

# *Tihei Mauri Ora!*

## *No place like home*

***Tangata akona ki te kāinga, tungia ki te marae, tau ana***  
*If a man is taught at his home, he will stand with confidence on the marae, conducting himself properly, confidently and competently*



*If we want to create a world fit for our mokopuna, we must invest the time and effort required to nurture their leadership. In the past, the education of Māori children was a thorough preparation for life, with plenty of scope given for individual expression and growth. The focus was on the ability to climb mountains, to grow food, to build waka, to make a mat, to weave garments, read the tides, offer appropriate karakia, and look after siblings. Learning involved the whole whānau, and was a lifelong responsibility. Everyone had a say in providing opportunities to assist in shaping the young mind.*

One of our great Māori leaders, Te Rangi Hiroa (also known as Sir Peter Buck) demonstrates this ably. He attributed much of his learning to a kuia called Kapuakore. Upon her death, Te Rangi Hiroa received Kapuakore's paddle, which he described as his most precious heirloom, saying:

***I have studied under learned professors in stately halls of learning, but as I look at that paddle I know that the teacher who laid the foundation of my understanding of my own people, and the Polynesian stock to which we belong, was a dear old lady with tattooed face in a humbled hut walled in with tree-fern slabs.***

Kia pai tō wiki!



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

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