



Bookrapt Author: DEBBIE MCCAULEY

Debbie McCauley is a fifth-generation Pakeha New Zealander whose earliest ancestor arrived in Aotearoa in 1841, the year following the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi). Other ancestors were pioneers of the Katikati and Cambridge settlements. As a child, Debbie lived "in the middle of a maize field" in Whakatane in a house her father not only built himself, but installed floor to ceiling bookshelves in.

One of her childhood memories is turning her bookshelf into a library with numbered books and handmade book cards with pockets. She also wrote, illustrated, and stapled together her own children's books. Later she moved to Tauranga and attended intermediate and then Tauranga Girls' College where she studied journalism and wrote for the school newspaper *T.N.T.* which later became *Missprint*, winning first prize for journalism at the end of her 7th form year.

She was a recipient of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Year Scholarship, and since 2003 has worked as a librarian at Tauranga City Library with an interest in local history and children's literature. A comprehensive essay entitled *Identity and the Battle of Gate Pa Pukehinahina (29 April 1864)* was written as part of a BA with a double major in Humanities and Library & Information Studies and later formed the basis for the Tauranga City Libraries' Battle of Gate Pa kete website.

Another article, *Tauranga City Libraries: Meeting the needs of local Iwi? Biculturalism and Maori cultural intellectual property* was published in the *New Zealand Library & Information Management Journal*. Her poetry has been published in *Bravado*, the *Bay of Plenty Times* and *Enamel* magazine as well as being used in advertising for National Poetry Day.

In 2010 Debbie and her children were interviewed by TVNZ for the program *Volunteer Power* about the Katikati Cemetery Restoration, and in 2013 she and Katikati historian Ellen McCormack were interviewed over five days by visiting Irish journalist John Deering and his wife Kathleen Carragher (head of news at *BBC Northern Ireland*) for a radio documentary about Katikati's Ulster immigrant history.

In 2012 Debbie arranged a family reunion and published her first book under [Mauao Publishing](#), *The McCauley Family of Katikati, New Zealand, 1876-2012*. Written in just three months, it brings together her over 20 years of family genealogical research.

Two of Debbie's books, *Motiti Blue and the Oil Spill: A Story from the Rena Disaster* and *Taratoa and the Code of Conduct: A Story from the Battle of Gate Pa* were announced as 2015 Elsie Locke Nonfiction Award Finalists in the LIANZA Children's Book Awards.

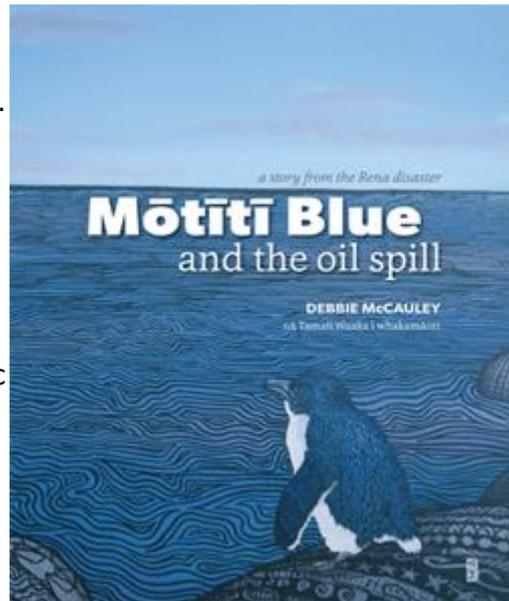
Debbie has been a member of Bookrapt since 2007 and writes extensively for Tauranga City Libraries kete website. She plans to continue writing for children in between working and raising her children whose animal collection now includes goldfish, turtles, rabbits and four Black Orpington hens.

Motiti Blue and the Oil Spill

Motiti Blue and the Oil Spill by Debbie McCauley is a bilingual children's picture book on the Rena Disaster. In 2015 *Motiti Blue* was shortlisted for the LIANZA Elsie Locke Nonfiction Book Award.

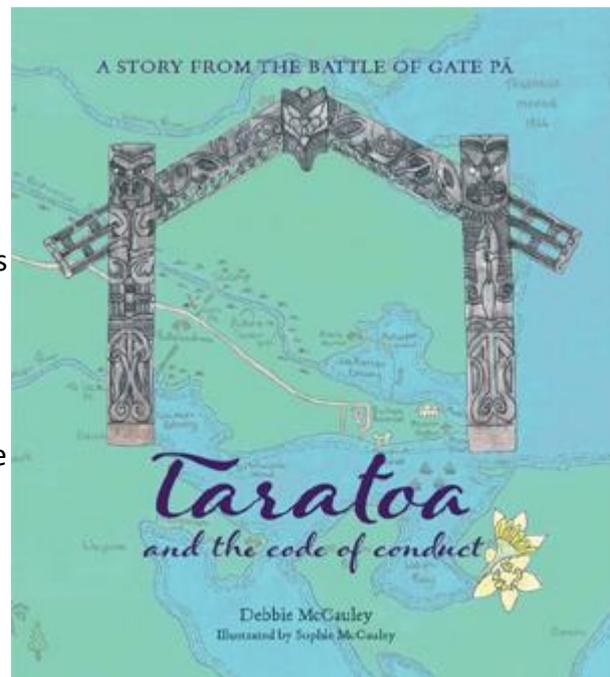
When *Rena* grounded on 5 October 2011, spilling an estimated 350 tonnes of heavy fuel oil into Tauranga Moana, the impact was devastating for the people of the Bay of Plenty. With each turn of a tide, more toxic oil was washed up on Motiti and Matakana islands, along the Mount Maunganui coast and down to Maketu. It was a heartbreaking sight. What was worse was the multitude of oiled birds and sea creatures, most of whom would die of suffocation from the toxic oil. Despairing residents were buoyed by the sight of oiled little blue penguins that were recovering well at the Te Maunga Oiled Wildlife Response Centre. The release of the penguins back into the wild was a promise of hope for the future of Tauranga Moana.

One of these oiled birds, a little blue penguin we've named Motiti Blue, was rescued and treated at the Te Maunga Oiled Wildlife Response Centre. This is the story of his recovery and release.



Taratoa and the Code of Conduct: A story from the Battle of Gate Pa (2014) by Debbie McCauley

[Taratoa and the Code of Conduct: A story from the Battle of Gate Pa](#), is a bilingual picture book designed to be read aloud to children. Illustrated by Debbie's 15-year-old daughter, Sophie, it was written to coincide with the 150th commemoration of Tauranga's Battle of Gate Pa at Pukehinahina (29 April 1864) and Battle of Te Ranga (21 June 1864). Debbie is involved with the planned activities and education surrounding the commemorations as well as serving as a judge for the Battles of Gate Pa/Te Ranga Art Competition. She believes that Henare Taratoa's story is just one of many important Tauranga stories that make the area unique and deserve to be told in a way that is readily accessible to children.



In the early 1860s people around the world were reviewing methods of warfare and how to improve the way wounded soldiers from all sides were treated. Prior to the Battle of Gate Pa at Pukehinahina (29 April 1864), Tauranga Maori were pondering the same ideals as notable reformers Henry Dunant and Florence Nightingale. Maori gathered to discuss leader Rawiri Puhirake's ideas about the treatment of wounded in a battle they knew was inevitable.

Henare Taratoa, a mission educated lay preacher and teacher, was one of those warriors, and it is he who wrote the Code of Conduct. After the battle British were stunned, not only by their defeat at Gate Pa, but by Maori compassion. Maori chose not to mutilate or kill wounded soldiers, but instead gave water. Seven weeks later the British won the Battle of Te Ranga during which most Tauranga leaders, including Puhirake and Taratoa, were killed. This defeat led to Maori surrender and confiscation of land in Tauranga Moana.

This bilingual book tells the story of Taratoa's Code of Conduct and the compassionate actions that resulted. Fact boxes and a timeline are included and add historical detail to Taratoa's story which is commemorated in a chapel at Lichfield Cathedral in England, as well as on a marble frieze at Tauranga's Mission Cemetery.

Author: Debbie McCauley

Illustrator: Sophie McCauley

Translator: na Tamati Waaka i whakamaori

Maps: Debbie McCauley

Designer: Sarah Elworthy

Publisher: [Mauao Publishing](#) (Tauranga)

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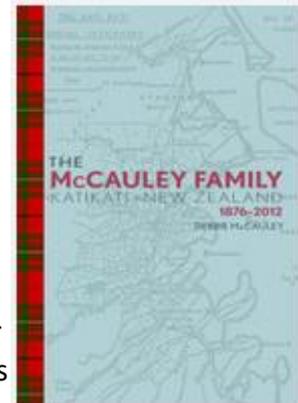
ISBN: 9780473268954

RRP: \$24.95

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The McCauley Family of Katikati, New Zealand: 1876 to 2012 (2012) by Debbie McCauley

In 1876, John McCauley (Snr) arrived in New Zealand on board the ship Jessie Osborne with his family. During the arduous journey one grandchild died and was buried at sea, another being born nine days out from Auckland. They left their native Ireland to take up George Vesey Stewart's challenge 'transplanting of a little corner of Ulster upon a Garden of Eden in New Zealand' and, more specifically, in the Katikati Special Settlement in the Bay of Plenty. Published in conjunction with a special McCauley family reunion bringing together John McCauley's descendants, the book offers an insight into the lives of our forebears. This is a family history telling the story of one of the pioneering families who helped to carve out the New Zealand we know today. Debbie McCauley, great great great granddaughter of John McCauley, is a librarian at Tauranga City Library with an interest in New Zealand history. She started researching the story of the McCauley family 20 years ago.



Author: Debbie McCauley

Cover design: Sarah Elworthy

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Full Published Work

Check out Debbie's [full published works](#)