**CONTESTANT BIOS**

**EPISODE 1: TX: 18.10.13**

**Raewynne Murray and Kathy Thomas**

***Niece-in-law and aunty***

Raewynne is a mum of four (aged 14, 13, 8 and 7) and manager of the Manurewa Marlins U11s Rugby League team. Kathy Thomas (45) hails from Pipiwai but lives in Te Atatu North, and her iwi are Ngati Hine and Te Ore Wai. Her main love is performing – she’s appeared on Homai te Pakipaki and performs a Tina Turner routine.

**Lineni and Riparata Tuitupou**

***Daughter and mum***

Riparata is a kaiako at Rongomai Kohanga Reo in Otara. Lineni is in her second year studying performing arts at Manukau Institute of Technology, and loves acting, singing and spoken word. She lives in Papatoetoe.

**EPISODE 2: TX: 25.10.13**

**Jeremy and Jordan Brown**

***Father and son***

Jordan Brown (Ngati Hine), a Year 13 student at Auckland’s Rutherford College, represented Minister of Maori Affairs Dr Pita Sharples at this year’s Youth Parliament. He received a standing ovation to his speech (delivered in te reo Maori), calling for compulsory te reo education in schools. His father Jeremy has himself returned to education, and is currently studying at Auckland’s Te Wananga Takiura o Nga Kura Kaupapa Maori o Aotearoa.

**Courtney Elliott and Wayne Darlington**

***Daughter and dad***

Courtney is 15 and a student at Nga Taiatea in Waikato. She plays representative netball & softball, and competes in national karate tournaments. Her dad Wayne (Ngati Hikairo, Ngati Te Wehi (Tainui)) runs an Adventure Tourism business based out of Hamilton.

**EPISODE 3: TX: 1.11.13**

**Josie Smith and Taku Taylor**

***Aunty and niece***

Taku is currently studying a Bachelor of Social Sciences majoring in Politics at the University of Waikato. Josie is the CEO of Te *Kotuku Ki Te Rangi* – which provides community-based Kaupapa Maori Mental Health Services. She is Ngati Te Ata (from Waiuku/Tuakau) but grew up in Dargaville, and has seven children.

**Marleina Te Kanawa and Barlow Anderson**

***Great-aunty and moko***

Barlow (Ngati Rongomai, Tainui-Tahinga) is a student at Nga Taiatea Wharekura in Hamilton. Marleina (Tainui-Tahinga, Ngati Porou) works for the Ministry of Education, providing Professional Development for teachers.

**EPISODE 4: TX: 8.11.13**

**Lucy Te Moana and Te Okiwa McLean-Mika (Ngai Tūhoe)**

***Mum and son***

Lucy is the principal at Te Kura Kaupapa Maori a Rohe o Mangere, and Te Okiwa is studying Maori Media at AUT. They are a really close family who are also hugely competitive and like trying out new things.

**Kataraina and Hineamaru Ropati (Ngati Hine)**

***Daughter and mum***

Kataraina is a teacher, and is the eldest of 6 kids. Her dad is Ngati Ranginui and Samoan, and her mum is Ngati Hine. Hineamaru is the Safer Rohe Injury Prevention Consultant for South Auckland for ACC, and is passionate about ensuring her community are given the tools to help stay injury free. She was raised in the Far North and has lived in Mangere for the past 11 years.

**EPISODE 5: TX: 15.11.13**

**Em-Haley Kukutai and Boyd Broughton**

***Niece and uncle***

Em-Haley is a student at Auckland’s South Seas Film and Television School, but grew up in the South Island, between Timaru and Christchurch. Boyd (Te Rarawa, Nga Puhi, Ngati Porou) is a father-of-four who works for Counties Manukau District Health Board as a Living Smokefree Project Manager - Maori Youth Leadership.

**Makere Phillips and Hira Pereto**

***Niece and uncle***

Makere (Ngati Whatua, Ngati Porou) is a 24-year-old receptionist/administrator. She grew up in Hicks Bay but now lives in Orakei, Auckland. Hira Pereto (Ngati Porou, Ngati Paora) is Makere’s uncle and is currently studying Culinary Arts at AUT. He was a former NZ-representative snooker player.

**EPISODE 6: TX: 22.11.13**

**Matehuirua Hohua and Anaru Keogh**

***Niece and uncle***

Matehuirua (Ngapuhi, Ngati Maniapoto) is a 16 year-old student at Nga Taiatea in Waikato. She hopes to work in media once she has finished her schooling, and has been interning at Radio Tainui. Anaru Keogh (Ngapuhi, Ngati Maniapoto) is Matehuirua’s uncle, and also her Deputy Principal at Nga Taiatea.

**Hinerangi and Mikaere Curtis**

***Daughter and dad***

Hinerangi (Te Arawa) is in Year 11 at Auckland Girls’ Grammar School and a fluent te reo speaker. Her dad, Mikaere, (Te Arawa, Ngati Rongomai) is a software developer who is currently number 26 on the Green Party list.

**EPISODE 7: TX: 29.11.13**

**Marina Biddle and Hinera Biddle**

***Niece and aunt***

Marina is 24 years old and is of Ngati Tuwharetoa descent. She lives in Hamilton and currently teaches new entrants in a rumaki reo class at Kihikihi Primary School.

Hinera is Marina’s dad’s eldest sister, she works for Te Wananga o Raukawa, running marae-based study programmes. Hinera lives in Turangi.

**Kristin Ross and Leeann Hindman**

***Daughter and mother***

Kristin Ross is doing her Honours degree in Te Reo Maori me ōna Tikanga at Waikato University. She is the tumuaki for Te Waiora, which is the Maori students roopu at Waikato. Leeann grew up in a large family in Glen Innes and is a kaiawhina at Te Taurere kohanga reo in Glendowie.

**EPISODE 8: TX: 06.12.13**

**Louisa Tipene Opetaia and Angel Mosese**

***Sisters***

There is a 16 year age gap between Louisa and Angel (Te Rarawa, Ngati Hamoa), but that hasn’t stopped them from being mistaken for each other. Louisa is 38, and is an actor, singer and writer who has recently returned to NZ after many years in Australia and Hawaii. Angel is 22, and is on maternity leave.

**Natalia Kaihau and Steffi Smith**

***Sisters***

Steffi Smith (Ngati Te Ata, Ngapuhi) is a 24-year-old full time student studying a Bachelor of Communication Studies at AUT. Natalia Kaihau is 41, and is the eldest sister. She is a Service Manager at Te Kotuku ki te Rangi, a Maori mental health service provider.

**EPISODE 9: TX: 13.12.13**

**Hikitia Te Aho and Wiki Papa**

***Nephew and Aunt***

Wiki Papa (Ngati Koroki Kahukura) is from Pohara near Lake Karapiro and is passionate about Te Reo Maori and kapa haka. Hikitia Te Aho (Ngati Koroki Kahukura) is 18 years old and currently studying at Waikato University. He lives in Hamilton now but was born in Gisborne.

**Waiora and Tania Rawiri**

***Son and mother***

Waiora (Ngapuhi) is a student at the Whangarei Leadership Academy of A Company, and is 16 years old. His mother Tania (also Ngapuhi) lives in Omapere, in the Hokianga.

**EPISODE 10: TX: 20.12.13**

**Te Reo Irirangi face-off!**

**Taz Heta and Pare Poutapu-Heta**

***Son and mum***

Taz is 20 years old and is of Waikato-Tainui descent. He works in production at Tainui FM and hails from Huntly. Pare is also Waikato-Tainui. She’s a mum of four and is a roadside lollypop lady.

**Te Miri Takerei and Sophia Hineaupounamu Rotana**

Te Miri (Ngati Maniapoto) is one of the Taiohi drive show hosts on Maniapoto FM. She and Sophia (Waikato/Maniapoto) works at Te Wharekura o Maniapoto, and is from Waitomo. They both live in Te Kuiti.

**EPISODE 11: TX: 27.12.13**

**Korina Tahana and Te Awaiti Te Aho**

***Sister and brother***

Mum of five, Korina (36) is the eldest of eight children - Te Awaiti (19) is the third youngest.

Awa wants to be a teacher, and is currently a teacher aide as well as studying.

**Joe (aged 46) and Joseph (19) Herewini**

***Dad and eldest son (of 3 boys)***

The Auckland father and son duo are national touch rugby representatives, Joe plays for NZ masters, and Joseph plays for the NZ open team. They both play drums, lead guitar and piano and are very competitive

**EPISODE 12: TX: 03.01.14**

**Te Wairere Ngata and Haani Huata**

***Sisters***

Te Wairere (21) is currently studying for a Bachelor of Communication (Hons) at Waikato University. She’s also the Vice President-Maori of the Waikato Student Union and a kapa haka tutor. Haani (44) is Te Wairere’s eldest sister and works as a kaiako matua at Te Wananga o Aotearoa.

**Katarina Manuel and Moko Tepania**

***Aunt and nephew***

Katarina is a principal at Matihetihe School in Mitimiti, Northland. She’s 36 years old, grew up in Whangarei, and her iwi are Te Rarawa. Moko is 22 and is studying at Waikato University. His iwi are Ngati Kahu, Te Rarawa.

**EPISODE 13: TX: 10.01.14**

**Mikaera and Peter Joyce**

***Husbands***

Mikaera is (28) and loves film, design and music. He studied filmmaking and interactive design, and has also done Te Ara Reo courses. He grew up in Tokerau (near Doubtless Bay) in Northland. Peter (53) works in sales in the roofing business and has a passion for speaking te reo Maori.

**Elaina Anderson and Margaret Phillips**

***Mother- and daughter-in-law***

Elaina Anderson (27) is a Te Reo Maori teacher at Southern Cross campus in Mangere, Auckland. She is Ngapuhi, does waka ama, and was on Maori Television’s Kupu Huna.

Margaret is her partner Jacob’s mum, and is like a second mum to her. Margaret is currently back in NZ after many years living in Australia.