

KUPUTAKA (GLOSSARY) OF MĀORI TERMS

The definitions outlined below are Appendix A from the Ministry for the Environment, *Making Good Decisions – Māori Values and World Views* supplement.

A

Ahi kā roa – rights of occupation or use of resources in an area

Aituā – disaster or accident occurring in a particular area also means misfortune unlucky and ill omen

Atua – god or supernatural being

H

Hākari –entertainment or feast

Hakuturi – meaning kaitiaki of the forest, also a figurative expression for “old man”

Hapū – tribe; pregnant

Hau – return present by way of acknowledgement for present received; property, spoils

Haumiē tiketike – atua of uncultivated foods

He Tangi ki ngā mate – this is a part of the pōwhiri process and involves time to remember and show respect for the dead

Hui – means a coming together of people, a meeting, assembly, or group

Huahua – bird captured for food, game

I

Iwi – tribe; bone

K

Kai – food, consume, eat

Kaimoana – seafood

Kaitiaki/Kaitiakitanga – guardian/guardianship; intergenerational responsibility inherited through whakapapa and whanaungatanga at birth to care for the environment

Karakia – most commonly known as a prayer, also includes, charms, spells, pleas and incantations to the gods

Karanga – commences a pōwhiri process and means to call, summon, welcome

Kaumātua – adult, old man or woman

Kaupapa – plan scheme or proposal, also means platform surface and layer

Kawa – ritual or ceremonial actions or protocols which guide the way Māori life is ordered

Kōiwi – bone or corpse; also includes person, spirit, strength and descendents

Kōkōwai – red ochre

Kuia – old woman, mother, grandmother or other elderly female relative

Kūpapapapa - sulphur

M

Mahinga kai – seafood gardens or other traditional sources of food

Mana – authority, control, influence, prestige, power

Mana atua – sacred power of the gods

Mana moana – power associated with sea

Mana whenua – power associated with possession of lands

Manāki or Manākitanga – showing hospitality towards people

Manuhiri – visitor or guest

Marae – community meeting place or surrounds

Maramataka – Māori calendar

Mātauranga Māori – Māori world views which are based on the values, traditions and experience of Māori

Mātaitai –fish or other foodstuff obtained from the sea or lakes

Mauri – life force or essence of living things

Mihimihi – greet or acknowledge

N

Noa – ordinary; free from restriction

P

Pākehā – a person of predominately European descent

Papatūānuku – mother earth

Pepeha – a set form or words, figure of speech, formal utterance

Poroporoaki – final part of the pōwhiri process and means to thank and farewell or take leave of the hosts

Pou – post or pole

Pounamu – greenstone or jade or weapon or implement made from greenstone or jade

Pōwhiri – welcome ceremony

R

Rāhui – form of restriction place on resources or specific areas to prohibit use of that resource or area for a particular period of time

Ranginui – sky father

Rangatira – Chief, well born, noble, can be either male or female

Rangatiratanga – political sovereignty, chieftainship, leadership, self determination, self management

Rohe – boundary/tribal boundary

Rongo Mātāne – atua of cultivated foods

Rūaumoko – atua of earthquakes

Rūnanga – assembly or council

T

Taiapure – local fishery

Takiwā – district, space, interval of time

Tāmaki Makaurau – Often translated as the Auckland region but it covers a slightly different area. It stretches from South Kaipara in the North to the southern reaches of the Manukau Harbour

Tāne Mahuta – atua of the forests

Tangaroa – atua of the seas

Tangata/Tāngata – person or human being/people human beings

Tāngata whenua – people of the land

Taniwha – a spiritual being, tribal guardian or monster usually found in or near a waterway that protected tribes or enforced tribal restrictions

Tāonga – treasures or property which is highly prized

Tāonga tuku iho – gift of the ancestors, precious heritage

Tapu – sacred; subject to restriction

Taura Here – literally meaning bound ropes but is often used to represent urban iwi groups linked to the home tribe

Tawhirimātea – atua of wind

Te Ao Marama – the world of light which existed after Ranginui and Papatūānuku were separated

Te Kore – the nothingness which existed before the world was created

Te Pō – the world in darkness when Ranginui and Papatūānuku were still joined together

Te Wai Pounamu – most of the South Island

Tikanga Māori – Māori custom, rule or method, the right way of doing something

Tohunga – skilled person, wizard or priest

Tūāhu – sacred place used for the purposes of divination and other mystic rights

Tuakana/Tuākana – elder brother of a male or elder sister of a female, when combined with (tanga) also refers to an acknowledgement of seniority between whānau, hapū and iwi groups

Tupuna/Tūpuna or Tipuna/Tipuna – ancestor or grandparent

Tūmatauenga – atua of war and of people

Tūrangawaewae – home or place where a person comes from

U

Urupā – grave or burial site

Utu – used here as meaning reciprocity; also means return for anything, satisfaction, ransom, reward, price and reply

W

Wāhi tapu – sacred place

Waiata – Māori song

Wairua – spirit of living thing

Waka – canoe, descendants of a particular canoe

Whaikorero – formal speech

Whakaeke – term to describe the visitors' slow walk in formation onto the marae as part of the pōwhiri process

Whakapapa – genealogy of all things

Whakaratarata – term to describe the hongi between tāngata whenua and manuhiri on a marae as part of the pōwhiri process

Whakatau – address in formal speech

Whānau – extended family, birth

Whanaungatanga – relationship or kinship

Whare wānanga – university or school of higher learning

Whenua – means land/country; also means placenta