

Tihei Mauri Ora!

Reaching those great heights

Iti rearea teitei kahikatea ka taea

The rearea (bellbird) is one of the smallest birds in the forest, yet it is capable of reaching the top of the kahikatea, the tallest tree in the forests of Tuhoe



Māori language revivalist, and Te Wananga o Aotearoa Professor, Timoti Karetu, asserts that all our efforts, no matter how small or minimal, are better than no effort at all, and, if that effort is sustained, ***we should reach those great heights*** - the survival of our language. Our tupuna did not brave the hardships of ocean voyages, the perils of cultivating new land in Aotearoa, colonial warfare, and all the other hardships and trials of life to prepare the way for the extinction of their language, the whittling away of their inheritances, and their assimilation with the dominant culture.

So here we stand, still on the threshold of the 21st century, facing a future that holds promise and challenges. Would we have the courage to accept the offer of a glimpse of the Māori language 100 years from now? Would such a glimpse show us homes where te reo continues to be spoken, offices where it is in common use, a lively cultural scene with literature and music expressing our way of life? In our present situation there is indeed the promise of such a future. Let us hope and work for the strength and commitment to attain it. *Kia pai tó wiki!*



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