



Para Kore



A world that honours Papatūānuku (the land) and works towards being zero waste is the kind of future Para Kore would like to see. Para Kore (Zero Waste) is a registered charity that helps marae develop the tools to minimise their waste and reduce their impact through composting, growing their own kai and moving away from the ‘throw away’ mentality.

The group champions a return to a less wasteful way of living. The group is guided by the principles of Kaitiakitanga (stewardship), Whakapapa (geneology), Manaakitanga (generosity) and Māramatanga (understanding/enlightenment). Their two key missions are: “Hei te 2025 e whai ana ngā marae katoa o Aotearoa i te Para Kore” (By 2025, all marae and Māori organisations in New Zealand are working towards zero waste) and “Riro taonga mai, hoki taonga atu” (We receive valuable resources from Papatūānuku, we return valuable resources to her).

To deliver the Para Kore programme to marae, kōhanga (preschool) and kura (school) the team goes into the community to teach people about waste minimisation. With many marae shut, schools and kōhanga closed, and workplaces encouraging their kaimahi (employees) to work from home as a result of COVID-19, Para Kore have had to adapt their services.

A big change for the Para Kore team is not being able to head out into the community. As a result, they’ve had to come up with creative solutions to spread their message without face-to-face interaction. They’re planning to bring kōrero (conversation) about Māori Zero Waste to the living rooms of their communities! Para Kore will be hosting educational live sessions on their Facebook page and sending more frequent pānui (announcements) with interesting kōrero for the whole whānau. They’ll also continue to support marae, kōhanga and kura over the phone and online. They’ll be posting more on their social media channels, creating educational videos and sharing inspiring stories of whānau resilience while Aotearoa is in lockdown.

One particular challenge for Para Kore and the Zero Waste movement is the shutdown of recycling services. Recycling collection is not considered an essential service, a decision that was made to protect workers who have to sort through all the recyclables. Because of this, Para Kore are now focussing their efforts on encouraging Aotearoa to stockpile recycling at home and ensure it does not end up in a landfill. They’ve created a YouTube video that explains tips on stockpiling recycling during the lockdown. You can watch it [here!](#)

While this lockdown is an extremely challenging time for all of us, the health implications from COVID-19 are expected to disproportionately affect Māori communities. After the move to Alert Level 4, Para Kore focussed on ensuring the safety and wellbeing of their frontline team and on keeping connected with their communities. Despite not being able to connect in all the ways they usually do, Para Kore have not let this stop them from spreading their message. During this difficult time they are reminding their communities: “It is important to stay vigilant, it is important to stay Para Kore.”

Learn more about Para Kore on their [website](#) and on their [Facebook page](#).