

Tihei Mauri Ora!

Harmony

Waiho i te toipoto, kua i te toiroa

Let us keep close together, not wide apart

Harry Dansey MBE (1920-1979) of Ngāti Tuwharetoa and Te Arawa; a prominent journalist, writer, local politician, and second race relations conciliator who perhaps best summed up his ideal for racial harmony in the concluding lines of his poem, 'The divided heart', written in 1970:



*We would not choose to tell apart
The things we love by race or clime
For they are one within the heart;
And equal joy in them we take
That in this place by chance are set
Tall kauri of Waitākere
Or oak and elm of Somerset.*

Although we are many and varied, when taken as a whole, the rich diversity of views we possess can work in harmony when pointed toward a common goal. It may sound like utopia, but each of us has its own character, its own unique strengths and shared sense of belonging that make this place, Aotearoa, distinctive. Different views, perspectives, and methods - all of these make us stronger and more respectful of one another. Let's make certain that we make the most of our varied parts - for the whole truly can be more powerful than just the sum of its parts. Kia pai tō wiki!



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