connection/reconnection

What makes us different and why this works for our rangatahi

- Whanaungatanga - foundation
- Focus on strengths, passions and learning styles
- Co-create individual learning programme
- Adapt NZC to suit lived experience eg visual whakapapa & raps
- Café training programme
- Whānau feel, inclusive and loving
- Rangatahi “voice”

>> This is suited to how we best learn – not like mainstream school. Teachers focus on us individually rather than treating the whole class as just one because everybody is different.<<

Male, 17

Odyssey Pou



**Tika
Pono
Aroha
Manaaki
Kaitiaki**

Successes for rangatahi

- **Restoration of diminished well-being**
- **Grow self belief as learner**
- **Different perception of school and learning**
- **Experience success – NCEA credits and more choice**
- **Able to reflect and identify own strength and resilience**
- **Future possibilities**
- **Empowerment**

>> I thought I couldn't read but now I know that I can.<<

Male, 17 years

>> I like school now. It is my happy place.<<

Male, 16 years

>> I feel like I have a second chance. I love learning now. <<

Female, 16 years

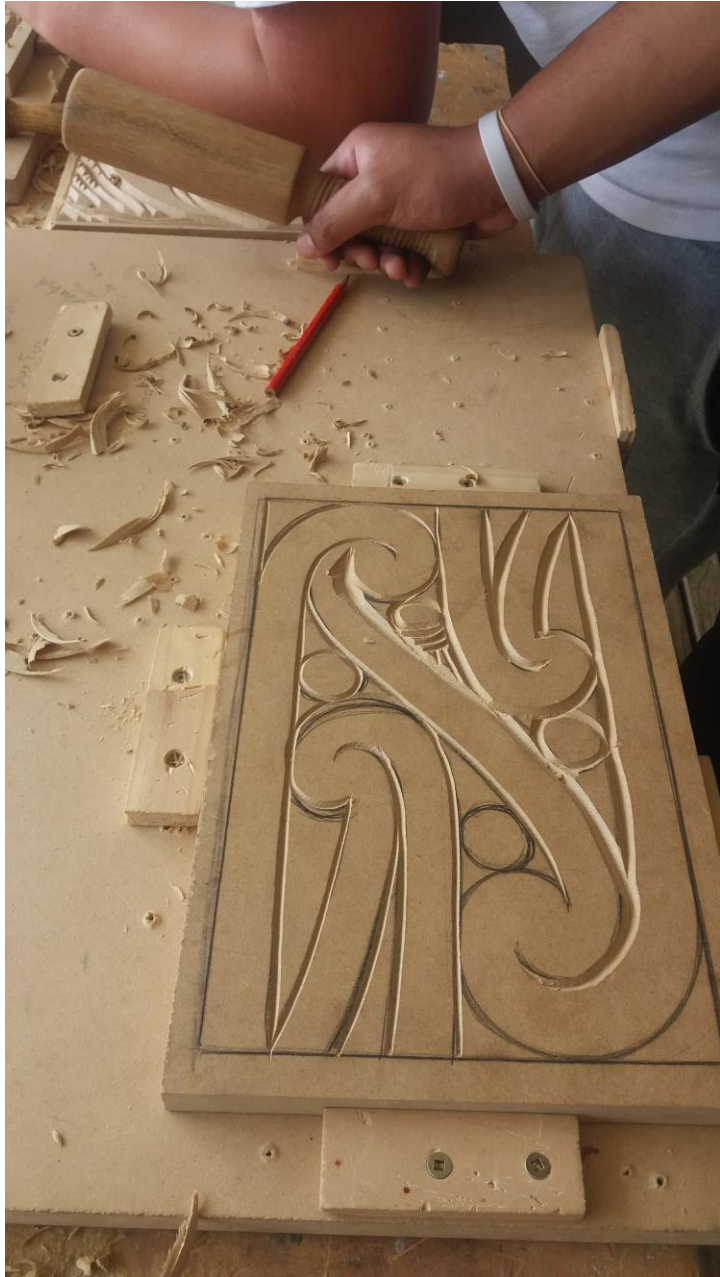


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Whakairo Rakau at Odyssey School

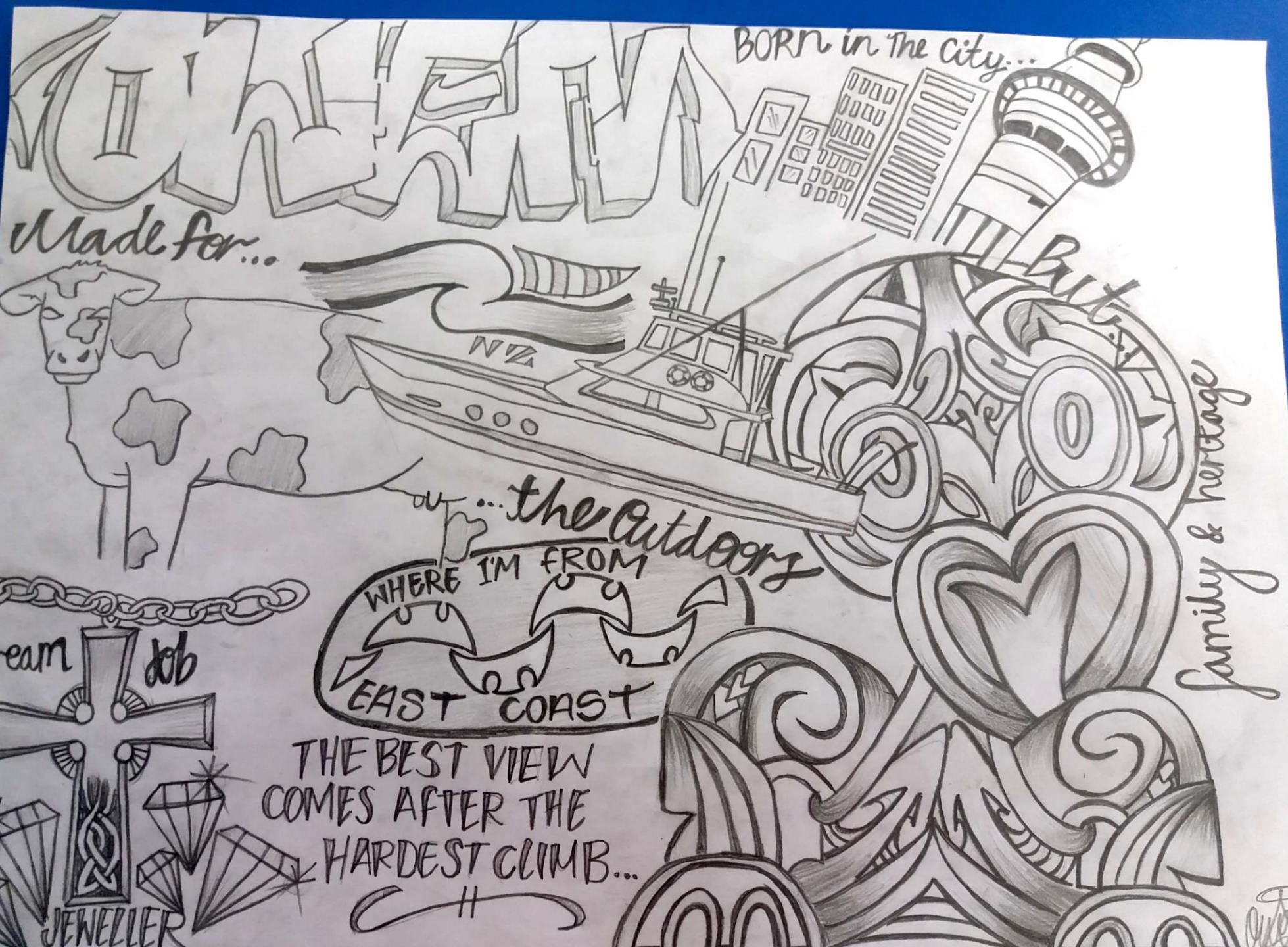
- Hands-on and physical – preferred learning style
- Learn about /connect to culture and whakapapa and ultimately themselves
 - People, iwi, places, values and language
 - Fun!



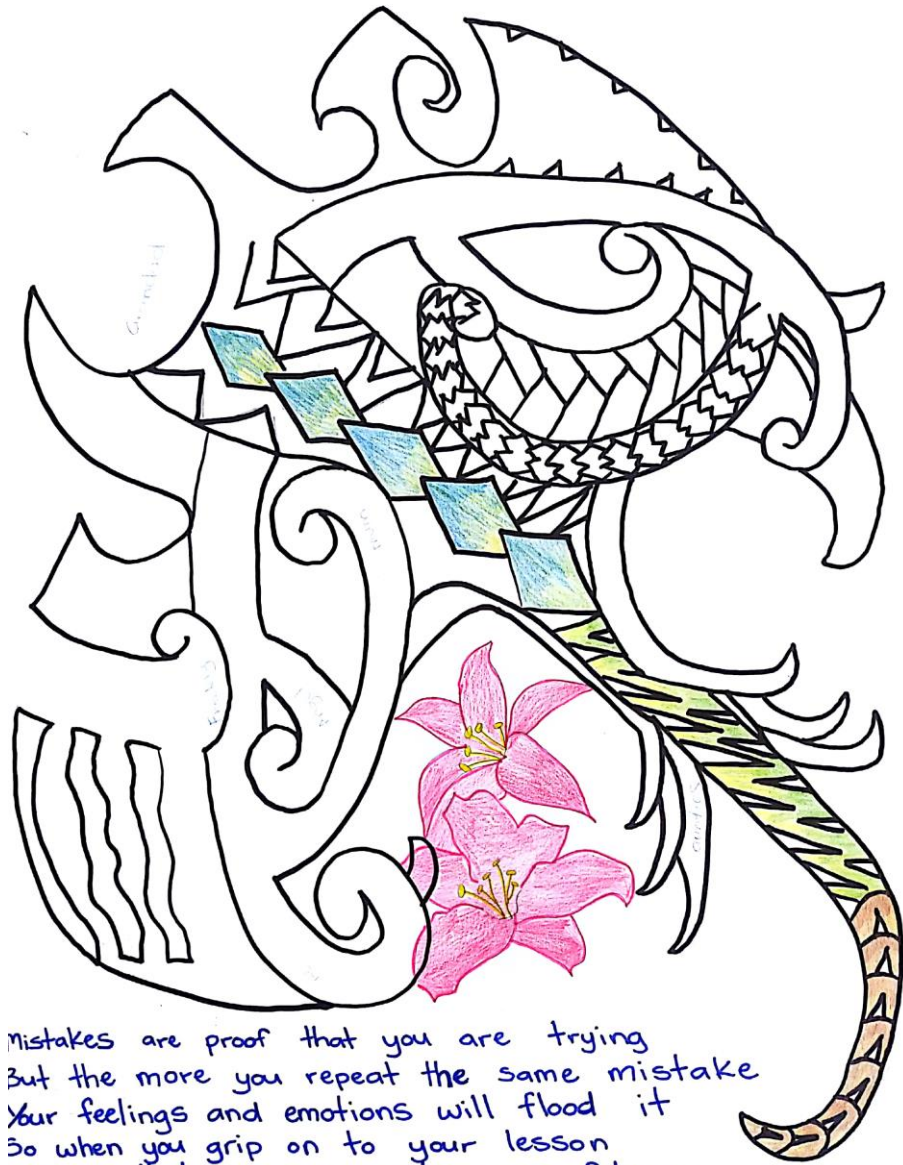


Visual Whakapapa

- English NCEA achievement standard
- Artistic talents – Tā moko
- Focus on tuakiri (identity), ahurei (uniqueness)
- Identify and explore connection to whenua and whānau
- Self expression is celebrated
- Life experience is valued
- Chance for 1-1 connecting



Examples of visual whakapapa

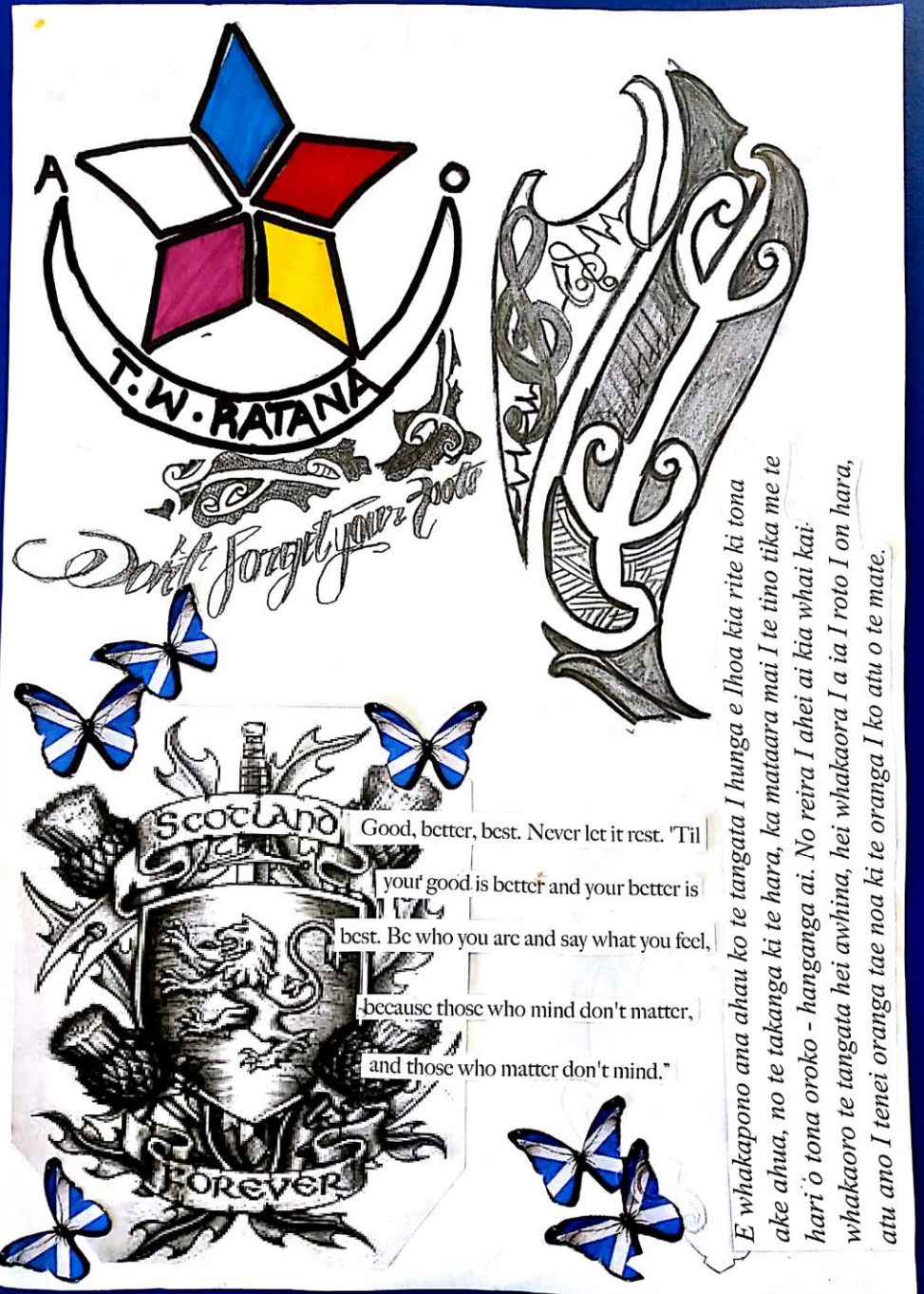


Mistakes are proof that you are trying
But the more you repeat the same mistake
Your feelings and emotions will flood it
So when you grip on to your lesson
Realise that you can write your future
And know your mistake was a lesson
Not a life sentence

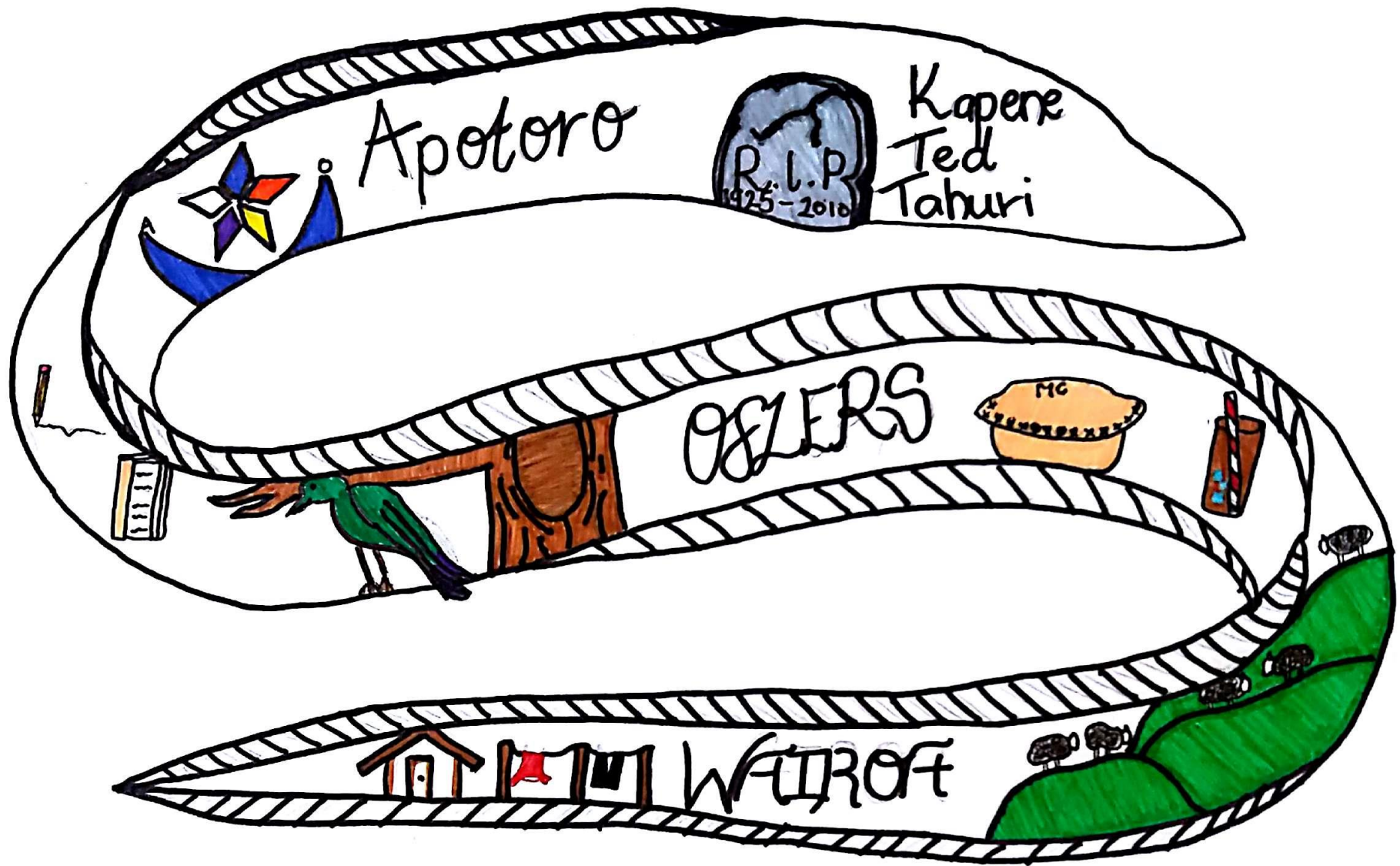
<<...has a tā moko stingray design because it represents my grandfather who I never met but who has inspired me my entire life.. The designs down the centre of it show strength and courage. I am trying to have strength and courage so I can be a role model to my younger siblings. I am developing the confidence to have a better perspective for my future and leaving behind my past. I put on this quote to represent how I feel about the life I have lived and my past and I believe that making a change can impact on a better life for the future.>>



Examples of visual whakapapa



<<...shows my two cultures. The top half being my Māori side and the bottom half being my Scottish side...the Ratana star and moon represents my Māori Faith.. a simple picture of New Zealand being my home and a little statement quoting “DON’T FORGET YOUR ROOTS” meaning never forget where you come from and be proud of that place you call home.... two quotes one in Te Reo and one in English. The quote in Te Reo is a verse out of the bible also The Creed of the Ratana Church and my quote in English is reminding myself that my good is better and my better is best, to be who I am and that those who mind don’t matter and those who matter don’t mind.>>



Examples of visual whakapapa



<<...the dream catcher...I believe it is important to follow your dreams and my dream is to be a physiotherapist... tā moko design representing courage and strength.... shows my happy place, the sea. Inside the stingray is more tamoko design – showing my love of sport and also courage in battle. Right now I am battling my addiction for a healthy future.>>



MY HAND HOLDS
MY LIFE

<< Everything is linked by a chain that is also linked to my hand because my hands hold my life. I believe it is up to me to determine where I go and that is why it is linked with a chain. I see my life as a series of links on a chain and that it is important to keep the chain whole. >>



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Creative Writing - Raps

THIS IS WHAT I'VE DONE

I'LL TELL YOU WHERE I'M GOING

Can't even speak cause you're cracked out

Front teeth smacked out

Yeah it's that dirty South in your mouth

4 weeks in YJ

Then I cracked bail

Now I'm willing to learn

And make changes.....

Yeah I chose to act tuff

Always the one in hand cuffs

Can't believe it's taken me this long

To actually realise what I want

Out of this life that I live.....

But now I'm in rehab

And I'm showing them all

That I can do better

Than the year before,

Making some real money

Even cracked me a job,

I feel so fresh and clean

Without drugs and alcohol,

The younger ones look up to me

So I got to stand tall.....

Where would I be today if I wasn't willing to
make a change?

THIS IS WHAT I'VE DONE

LET ME TELL YOU WHERE I'M GOING

DOWN THE RIGHT PATH

CAUSE I'M OVER BEING STONEY



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Rap writing

I cry at night hoping the pain goes away
I keep a smile on my face almost every day
It's been 8 full years I kept it bottled up
inside
I didn't tell no one because I wanted to die
I told myself that I'm strong see
What he did was wrong, touching up on me
Came into my room, crawled up on the bed
He was the monster in the dark

Had me wishing I was dead
Now I look at the world
From a different point of view
I am a victim of molest
And I still got through
So I kept it to myself
Cos it made me who I am now...

I'm better than ever
I got my whole life planned
I'm on my way to better days
I know about pain

A final word from our rangatahi....

<< I've achieved my seemingly unachievable goal of completing NCEA Level 2. I've really got into reading. I wasn't into reading before I came. I've enjoyed school and have realized that I can enjoy learning, encouraging me to pursue further study. >> (and he did!)

<< I like how I have been cracking credits and I like bonding with my teachers. I am now more self-regulated and I now like reading and learning.>>

<< It is nice to have teachers who listen to me and try to understand how I am feeling.>>

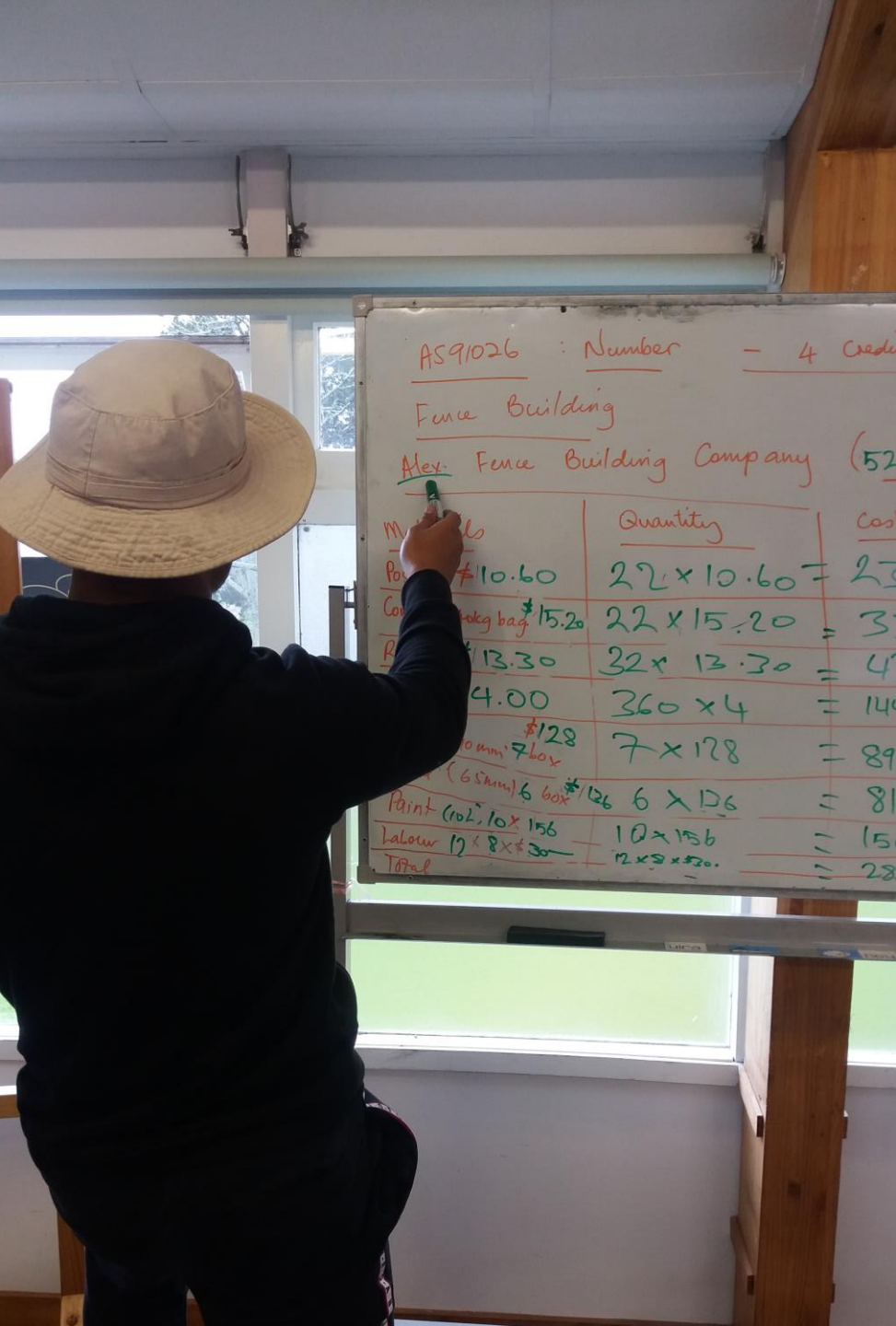
<< I feel astonished with my progress... I have spiritual and cultural connections too. I am happy to be doing Kapahaka again. >>

<< I feel like I've achieved the most work I've ever done at school before. I thought I was dumb before. >>

<< When I was younger I used to go to school for the girls and the fights. But now I think it is sad when you lose knowledge like I have. I know now that school is valuable. It can get you a long way. >>



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Celebration of Learning – learner as teacher

Thank you.

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