

SHARING MY CULTURE

STORY BOOK 2020



MRS RANA STAPLES

WHO AM I?

I was born in 1970 in Christchurch and grew up with my parents and 2 younger sisters in Methven. I attended Methven Primary School then Methven High School. I trained as a teacher in Christchurch and have since taught in Waipukurau, London, Canada, Christchurch and now Methven. I've travelled extensively and worked as a tour guide/cook in Europe on my OE.

Europe, North America, South America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific Islands have been my adventures of our planet. I married my husband Chris in 2019 and I am now Mrs Staples.

My ancestry on my mother's side is Maori (Kai Tahu iwi), West Indian and English. My father's side is Irish and English. I'm a proud New Zealander. A true KIWI!

CONCEPT: VALUES

The following values are important to me and underpin how I live my life. Many of these have been embedded in me from an early age and some I have developed as I have grown on my life journey.

- Whanau - family is everything!
- Loyalty
- Honesty
- Education is for life
- Punctuality
- Compassion
- Diversity of cultures and beliefs
- Respect for yourself, others and their belongings
- Travel is key for education, adventure and leisure
- Pride in achievements. Be humble but proud.
- Hard work will bring satisfaction and reward to those who earn it.
- Reputation is earned and not demanded
- Judge others by your own experiences with them and don't be influenced by what others say.
- Vote in elections e.g politics. Have a say or keep quiet.

CONCEPT: TRADITIONS

On my mother's side of the family many of us, that live in Methven, meet up for afternoon tea every Friday after school. We take turns at hosting this at one another's houses. Aunties, Uncles, sisters, nieces and cousins all catch-up.



Every Christmas day my mother's family share Christmas tea at one of our houses. We compete for a trophy called the "Pearly & Curly Cup". We play games that everyone can participate in from the oldest to the youngest. We compete in family groups. The Richard's family won last year and now we have to organise the games for this year's event! Pearly and Curly are my grandparents and when they were alive they would award the cup to the winners. I bought the cup about 10 years ago and it is a highly sort after family tradition.

CONCEPT: CUSTOMS

Growing up the following customs were expected in my family - most of these I still follow to this day!

- Hats off inside
- No talking with your mouth full.
- Please and thank you is expected.
- No sitting on tables.
- Elbows off the table
- Ask permission before leaving the table.
- Opening doors for other people
- Ladies first.
- Say 'Pardon me' after burping or farting
- Don't interrupt when adults are talking.
- Say 'Grace' at Christmas lunch with the Richards' family.



CONCEPT: PROTOCOLS

Each year at Mt Hutt College we follow the protocol of welcoming all new students and staff with a Powhiri or Mihi Whakatau. I am responsible for performing a Karanga (call of welcome) usually for the Tangata Whenua (hosts) but in 2020 I did this for the Manuhiri (guests) as most of them were Y7 and I am their Dean.

“Karanga Mai, Karanga Mai, Karanga Mai - Call to us x3

Karanga mai ki a matou whakaeke nei ki te koutou i kura - Call to us as we come together people of this school

Karanga Mai, Karanga Mai, Karanga Mai” - Call to us x3

It is protocol to give a koha (harakeke bush) and to take part in the sharing of kai - this part of the ceremony signifies the lifting of tapu and is a official end to the ceremony.



I have been fortunate to have been called upon to have performed many Karanga at school and with groups going on to Marae. I feel blessed that this is a part of my Maori heritage that I can contribute to and do honour to my ancestors - especially my Taua / Nana Pearl. In 2000 I did the Karanga for the Hopkinson family reunion at our Marae in Arowhenua (Te Hapa o nui Tireni)

CONCEPT: FOOD

Food plays a big part of our culture. We celebrate birthdays, christmas and special events by sharing food.

At Christmas our day always starts with crackers, cheeses, salami, mussels and tomatoes. Lunch is always a 2 course cooked meal with roast ham and other meats, salads, and new potatoes. Dessert always includes pavlova and trifle. For Christmas dinner we always have a pot-luck and every year the families take turns at bringing meats, salads or desserts - dinner is usually cold food, except my uncle always provides the hot new potatoes.

Birthdays often include a meal out or an afternoon tea with savoury and sweet treats. There is always a homemade birthday cake. My mum makes a delicious carrot cake.

Favourite family meals include BBQs, roast pork/beef or lamb. Takeaway treats usually include KFC, Doms Pizza, Fish and Chips or Indian. When I am in Christchurch I always have sushi at the mall. My favourite food is anything made with mince!

I like to grow my own food so I have a big vege garden and glass house. I grow potatoes, zucchini, broccoli, beans, corn, pumpkin, tomato, lettuce, spinach, strawberries, basil. I have a herb planter. We also have free-range chickens and collect fresh eggs daily.

CONCEPT: CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS: We celebrate birthdays by gift and card giving. We enjoy early morning phone calls to extended family to sing “Happy Birthday”. We will often go out for a meal or share an afternoon tea with a birthday cake.

CHRISTMAS: We celebrate Christmas by spending time together. My husband’s family (the Staples) share Christmas lunch and my family (the Richards / Williams) share Christmas tea including the annual games for the ‘Pearly and Curly cup’. We no longer share gifts at Christmas because the family is getting too big and we prefer to acknowledge people on their special birthdays with gifts.

NEW YEAR: Growing up my family would get together for New Year’s eve parties with family friends. My husband and I like to spend New Year’s day at a friends BBQ in Christchurch.

ANNIVERSARIES: My husband and I always celebrate our anniversary by going out for a special meal. This year we are holidaying in Wanaka where we got engaged on our anniversary 2 years ago. Our anniversary weekend is also our wedding anniversary - we planned it that way!

We enjoy celebrating weddings, special birthday milestones, housewarmings and reunions that we are privileged to get invited to.

CONCEPT: ICONS



Netball - represents my #1 sport that I played from an early age. I've also coached many teams at club, school and representative level.

Giraffes - my favourite animal and I have many wooden statues and paintings in my house. I remember the moment I saw my first giraffe on Safari in Africa.

Toucans - my favourite bird that I loved to spot on my travels in South America.

Maori Culture - through my whakapapa to the Ngai Tahu iwi and Te Hapa o nui Tireni marae in Arowhenua.

All Blacks - I grew up watching my dad and uncles play for Methven, Mid-Canterbury and the Maori All Blacks - I love to support the NZ All Blacks.

Travel - I have travelled to every continent except Antarctica. I have lived and worked in the UK and Canada. Rarotonga is my favourite holiday spot.

Kiwi - my dog is called 'Kiwi' and the Kiwi bird is my #1 Kiwiana icon.

CONCEPT: FAMILY STORIES

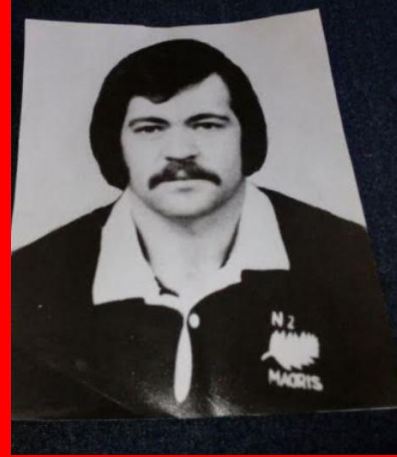


These photos are when I was a Junior Princess for the Methven Floral festival on the Rugby Club float. We won 3rd place.

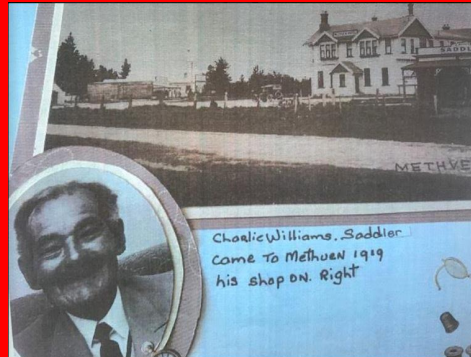
I was also a Senior Princess for Methven Primary School float in the late 80s.



My nana was one of 12 children and my grandad was one of 20. Mum is the oldest of 6 and Dad is the youngest of 4. I am the eldest of 3.



My grandad, grandpa, dad and uncles played rugby for Methven Rugby Club. My Uncle Paul Williams played for the Maori All Blacks in 1976. His photo hangs in MHC school gym.



My Great-grandfather Charles Williams was from Guyana in the West Indies. When he came to Methven he established the first Saddlery in town. Horse Racing was a custom for his sons. He married twice and had 20 children. His son my Grandad Stan was a townsman in Methven for many years and the first Chairperson of the Methven Community Board.

CONCEPT: BELIEFS / RELIGIOUS INFLUENCES

I was christened in the Methven Anglican Church as a baby, however I am not a regular churchgoer, other than weddings and funerals.

I believe in a greater power or god and feel this is a personal and non-judgemental belief. I am fascinated with other cultures and their connecting similarities.

In my travels I have witnessed religious practices across christianity, buddhism, islamic, african tribes, amazon tribes and pacific beliefs.



CONCEPT: LANGUAGES

My first language is English and I consider myself fluent in this language only.

My second language is Te Reo Maori and I'm not fluent in this language. I started learning Te Reo at Teachers college and when I moved to the North Island to teach. Recently I have completed a Level 1 Te Wananga o Aotearoa, Papa Reo course.

I am learning a few basic Japanese phrases for when I visit Japan on the MHC exchange this year. "Konnichi Wa. Watashi wa Rana des. Arigato. Sayonara" *Hello, My name is Rana. Thank-you. Goodbye.*



CONCEPT: DANCE

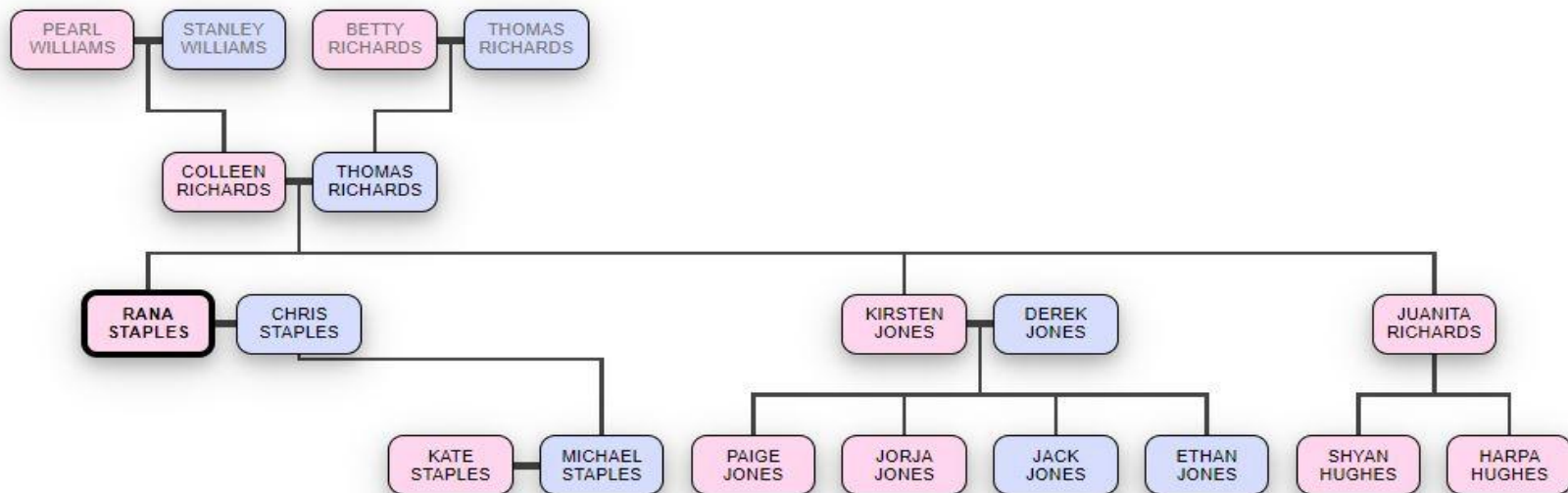
KAPA HAKA: I have been a part of Maori Kapa Haka groups since I went to Teacher's College. I have organised Kapa Haka festivals in Central Hawkes Bay. I enjoy watching Kapa Haka performances, but haven't been involved in a group for many years.

WEDDING DANCE: My husband and I had dance lessons and learnt a dance for our 'FIRST DANCE' at our wedding. The song was "Shut up and Dance" by Walk the Moon. It was lots of fun but I was really nervous and felt I did better during our rehearsals - no one noticed our mistakes though!

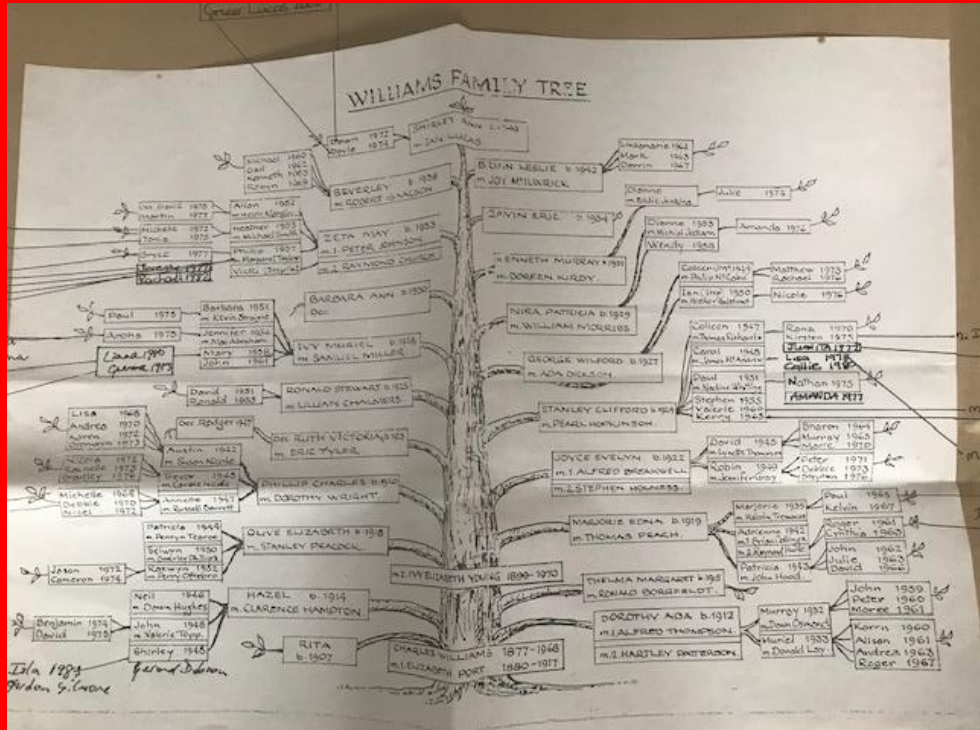
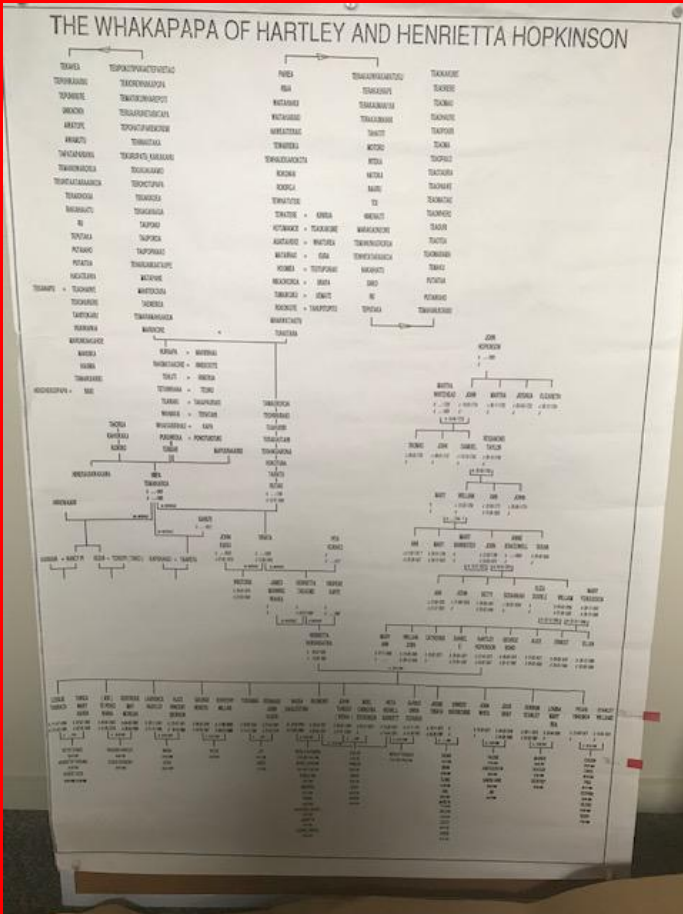


I enjoy appreciating other people who can dance. I especially like the dance from cultures that I have travelled to e.g the Masai in Africa, Irish gigs, Capoeira in Brazil, North American Indian Pow Wows.

FAMILY TREE



Created using <https://www.familyecho.com/>



Above is the Williams Family Tree - I am currently working on updating this.
 To the left is a family tree that depicts my Maori Whakapapa.

PHOTO MONTAGE

