

**Facilitating  
Tino Rangatiratanga  
in  
Māori Sport and Recreation:  
A case study of Māori Brazilian Jiu Jitsu  
Whātōtō**

*'Kaua e mate wheke, me mate Ururoa'*

*Don't die like an octopus, die like a hammerhead shark.*

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements

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## HE TOHU AROHA

### DEDICATION

Arohaina mai  
E te Kingi nui  
Manaakitia rā  
O tamariki e  
Horahia mai rā  
Te marie nui ki te  
Hoko-whitu a Tū toa

Show compassion  
O great King  
bestow blessings  
on your children.  
Spread your blessings  
of peace and comfort to the  
brave band of Tu.

Ngā mamaetanga  
Me ngā pouri nui  
Pēhia rawatia  
Ki raro rā e.  
Mē anga atu  
Ka karanga ki te Matua  
Aue aroha mai

The pains  
and great sorrows,  
let them be suppressed  
completely.  
Lift upwards  
your voices to the Father  
Aue, show compassion

Ngā hapū katoa  
O Aotearoa e  
Tau awhitia rā  
Ko tōku rongo  
Kia mau te tihe  
Mauria ora  
A ngā tūpuna  
Hei tohu wehi e

To all families,  
of New Zealand.  
firmly embrace  
peace  
Retain the spirit  
of life  
of your ancestors  
an emblem of courage

*AROHAINA MAI* was composed by the late Tuini Ngawai of Te Whanau a Ruataupare ki Tokomaru and was regarded as her best composition. She wrote it in 1940 following a church service for the men of C Company (Ngati Porou) of the Māori Battalion, and it was first sung publicly at a farewell for them at Tokomaru Bay. It was performed there by her group, the well-known Te Hokowhitu-a-Tu Concert Party.

The song became the Māori Battalion's unofficial hymn. This dedication is included to pay tribute to the Māori Battalion to guide the aspirations of our future generations. The hymn appeases the realm of Tūmatauenga (God of War) and is fitting with the Whātōtō Māori Brazilian Jiu Jitsu as a combat art.

## ABSTRACT

This thesis examines Tino 'Rangātiratanga (self-determination) of Māori Sport and Recreation (MS&R) in Aotearoa (New Zealand) in particular Māori Brazilian Jiu Jitsu movement (MBJJ) Whātōtō in Aotearoa. For the purpose of this thesis Sport and 'recreation acts as a reference to all organized physical and recreational activities inclusive of Whātōtō Māori BJJ movement. Whātōtō is an ancient Māori wrestling pastime; its origins go back to the creation story of 'Ranginui and Papatuanuku sky father and earth mother. This research does not examine the origins or history of Whātōtō but explores the potential influence Whātōtō Māori BJJ has on the development of Māori sport and recreation and the role of Māori organizations as facilitators of MS&R development. Within the broader development context MS&R' development, Māori development and Māori Community Development will be explored within a Māori organizational framework. The theories of Community Development and Empowerment are explored to counteract the further disenfranchising of Tino Rangātiratanga. This will provide a historical context by which a review of multiple challenges MS&R are confronted with in New Zealand's political, economic, social and cultural environment.

The Treaty of Waitangi will be explored as a primary tool to support the case for greater investment and equal representation of Māori not only on the playing field but on all levels of sport and recreation development in Aotearoa. The literature will look at the impacts of institutional racism and racism in sport in New Zealand and how Maori are reorganising and strategizing to empower their whanau, hapu and Iwi aspirations.

The research explores Māori philosophies and practices and how these are applied to Maori sport and recreation development. The methodological processes used in this study are Kaupapa Māori theory and grounded theory.

The data will be analyzed using grounded theory and content analysis to provide the researcher with themes from which to provide further discussion of the findings in the research.

## **MIHI ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

*Kia u ki te Pai*, (hold fast to all that is good) these words are a favourite saying of my Mums. She told me her grandmother would say these words all the time. I Love you Mum. Thank you for being the source of spiritual enlightenment.

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*Kia u ki te Pai*

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*Kia u ki te Pai.*

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*Kia u ki te Pai*

To Professor Steve Oliver (Oliver MMA) American Top Team New Zealand this is my contribution to the legacy of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu in Aotearoa.

To the whānau of Southern Tribes Aotearoa I dedicate this thesis to you all thank you for giving so much.

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Lastly, to my ancestors' thank you for dreaming for me, thank you for praying for me, thank you for giving so much, thank you for standing for me.

Ka Maumahara tōnu tātou ki a rātou

Matua, Tama, Wairua Tapu me nga Anahera Pono me Te Mangai Ae.

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