

Tipu In Schools



THE INTERACTIVE, RESPONSIVE
WAY TO BRING TE REO MĀORI
INTO EVERYDAY EDUCATION



Te Reo Māori education that is accessible and adaptable



Koi, Tipu's Kaiako

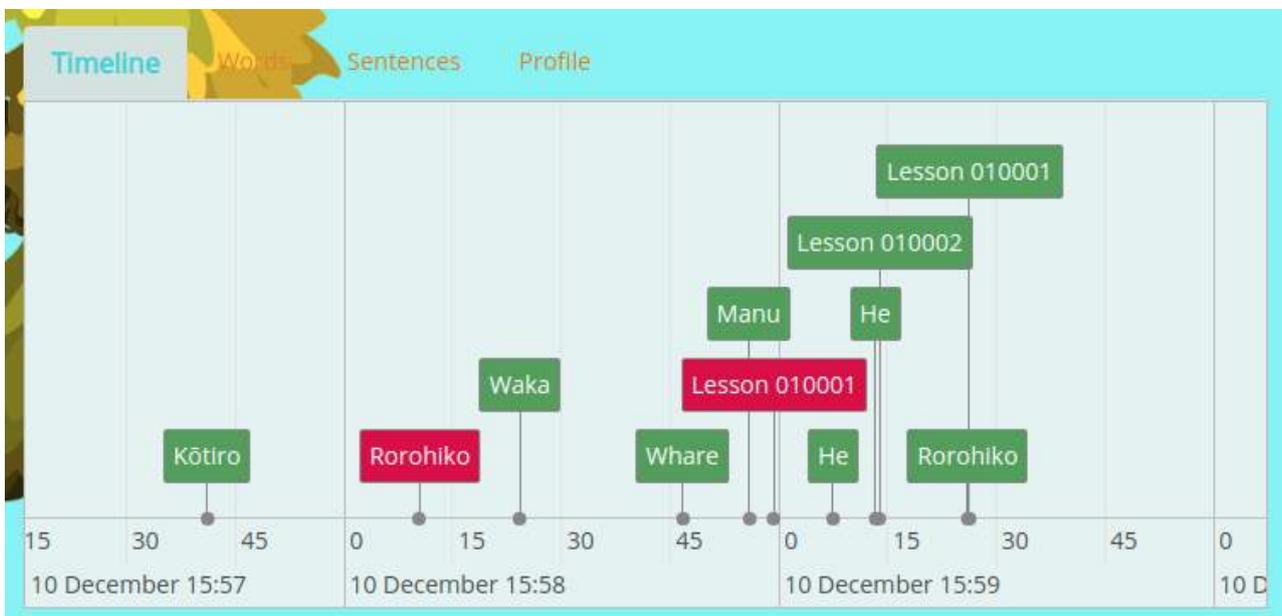
Jeremy and Melissa Banks, Plink Software's founders, wanted to create a learning tool that combined the rising need for consistent Te Reo practice with convenience and fun.

So, they developed Tipu, an individualised, adaptable app that uses gamification to make learning Te Reo Māori fun, easy, and addictive.

It was designed to mimic the way that Jeremy learnt Te Reo - using the language and learning grammar all at the same time.

Soon, it became clear that Tipu would be perfect in the classroom environment, so Plink began a pilot programme working with different schools.

Plink worked closely with their pilot schools to make sure that Tipu was easy for teachers to use with their tamariki, regardless of their own Te Reo ability.



A student's progress dashboard showing the timeline of their learning

Known	Unknown	Learnt	Favourites
whare - house	hipi - sheep	rorohiko - computer	he kurt kino - a bad dog
kōtiro - girl		pene - pen	ngā hoa - the friends
mā - white		moni - money	ngā whare - the houses
roa - long			
ātaahua - beautiful			
tēpu - table			
nui - big			
āporo - apple			
wāhine - women			
pai - good			
he - a			

A student's progress dashboard showing words learnt

Easy, measurable assessments and dynamic learning that sticks

As a former educator, Melissa understood the importance of being able to regularly assess student comprehension levels.

She also knew how crucial it is to be able to translate that feedback into the classroom in clear, actionable ways.

With that in mind, Plink designed Tipu so that educators and parents can track each student's progress through a dashboard.

Teachers can see words and themes that students are consistently struggling with and expand on problem areas in the classroom to ensure better comprehension and usage.

They also realised how powerful gamification would be to keep tamariki motivated when using Tipu.

"One of the barriers that you have learning from a book is that your brain actually remembers the answer from last time you were there, instead of actually performing the translation.

And so that's why we made sure that Tipu understands how a sentence is put together. Tipu will randomly choose a noun or verb that the tamaiti has already been taught, and substitute it where it needs to go in the sentence.

We wanted Tipu to present the learner with completely dynamic sentences so they understand the language in different contexts. **It engages the translation process a lot more than the rote learning technique does,"** Jeremy says.

A principal's perspective

St. Francis of Assisi School went from struggling to integrate consistent Te Reo practice into its curriculum to 50% of its students consistently using Te Reo weekly in under two years

Challenge: Integrating consistent Te Reo education into classrooms

Principal Jo Earl had tried to create a consistent, clear program for Te Reo Māori education in her school for years.

But she ran up against the same problem again and again: the teachers were limiting their students because they felt self-conscious about their own Te Reo skills.

That meant that students were getting the basics - colours, commands, numbers - over and over, but they weren't advancing to the more robust aspects of truly using the language.

"We have a teacher that's in charge of Māori language and every fortnight we would have a 10 to 15 minute PD session and give them some more resources that they could then teach for the next two weeks. So we would show them what to do and then do it. It was better than doing nothing, but it never seemed to stick. There's also a bit of a lack of buy-in from some of the teachers - they would practice Te Reo in our PD, but it wasn't enough to get them to bring it into the classroom."

Client
Experience:

Jo Earl

Principal of St.
Francis of Assisi
Catholic
School

Christchurch

Encouraging and motivating education

Solution: Tipu available on iPads and Chromebooks

Plink were able to quickly set up the students in Tipu that Earl added as they expanded the program.

Initially, Tipu in Schools was only available on iPads. However, St. Francis of Assisi had invested in Chromebooks for their students. Plink created a web platform to make Tipu in Schools also accessible on Chromebooks, or any computer with a web browser.

"We realised that the programme was really encouraging for kids, and also quite motivating. So we wanted to go bigger," says Earl.



Fulfilling bi-cultural responsibilities every day

Decision Drivers: A commitment to the school's vision as part of New Zealand's inclusive bi-cultural shaping of the future

"It's really important that we fulfill our bi-cultural responsibilities and keep Te Reo alive, and we are committed to that at St. Francis of Assisi. The support that Tipu in Schools provides allows us to do that in an actionable, responsive, adaptable way."

Now, 184 of her 360 students have access to Tipu in Schools, and Earl is looking to increase that gradually. In 2019, St. Francis of Assisi created requirements for years 7-8 students to log 30 minutes a week.

"Tipu allows students to be very independent, because it's driven by their individual needs, and it adapts to whatever level they're at."

- Jo Earl

Te Reo: it's cool to kōrero

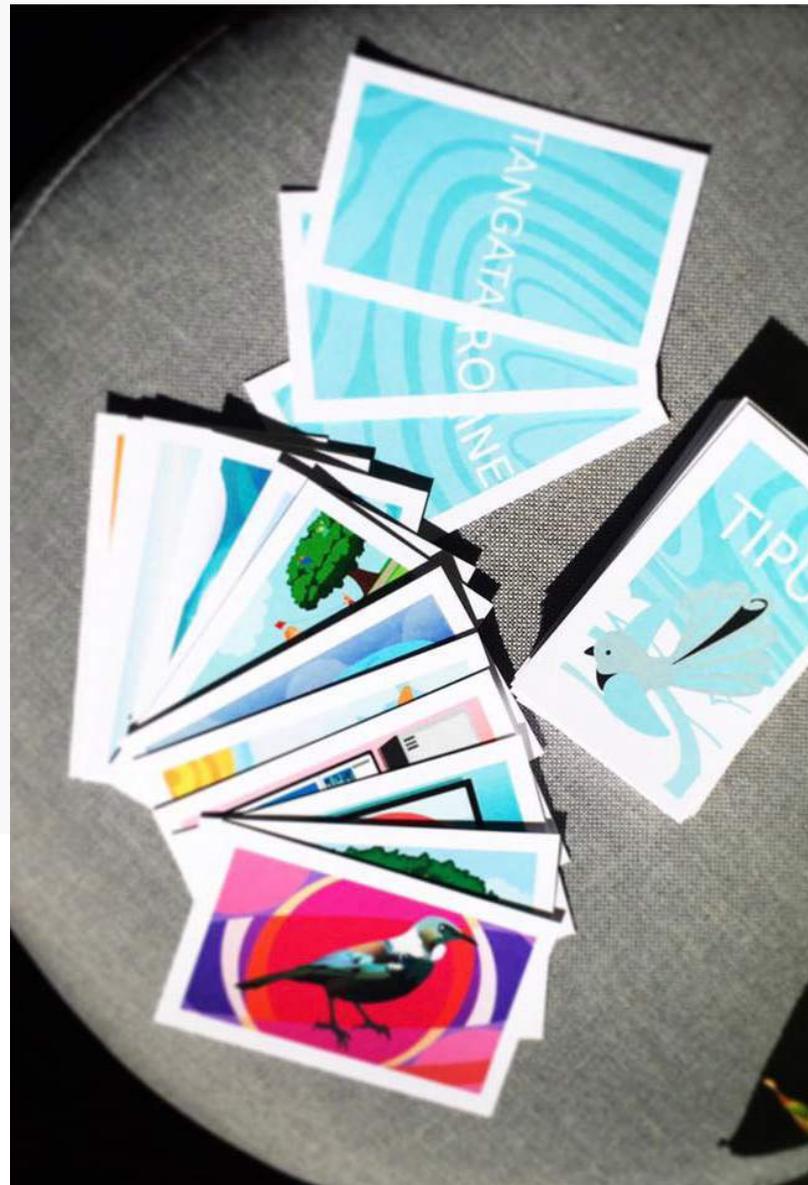
Results: 50% of students consistently using Te Reo

Earl is impressed by the outcomes that she's seen in such a short time - she hears students speaking in Te Reo casually when she's making her rounds of the campus.

Parents have become more engaged with the Te Reo program, and the community around it has grown.

It has indeed become cool to kōrero.

She is delighted with how quickly she was able to take her school to consistent, active language use.



"Plink really listens to all of our requests and then gives us what we ask for.

They've taken our Te Reo educational ambitions from ideas to reality."

-Jo Earl

Tipu's Features:

- Customised Support
- Relatable, everyday topics to study
- Designed by an educator
- Teachers do not need to know Te Reo Māori
- Personalised and adaptive
- Hands-on
- Works on iPad, Chromebook and smartphone
- Mimics real-world language acquisition process
- Uses gamification to create fun, addictive engagement
- Well-resourced with learning props to support classroom lessons
- Plink is very responsive to customer feedback and is constantly making improvements
- Reports in dashboard enable teachers and parents to track progress
- Enables in home learning, which increases whānau involvement
- Login on different devices to take customised learning with you



A teacher's perspective

Nelson Central School uses Tipu to check comprehension and create dynamic curricula based on students' progress

Teacher Erina Tuhakaraina teaches at Te Pouahi, a bi-lingual Level 2 Māori Immersion unit at Nelson Central School. Fifty to eighty-one percent of her instruction is conducted in Te Reo.

She was having a hard time finding engaging Te Reo learning tools to support her class - there were the standard games and flashcards, but they were static and limited to whatever the content level was.

"I had to dig deep to find resources that we could implement daily that were complimentary to what we were doing in the classroom," Tuhakaraina says.

She also could see that her students were struggling with correct spelling and macron placement in their written Te Reo.

And finally, **she needed a way to use student feedback and quantifiable results to drive her lesson planning.**

"Most of my students are at around Level 3 in Tipu right now. One is at Level 4. And so I will probably go and talk to him and ask, "Hey, what parts of Tipu have you enjoyed and how often are you on the app? Are you on it at home, perhaps? How did you achieve level 4? What were the exercises that you did and how did you get to there?"

"And I can use that to help the other students get there, too," she says.

Client Experience:

Erina Tuhakaraina

Teacher at Nelson Central School

Nelson

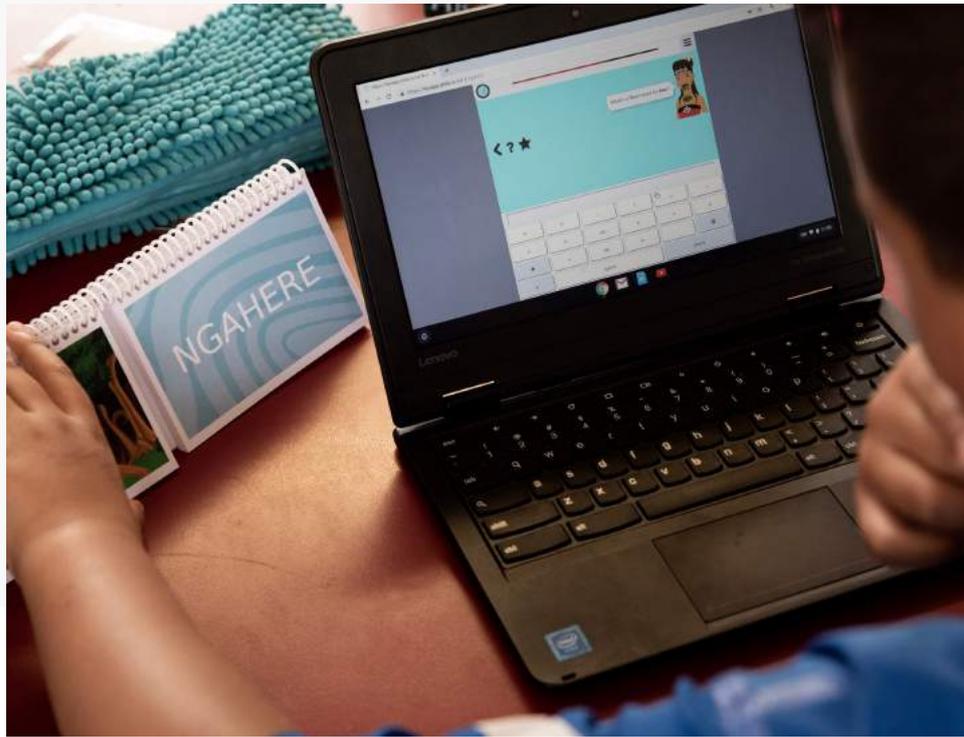
Student-led lesson planning

Tuhakaraina was always looking for "that next new idea" to increase engagement in her students' Te Reo learning journey.

She loves how Tipu is customised to each student's level, so they are never bored or left feeling like they're not being challenged.

She also loves being able to use quantitative data to inform her lesson planning.

The students' classroom learning is more personalised to their language development level as a result.



"The points and levels system in Tipu lets me easily see where each child is at on their learning journey.

Tipu also shows me which words and sentence structures students are struggling with so we can address them in the classroom."

-Erina Tuhakaraina



TIPU ON THE RISE

60K TIPU USERS*

160K SENTENCES LEARNT*

325K WORDS LEARNT*

*June 2019

What students are saying

Kereama Mapu, 9 years old, likes quite a few things about Tipu. "You can teach others how to learn hard Māori words," he says.

He also likes the spelling integrations and help with macrons. "You can see the answer if you need a bit of help. Macrons, like if they're one woman, wahine, there's no macron, but if there are more than one, it's wāhine, and you learn how to put the macrons in."

The most important thing, though, for Cooper Waldren, 8 years old? "It's really fun!"

About Plink Software

Based at the Bridge Street Collective in Nelson, Plink Software specialises in kaupapa Māori software.

Plink strives to connect Māori to their language and their whakapapa.

They do that by developing apps like Tipu and Te Ao Hunga, a platform that enables Iwi organisations to manage their membership information more effectively and connect their members to their whakapapa.

In the modern world where so many of our whānau are dispersed to the four corners of the globe, Te Ao Hunga provides an opportunity for them to remain connected to what Māori consider the fundamental aspect of identity, whakapapa.

Tōku reo, tōku ohooho.

Tōku reo, tōku mapihi maurea.



Highly Commended Award
for Innovation in Māori Development
and finalist in Excellence in Social
Innovation

New Zealand Innovation Awards 2017



PLINK SOFTWARE

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