

Tihei Mauri Ora!

Immense Courage

Ka mahi te tawa uho ki te riri

Well done you whose courage is like the heart of the tawa tree



One of NZ's best known writers, Auckland University Professor Witi Ihimaera, who recently received the 2009 Arts Foundation laureate award, reflects in his epic novel *Whale Rider* of his ancestor Paikea's extraordinary voyage over a thousand years ago from Raiatea on the back of a whale, landing at dawn at a place called Whangara, on the East Coast. Few can know of the courage of our forebears' in travelling across the vast South Pacific ocean in search of a new home in Aotearoa. Our ancestors made their heroic voyages by sea-going waka, navigating by stars and migratory bird patterns – literally 'on a song and a prayer'. Ihimaera says, ***"The immensity of their courage beggars description"***.

In all our forebears' voyages lies the beginning of our own - because their voyages are carried on by us. We have an obligation to our past to carry on those dreams not just for ourselves but for the futures of our tamariki and mokoḗuna.

Like any voyage, the path to success starts within you. On your journey, you may not know what challenges you'll meet on the way, or even when you might reach your destination and achieve your goal. Courage is simply choosing to do something. Start from the beginning and keep on going until you reach the end, and never give up. Like our ocean-voyaging forbears', you can do it – you know you can. Kia pai tó wiki!



A Monday Motivational email by MANU AO Academy – A National Inter-University Māori Academy for Academic and Professional Advancement.

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