

Tihei Mauri Ora!

Work for what you get

Māu anō e rapu he oranga

Your livelihood in your own hands



Many Māori professionals cannot be leaders of people - except by example, as their work often removes them from close contact with the everyday problems and aspirations of ordinary Māori. Not so, Dr Manahi Nitama Paewai (1920-1990) of Rangitāne and Ngāti Kahungunu. The exceptionally talented former Māori All Black, innovative Kaikohe-based medical practitioner, and outspoken local politician and community leader once said “Māori must be taught as the Pākehā has already learnt that he has to work for what he gets”. ‘Doc’ as he was affectionately called, being a devout Mormon, was critical of the welfare state and ‘handouts’ because in his view it just discouraged work and thrift.

It’s true though, thrift and industry always go hand in hand. These virtues are worth culturing. They make us as whānau and individuals strong and independent. What we sow, we in turn will reap, or in other words nothing is ever denied to well-directed work, and nothing is ever achieved without it. This is why it is so important to focus on inputs and outputs as a person. You get out of life what you put into it. Who can argue with such logic? Indeed, it is what life is all about, and it applies to our individual and personal lifestyles. Kia pai tō wiki!



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