



Whakatauki Information sheet

Working together/collaboration

Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi

With your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive

This whakatauki talks to community, to collaboration and a strengths-based approach. It acknowledges that everybody has something to offer, a piece of the puzzle, and by working together we can all flourish.

Mā whero, mā pango ka oti ai te mahi

With red and black the work will be complete

This whakatauki is similar to 'Nau te rourou' in that it refers to working together, however it talks more directly to the need for collaboration. Traditionally 'whero' signifies chiefs/leaders and 'pango' the community/workers. It acknowledges the need for both to work together in order to complete the work.

Mā mua ka kite a muri, mā muri ka ora a mua

Those who lead give sight to those who follow, those who follow give life to those who lead

This whakatauki also speaks to the importance of working together. It acknowledges and values the importance of both the leader and the followers for both are essential and co-dependent.

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari kē he toa takitini

My success should not be bestowed onto me alone, it was not individual success but the success of a collective

This whakatauki acknowledges team effort, that one's success is due to the support and contribution of many. Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes community/a team to enable an individual's success. It's a good whakatauki to use when wanting to acknowledge the support of many.

He rau ringa e oti ai

Many hands make light work

Similar to the whakatauki above, this one encourages people to work together. It can be used to invite people to participate or to acknowledge the effort and work of many.

The importance of land / sustainability

Whatungarongaro te tangata, toitū te whenua

As people disappear from sight, the land remains

This whakatauki speaks to the importance and permanence of land. While people come and go, the land remains. As humans we rely on the land. We must think long-term and see the big picture to ensure the sustainability of the land.

Resilience/empowerment/perseverance

He kai kei aku ringa

There is food at the end of my hands

This whakatauki signifies resilience, empowerment and hope. It refers to one's ability to use the skills and resources they have to create success. It's about being responsible for the resources and capabilities one needs to grow and develop.

He iti te mokoroa, nāna i kati te kahikatea

The mokoroa (grub) may be small, but it cuts through the Kahikatea

This whakatauki reflects that small things can have a great impact. It encourages us to think big. Although numbers or resources may be small, like the mokoroa, it is possible to achieve great tasks/achievements.

He maurea kai whiria!

Ignore small matters and direct effort toward important projects

This whakatauki encourages us to keep things in perspective, to not get bogged down by the small things, the little details, but instead to maintain our focus on the vision, on what is important. It could be used to keep people on track, and/or to remind us/people to maintain focus on what's important even in the face of great complexity.

Kia mate ururoa, kei mate wheke

Fight like a shark, don't give in like an octopus

This whakatauki encourages us to not give up. When fishing, a shark will fight the whole time it is on the line. In comparison, an octopus will surrender once it's been hooked. No matter how hard things get, let us fight like a shark.

I orea te tuatara ka patu ki waho

A problem is solved by continuing to find solutions

This whakatauki refers to the need for creative thinking, adaptability and perseverance. In order to solve a problem you need to have all of these.

Whāia e koe te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu koe, me he maunga teitei

Pursue excellence – should you stumble, let it be to a lofty mountain

This whakatauki challenges us to pursue our dreams/our goals. It asks us to persevere through adversity and only bow our heads if the obstacle is truly great.

Celebrating leadership

He kotuku rerenga tahi

A white heron flies once

This whakatauki is used on an occasion when something very special and unique takes place. It is often said of a great chief or a leader. It could be used as a way to celebrate the success of various inspirational leaders in the community.

The importance of community/people

He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata! He tangata! He tangata!

What is the most important thing in the world? It is people! It is people! It is people!

This whakatauki talks to the importance of human connection and relationships. This is what creates community and enables people to flourish. It values the human being in all of us and reminds us of what is most important – not money, not success, not a job or a thing – it is people.

Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa

Let us keep close together, not wide apart

This whakatauki speaks to the importance of keeping connected, of maintaining relationships and dialogue so that we can keep moving forward together. It could be used when sharing information about community events or projects that bring people together.

He waka eke noa

A canoe which we are all in with no exception

This whakatauki implies that ‘we are all in this together’. It can be a really useful one when working with groups on a particular focus. For example, where is the waka heading (vision/mission)? What is the waka made of (values/principles)? How do we work well together to paddle the waka most effectively (conduct etc.)? It can be unpacked in many different ways, but it encourages us to explore the most effective ways to work together and can highlight what is needed in order for us to make this journey.

The importance of learning / education

Whāia te mātauranga hei oranga mō koutou

Seek after learning for the sake of your wellbeing

This whakatauki refers to the importance of learning for it is key to your wellbeing. If you follow the path of learning, the world will be your oyster.

Whaiwhia te kete mātauranga

Fill the basket of knowledge

Like the whakatauki above, this one speaks to the importance of education and knowledge. It could be used to share/publicise educational events/workshops, to encourage people to fill their baskets with knowledge. It could also be used after a very informative/thought-provoking workshop to celebrate the filling of the collective's basket with knowledge.

Celebrating hard work

He rā whatiwhati kō

A day of hard work

This whakatauki could be used when talking about a community initiative that required a hard day's work. For example a community gardening session or day-long workshop/meeting.

Tē tōia, tē haumatia

Nothing can be achieved without a plan, workforce and a way of doing things

This whakatauki speaks to the importance of having a 'plan of attack'. It could be used to guide conversation or lead a discussion in the planning of an event or community initiative.

He Manawa tītī

A person with great endurance

This whakatauki celebrates a person/group with great endurance. It could be used to honour a person or group in the local community that has contributed greatly.

Mauri tū, mauri ora

An active soul is a healthy soul

This whakatauki could be used to encourage people to be active participants in a project or initiative or to celebrate people's involvement and participation in an activity.

Kua hua te marama

Something has completed a full cycle

This whakatauki could be used to celebrate success/a project coming to term. It can also be used to reflect on the cyclical nature of things.



We'd like to thank **The Brothers and Sisters Collective** who put together this set of resources for us. The Brothers & Sisters Collective are an enterprise that crafts and harvests experiences for growth through art, education and community.
<https://www.brothersandsisterscollective.com/>

ABOUT



Inspiring Communities catalyses locally-led change, to achieve sustainable, effective outcomes.

We are the reference point for community-led development in New Zealand, building on international and local practice-based evidence to grow and share expertise.

Inspiring Communities operates across many sectors at multiple levels.



RESOURCES

Harakeke/Flax - from the root to the flower the harakeke shares its properties.



ADVICE

Korimako/Bell Bird - fluent, graceful speaker.



EVENTS

Whakaatu/Presenting - the peak of the mountain as a stage to present from

Talk to us about your CLD training, workshop needs, coaching, support and opportunities in your community or region. We understand diversity! We can tailor packages to your specific requirements.

Email us exchange@inspiringcommunities.org.nz

