

Newsreader with a face tattoo

- 1 A Kiwi newsreader has made history by becoming the first person to anchor a TV news bulletin with a traditional face tattoo. Oriini Kaipara, 37, who has a moko kauae, a traditional lower chin tattoo worn by Māori women, read Newshub Live's 6pm news bulletin in New Zealand on Monday. The mother-of-four from Auckland discovered she was 100 per cent Māori after taking a DNA test in 2017. The newsreader then decided to adopt the Māori tattoo in 2019 in a process known as Tā moko, which represents family heritage and social status.
- 2 For Māori women the moko was a rite of passage, marking the passage between girl and adulthood and symbolises transformation. Kaipara said presenting the primetime bulletin fulfilled a lifelong dream and said she hoped she was the first in a long line of Māori women reading the news with traditional tattoos. 'It's really exciting. I'm really enjoying it. I am proud of how far I've come in being able to anchor 6pm right now.'
- 3 She regularly does sets of news stories for the main bulletin, becoming a fan favourite because of her Māori markings. 'It's definitely a step forward, and a step-up. If there was a goal for me, it would be anchoring prime time news, and that's happened,' she said. 'We've got a good team at Newshub, I don't feel the pressure as much as I used to when I first started out in journalism. But that comes with doing the hard yards, and then actually realising it and doing it is really exciting. I'm very much aware that I'm the first with moko kauae to anchor a six o'clock primetime news bulletin,' she said. 'That is always at the back of my mind, that every step I make is like breaking through a glass ceiling. It's breaking new ground for us as Māori, but also for people of colour. Whether you've got a moko kauae or not.'
- 4 New Zealand's foreign minister Nanaia Mahuta also has a moko kauae, becoming the first female MP to wear one in parliament. The politician has links to Māori royalty, with her father the adopted son of King Korokī. She got the tattoo in 2016 and said it offers 'positive ways to enable cultural expression and pride in being Māori.'

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