Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuaroa

Nei rā te reo karanga e tau atu nei
Ki te hāpai ake i te rau tāngata
Whakaako, whakaeko ki te kōmata
Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuaroa.

Te ara mātauranga
Ka whakarewa e
Te māramatanga ka kitea e
Kimihia, rangahaua kia whita e.
Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuaroa!

(to the tune of Blue Smoke by Ruru Karaitiana)

English Explanation

Hear the call, the message
To uplift the diverse human nature
Learn and aspire to reach the pinnacle.
This is the message from Massey University.

The pathways to learning
Can be inspirational
And deeper understanding can enlighten
Therefore, seek out and grasp knowledge
This is the message from our University!

About The Waiata

This waiata, Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuaroa, highlights key values that are emphasised by Massey University. Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuaroa is the Māori name for Massey; it emphasises that the pursuit of learning is an endless journey. Literally, it means “from inception to infinity”.

The creation of a university waiata is consistent with both cultural uniqueness and cultural diversity. Diversity because of the increasingly different environments and locations where Massey does (and will) engage. Unique, because of the connectedness with local communities, and the recognition of the significance of te reo Māori.

The waiata implores people to pursue excellence and to set high expectations. It also highlights that knowledge should be used to uplift people, that is, for individual and collective benefit.
Background

The waiata is sung to the tune of the hit song from the 1940’s, Blue Smoke. Blue Smoke was written by Ruru Karaitiana who was a member of the 28th (Māori) Battalion. He has links to Massey University both through his Rangitane affiliations and through whānau members who have attended the University. The whānau have given their approval for the use of the tune. Massey University is grateful for the generosity shown by the Karaitiana Whānau.

The waiata was composed in consultation with Māori staff and consolidated by Professor Sir Mason Durie and Jacob Tapiata.

Go to http://folksong.org.nz/bluesmoke/index.html to hear the tune.