

(Skipwith, D., 2021)

ADVERTISEMENT
Advertise with
Stuff

Groundbreaking Newshub presenter Oriini Kaipara makes history again on primetime bulletin

David Skipwith · 16:25, Dec 27 2021

42

THREE

Oriini Kaipara has made history once again, becoming the first woman with a moko kauae to anchor a primetime news broadcast.

Newshub's Oriini Kaipara, who *made history in 2019* as the first woman with a *moko kauae* to anchor a mainstream news bulletin, has come one step closer to achieving her ultimate goal by presenting Three's 6 o'clock news.

Kaipara, *who has had the traditional lower chin tattoo for nearly three years*, is filling in on *Newshub Live at 6pm* until Thursday, in place of usual hosts Sam Hayes – *currently on maternity leave* – and Mike McRoberts, *making her the first wahine with a moko kauae to present primetime news*. She is also currently filling in on the late night news.

Speaking to *Stuff* in July, shortly after *moving from TVNZ to Discovery-owned Three*, Kaipara *said she wanted to be a permanent presenter on the 6pm bulletin*.

entertainment

tv & radio

SUPPLIED

Oriini Kaipara is filling in on Newshub Live at 6pm between Christmas and New Year, but her goal is to have the role permanently.

“It’s really exciting. I’m really enjoying it,” said Kaipara after her Christmas and Boxing Day appearances. “I’m not speechless, but it’s a buzz. I am proud of how far I’ve come in being able to anchor 6pm right now.

More from Stuff:

- * [Oriini Kaipara's face used in Instagram 'scam' advertising](#)
- * [Former Mai FM host Nate Nauer jailed for money laundering for Comanchero gang](#)
- * [Newsable: Scam glut a reminder to stay vigilant online](#)

“It’s definitely a step forward, and a step-up. If there was a goal for me, it would be anchoring prime time news, and that’s happened,” she said.

ADVERTISEMENT
Stuff

“We’ve got a good team at *Newshub*, I don’t feel the pressure as much as I used to when I first started out in journalism. But that comes with doing the hard yards, and then actually realising it and doing it is really exciting.”

entertainment

tv & radio

SUPPLIED

Kaipara with regular host Mike McRoberts, and Melissa Chan-Green, who has been filling in for Samantha Hayes.

Kaipara's rise to filling in on the 6pm bulletin comes after she made headlines in 2019, for becoming the first wahine with a [moko kauae](#) to present a mainstream news show when she filled in on TVNZ's noon bulletin.

She left TVNZ and landed at Three in May, to take up a permanent presenting role on *Newshub Live at 4.30pm*.

The bilingual journalist and broadcaster, of Tūhoe, Ngāti Awa, Tūwharetoa and Ngāti Rangitahi descent, has also previously worked on TVNZ's te reo news show *Te Karere*. The former documentary filmmaker has also enjoyed stints at both Māori Television and Mai FM.

Kaipara remains acutely aware of the significance and impact that fronting the news in front of a national audience, while proudly displaying her moko kauae has on viewers, particularly Māori.

STUFF TO WATCH

The best on every screen and streaming platform, in your inbox

[Sign up now](#)

"I'm very much aware that I'm the first [with moko kauae] to anchor a six o'clock primetime news bulletin," she said.

"That is always at the back of my mind, that every step I make is like breaking through a glass ceiling.

"It's breaking new ground for us as Māori, but also for people of colour. Whether you've got a moko kauae or not."

Kaipara, who is committed to the revitalisation of te reo, and Māori customs, understands her presence on the primetime news can inspire others to embrace their culture while working hard to chase their dreams and career aspirations.

"Just being on-screen, and having access to hundreds of thousands of New Zealanders every night, I don't take that lightly," she said.

entertainment

tv & radio

LAWRENCE SMITH/STUFF

Kaipara had been “overwhelmed” by the positive responses to her appearance on the prime time bulletin.

“I’ve been realising for a while that it’s much bigger than just reading the news, or doing stories that matter to all of us. It’s also a big win for this generation and the next 10 generations – don’t let identity or your culture hold you back from anything. In fact, you use it as your power, to be greater and do great things for everyone.”

Kaipara has been overwhelmed by the positive feedback she had received after her first two 6pm bulletins. Many viewers had told her of the boost they felt seeing and hearing her use and correctly pronounce Māori words and place names.

“This morning someone said that watching [me] is uplifting in the sense that it makes them feel proud to be Māori first and foremost,” she said.

“Small things like saying Māori place names and leading with the Māori name first, like Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland. Just hearing any little bit of Māori actually lifts them.”

She had been particularly touched by one person who said her presence on the news had made a positive impact on their own mental health.

“That was actually a big eye-opener for me to hear that. I didn’t actually realise that’s how powerful, or how much of an impact something as small as saying ‘Tēnā koe katoa’ and hearing the correct pronunciation presented on the news has on viewers.

“Whether it’s one person or 100 people, it’s actually quite humbling. I was really taken aback and that’s actually quite profound.”

The mother of four said her debut presenting the 6pm news had been enjoyed by her proud whānau “up and down the country”.

“My youngest daughter, Ngarongo, watched it and was really proud. She said ‘You did the 6 o’clock news – I saw it, and you looked really pretty.’”

You pay for movies, music, streaming and gaming

Why not the content you read about them?