



HE MAUMAHARA AROHA: TUROA HARONGA

On Friday 22 November Koro would have been 86 years of age and on Saturday 23 November 2019, the hura kohatu for Koro was unveiled at the urupa in Waimarama.

A beautiful day with a gentle sea breeze greeted all of us who gathered to remember this fine man, a principled social worker with the integrity of tipuna and a deep commitment to his haahi Morehu.

Koro was a Life Member of the Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers (ANZASW) and his commitment to the profession is well known. Most importantly, Koro aligned the Niho Taniwha Framework, which he and John Bradley devised, to the core Social Work competencies giving rise to the Niho Taniwha competency process, which tangata whenua could pursue as members of ANZASW.

In keeping with this process Koro Turoa not only went around the country assessing people but he as well, trained people to assess as members of a 3-person panel. The process was kano ki te kano and the person seeking competency was accountable to their peers meaning anyone who had gathered to either complete competency or was present as a kaitautoko could speak and so there was no predictability as to who might be present. The panel also adjudicated in the presence of the hui. A very open and transparent process.

Koro worked primarily in mental health at the hospital in Hastings and is most remembered for his work in this sector.

However, Koro was an avid learner competing a Master's degree and as well, huarahi ako in te reo Rangatira. This proves that one is never too old to learn and it is certainly a quality that as social work practitioners, we must always be receptive to and engaged in.

E Koro, moe mai ra a te kainga pumau i te rangimarie.

Mauri ora!