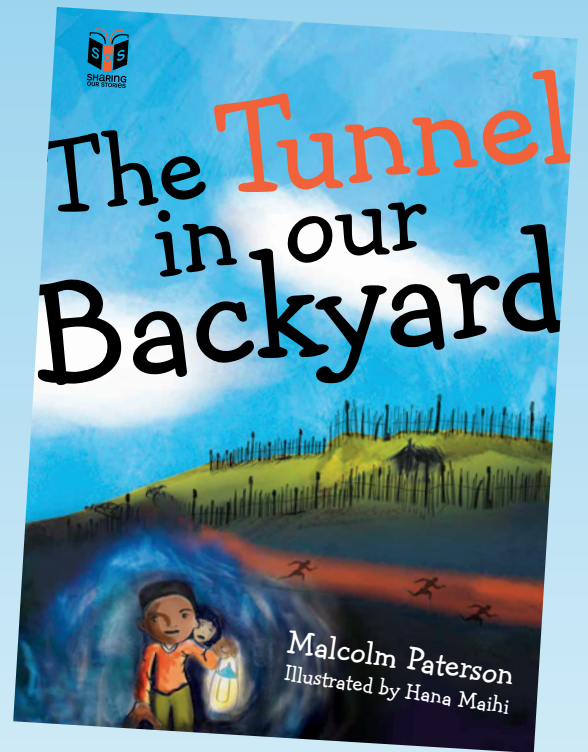


The Tunnel in our Backyard



Malcolm Paterson
Illustrated by Hana Maihi



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Teacher Resource

‘Tefere’s got a tunnel under his whare!’

‘Whānau, I reckon the rest of the unpacking can wait
until later — let’s have an adventure!’

Tui and Jennifer discover that Tui’s next door neighbour has a tunnel in his backyard. Their adventure includes exploring the how, why and when of the tunnel. With Nanny Marei and other whānau as storytellers, they relive the old and more recent history of the area.



DISCUSSION

The places in this book are within the rohe (home area) of the tribe to which author Malcolm Paterson belongs. Do you know much kōrero about the place where you live? Have adults you know told you any stories about how and why your area is like it is, the changes they have seen, famous people who lived there, important things that happened there or fantastic myths/legends about the place?

What stories have you been part of in your local area? Have you helped care for a creek or patch of bush, or helped other people in your community in some way?

ACTIVITIES

1. Place names and where they come from

In *The Tunnel in Our Backyard* we hear of tūpuna who are associated with the area, for example, Rangihina, Rakataura, Ruarangi and Ohomatakamokamo. Research your local area and identify tūpuna from there. Are their ingoa still remembered in local placenames?

2. Water quality

The whānau plants trees around Te Auaunga to help improve water quality.

Can you find out what the water quality is like in a creek near you? Is it good or not so good?

In either case, why do you think this might be? Comparing a creek with poor water quality, and one with good water quality might help you understand and answer this question. If its water quality isn't very good, is anything being done to improve it? Are there any environmental action groups active regarding this or other issues in your area?

What more can be done?

3. He ana (a cave)

If you'd like to explore a lava tunnel, see if you can get to Rangitoto Island, which is in the Hauraki Gulf near Auckland. There is a track to a publicly accessible cave there. Remember your torch!

4. He rapunga (a search)

There are lots of local places, plants and animals mentioned and shown in *The Tunnel in Our Backyard*. Your challenge is to investigate your own 'backyard' (suburb/town) and list places, plants and animals you see.

Make a map of where you live. Write short paragraphs about three or four of the interesting places, plants and animals you've seen (for example, what they are, what's unique or special about them) and stick them on your map. This could be an activity done individually, in a group, or by a whole class.

ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

5. Visit an historic mansion or a museum

Visit Alberton in Mt Albert, Auckland, to learn more about the historic mansion and the Kerr-Taylor family who lived there.

Go to the Museum of Transport and Technology at Western Springs, Auckland, to see their boiler room. Learn how boilers like the one Tui, Jennifer and Tefere saw operate.

6. Minecraft challenge

Using Minecraft, build your own pā tūwatawata (palisaded fort) and/or 'Alberton'.

If you don't have access to Minecraft, you can draw your pā or mansion on paper.

7. Matariki

In *The Tunnel in Our Backyard* the whānau talk about Matariki. Since this book was written, Matariki has become a public holiday in New Zealand. As winter approaches, look out for celebrations of Matariki in your local area.

What might you and your whānau do to celebrate Matariki? For some good ideas (and more kōrero about Matariki) take a look at the Te Papa website:

<https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/discover-collections/read-watch-play/matariki-maori-new-year>

8. Ethiopian food

Tefere's family introduces Tui and Jennifer and their whānau to 'wat'. See if you can get to an Ethiopian restaurant or festival and try it for yourself.

9. Te reo Māori

This book is bilingual, meaning it has been written in two official New Zealand languages: te reo Māori and English.

Work your way through the book and make a list of ten Māori words or phrases for which you didn't previously know the meaning. Practise how to pronounce the words (see the guide on the next page). Share your words with your classmates and have a crack at using them in your everyday language ... tukua!



GUIDE TO PRONOUNCING MĀORI WORDS

Vowels

A	Say as the a in father
E	Say as the e in egg
I	Say as the ee in tree
O	Say as the oor in door
U	Say as the oo in zoo

Long vowels are shown with a macron over them (ā ē ī ō ū). The macron means that the sound of that vowel should last longer as it is said. If several vowels appear together, try to sound every vowel in turn, for example, 'whaea'.

Consonants

H K M N P W Pronounce as in English.

R The true Māori pronunciation of **r** is somewhere between the English **r**, **d** and **l**. For example, 'Muriwai' could be written like 'Moodywai' and 'kōrero' as 'kōdedo' or 'kōlelo' using the English alphabet.

T Pronunciation depends on the vowel that follows the t. The **t** in **ta**, **te** and **to** is pronounced dully as a cross between the English **t** and **d**. The **t** in **ti** and **tu** is sharper and is not softened by a 'd' sound.

Ng Say as the **ng** in **sing**.

Wh Say as a cross between the **wh** in **which** (where both the w and the h are sounded) and the **f** in **family**.

USING THIS BOOK IN NEW ZEALAND CLASSROOMS

Within the framework of The New Zealand Curriculum, *The Tunnel in Our Backyard* supports several principles, notably: Cultural Diversity and Future Focus (especially sustainability), plus elements under the Treaty of Waitangi (for example, the opportunity to acquire knowledge of te reo Māori me ngā tikanga (te reo Māori and tikanga Māori).

Of the five key competencies that the Curriculum endorses, this book links closely to Using Language, Symbols and Texts, Thinking, Participating and Contributing, and Relating to Others. It also lends itself well to recognising New Zealand's Official Languages and the learning areas of Learning Languages, Arts, Science and Social Sciences.

From 2023, Aotearoa New Zealand's histories and Te Takanga o Te Wā will be taught in all schools and kura. *The Tunnel in Our Backyard* is an excellent resource encouraging a 'sense of place' and can be a template for schools in other areas to stimulate their local curriculum learning.

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- Where to find information about the Waterview Connection project, Alberton, Te Auaunga, Mount Albert, Waterview and Auckland's volcanic field*
Albert-Eden Local Board/Auckland Council <http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/>
Auckland War Memorial Museum <http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/>
Department of Conservation <http://www.doc.govt.nz/>
Friends of Oakley Creek <http://www.oakleycreek.org.nz/>
Heritage New Zealand <http://www.heritage.org.nz/>
New Zealand Archaeological Association <http://www.nzarchaeology.org/>
The New Zealand Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites <http://www.icomos.org.nz/>
Waterview Connection nzta.govt.nz/projects/the-western-ring-route/waterview-connection

