

# Te Rākei Whakaehu: Weaving transgender and Māori realities

Manawaroa Te Wao & Ariariterangi Kokiri – Ngāti Māhanga Hōrua

Tawhanga Mary-Legs Nopera – Ngāti Whakaue

*“Kotahi te kohao o te ngira, e kuhana ai te miro ma, te mira pango, te mira whero”  
(There is but one eye of the needle which the white, black and red thread must pass)*

Kīngi Pōtatau

# Manawaroa Te Wao

I came out in the 60s and 70s

My mother said to me, you were born to me as a son and I recognise you as a son, but your life is your life



I hid from the police to be safe

When I was growing up, drag queens and lesbians took it quite hard on the street while often, the gay men ran away

I spoke at the World Indigenous Conference in Sydney, 2014

Later that year I helped to organise the National Takatāpui hui held at my Marae, Te Papa-o-Rotu, in Whatawhata



My whānau accept me and I am proud to karanga on my marae



# Ariariterangi Kokiri

I grew up with many *Auntwees* on my marae, Te Papa-o-Rotu

I came out at The Hui Takatāpui in Panguru in 2012, where Tainui made a tonono for the Takatāpui hui of 2014



I go out and look after our trans-sisters on the street

I enjoy having an opportunity through WINZ, to kōrero with others in our trans community about work opportunities. 94% of trans people are on the benefit

I go out to help our elder trans-sisters and Auntwees who live in rest-homes



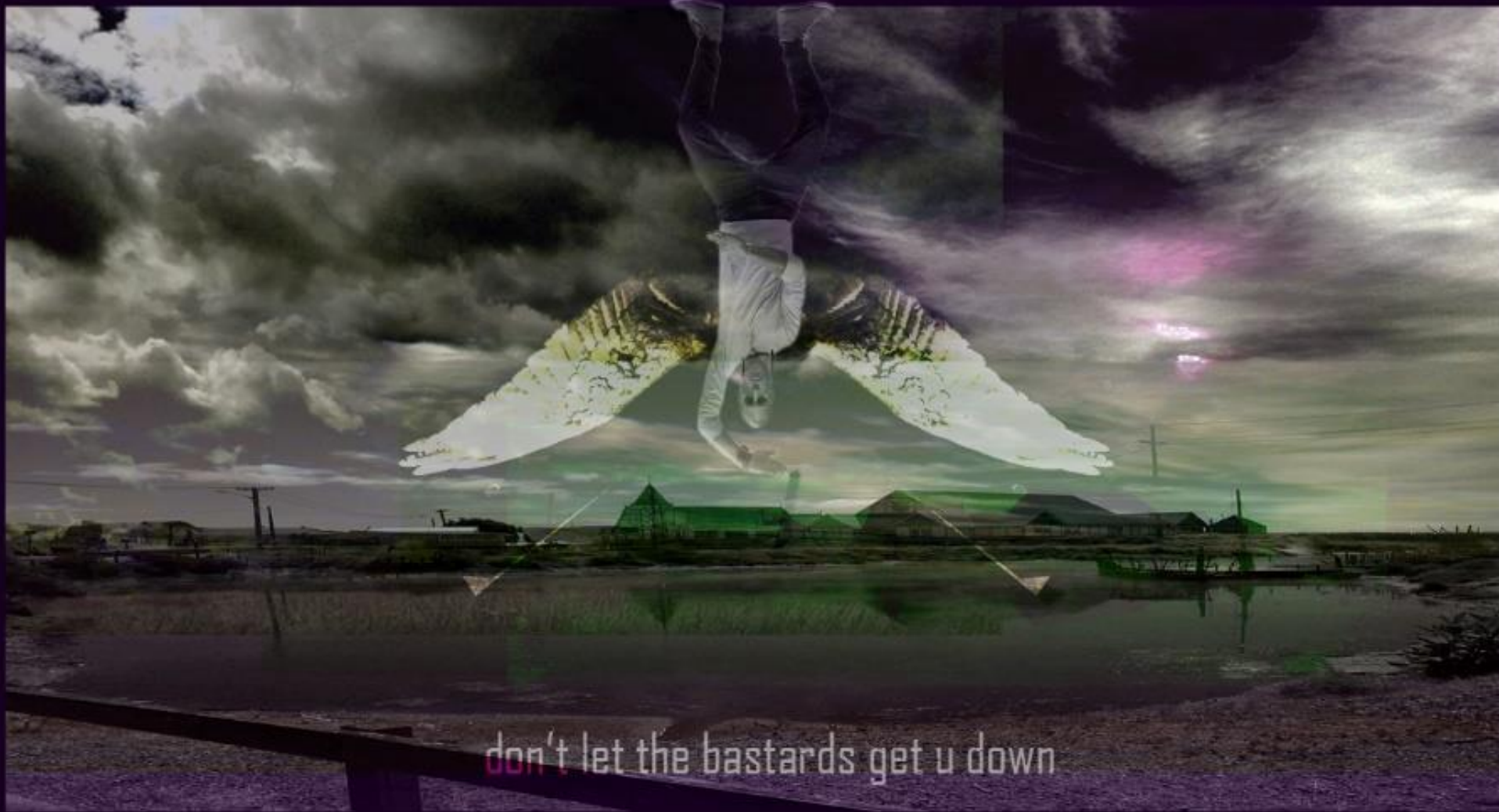
...my life I've been a slave of con-sequence

wandering...



you'll never find, as long as you live...





don't let the bastards get u down

...queen, now we're sharing the same dream





Many thanks to Alison Green and the amazing peeps at Te Whāriki Takapou, Ngaire Sandel from the Ministry of Health and the New Zealand Sexual Health Society for helping to give our community voice today 😊