

Inaka | Whitebait

Mahinga Kai Web Series Transcript

English

Man 1: To live down here, pretty much 90% of my mates, they whitebait, as well.

They might do possums in the possum season and they might whitebait in the whitebait season.

What else have you got down here to do?

It's about the, pretty much, the two things you could do down here to make a living, that, without sort of getting a job, without farming or anything like that.

So, it's money, pretty much, well that's what it is, it's \$50 notes swimming up the river isn't it?

Boy: I'm used to whitebaiting all the time but sometimes the boys take the boat up, we go fishing out at the sea.

Then, ah, my dad likes surf casting, we go fishing in the river, ah me and my uncles go hunting, get deer, yeah pretty, pretty mean life.

Man 1: Earliest memories would have been after a day at Jacob River School, you'd get picked up by mum and she'd take you down to the river and plonk you beside a net and you had to sit down there in the rain trying to light the fires and keeping warm.

It was pretty good though, like, you enjoyed it.

And then walking back home, swinging your bucket.

Man 2: It was enjoyable then.

There was only really our family that fished the river.

Te Reo Māori

Tangata 1: E noho ai te tangata ki konei, tōna 90% o aku hoa, ka hao inaka hoki.

Ka aru paihamu pea i te kaupeka aru paihamu, ka hao inaka i te kaupeka hao inaka.

He aha atu hoki hei mahi māu i konei?

Ko ngā mahi e rua nei anake pea ngā ara whai moni i konei, atu i te whai tūranga mahi, i te mahi pāmu me taua momo.

Nā reira, he momo pūtea nē, me he nōti \$50 ērā e kau ana i te awa!

Tama: Kua waia au ki te hao inaka ao te pō, ā, arā he wā e kawea ai ngā poai i te waka, ka puta ai mātou ki te hī ika ki te moana.

He pai hoki ki taku pāpā te hī mā te aho i tātahi, ka hī mātou i te awa, ka haere hoki mātou ko aku matua kēkē ki te aruaru tia. Tau kē tēnei āhua noho o mātou.

Tangata 1: Ko aku mahara tuatahi pea, whai muri i tētahi rā i te kura o Jacob's River, ka kawea au e taku māmā ki te awa, ka meatia kia noho ki te taha o tētahi kupenga. Ko tāku he noho ki te ua, he tahu i ngā ahi, me te whai kia mahana tonu.

Heoi he pai tonu nē, he pārekareka.

Kātahi ka hoki mā raro ki te kāinga, nōu e piupiu ana i tō pākeke.

Tangata 2: He mahi ngahau i taua wā.

Ko tō mātou whānau anake pea i hao i te awa.



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And that was, I guess, mother's contribution to the Christmas fund for the, for our Christmas, and that,

she used to be pretty passionate about her whitebaiting.

Yep, right now just this edge. Make sure you scrape those stones right here, that's it.

Woman 1: Whitebait was obviously really important to tangata whenua.

Early settlers caught whitebait, they saw Maori catching it so they were interested, they often were hungry and they needed something to eat, um, but they didn't, it wasn't widely caught.

Um, the Chinese goldminers were actually the first to see the potential, and they would catch the whitebait and dry it, and then export it to China.

And settlers became more interested in whitebait when it started to have commercial value, when there was a way of preserving it.

The first canning experiment was done in Westport in 1875, um, but it wasn't until the 1890s that canneries really got started and then people could sell the whitebait that they caught, and there was suddenly a whole lot more motivation to spend a lot of time beside the river.

These are replica tins of whitebait, the reddish colour labels are from a canning factory at Bruce Bay.

There's some from the Southern Alps Whitebait Company which was at Ōkuru just south of Haast, that was the biggest whitebait canning factory in New Zealand.

And then the labels here, they're from the Whitebait Canning Factory in Hokitika, which again, pretty big business.

And they went all around the world, they went to Australia, Europe, ah, Asia and even to the Middle East, so, um.

And apparently a company in Westport did curried whitebait as well, so um, yeah, it would have been interesting to see what they tasted like.

Te Reo Māori

Koirā pea tā Māmā hei whai pūtea mō tō mātou wā Kirihimete.

I tino kaingākau ia ki āna mahi hao inaka.

Nā, ki tēnei taha, me mātua akuaku ngā kōhatu nā, koia.

Wahine 1: He mana nui tō te inaka ki te tangata whenua.

I hao inaka hoki ngā manene Tauwiwi tuatahi. Ka kite rātou i te Māori e pērā ana, ka aro atu ai. He nui hoki ngā wā i matekai rātou, ka tahuri ki te kimi kai, heoi, ehara i te mea i tino kaha tā rātou hao.

Ko ngā kaikeri kōura o Haina te tuatahi ki te aro ki te pito mata arumoni. Ka hao inaka rātou, ka whakapakoko, ka tuku atu ki Haina.

I aro nui ake ngā manene ki te inaka i te wā i piki tōna wāriu arumoni, i te wā i kitea he ara hei ukauka ake.

Ka tīmata mai ngā mahi kēna ki Kawatiri i te tau 1875, heoi, kāore tonu ngā wheketere kēna kia pakari kia tae rā anō ki ngā tau 1890, kātahi ka āhei te iwi ki te hoko atu i te inaka i mau i a rātou, ā, he nui ake ngā take e noho roa ai te tangata ki te awa.

He tauira ēnei o ētahi kēna inaka. Ko ngā tohu āhua whero nei nō tētahi wheketere kēna ki Mahitahi.

Arā anō ētahi nā te kamupene inaka o Southern Alps, he mea tū ki Ōkuru, whakatetonga atu i Tioripātea. Koirā te wheketere kēna inaka nui rawa o Aotearoa.

Ko ngā tohu nei nō te wheketere kēna inaka ki Hokitika, he wheketere nui anō.

Ka tukuna ki ngā tini tōpito o te ao, tae atu ki Ahitereiria, ki Ūropi, ki Āhia, tae rawa hoki ki ngā whenua o te Puku ki te Rāwhiti.

Te rongo nei, i puta hoki i tētahi kamupene ki Kawatiri he inaka karikari. Me i taea, kua whakamātau atu au i taua tāwara.



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When whitebait became worth money people started to get into catching it in a big way, so the nets stretched further and further out into the river.

And there started being a lot more disputes between whitebaiters in terms of how close they were to each other and who was blocking whose catch, and yeah there certainly was a lot more pressure put on whitebait.

Man 2: They went out and caught it, to sell to the factories but by the time they got to the factory door it was full for the day and they didn't take any more, so what could you do with it?

You can't eat 100 kilos of whitebait. I'd try, but dunno if I'd be too successful.

You hear the stories about people digging it in gardens and feeding it to the chooks and those sorts of things.

And they fished in a very similar way back then as what we'd tried here today.

Bring your cutting tool here.

Man 1: We're not actually allowed to touch the river in any way, we're not allowed to disturb it.

So you're not allowed to shovel, you're not allowed to disturb the bank, you're not I don't even think you're allowed to shift rocks.

So like if we hadn't have got permission and they had have come across and seen that, they would have, yeah, would have thrown the book at you.

Pretty much. You're allowed to drive Waratahs and then put your net up, so it's minimal disturbance.

See, what we done over in, ah, Manakau, we actually dug a trench, and that's so the whitebait will naturally follow the edge of the river and they'll, ah, cruise up that trench and then go and sit in deep water, so, yeah, what we done was pretty highly, not, not, pretty frowned upon.

Man 2: Not bad mustering techniques.

Te Reo Māori

Ka whai wāriu ā-pūtea te inaka, ka nui mārika te hunga i whai kia hao ake, nā reira i whānui ake te toro o ngā kupenga ki te awa.

Kātahi ka pupū ake ngā tautohe i waenga i te hunga hao inaka mō te tū tata o rātou ki a rātou, me tā wai aukati atu i te hī a wai ake rānei, nā reira ka tino hiakai nuitia te inaka.

Tangata 2: Ka puta rātou, ka hao ake hei hokotanga ki ngā wheketere, heoi, tae ana ki ngā wheketere, kua kiki kē i taua rā, tē taea te whai inaka anō. Nā, kua aha koe me tāu i hao ai?

Tē taea te kai i te 100 kiro inaka. Ka whakamātauria e au, heoi, ka kore pea e angitū.

Ka rangona ngā kōrero mō te hunga i karikari i te inaka ki ngā māra, i whāngai atu rānei ki ngā heihei, me aua momo.

Ko ā rātou tikanga hao o mua he pēnei tonu i tā mātou i te rā nei.

Heria mai tō taputapu tapahi ki konei.

Tangata 1: Kāore e whakaaengia ana kia pā rawa, kia whakararu rānei mātou i te awa.

Kāore e whakaaengia ana kia koko, kia whakararu rānei i te parenga, kāore hoki e whakaaengia ana kia nekehia he kōhatu.

Nā, mēnā kihai i whakaaengia tā mātou hao, kātahi ka kitea tērā e rātou, ka tino whiua mātou e te ture.

Koia tonu. E whakaaengia ana tō titi i ētahi pou rino me te tuku i tō kupenga, kia iti noa ai ngā pānga ki te awa.

Nā, ko tā mātou i Manakau he keri i tētahi awarua, kia māmā ai tā ngā inaka kau mā te tahataha o te awa, nā, ka kau noa mā te awarua rā, ka tau atu ki ngā wai hōhonu ake noho ai, nā reira, āe, kāore e tino kaingākauria ana tā mātou i mahi ai.

Tangata 2: He tikanga pai hei whakakao.



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Woman 1: The first regulations started in 1893, they were quite simple and basically were all around set nets.

I think it was until the 1920s that you could only have a net that went a third of the way across the river.

Um, you know, some people just blocked, you know you could block a whole river off.

Man 2: The compliance side of it was, went from the police to the MAF then to the Department of Conservation, and now it's split between Department of Conservation and Regional Council.

And all of those things have made it a little less attractive and certainly a lot less commercial than it used to be.

Just lift the stones out, carefully, so the back don't fall down. Right quick, get the corner.

There is a huge pressure on the fisheries.

Overfishing, to me, is an issue that's been brought about by the property right issue to whitebaiters.

That when they come here, they've bought a whitebait stand that they've paid, you know, in excess of 100,00 dollars for.

And that's their right to catch whitebait from whatever time in the morning to whatever time in the night.

Midnight first of September, they don't stop until midnight 14th November.

And they go before daylight till after dark, every single day they can possibly get a net in.

And to me, that's really stressing out of the fisheries.

Nothing gets past.

There's nothing like the tonnage is being caught now to what there was 20, 30 years ago.

Te Reo Māori

Wahine 1: Ko ngā waeture tuatahi i tīmata i te tau 1893. I waingōhia, ā, i hāngai pū ki ngā kupenga titi.

Ka tae ki ngā tau 1920, kātahi ka whakaritea kia kaua tō kupenga e kapi noa atu i tētahi hautoru o te awa.

Arā ētahi i tuku kia kapi i ā rātou kupenga te whānuitanga katoa o te awa.

Tangata 2: Mō te taha whakaū i ngā waeture, i rere te mana i ngā pirihihana, ki te manatū ahuwhenua, ngāherehere, ki Te Papa Atawhai anō. Ināianei kua wehewehengia ki waenga i Te Papa Atawhai me ngā Kaunihera ā-Rohe.

Nā ēnei āhuatanga i heke ai te hiahia nui ki tēnei mahi, me ngā mahi arumoni anō hoki.

Me āta hiki ngā kōhatu, kia kaua ai te wāhi o muri e horo. Kia tere, tīkina ake te koko.

E rongō ana ngā mahinga ika i te taumaha.

Ki a au, ko tēnei raru, te hao rawa i te ika, he mea hua ake i te mana ka tukuna ki te hunga hao inaka.

Haere mai ana rātou ki konei, kua hokona e rātou he taumata inaka kua koni atu i te \$100,000 pea te utu.

Nā, nō rātou te mana ki te hī inaka ahakoa te hāora, i te ao i te pō.

Atu i te weherua pō i te tuatahi o Mahuru, ka kore ngā mahi hī e oti kia tae rā anō ki te weherua pō i te 14 o Whiringa-ā-rangi.

Ka hao rātou atu i te ata hāpara, ā, pō noa, ia te rā, ia te rā e taea ai te tuku kupenga.

Ki a au nei, nā konā e tino raru ana ngā mahinga ika.

Ka kore rawa tētahi paku aha e hipa.

Ko te rahinga e haongia ana ināianei e kore rawa e pērā i ngā rahinga e 20, e 30 tau ki muri.



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By and large the only reason people are still doing it commercially is that the price has gone from 1 and 6 a pound to 75 dollars.

Man 1: I love it.

To catch whitebait I reckon you have to eat whitebait.

I reckon we eat more whitebait than anybody else.

There's nothing like it, like having fresh whitebait patties, and being able to supply something to somebody that they can put on their table, and, you know they can eat.

Food is life.

Man 2: And all I do is add whitebait, salt.

You know it's fresh when it's jumping round the pan like that fulla is.

They don't come fresher than that.

Whitebait comes from the Manakaiaua River, gift of the gods.

After school, come home from school, first thing we'd do is cook a pan full of whitebait, and eat it up and that was our snack before tea, whatever time that was going to be that night.

Done! Ready for serving.

Won't overload your plate for a kick off. There we are boys. Help yourself.

Man 1: Young people should get more into it, I don't know, if they, have to put strobe lights out on the riverbed or something.

I'd love to see chicks out here in bikinis.

But like, it's retired people, it seems to be the thing.

They retire, get a caravan, then come to a river on the Coast.

Te Reo Māori

Ko te take matua e hao arumoni tonu ana ētahi ko te pikinga o te utu mai i te kotahi tāra, ono hēneti mō te pauna, ki te 75 tāra.

Tangata 1: Haramai te pai!

Ki a au, e hao inaka ai koe, me kai inaka.

Ki a au, ka nui ake te inaka ka kaingia e mātou tērā i tangata kē.

Kāore i tua atu i te rengarenga inaka mata, me te āheinga kia tuku hua ki tētahi hei hora ki te tēpū hei kai māna.

He ora tō te kai.

Tangata 2: Heoi anō tāku he āpiti atu i te inaka, me te tote.

Mōhio pai ana koe he mata tonu ki te pekepeke haere te inaka i te hōpane, pēnā i tēnā.

Ka kore e mata ake i tēnā.

Ko te inaka nō te awa o Manakaiaua, he koha nā ngā atua.

Whai muri i te kura, ka hoki ki te kāinga, ka tunua tonutia atu he hōpane kī pai i te inaka, ka kainga hei timo kai mō mua i te kai o te pō, ahakoa te hāora i te pō.

Kua rite hei kai.

Ka kore e whakakīia rawatia tō pereti hei tīmatanga. Arā e hoa mā - tīkina ake tāu e hiahia ai.

Tangata 1: Me nui ake te hunga rangatahi e pēnei ana. Me tuku pea he rama kimokimo ki te awa, e aua.

Ko te painga atu kia kitea he wahine mau pikīni i konei.

Heoi, ko te hunga kaumātua kē ka kaha kitea.

Ka tāoki rātou i te mahi, ka whai whare tāwhai, ka haere mai ki tētahi awa ki te Tai Poutini.



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Like, it just draws you here, like, the freedom that you have here.

That you can wake up in the morning and decide, oh well I'll go whitebaiting today, and go out on the river and still make a good wage.

Or be sitting at home tonight and think, oh I'll go and try and shoot a deer.

You've just got so many options.

It wasn't until I went away that I realised we live in a pretty special place.

Te Reo Māori

Ka tōia mai koe ki konei. Ko te mana noho herekore tērā e tōtō ana.

Ka āhei koe ki te oho i te ata, ka whakatau ake, kua haere au ki te hao inaka i te rā nei, ka haere ki te awa, ka whai pūtea hei oranga mōu.

Ka noho rānei koe ki te kāinga i te pō, ka whakaaro, kua haere au ki te aruaru tia.

Arā noa atu ngā kōwhiringa.

Ka wehe au i konei, kātahi au ka mārāma ki te motuhaketanga o tēnei kāinga.

