

Matua Witi Ashby gifted the name Ngā Pou Arawhenua to the Māori caucus of the mortality review committees.

Ngā Pou

The group has many whānau that represent the wellness of our people. With the many faces, whakapapa and hapū represented in our roopū this will give substance in forming and fashioning us into one Pou.

The roots reflect wairua, tika, pono, aroha and our foundation is based on our faith, strength, resilience, resistance, determination and ownership. With this we are able to build our Pou from the ground, roots down, upwards and outwards.

Ara

Ara is creating positive movements or pathways, whether on Papatuanuku, in our thoughts, dreams or aspirations. We remember the path we have travelled from, which has been difficult and challenging and for some the obstacles have been as big as Mount Everest. Yet we survive the trials and tribulations of those times and the learnings that inspire us to forge ahead.

Whenua

Our whenua is our BASTION. This give us the mana motuhake – to ground our feet steadfast; to draw a line and say enough is enough.

We fight for our Indigenous rights in accordance with mana whenua, mana tangata, mana atua and our two founding documents, He Wakaputanga – the Declaration of Independence (1835) and Te Tiriti o Waitangi (1840).

I pakanga ahau ki nga Atua i te po kihai ahau i mate no reira 'Takahia te riri ki raro i o koutou waewae Kiaū ki te whakapono He poai pākehā koutou a muri nei Waiho kia kakati te namu i ngā whārangi

o te pukapuka

ki reira tahuri atu ai, Kaua e takahia ngā papa pounamu a o koutou tūpuna, Titiro ki ngā taumata o te moana, Kei reira te oranga mo koutou'

Last night I fought with the gods but I did not die

We must trample our anger underfoot and hold on to the truth or else we will become like the pākehā

Wait until the sandflies nibble on the sacred covenant (Te Tiriti) then we must rise and protect what is sacred

Don't trample on the papa pounamu of our ancesters (our tupuna signatories on Te Tiriti o Waitangi)

Look towards the sea, there lies our salvation

- Kōrero from Ruki Kawiti after the battle of Ruapekepeka

Nō reira e ngā rangatira Mauri ora Matua Witi









