

# *Tihei Mauri Ora!*

*It's about us*

**Ehara tāku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini**

*My strength is not that of the individual, but that of the multitude*



Over the past fortnight we have witnessed another more devastating earthquake in Otautahi; this time claiming many lives. Ngai Tahu leader Mark Solomon, representing mana whenua, has been the ‘face’ of the huge rescue and recovery effort for Māori, in partnership with other community leaders. His humility and calm leadership has to be admired where at every opportunity he has applauded the efforts of everyone working together no better illustrated than from a simple yet moving statement by maata waka head, Norm Dewes of Ngāti Porou - “***This is not about you, nor me; it's about us***”.

It is during times of adversity that we all come together, and we see the best of human qualities come to the fore as our leaders rely on the well-proven values of rangatiratanga, manaakitanga, kotahitanga and whānaungatanga. It shows us one very important lesson: we are not built to give in to adversity, we are built to rise above it - together. Indeed, it is through the common courage of all of us – holding hands in the dark – that we find the faith and hope we need for tomorrow. *Kia pai tō wiki!*



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

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