

Ataria Sharman



**Ko wai koe? A brief history on you!
How you got started on your mahi,
what are you working on?**

Ko Whakarara me Rangiuru ngā
maunga

Ko Mātaatua me Te Arawa ngā waka

Ko Matauri te moana i te Tai Tokerau

Ko Kaituna te awa i te rohe whenua o
Te Arawa

Ko Te Tapui me Te Paamu ngā marae

Ko Ngāpuhi me Tapuika ngā iwi

Ko Ngāti Kura me Ngati Marukukere
ngā hapu

Ko Ataria Sharman tōku ingoa

My name is Ataria, and I'm a published
author, editor and entrepreneur.

It all started with the year I spent researching mana wāhine and atua wāhine for my master's thesis, as well as interviewing Māori women about their experiences with atua wāhine for my master's thesis. That mahi really lit a fire under me, and it was around then I realised there wasn't anywhere for wāhine Māori to publish their writings. So I started an online magazine called [Awa Wahine](#) (the name came from Dr. Ngahuaia Murphy's [master's thesis](#) on pre-colonial Māori menstruation). Now I'm also the editor of the arts journal [The Pantograph Punch](#).

At the same time, I started writing a fantasy fiction novel called 'Hine and the Tohunga Portal'. There are two atua wāhine in this pukapuka, Hineteiwaiwa and Mahuika, and it was picked up for publishing by Māori publisher Huia. You can [order](#) it now on their website.

He aha te whāinga matua mō tō mahi? What is the main goal for you work?

I feel like I have many, but the main one is to support wāhine Māori to be creative and to promote our atua wāhine as important archetypal figures in our own journeys.

**Hei aha o whakaaro ai e pā ana ki te whakamahia e ngā wāhine i tō kaupapa mahi rānei?
Why do you think it's important to have wāhine Māori in your particular industry/business?**

The wāhine Māori I work with on a day-to-day basis are smart, knowledgeable, creative and hard-working. They're the best at what they do. You only have to scroll your socials and check out our Māori artists, creatives and businesses to see how switched on our people are. I believe I work with some of the best creatives in Aotearoa, and many of them are wāhine Māori.

**Ka huri koe, te whakakitenga ki mua he aha ngā wawata mō te āpōpōtanga o Aotearoa?
Looking at the future, what are your hopes/aspirations for your industry and Aotearoa?**

I'd like to see a multitude of sustainable careers for our creatives, artists and writers. Creativity is the future, and our people are so creative, our stories so sought after. Māori creatives must be acknowledged fairly for their essential contributions to our creative landscape.