

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a traditional Maori cloak (haka) with a dense layer of brown and tan feathers. The person has dark hair and a small, ornate golden bird perched on top. The background is dark and out of focus, showing a wooden structure and a stained glass window. A red rectangular border frames the text on the left side of the image.

CLOTHED IN MY KOROWAI

Photograph and story from Koriniti Mckillop

CLOTHED IN MY KOROWAI

"Just sitting and being before the altar.

A feeling I really miss these days, just being before the Lord clothed in my korowai, sitting in the posture I was taught in Kapa Haka (women sit with legs sideways)."

Bishop Te Kitohi Pikaahu approved a request by Koriniti to wear her Korowai, rather than the alb, at her commissioning to become a Kaikarakia for Te Haahi Mihinare. Koriniti tells her story of the significance of the Korowai.

"This Korowai was blessed by my father Rev. Canon Arthur Hokianga when I was licensed as Kaikarakia in Te Amorangi ki te Tai Tokerau. Ko Hūmārie te ingoa o tenei kākahu. A beautiful reminder to serve with humility and love whenever and wherever I lead karakia.

I believe that wearing a Korowai is the most honourable way for me to present myself before the Church and God as Mihingare and Tangata Whenua.

Bishop Whakahuihui Vercoe said in his Waitangi speech in 1990, 'We (Maori) have been marginalised since 1840, and we continue to be marginalised...'

I would like to honour my Tupuna and those before them by acknowledging our own kakahu whakahirahira/Kakahu Maori as a small gesture of my heritage."



Clothed in my Korowai, by Koriniti Mckillop