

Tihei Mauri Ora!

No intention of slowing down

Me whai anō au ki a Kāwai, ki te ringa tohau nui
I will keep on following Kāwai, who is so industrious



Last week, one of the cornerstones of Kóhanga Reo, Dr Iritana Tawhiwhirangi, of Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu, and Ngá Puhi, was invested as a dame for her services to Māori education. Dame Iritana who accepted this honour as a tribute to the families that drove the Kóhanga Reo movement in those early days, made it clear, ***“I have no intention of slowing down”***. Taking things easy is not in the vocabulary of this 81 year old stalwart leader who adopted a simple approach to life - stay on track.

Sometimes, though, we have to step back, take a deep breath, and accept that we live in a society where life moves at a non-stop, never-ending pace. We constantly have to keep moving, keep changing, keep growing, and keep working. It's like being on a treadmill, if we stop moving, we're likely to get run over. However, life is what you make of it. It's up to us to make it better, and we will rarely do that if we just persist in keeping our nose to the grindstone. Sometimes, we need to pause, reflect, replenish ourselves, change our direction, and prepare for a brighter, challenging future. *Kia pai tó wiki!*



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