

## **When the River Wakes**

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Two cousins living in different countries (Australia and New Zealand) are on a journey of identity connection. The cousins have been watching each other on their journey and supporting through connection on social media platforms. Both cousins are performers in their own ways and through their performance, utilise and question their connections to their Tūrangawaewae. As they move through their lives there is a connection through their awa that binds them together. Both returned to their river with their tamariki recently, the river is Waingongoro – the snoring waters. This presentation (possibly media performance) is an interview collaboration that evolved as one cousin started on a journey of learning Te Reo in Australia, and one cousin teaches colonisation history. Both cousins feel the flow of their awa within and use social media and digital technology to understand their experience of Te Hurihuri o Te Ao – Our Changing world. When the River Wakes will bring together spoken word and performance from two countries, underpinned by key experiences of their whānau history, and the strength of the awa as it moves through their tears and years of wanting to be in and alongside the river where their tupuna lived, cried, denied and revived their reo.