

Tihei Mauri Ora!

Plenty of fire and courage

He wahine, he whenua, e ngaro ai te tangata

By women and land, men are lost - also refers to the essential nourishing roles that women and land fulfill, without which humanity would be lost



Once a humble cleaning lady, Dame Temuranga Batley-Jackson - the country's newest Dame, has been honoured for her work with prisoners, urban Māori and the Waitangi Fisheries Commission. According to broadcaster son Willie Jackson, Dame Temuranga, “is a **woman with plenty of fire and courage**, and she needed all of it when she challenged tribal leaders over rights for Māori living in the city and in her work with hardened criminals”. “She wants her award to be an inspiration, particularly for Māori women”.

A woman of courage indeed! Dame Temuranga's life gives new meaning to the word and how it is expressed in our everyday lives. Some people's lives focus on heroic acts of courage in exceptional circumstances; however, the focus here is on that inner fire and determination that enables one to lead an authentic and fulfilling life day in, and day out. This is the courage to change when change is needed, and to stand up for what is right, even against much opposition, and the strident opinions of others. The courage to embrace the unknown in spite of our fears - in our careers, in our relationships, or in the ongoing journey of understanding who we are, why we are here, and the direction we're headed. *Kia pai tó wiki!*



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