

# Kōrero Māori

Māori language resource book



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Department of Labour  
TE TARI MAHI





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## Introduction – He Kōrero Timatanga

*He mihi nui ki ngā iwi kainga katoa nō Te Tari Mahi*

Greetings to all Department of Labour staff

Māori language is a unique cultural identifier for Aotearoa/New Zealand internationally. The Department of Labour has a leadership role to play in acknowledging and supporting the unique status of New Zealand's indigenous culture by actively recognising and utilising reo Māori where practical.

Recent work undertaken across the Department of Labour to embed a Māori perspective into the culture of the Department has created momentum that is enhanced by the availability of Māori language resources. The Department of Labour is committed to providing staff with access to Māori language resources to support their capability development and general work.

This Department of Labour Kōrero Māori booklet will assist you as a staff member to learn and utilise some basic Māori language that will support your ability to communicate in te reo Māori at work.

This resource supports the Department to provide a better and more genuine service to clients that recognises and

meets both individual and cultural needs. The booklet also helps us to fulfil our commitment to valuing diversity.

Other resources, training and development opportunities relating to te reo Māori and Māori culture will increasingly be available for staff to support the integration of a Māori perspective into the Department of Labour.

I am excited about the development of a growing toolkit of Māori resources that support staff to enhance the wonderful mahi being undertaken. Enjoy the opportunity to learn the language and enhance your personal knowledge. I personally endorse and recommend that you all take the time to read, review and learn from this resource.

*Hei kōnei rā*

**Christopher Blake**

*Chief Executive*

# Government's Māori Language Strategy<sup>1</sup>

## Te Rautaki Reo Māori

*He Reo E Kōrerotia Ana, He Reo Ka Ora*

A Spoken Language is a Living Language

By 2028, the Māori language will be widely spoken by Māori. In particular, the Māori language will be in common use within Māori whānau, homes and communities. All New Zealanders will appreciate the value of the Māori language in New Zealand society.

There are five interrelated goals within the Māori Language Strategy that will support the achievement of the vision.

**Goal 1: Strengthening Language Skills** indicates that we must keep building the overall pool of Māori language speakers, and the quality of Māori language skills.

**Goal 2: Strengthening Language Use** shows that we must continue to foster opportunities and outlets for people to use their Māori language skills.

**Goal 3: Strengthening Education Opportunities** in the Māori Language shows that we must maintain a focus on Māori language education provisions. This also provides opportunities for the non-Māori population to actively engage in learning and using the Māori language.

**Goal 4: Strengthening Community Leadership** for the Māori Language indicates that it is necessary to plan language activities and initiatives at a local community level in order to promote sustainable and meaningful change.

**Goal 5: Strengthening Recognition of the Māori Language** acknowledges that a positive and receptive environment is important to encourage people to use their Māori language skills, and the support of wider New Zealand society is required for this.

Te Reo Māori is an official language of New Zealand by virtue of the Māori Language Act 1987. Being an official language means that Māori language can be spoken in Court and other official places like Parliament.

It also means that those who want to converse with the Public Service in Māori should be able to do so.

1. He Rautaki Reo Māori – The Māori Language Strategy (Ministry of Māori Development, 2003)

# Greetings – He Mihimihi

There are many ways to greet people in Māori. The examples below can be broadly used in written correspondence (letters, memos, email, etc) or spoken.

## Informal

For informality, a popular general greeting on the telephone is:

<i>Kia ora</i>	Hello
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Kia ora can be used to address any number of people

## Formal

To people you have not met or do not know very well:

<i>Tēnā koe</i>	Greetings to you ( <i>one person</i> )
<i>Tēnā kōrua</i>	Greetings to you ( <i>two people</i> )
<i>Tēnā koutou</i>	Greetings to you ( <i>more than two people</i> )

To friends or colleagues you have a close relationship to:

<i>Tēnā koe e hoa</i>	Greetings my friend or
<i>Tēnā koe tōku hoa</i>	Greetings my friend



To elders:

<i>Tēnā koe e Kui</i>	Greeting a female elder
<i>Tēnā koe e Koro</i>	Greeting a male elder

To people of importance:

<i>Tēnā koe e te rangatira</i>	Greetings Sir or Madam
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In Māori culture, Sir and Madam (“e te rangatira”) are only imposed amongst the very elite – where as in English, sir or madam is often used as a generic salutation. It is therefore preferable to use the person’s name or a more general title where possible.

<i>Tēnā koe, Ms Smith</i>	Greetings, Ms Smith
<i>Tēnā koe, e Mary</i>	Greetings, Mary
<i>Tēnā koe, Jonathan</i>	Greetings, Jonathan
<i>Kia ora, e Pita</i>	Dear Peter
<i>Kia ora, Miriama</i>	Dear Miriama

Note that short names are preceded by the word 'e' in these addresses (eg. e Pita, e Mary, e Joe) while longer names are used without it (eg. Miriama, Jonathan, Katherine).



## Opening – He Mihi Maioha

Following the greeting, a welcoming statement can be included:

*Kia ora, ngā mihi maioha ki a  
koutou katoa*

*Ngā mihi maioha kia tātou, ngā  
apiha o Te Tari Mahi*

*Ngā mihi mahana ki a koe*

*Ngā mihi mahana ki a kōrua*

*Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou*

*He mihi nui ki ngā iwi kāinga katoa  
nō Te Tari Mahi*

*Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou i  
runga i te kaupapa nei*

Hello and welcome to you all

Warm greetings to my colleagues  
within the Department of Labour

Warm greetings to you *(one person)*

Warm greetings to you *(two people)*

Warm greetings to you *(two+ people)*

Greetings to all Department of  
Labour staff

Warm greetings to you all under  
this subject/topic

When sending a formal letter to a large number of individuals or groups, any of the following forms of address may be used. The literal translations may sound unnatural to English speakers – this is simply a result of cultural difference.

*E ngā mata-ā-waka o te motu tēnā  
koutou katoa*

*E ngā iwi, e ngā karangatanga te iti  
me te rahi, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou*

*E ngā iwi, e ngā reo, e ngā  
karangatanga maha o ngā hau e  
whā, tēnei te mihi atu ki a  
koutou katoa*

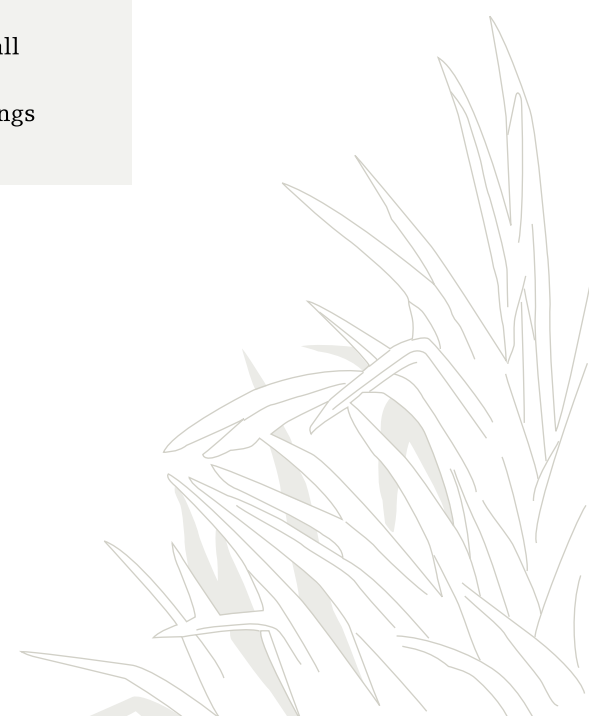
*E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā  
maunga, e ngā awaawa, e ngā  
pātaka o ngā taonga tuku iho,  
tēnā koutou*

All groups throughout the land  
greetings to you all

All people, all relations, great and  
small alike, greetings, greetings to  
us all

All people, all voices, all the  
many relations from the four  
winds, I greet you all

All authorities, all voices, all  
mountains, all rivers  
all treasure houses, greetings  
to you





# Closing – Te Kupu Whakamutu

## Informal

At the conclusion – some common expressions are:

<i>Heoi anō</i>	I am about to conclude
<i>Kāti ake nei</i>	Enough said
<i>Ka nui tēnei</i>	That is all

Followed by:

<i>Hei konā mai</i>	Goodbye for now
<i>Hei kōnei rā</i>	Goodbye for now
<i>Hei konā mai i roto i ngā mihi</i>	Goodbye for now and thanks
<i>Noho ora mai rā</i>	Look after yourself
<i>Nāku, nā</i>	From me
<i>Nāku noa</i>	Yours faithfully
<i>Nō reira, noho ora mai rā</i>	So look after yourself



## Formal

<i>Nāku noa, nā</i>	Yours sincerely
<i>Nāku iti nei, nā</i>	Yours sincerely

Over two signatures

<i>Nā māua noa, nā</i>	Yours sincerely
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And three or more signatures

<i>Nā mātou noa, nā</i>	Yours sincerely
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## Making a speech – He Kōrero

When standing to make a speech it is customary to introduce yourself. It may also be appropriate to acknowledge key people. Māori often also greet and welcome the meeting place – whether on a marae or not. Greeting to a non-marae venue generally consists of acknowledgement of the building (whare) and the land (papatūānuku).

On a marae, the wharenui (or meeting house) is greeted because it often personifies a significant ancestor of the local people. The structure of the meeting house for example, represents

the ancestor's body and the carved posts within the house represent figures in tribal history. It is also usual to greet the dead, who are present in spirit or physical form, brought to the marae by visitors and the tangata whenua.

Examples of a range of mihi are provided. Each mihi differs in relation to particular occasions or events – select the one that is most appropriate for you.

**Mihi to welcome Department of Labour staff to a hui:**  
including acknowledgement to senior staff

*Tuia i runga, tuia i raro  
Tuia i roto, tuia i waho  
Tuia i te herenga tangata  
Te whare e tū nei, tēnā koe  
Tū tonu, tū tonu  
E ngā rangatira  
E ngā kaitiaki o Te Tari Mahi  
Ki te whānau Te Tari Mahi e  
huihui nei  
Tēnā koutou  
Tēnā koutou  
Tēnā koutou katoa*

Bind it above, bind it below  
Bind it inside, bind it outside  
Bind us where people meet  
The house that stands here, greetings  
Stand forever  
To the Leaders  
Guardians of the Department  
of Labour  
To the whānau of the Department  
of Labour gathered here  
Greetings  
Greetings  
Greetings to you all

**Mihi to acknowledge guests and the venue (non-Marae)**

*Te whare e tū nei, tēnā koe  
Te papa i waho, tēnā koe  
Ki te whānau e huihui nei  
Tēnā koutou,  
Tēnā koutou,  
Tēnā tātou katoa*

To this house standing here, greetings  
To the sacred earth outside, greetings  
To the whānau gathered here  
Greetings  
Greetings  
Greetings one and all



### Mihi to acknowledge important dignitaries / guests

*Tihēi Mauri ora  
E ngā mana  
E ngā reo  
Rau rangatira mā*

*Tēnā koutou  
Tēnā koutou  
Tēnā koutou katoa*

Behold the breath of life  
To the important ones  
To the speakers  
The many respected people

Greetings  
Greetings  
Greetings to you all

### Mihi to guests at a non-Marae venue:

including acknowledgement to those who have passed away

*Tēnā koutou katoa  
E ngā mate, haere, haere  
Hoki atu rā ki te pō*

*E te whare e tū mai nei  
E ngā mana,  
e ngā iwi,  
e ngā reo  
Tēnā koutou katoa*

Greetings to you all  
To the dead  
Be at peace

The house that stands here  
To those people of note,  
the iwi,  
the voices  
Greetings to you all



### Mihi to guests on a Marae

*Tēnā koutou katoa  
E te whare e tū nei  
E te marae e takoto mai  
Tēnā kōrua*

*E ngā hau e whā  
E ngā iwi e tau nei  
Tēnā koutou katoa*

Greetings to you all  
The house standing here  
The marae lying there  
Greetings to you both

People of the four winds  
People gathered here  
Greetings to you all

### Mihi to acknowledge the Marae, the whānau of the Marae and to those who have passed away

*Tihēi Mauri ora  
E te whare e tū nei  
E te marae e takoto nei  
Tēnā kōrua, tēnā kōrua, tēnā kōrua*

*E ngā mate haere, haere, haere  
E ngā rangatira e te iwi kāinga  
Tēnā koutou  
Tēnā koutou  
Tēnā koutou katoa*

Behold the breath of life  
The house that stands here  
The marae that lies here  
Greetings, greetings, greetings to  
you both

The deceased – go, go, farewell  
The esteemed ones – the home people  
Greetings  
Greetings  
Greetings to you all



Immediately following the conclusion of the mihi it is important to finish your speech by introducing yourself.

This can be done by providing whakapapa detail through a 'Pepeha', using the following format:

<i>Nō.....ahau</i>	I am from.....
<i>Ko.....te maunga</i>	My mountain is.....
<i>Ko.....te waka</i>	My waka is.....
<i>Ko.....te awa/moana</i>	My river / waterway is.....
<i>Ko.....te iwi</i>	My tribe is.....
<i>Ko.....tōku marae</i>	My marae is.....
<i>Ko.....tōku ingoa</i>	My name is.....

Followed by an introduction of your position as a Department of Labour employee:

<i>He kaimahi ahau</i>	I work
<i>mō Te Tari Mahi</i>	for the Department of Labour
<i>Nō reira, Tēnā koutou</i>	Therefore, Greetings
<i>Tēnā koutou,</i>	Greetings
<i>Tēnā koutou katoa</i>	Greetings to you all

*NB:* If you do not wish to include a 'Pepeha' you can conclude by introducing your name and position only.

It is important to close any mihi with an introduction of yourself.

An example of a full mihi, including personal introduction and pepeha could look like this:

*Tēnā koutou katoa  
E te whare e tū nei  
E te marae e takoto mai  
Tēnā kōrua*

*E ngā hau e whā  
E ngā iwi e tau nei  
Tēnā koutou katoa*

*Nō.....ahau*

*Ko.....te maunga*

*Ko.....te waka*

*Ko.....te awa/moana*

*Ko.....te iwi*

*Ko.....tōku marae*

*Ko.....tōku ingoa*

*He kaimahi ahau*

*mō Te Tari Mahi*

*Nō reira, Tēnā koutou*

*Tēnā koutou,*

*Tēnā koutou katoa*

Greetings to you all  
The house standing here  
The marae lying there  
Greetings to you both

People of the four winds  
People gathered here  
Greetings to you all

I am from.....

My mountain is.....

My waka is.....

My river.....

My tribe is.....

My marae is.....

My name is.....

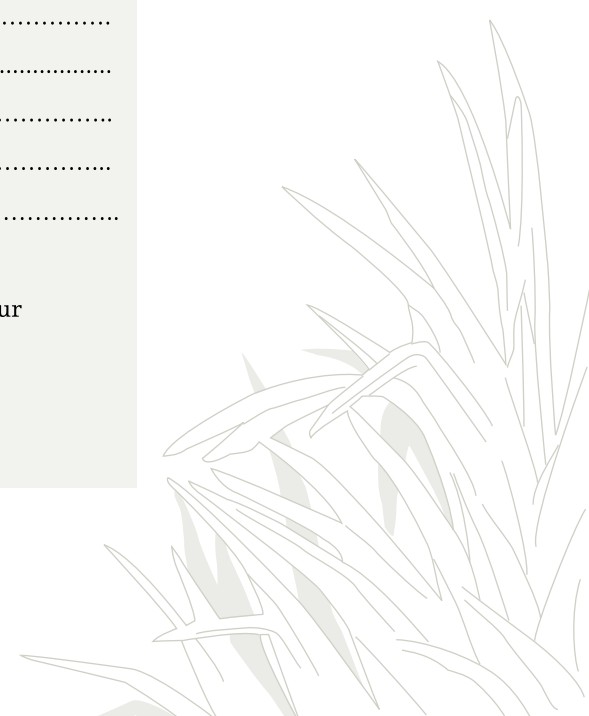
I work

for the Department of Labour

Therefore, Greetings

Greetings

Greetings to you all





## Farewell – Poroporoaki

At the conclusion of a hui it may be appropriate for a formal farewell speech to be given. Some examples are provided covering different situations and environments.

### Poroporoaki delivered in the whare kai (dining hall)

*Kei runga. Tēnā tātou katoa  
E te whānau koutou o te marae*

*I mua i tā mātou wehenga atu  
Kei te mihi atu ki ngā ringawera  
mō ō rātou kai reka, kai ātaahua  
me te mahana a tā koutou manaaki  
He tohu rangatira, kia ora*

*Nō reira ki ngā ringawera  
Me koutou te whānau  
Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou  
Tēnā tātou katoa*

I stand. Greeting to you all  
Family, you of the marae

Before we depart  
I acknowledge all the cooks  
For their sweet, beautiful food  
And all of you for the warmth of  
your hospitality  
A sign of chiefs, thank you!

So therefore all the cooks  
And you the whānau  
Thank you, greetings to you  
Greetings to us all

### Poroporoaki delivered in the whare tūpuna (meeting house)

*Tēnā rā koutou katoa  
E te whānau, e ngā rangatira  
Kei te mihi atu ki a koutou, mō te hui  
Mō ngā kōrero hōhonu,  
me ngā whakaaro*

*Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou  
Tēnā koutou katoa  
Noho ora mai*

Greetings to you all  
Family and leaders  
Thank you for the hui today,  
For the deep views and thoughts

Therefore, greetings, greetings  
Greetings to you all  
Stay well



## Poroporoaki delivered at the office as guests are due to depart

*Tēnā koutou e ngā rangatira  
Kei te mihi atu mō tō koutou āwhina  
Mō ngā kōrero, me ngā whakaaro  
ātaahua  
Kei te harikoa mō tā tātou hui*

*Nō reira āku rangatira,  
Hoki pai atu ki ō koutou kāinga  
Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou  
Tēnā tātou katoa*

Greetings chiefs  
Thank you for your help  
For the views and beautiful  
thoughts expressed  
We are very pleased with the hui  
So therefore my chiefs  
Return in peace to your homes  
Greetings, greetings  
Thanks to you all



## Karakia

Opening a hui with a karakia acknowledges the spiritual connection Māori have with their ancestors and helps to draw participants together under a common purpose.

Examples of karakia to open and/or close hui include:

### Karakia

*E te Atua  
Tēnā koe mō ngā painga  
O tēnei rā  
Āmine*

O Lord  
Thank you for the blessings  
Of this day  
Amen

### Karakia

*He Hōnore  
He korōria ki te Atua  
He maungārongo ki te whenua  
He whakaaro pai ki ngā tāngata katoa  
Āmine*

Honour  
And glory to God  
Peace on Earth  
And goodwill to man  
Amen

## Karakia

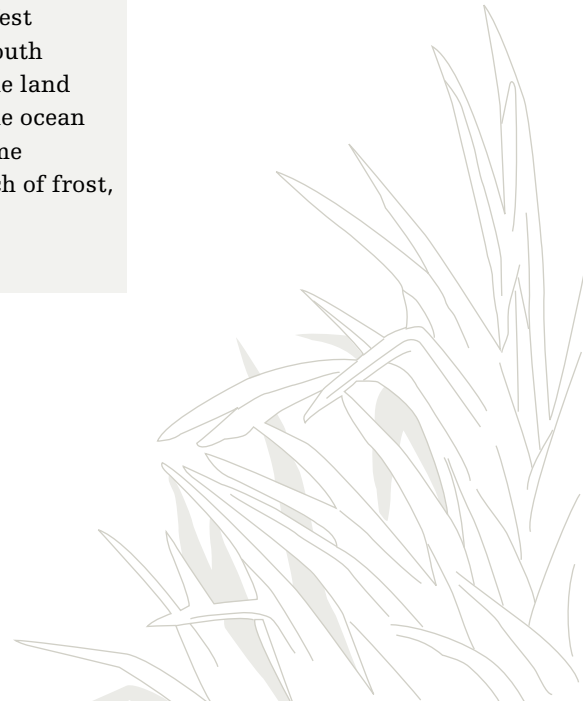
*Kia tau, ki a tātou katoa  
Te Atawhai o tō tātou Ariki  
A Īhu Karaiti  
Te aroha o te Atua  
Me te whiwhingātahitanga  
Ki te Wairua Tapu  
Āke, ake, ake  
Āmine*

Bestow on us all  
The grace of our Lord  
Jesus Christ  
The love of God  
And the fellowship  
Of the Holy Spirit  
Now and forever more  
Amen

## Karakia

*Whakataka te hau ki te uru  
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga  
Kia mākinakina ki uta  
Kia mātaratara ki tai  
E hī ake ana te atākura  
He tio, he huka, he hauhunga  
Tihēi Mauri ora!*

Cease the winds from the West  
Cease the winds from the South  
Let the breezes blow over the land  
Let the breezes blow over the ocean  
Let the red-tipped dawn come  
With a sharpened air, a touch of frost,  
a promise of a glorious day  
Behold the breath of life



## Karakia a Te Atua (The Lord's Prayer)

<i>E tō mātou matua i te rangi</i>	Our Father which art in Heaven
<i>Kia tapu tōu ingoa</i>	Hallowed by Thy name
<i>Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga</i>	Thy Kingdom come
<i>Kia meatia tau e pai ai</i>	Thy will be done
<i>Ki runga ki te whenua</i>	In Earth
<i>Kia rite anō ki tō te rangi</i>	As it is in Heaven
<i>Hōmai ki a mātou āiane</i>	Give us this day
<i>He taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā</i>	Our daily bread
<i>Murua o mātou hara</i>	Forgive us our trespasses
<i>Me mātou hoki e muru nei</i>	As we forgive
<i>I o te hunga e hara ana</i>	Those who trespass
<i>Ki a mātou</i>	Against us
<i>Aua hoki mātou e kawea kia</i>	Lead us not into temptation
<i>whakawaia</i>	
<i>Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino</i>	But deliver us from Evil
<i>Nāu hoki te rangatiratanga te kaha</i>	The strength and the glory
<i>me te korōria</i>	
<i>Āke, ake ake</i>	Forever and ever
<i>Āmine</i>	Amen



### Karakia mō te kai – Karakia for food

*E tō mātou Matua-i-te-Rangi  
Whakapainga ēnei kai  
Kua horaina i mua i a tātou  
Hei oranga mō ō mātou tinana  
Āmine*

Our Father who art in heaven  
Bless this food  
Spread before us  
As sustenance for our bodies  
Amen

### Karakia mō te kai – Karakia for food

*E tō mātou Matua-i-te-Rangi  
Whakapainga ēnei kai  
He oranga mō mātou tinana  
Te kaha me te korōria  
Āke, Ake, Ake  
Āmine*

Our Father who art in Heaven  
Bless this food  
Health to our bodies  
The strength and the glory  
Forever and ever  
Amen



## Songs of support – Ngā Waiata

The Department of Labour has informally adopted the following waiata ('Tukua') for use on many occasions where Department of Labour staff are called upon to mihi.

### Tukua

*Tukua atu rā  
te reo pōwhiriwhiritia  
Ki tō iwi Māori  
e tū nei  
kimikau ana mātou  
ki te mea ngaro  
i waihotia  
e ngā mātua*

Extend your  
welcome  
to your Māori people  
who stand before you  
searching for  
those treasures lost  
and left for us  
by our ancestors

Other simple and well-known waiata that can be used to support fellow staff include:

### Whakaaria mai

*Whakaaria mai  
tōu ripe ka ki au  
Tī aho mai  
Rā roto i te pō  
Hei konā au  
Titiro atu ai  
Ora, mate  
Hei au koe noho ai*

Display  
Your cross to me  
As a beacon  
In the night  
I will be there  
Seeking  
In life and in death  
To abide by me

## E hara i te mea

*E hara i te mea  
No nāianeī te aroha  
Nō ngā tūpuna  
Tuku iho tuku iho*

*Te whenua, te whenua  
Te oranga mō te iwi  
Nō ngā tūpuna  
Tuku iho tuku iho*

*Whakapono tūmanako  
Te aroha ki te iwi  
Nō ngā tūpuna  
Tuku iho tuku iho*

It is not a new thing  
now that is love  
Comes from the ancestors  
Handed down through the passages  
of time

The land, the land  
is the life for the people  
Comes from the ancestors  
Handed down through the passages  
of time

Faith and hope  
Love to the people  
Comes from the ancestors  
Handed down through the passages  
of time

## He Taonga He Tapu

This waiata is particularly useful for formal occasions.

*E kore e mōnehunehu te pūmahara  
mo ngā Rangatira o neherā  
Na rātou i toro te nukuroa  
o te moana nui a kiwa me  
papatūānuku  
Ko nga tohu o rātou tapuwae  
I kakahutia i runga i te mata o te  
whenua  
He taonga he tapu  
He taonga he tapu*

Time does not diminish the memories  
of the ancestors of long ago  
who traversed land and sea

Their life lessons forever leaving an  
inheritance for today's generation to  
value

A sacred legacy to be treasured  
A sacred legacy to be treasured



## E toru ngā mea

Leader	Group	Translation
<i>E toru ngā mea</i>	<i>E toru ngā mea</i>	There are three gifts
<i>Ngā mea nunui</i>	<i>Ngā mea nunui</i>	Of high importance
<i>E ki ana</i>	<i>E ki ana</i>	According to
<i>Te Paipera</i>	<i>Te Paipera</i>	The Bible
<i>Whakapono</i>	<i>Whakapono</i>	Truth
<i>Tūmanako</i>	<i>Tūmanako</i>	Desire
<i>Ko te mea nui</i>	<i>Ko te mea nui</i>	And the greatest of all
	<i>Ko te aroha</i>	Is Love

## Te Aroha

<i>Te aroha</i>	Love
<i>Te whakapono</i>	Truth
<i>Me te rangimārie</i>	And peace
<i>Tātou tātou e</i>	Be with us all



## Local Māori – Tangata Whenua

### Iwi and Hapū

There are many Māori tribes (iwi) and subtribes (hapū) throughout New Zealand who usually descend from a common ancestor.

The names of iwi and hapū generally begin with Ngā ('the' plural); Te Uri O (the descendents of..., the offspring of...) Ngāti or Ngāi<sup>2</sup> (people of...) – followed by the name of the ancestor.

The local iwi within a region are referred to as tangata whenua (people of the land).

Find out the names of the tangata whenua iwi in your area (NB: there may be more than one depending on how large your region is) and note them down for future reference.

You can also refer to Te Kāhui Māngai: Directory of Iwi and Māori Organisations at [www.tkm.govt.nz/default.aspx](http://www.tkm.govt.nz/default.aspx)

### Māori Dictionary

For help with translation of Māori words refer to [www.maoridictionary.co.nz](http://www.maoridictionary.co.nz)

2. Ngāti and Ngāi are shortened forms of 'Ngā Aitanga o...' meaning 'the descendents of...'



