At last month’s Ngā Pae o te Maramatanga indigenous conference on traditional knowledge, Tā Tipene O’Regan of Ngāi Tahu reminded us that our capacity for adaptation is self-determined and limited only by our ability to comprehend. He identified the essential attributes of leadership that Māori have - the ability to adapt and innovate. It’s a clear point of differentiation and is the reason why the Māori leadership ‘brand’ is increasingly being recognized for its distinctiveness.

Leaders with the capacity for change and advancement are wise and visionary men and women. Attaining a vision of our life’s work, communicating that vision to others, winning them over to our view, widening that vision, and following through. All these steps are integral to making our contributions as good leaders, something that will endure beyond our own lives. These great traits of adaptation and innovation are amply illustrated in Tā Tipene’s life’s work and internalizing them helps us to redefine our lives, and be more effective leaders of people. Kia pai tō wiki!