

# *Tihei Mauri Ora!*

## *Don't be distracted*

**E haere ana tē pōporoihewa, e noho ana te kiore**

*'Although the whitehead flees, the rat remains'*

*Meaning that it is better to follow the example of the whitehead  
and move away from trouble*



Foundation chairperson for Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangī and current Vice-Chancellor, Distinguished Professor Graham Smith is a prominent Māori educationalist and advocate who has been at the forefront of alternative Māori education initiatives for many years. At last week's MANU AO seminar on transforming education he warned against being sidetracked by commentary on the 'long brown line' of Māori under-achievement: "It's the politics of distraction - we've got to be focused on what it is that we are confident about, what we can control, what's in our hands, and keep moving forward".

In order to attain everything we need in our lives, we need to have focus. We should choose the way we want our life to look, what areas are in focus, and which parts are highlighted. By focusing on the important areas we give them clarity. At the same time, by choosing what to sharpen, we choose to diminish or discard out the areas we can't control, so they're not distracting to us. This is the way life needs to be. Believe in your abilities, your dreams, your wants, your desires. Believe you are able to achieve, and you will. *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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