

Tihei Mauri Ora!

Rising to the Challenge

*E Tu-rau-ngā-tao e, pewhea tāua e whiti ai? Tēnā anō kei ona roratanga
'O Tu rau-ngā-tao, how can we cross the river? At the place of its weakness.
Difficult obstacles can be surmounted if one perseveres and all avenues are explored.*



According to 'The Listener' (Dec 5, 2009), Māori language pioneer, educator and author, Dr Katerina Mataira is the 5th most powerful and influential Māori in 2009. The greatest challenge she had to face was helping set up the first kura kaupapa Māori. "No support from the community. No support from the Ministry. No support from any of the funding bodies. No resources". She basked in the challenge.

There is a line in her award-winning children's book, 'Marama Tangiweto, Crybaby Moon', which again typifies her character. Thunder and Lightning stopped to ask Moon why she was crying. "I'm crying because I can't see my face in the sea" sobbed Moon. "Oh is that all" said Thunder and Lightning. "That's only because you're not dazzling enough. **Why don't you dazzle a lot harder?** Then you'll see your face in the sea".

How you address the challenges life throws your way says a lot about who you are, and what you can become. Each of us can learn from Katerina's experience how to stand up to life's challenges. That recipe for success might include a pinch of dedication, a bit of courage, a few cups of dogged determination, and a generous helping of tenacity. What a great example of leadership she is. Kia pai tō wiki!



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