

# HOME FREE

- a tui family find a new home  
at Omana.

Words and music by Anna Rugis.

Contact: (09) 536 4994

Original version© 2004  
Festival version © 2008

Hoki koutou ki o koutou kianga  
ki o koutou maunga  
ki o koutou ngahere  
ki o koutou moana me nga awa  
kia purea koe nga hau  
o Tawhirimatea.

We need to return to our mountains,  
to our forests, to our seas and our rivers  
so that the winds of Tawhirimatea can refresh us  
and we can know our home.

- Maori Proverb

**Characters:**

Tui Dad

Tui Mum

Big Chick

Middle Chick

Little Chick

6 speakers for the Lakes (18) and water beings

6 speakers for the Forests (18) and forest beings

Kapahaka Group (12)

Tree choir (12)

Bird choir (12)

Shellfish/beach choir (12)

Children choir (12)

**The setting:**

The gym at Te Puru will be transformed into an auditorium with risers for the performers. The staging has been designed and a plan of the space will be made available as soon as required.

*In the darkened auditorium we hear the sound of tui song.  
Bird choir is in the gallery. Tree choir is in front of the trees. Shellfish/beach choir is  
around the rock. Tui family are crouched in the middle on the lower level riser. As the lights  
fade up the Tui family stand up and move down the step onto the main floor area.*

*Opening song.*

## **Opening/The Tuists' Song.**

**All:** Continents are shifting, sliding past each other.  
Underwater mountains break the surface of the sea.  
Every tiny stone, every creature, every flower  
is trying to survive, is travelling, is travelling  
is travelling, is travelling, for this is what it means  
to be alive, what it means to be free.  
Aotearoa – we're riding the horizon. Home Free  
Home Free. Home Free.

*Spotlights onto the tuists.*

**Tuists:** We are the tui family.  
We are looking for a home by a river or the sea  
or a garden with a kowhai tree.

**Tui Dad:**

... or a school...

**Tui Mum:**

..or a park

**Tui chicks:**

with a pool?

We need a place to build a nest,  
to raise our young and to get the proper rest,  
in the north or the south, the east or in the west.

**Tui Dad:**

off we go.....

**Tui Mum:**

....searching high.....

**Tui chicks:**

....searching low

*Tui chicks start to fly randomly around the centre stage.*

**All:** Over the ranges, lakes and plains.  
On through the wind and sun and rain.  
Into the city and out to the coast  
looking for a place where we can make the most of.....

Life goes on and on  
we're singing it together, it's a family song,  
bringing out the music as we travel along today, come what may.  
For life goes on and on  
we're singing it together, it's a family song  
bringing out the music as we travel along our way.

(applause)

*Tui dad tries to get the kids to settle down and line up.*

**Tui Dad:** *(to the chicks)*

Come on you lot.....That was a pretty good practice but I think we need to get a bit more organized. I'll go first for a while. Now you chicks line up and follow.

**Tui Mum:** *(To the chicks.)*

I know you're all a bit unsettled since our kowhai tree blew down, but you'll have to behave and do exactly as your father says. We ARE going to find a new home. So don't worry. I'll fly at the back to make sure no one gets lost.

**Tui Dad:**

Everyone got it?

**Chicks:**

Yes, we've got it Dad.

**All:** Over the ranges, lakes and plains.  
On through the wind and sun and rain.  
Into the city and out to the coast  
looking for a place where we can make the most of.....

Life goes on and on  
we're singing it together, it's a family song,  
bringing out the music as we travel along today, come what may.  
For life goes on and on  
we're singing it together, it's a family song  
bringing out the music as we travel along our way.

*Song ends.*

*(applause)*

*"Til ready" travelling music track is played and the Tuis fly off down the centre aisle. The lakes flow in: three lines of children (2 speakers in each line.) One line enters from the stage door entrance - centre back - one from the main audience entrance and one from the changing room area. They flow into the auditorium in lines and then form a koru around the leader making three "lakes" on the dance floor area. A slide showing an aerial view of the Rotorua area's eleven lakes is projected on the upper wall. The Tui family fly back down the centre aisle and perch left of centre (stage right) on the top riser.*

*When everyone is where they are supposed to be the travelling music is stopped.*

## **SCENE ONE**

**Tui Mum:** *(Pointing to the three lakes.)*

Look everyone. Look at those beautiful lakes over there.  
What gorgeous blue/green colours! Let's check them out.

*They fly around them.*

**Tui Dad:**

Cool it, chicks. I'm going to ask the lakes a question.  
Lake – we're looking for a new nesting place. If you wouldn't mind, could you tell us a bit about this area please?

### **Speakers for the Lake:**

(sp 1) I'd love to. I 'm sure you've noticed our fantastic colours....well, that's due to the tiny algae plants that grow in our waters. Unfortunately, this often means that our water is not all that pure and this has become quite a problem for us.

(sp 2) As you can imagine, many people want to visit us, and fish in us, and live on our shores. And there are cattle on the farms around about. All their activities affect us more than they realize.

(sp 3) You see, everything that is put onto the land eventually drains into a lake or a river. That's just gravity, right? Fertilizers, animal poo, and the septic tanks of the houses along our shores - all that together adds up to quite a dose.

(sp 4) Our water is SO RICH that all the waterweeds grow HUGE.

(sp 5) AND....plants from other countries have moved in are growing VERY happily in our water. SO happily in fact, that they have multiplied like mad and are now shading out our underwater creatures.

(sp 4) Our fish are getting smaller every year and our snails are becoming quite lonely in the dark.

(sp 6) I'm sure you would love to live here, tuis, but you might find it a little crowded at times. And sometimes a bit noisy. Whatever you decide, we wish you good luck on your search for new home.

### **Tui Dad:**

Thank you Lakes, it's good to learn about your situation. And WE wish YOU well also. Tuis, let's make a special wish for the lakes...

### **Tui Mum:**

....AND for all the creatures that live in them.

### **Big Chick:**

Yeah it's a real bummer when you lose your home.

*Little Chick whimpers and is comforted by Middle Chick.*

*Introduction to song.*

## **Make a Wish.**

**All:** For the springs and the rivers and the creeks and the lakes –  
For the sake of the water, there's a wish I will make –  
That the plants and the creatures of the fresh water realm  
Will always have an unpolluted fresh water home.

Make it so.  
Make it clear and make it true.  
Make it here and now with you.  
Make a wish for the water, make a wish for the water,  
Make a wish.

If I grow up and live beside a creek or a lake –  
I hope I will remember this wish that I make –  
That the plants and the creatures of the fresh water realm  
Will always have an unpolluted fresh water home.

Make it so.  
Make it clear and make it true.  
Make it here and now with you.  
Make a wish for the water, make a wish for the water,  
Make a wish.  
Make a wish for the water, make a wish for the water,  
Make a wish.

*Song ends.*

*(applause)*

*The lakes flow back through the doors they came in. Speakers change into tree costumes (if they are the same kids). The rest of the lakes change and join whichever other choir they are in.*

## SCENE TWO

**Big Chick:**

Dad, let's not decide yet. I want to see more places.

**Other Chicks:** *(at the same time)*

Yeah. Can we? / Can we, Mum?

**Tui Mum:**

Ok. Those mountains are a nice dark green colour. That means trees. Shall we head towards those?

**Tui Dad:**

You can't beat a real forest I say. I'm up for it.

**Middle Chick:** *(excitedly)*

Yes, yes, yes, we love trees. They're our favourites.

**Little Chick:**

Green is my favourite colour.  
But not grass because that's where the cats walk.

**Middle Chick:**

We don't like cats. No cats PLEASE.

**Big Chick:**

I'm not THAT scared of cats.

**Tui Mum:**

Well you SHOULD be. Alright line up everyone and.....

**Tui Dad:**

....off we go. *(they start to fly slowly down the centre aisle- the conversation goes on as they fly along)* We're going to follow this stream...in an up stream direction. It'll take us toward that range.

**Tui Mum:**

Who knows? We might find a small town between here and there that looks promising. And why do we like small towns, chicks?

**Big Chick:** (*knowingly*)

Because...small town houses usually have a back yard with an ORChard!

**Middle Chick:**

I knew that.

**Little Chick:**

What's an orchard?

**Tui Dad:**

There's one coming up. Take a look over your left wing.

**Tui Mum:**

We should be smelling fruit.....Poo! ...but THAT'S definitely not fruit.

**Big Chick and Middle Chick:**

That's Dis GUSTing! / ORRRRR. Yuck

**Little Chick:**

Is anyone going to tell me what an orchard is?

**Everyone:**

Later, bubs.

*As the tuis fly back up the seaside aisle, the Til ready music track is faded out. Bird choir enter from back stage door holding their noses (beaks). They all leaning over the back gap behind the risers to get a look at what might be down there and talking about what it might be and how it got there etc.*

Intro to song.

## THERE'S SOMETHING SMELLY IN THE GULLY

### **Bird choir:**

Up the creek and down the drain  
After any heavy rain  
There's a very nasty pong  
What's doing it?  
There must be something wrong.

### **All:**

There's something smelly in the gully  
Something hard to recognise  
There's something smelly in the gully  
Thankyou hope it isn't caustic soap  
Or we'll all be cleaner than alive – oh dear  
There's something smelly in the gully  
Frogs aren't croaking in the creek  
Thankyou please it isn't anti freeze  
Or we'll all be dead within a week – oh no

### **Kid choir:**

Down the drain and up the creek  
Anywhere you put your feet  
There's a piece of rusty truck  
Or a tyre or a greasy pool of muck – oh there's...

### **All:**

There's something smelly in the gully  
Something hard to recognise  
There's something smelly in the gully  
Thankyou hope it isn't caustic soap  
Or we'll all be cleaner than alive – oh dear  
There's something smelly in the gully  
Frogs aren't croaking in the creek  
Thankyou please it isn't anti freeze  
Or we'll all be dead within a week – oh no

What kind of people will toss their junk?  
Too mean to take it to the rubbish dump.  
We're the kind of people who all think twice  
Before we drop a wrapper cos that's not nice.  
NO THAT'S not NICE! No No No there's...  
something smelly in the gully  
Something hard to recognise  
There's something smelly in the gully  
Thankyou hope it isn't caustic soap  
Or we'll all be cleaner than alive – oh dear  
There's something smelly in the gully  
Frogs aren't croaking in the creek  
Thankyou please it isn't anti freeze

Or we'll all be dead within a week – oh no no  
No No No No No -o –o

*Song ends.*

*(applause)*

*Bird choir exits through stage door and goes back up to the balcony. They are all talking about the stink and what might need to be done etc as they go.*

**Tui Dad:**

I'm making an executive decision here.....we're moving on.

**Big Chick:**

Maybe that was a nuclear waste dump.

**Little Chick:**

Maybe it was a nuclear orchard....

**Middle Chick:**

Mum, is that a possible thing?

**Tui Mum:**

Anything's possible these days, my darling. Now line up everyone, we're heading for the hills....

**Tui Dad:**

...and off we goooo!

*Tuis fly off down the centre aisle as the lights fade down.*

*Speakers enter from the back of the forest aisle and join the tree choir stage left around the kauri trees. Misty swirling light from the data projector focuses as ghostly tree images like Rei Hammon drawings.*

*Tuis fly back up the stage left aisle (forest aisle) and stop in the centre stage on the dance floor area.*

*Introduction to song.*

## **The Ghosts of the Kauri.**

**All:**

The ghosts of the kauri  
are speaking on the wind  
they tell of the sorrow of orphan children.

**Tree choir:**

We wait in the ranges  
for fathers to return;  
to give us the teaching  
that we need to learn.

It's been so long.  
We don't know where they've gone.  
How will we know how to be a kauri?

**All:**

Trust in your nature and listen to the wind.  
Your tupuna will guild you, they're speaking from within.  
Your tupuna are speaking from within.

The ghosts of the kauri  
are speaking on the wind  
they tell of the sorrow of orphan children.

**Tree choir:**

But see how we're growing.  
We're tall and we are strong.  
We stand like our fathers  
though we are still young.

**All:**

They're on their own.  
But they are not alone.  
Somehow they know how to be a kauri.

**Tree choir:**

Somehow we know how to be a kauri.

*Song ends.*

*(applause)*

### SCENE THREE

#### **Tui Mum:**

Oh my goodness. Cheer up little chicks. That is truly a sad story. But it's a hopeful story too, isn't it? How fine and proud the young kauri look. Already many of them are taller than the rest of the trees in the bush.

#### **Tui Dad:**

Those young kauri are brave trees. Let's ask the forest what happened and why the Kauri fathers disappeared.

#### **Middle Chick:**

Where did they go?

#### **Little Chick:**

Yes. Where did they go?

#### **Tui Dad:** (*to the Forest.*)

Forest, we are a travelling Tui family. We're looking for a new home and are considering your forest - with your permission of course. But we've just heard the song of the young kauri...*(sigh)*...and we want to know the rest of their story. Will you tell us?

#### **Speakers for the Forest:**

(Tree 1)

We'd be happy to. We are always glad when creatures return to the forest. It's our nature to help everyone who comes. Trees are just like that.

(Tree 2)

Our country used to be covered in forest. There were trees that had lived for thousands of human years. The forests of Aotearoa were wonderful places - full of mighty trees and bird song. All the creatures lived peaceful happy lives. There were no predators you see. Imagine that.

(Tree 3)

But over the centuries things changed. Humans came to our shores and that really sped things up. At first it was hunters. Some of our most beautiful birds became rare as the humans found them very tasty. Then more people came.... and more.... and they all needed things, just like you do.

(Tree 4)

Many of the people decided to be farmers because everybody has to eat and that's what farming is for, right? More and more forest was cut down and burned so that land could be clear for setting up farms. And of course all the new people needed timber to build houses.

(Tree 5)

When they found the huge kauri in the forests they got very excited and cut down as many as they could drag away. They left only the smallest trees. They planned to cut them too but later, when they were fully grown. Perhaps they didn't realize how long it takes for a kauri to grow that tall.

(Tree 6)

Finally, when people realized what they had done, the land was quite bare in many places. It's sad that most of our kauri forests are gone. But there are a few places you can still see small groups of kauri - in hidden valleys in the ranges here and there. And people are beginning to plant them again too.

(Tree 1)

The forest is a magical place - peaceful and quiet and when you get among the trees your heart feels light and your mind becomes clear. Troubled thoughts seem to fade out completely. We hope you'll come here as often as you can. Listen to this song and you'll get the idea.

*Introduction to the song. Slides show old milling photos, pictures of farming, road building etc - photos of tree planting in parks etc and then of tall trees.*

*Introduction to song.*

## **Tane Mahuta**

**All:** When the country was covered with forest and  
all the rivers were wild and free,  
Tane Mahuta protected the land with his  
blanket of flaxes and trees.

**Trees:** Then came the hunters, the miners,  
the farmers, the people in business  
who built up the towns.  
They cut down the forest and dug up the flaxes  
and frightened the birds on the ground.

**All:** But Tane Mahuta, the world of the forest,  
delightful and peaceful and green,  
Tane Mahuta, the world of the forest,  
is waiting for us to return.

**Trees:** When you're feeling a little bit lonely or  
you're discouraged or sad or depressed  
come to the forest and lean on a tree  
and you'll feel like you've had a good rest.

**All:** For Tane Mahuta, the world of the forest,  
delightful and peaceful and green,  
Tane Mahuta, the world of the forest,  
is waiting for us to return.

Bring all your troubles  
here to the forest  
Tane will take them down.  
Tane will take you home.....

take me back to the forest  
delightful and peaceful and green,  
Tane Mahuta, the world of the forest,  
is waiting for us to return,  
waiting for us to return, Tane Mahuta - home.

*Song ends.*

*(applause)*

## SCENE FOUR

### **Tui Dad:**

This trip is the best education we can give to our chicks. Don't you agree Mum?

### **Tui Mum:**

And I don't think we should stop yet. (*Dad agrees. To the chicks.*) Is anybody getting tired?

### **Big chick:**

No, no... not yet. Look over there. It might be a beach. There's something white and I'm sure I can smell the sea. Can we go there?

### **Middle Chick:**

Can we go there?  
Can we go there?

### **Little Chick:**

And can I come too? Please?

*Tuis parents look at each other and agree.*

### **Tui Mum:**

Why not? Alright line up and...

### **Tui Dad:**

....off we go.

*Til ready music track is played as the tuis fly off down the centre aisle and come back up the stage right aisle (seaside aisle). They land on the rock. The music stops and the tuis listen to the shell choir which is crouched down around the rock acting like rock oysters and making wave sounds.*

### **Little Chick:**

We're there. We're there.

**Middle Chick:**

I can hear the waves! ...are those rock oysters?

**Big Chick:**

And look – pohutukawa trees! This must be the  
Pohutukawa Coast.

*Shell choir stands up and moves to the dance floor area where they do their song and dance.*

*Introduction to next song.*

**Snappy.**

**Shellfish/beach:** Do you think we're lazy? Do you think we are dumb?  
Do you think we lie around as long as we like  
in the heat of the sun?  
We may not say much, but we're not static.  
We are letting you know we're alive  
by being dramatic.  
We've been walked over long enough and we're very unhappy.  
When you're taken advantage of, you want to get snappy.

**All:** It's t – t – time to get snappy  
when the people keep picking on me.  
It's t – t – time to get snappy  
when they're taking every cockle they see.  
A sh – sh – shame for the shellfish  
and b – b – bad for the beach  
and g – g – gross to be greedy  
when you're getting it free -  
it's fifty count each, fifty count each!  
take it sea – sea – seriously.

**All:** It's a way – way – wonderful place to be  
with the white white sand and the sea-blue sea.  
And the shellfish living in the shallow water  
will feed a lot of people if we look after  
the beds and the beach and never take more than fifty count each!

**All:** *(over the top of the Shellfish choir chorus)*  
It's a way way wonderful place to be  
with the white white sand and the sea-blue sea.

It's a way way wonderful place to be  
with the white white sand and the sea-blue sea.  
It's a way way wonderful place to be  
with the white white sand and the sea-blue sea.  
It's way way wonderful getting it free

**Shellfish/beach choir:**

It's t – t – time to get snappy  
when the people keep picking on me.  
It's t – t – time to get snappy  
when they're taking every cockle they see.  
A sh – sh – shame for the shellfish  
and b – b – bad for the beach  
and g – g – gross to be greedy  
when you're getting it free -

**Everyone together:**

It's fifty count each, fifty count each!  
take it sea – sea – seriously.  
take it sea – sea - seriously  
take it sea – sea - seriously  
take it sea – sea – seriously

*Repeat to fade, leaving just sea sounds at the end. During the fade, the shell  
choir moves back over to stage right around the rock snapping their fingers as  
they walk.*

*(applause)*

**SCENE FIVE**

**Tui Dad:** *(breathless from dancing)*

Well that says it all. I didn't know about the fifty each  
rule. Did you know that Mum?

**Tui Mum:** *(still dancing)*

No I didn't know that either. But we don't eat them  
anyway...*(puff puff)* ... so why would I?

**Middle Chick:** *(still dancing)*

We all know now. We – all - know – now!

**Little Chick:** *(stops)*

Anyway, I don't like counting my food.

**Big Chick:**

I'd rather have a burger. I'm starving.  
Can I have two insect burgers?

**Middle Chick:**

Me too. Can I have three? Please? *(to Little Chick)* I'll give you one, bubs, so you don't have to count.

**Tui Mum:**

We'd have to go to a town for that. I don't think that's a good idea...is it?

**Tui Dad:**

No worries. I'm sure we'll learn something. Town people sometimes make really tasty gardens. With flaxes and fruit trees as well as all those other flowers. Nectar...oooooh I LOVE nectar. I think we should at least take a look.

**Tui Mum:**

Oooooh yeah...nectar's good. Alright, line up and....

**Tui Dad:**

....off we go.

*They fly off down the seaside aisle as the travelling music plays softly in the background.*

*(loudly)* And look out for aeroplanes.

**Tui Mum:** *(loudly)*

AND CATS!

*They are flying around the auditorium looking down at the city.*

**Tui Dad:**

There's a lot of rubbish about. I'm not sure this was a good idea.

**Middle Chick:**

Look! Look! WHAAAAT's THAAAT!!!

**Little Chick:**

What? What? Where?

**Big Chick:** (*pointing towards Auckland*)

I see it. You mean that big TOWER thing with PEOPLE hanging off it?

**Tui Mum:** (*shocked*)

Good Grief! They're DROPPing like STONES!

**Tui Dad:**

Aaawh...they're just trying to fly. It's what you have to do when you don't have any wings. WOW! – that's the biggest bridge I've ever seen.

**Big Chick:**

Hey, I think that's a volcano.

**Middle Chick:**

There's another one.....and another one...

**Little Chick:**

What's a volcano?

**Middle Chick:**

And aNOTHer one...

**Big Chick:**

Is there any smoke? If there's smoke we better scoot...

**Middle Chick:**

And ANOTHER one...

**Little Chick:** (*doubtfully*)

I don't see any burning...

**Tui Mum:**

There's a kowhai tree! I think it's empty.  
We'll stop there for a drink and a snack.

**Tui Dad:**

I can see kids. There's bound to be a burger joint around  
here someplace.

*Travelling music stops and tuis land centre stage on the top riser. They listen to the introduction to the next song and the chicks begin doing dance moves. Throughout the song the tuis do star jumps each time the children sing TOXIC.*

*Introduction to next song.*

**toXic**

**Kids:** We live in the city.  
We play in the park.  
We go for a burger when it gets too dark.  
We drink out of bottles and eat out of a box.  
We make a lot of rubbish but the trouble is it all turns...

**All:** toXic - when it gets into the sea.  
toXic - most definitely.

**Shellfish:** The jellyfish is choking on a plastic thing.  
The squid is in a tangle with a nylon string.  
Drop it in the gutter and four hours later  
it's floating in the channel with the oil freighters  
sea – sea – seriously!  
When you drop it, it turns

**All:** TOXIC

**Birds:** It's vital to recycle

**All:** It's up to you, you, you, you, you, you, you and me.

**Kids:** You and me

**Birds:** You and me.

**Shellfish:** You and me

**Trees:** You and me.

**Kids:** We make a lot of rubbish.

**All:** You and me.  
We make a lot of rubbish

**All:** You and me.

**Kids:** We make a lot of rubbish but the trouble is it all turns

**All:** toXic - when it gets into the sea.  
toXic - most definitely.

The jellyfish is choking on a plastic thing.  
The squid is in a tangle with a nylon string.  
Drop it in the gutter and four hours later  
it's floating in the channel with the oil freighters  
sea – sea – seriously!  
When you drop it, it turns  
TOXIC

**Birds / Trees:** It's vital to recycle

**All:** it's up to you, you, you, you, you, you, you and me.

**Shellfish / kids:** You and me

**Birds / Trees:** You and me.

**Shellfish / kids:** You and me

**Birds / Trees:** You and me.

**Shellfish / kids:** You and me

**Birds / Trees:** You and me.

**All:** TOXIC!

*Over the last chorus the kids choir and dancers exit down centre aisle and go back stage through main door.*

*Song ends.*

(applause)

## SCENE SIX

**Chicks:**

*Tui chicks are still doing random star jumps and singing.*

You and me.

You and me.

TOXIC

*They all fall down in an exhausted heap.*

**Big Chick:** (*To parents*)

NOW we're tired. I feel like going home but we haven't found one yet.

**Tui Mum:**

I think we're ALL too tired to go any further today. Look over there.... a big patch of green ....see that? Over by that cliff. We need to rest

up for tomorrow. It'll be dark soon and we haven't eaten yet either. Follow me everyone.

**Tui Dad:**

Right. Line up, chicks. Off we ....

**Everyone:**

...GOOOOOOOOOO!

*Til ready music track as tuis fly out the stage door and up to the balcony. Some kids with rubbish bags come down the aisles collecting rubbish and then go out the stage door after the tuis. Lights go down and the travelling music fades out.*

*The tui parents are up in the balcony and are talking in the dark while the tui chicks are sleeping.*

**Tui Dad:**

This big tree is OK for tonight but...

**Tui Mum:**

Shhh – talk quietly or we'll wake them up. No ...I'm not seeing it yet either. It looked pretty green as we flew in though. Did you see the stream? And I definitely want to look of that sweet little valley just over the hill.

**Tui Dad:**

Which way?

**Tui Mum:** *(points to Maraetai)*

That way.

**Tui Dad:**

Oh yeah... I saw that too. We'll check it out at first light...

**Tui Mum:**

.....which will be very soon! *(Shriek squark)* Did you hear that? That .... was a kaka! They always have to be first up. What's WITH that?

**Tui Dad:**

That's a really good sign though...if kaka have moved in around here and there's a decent dawn chorus, people must be taking care of this place.

**Tui Mum:**

Maybe it's our lucky day. I'm too excited to sleep.

*Backstage the kapahaka group get dressed in preparation for the finale. During the dark, the kids choir enters from the back of the auditorium. The tui family enter from back stage door and perch on the rock. They will sing with the bird choir.*

*The dawn chorus begins with kaka squawks and the lights come up very slowly.*

*Lights fully up on "Hey, kakariki".*

*Kids sing the first verse as they dance up the centre aisle – relating to the audience as they pass them and turning around to face the front with a jump on the words "dawn chorus".*

*Intro to song.*

**THE DAWN CHORUS**

**Kids:** Life can be a trial  
One way or another  
Got to get together to  
Help with a recovery  
Plant a little flax  
Eradicate a pest  
Then give yourself a break  
We can do the rest

**All:** Are you ready for the - dawn chorus?  
Wake up – we've got our lives before us  
Just an hour til the sun rises  
What a treat when you open your eyes and hear  
Everybody singing –

**Birds:** la la la la, la la la la

**All:** Are you ready for the dawn chorus  
Wake up – we've got our lives before us  
Just an hour til the sun rises  
Everybody singing along  
You can join us any dawn, any morning – aaaah.

**Birds:** Life's a competition  
Everybody's in it  
Gotta find a way for  
Everyone to win it

Up before the sunrise  
Just to feed the family  
Stop! look up! and see us  
Rocking in the canopy  
Rocking in the canopy

**All:** Are you ready for the dawn chorus?  
Wake up – we’ve got our lives before us  
Just an hour til the sun rises  
Everybody singing along - want to join us?

**Trees:** Hey, Kakariki, don’t give in!  
Look at all the people gonna help you win  
So you’re on the red list -  
Build another nest,  
lay another egg,  
They will do the rest (*pointing to the audience*)  
Are you ready?  
Are you ready now?

**All:** Are you ready for the dawn chorus?  
Wake up – we’ve got our lives before us  
Just an hour til the sun rises  
What a treat when you open your eyes and hear  
Everybody singing - la la la la, la la la la  
Are you ready for the dawn chorus

**Birds:** (Rocking in the canopy )

**All:** Wake up – we’ve got our lives before us

**Trees:** (Are you ready, are you?)

**All:** Just an hour til the sun rises

**Birds:** (Rocking in the canopy)

**All:** Everybody singing along  
You can join us any dawn, any morning – aaaah.

*Song ends.*

*(applause)*

*Tuis move to centre stage on the top riser and looking out over the audience and all around.*

**Big Chick:**

Hey look. In that big field by the building with the round roof...seagulls playing soccer!

**Middle Chick:**

There’s all kinds of neat stuff around here. I just saw some chickens too.... So weird how they walk (*does a chicken walk*).

**Little Chick:**

From the top of this hill I can see .....the universe!

**Big Chick:**

That's not the universe - that's Beachlands.....

**Tui Mum:** *(excited)*

LOOK at THIS. I'm LOVing all this flax. There's been some planting going on over here.

**Big Chick:** *(enthusiastically)*

There's beach... and there's bush.... I say we stay here.

**Little Chick:** *(jumping up and down)*

Me too! Me too! Me too! But....*(stops still)*...are there any cats?

**Middle Chick:** *(protectively)*

No, bubs! It's Regional Park. Cats aren't allowed in.

**Tui Dad:** *(eureka!)*

Ah HAA! And there's a great! little! kowhai!

**Tui Mum:**

I think we're home, chicks....Home Free!

**Everyone:**

YAAAAAY! HOME FREE! HOME FREEEEEE!

*Everybody cheers etc.*

*Introduction to last song.*

## **The Tuis' Song Finale**

**Tuis:** We are the Tui family.  
We have found another home on a hill beside the sea  
in a place called Omana in a kowhai tree.

**Tui Dad:**

It's a park...

**Tui Mum:**

With an island view.....very nice!

**Little Chick:**

...and a herd of chickens.

**Middle Chick:**

Watch this. I can do a chicken walk.

**Big Chick:** I'm going to try out for bird soccer.

*They laugh and do funny walks and kicks etc.*

**Birds:** We all need a place to make a nest,  
to raise our kids and to get the proper rest,  
in the north or the south, the east or in the west.

**Tui Dad:**

Omana's the best...

**Tui Mum:**

....for us anyway!

**Chicks:**

Yeay!

**Everyone:** All kinds of people across the land,  
kaitiakitanga hand in hand  
caring for the birds, the water and the bush  
and the land and the sea – it's real family!

**Shellfish:** AND the fish.

**Kapahaka group:** Aotearoa  
Kaitiakitanga  
Kei tatau te rite  
Iho hoki manawa

*Kapahaka group sings the chant over the last chorus.*

**All:**            Because  
                  Life goes on and on  
                  we're singing it together, it's a family song,  
                  bringing out the music as we travel along today, come what may.  
                  For life goes on and on  
                  we're singing it together, it's a family song  
                  bringing out the music as we travel along our way.

We     all     care     for  
Ao    -tea   -ro    -a  
One   heart   with   the  
land.

THE END