This past week Ngā Kaitatau Māori o Aotearoa (National Māori Accountants Network) held their AGM in Palmerston North. Rob McLeod of Ngāti Porou is one of NZ’s leading accountants. The new Managing Partner of accounting firm Ernst & Young for both Australia and NZ, chair of the NZ Business Roundtable, and tax expert says “I’m certainly the first Māori to run a big accounting firm in Australia”. Having got the job “because I am the best qualified” Rob considers “my reputation has been of not stuffing things up”.

It is not uncommon though to stuff things up and make mistakes. It’s just human nature - but sometimes it stands in the way of our progress. Often when things go wrong, we make it worse by failing to fix the problem quickly and with good grace. We need to be realistic about what we do, and how we do it. We have to get to the point where we know our abilities better than anyone - and then work to maximize our successes so they far outweigh our failures. What should happen when you stuff things up is this: you take your knocks, you learn your lessons, and then you move on. Kia pai tō wiki!