

Information sheet: te reo Māori translation of our Scout Law and Promises

Te reo Māori is a very descriptive and poetic language with a unique way of expressing ideas and concepts. Speakers of te reo will often use whakataukī (proverbs) or kīwaha (sayings) when speaking about something.

By quoting a few lines of a proverb/saying you are able to refer/allude to the many aspects of a discussion or topic. This is sometimes called "the economy of language" where only a few words are used to convey the full meaning, thoughts or intent of a discussion.

Therefore a translation cannot be taken literally and a deeper knowledge of te ao Māori (a Māori worldview) and the context or horopaki, is required to fully grasp the meaning of what is actually being said, rather than the words being spoken.

There will be some words that are familiar and some that seem out of place. The following information will hopefully make these translations clearer for non-speakers, and help convey the intent, rather than the words of the Promise and Law translations.

Te Ture Scout **He whai whakaaro**

ki a koe, ki tangata kē atu
ki te taiao

Kia tika

kia ngākau pono
kia manawanui

Kia ngākau pai

Tū whitia te hopo
Hei hoa ki te katoa

Our Scout Law **Have Respect**

For yourself and others
For the environment

Do what is right

Be trustworthy and tolerant
Have integrity

Be positive

Accept challenges with courage
Be a friend to all.

Some of the words and their meaning:

Whakaaro is a double "a" not an "ā" with a macron, and it is a concept of thoughtfulness and respect or consideration.

Tū whitia to hopo - this is an excerpt from a proverb about feeling the fear and doing it anyway.



Te Kī Taurangi Scout

E mana ai taku kī taurangi, kia pukumahi te mahi,
Kia tau te whakapono-ā-wairua,
Kia ihu oneone ki te hāpori, ki te whenua tupu, ki te ao
Kia manaakitia tangata kē atu,
Kia ū ki tā te ture i kī mai ai.

Scout Promise

On my honour, I promise to do my best,
To develop my spiritual beliefs,
To contribute to my community, country and world,
To help other people,
And to live by the Scout Law.

Te Kī Taurangi Kea

Ka tohatoha ahau, ka manaaki ahau, ka kite ahau, ka whanake ahau.

Kea Promise

I share, I care, I discover, I grow.

Some of the words and their meaning:

Te reo often uses imagery and body to emphasise the deepness of meaning – how important something is. Most of us are familiar with “**mana**” (honour, standing, reverence) and “**puku**” (belly) and “**mahi**” (work), so in saying “***E mana ai taku kī taurangi, kia pukumahi te mahi***”, we are saying the Promise is honourable and to be honoured, and I will put everything into it - work hard from the belly.

Whakapono – is to believe, and **wairua** goes deeper than religious beliefs, it is the soul or spirit of a person.

Manaaki – is to support, care, show generosity.

Whanake – is to move forward as well as to grow.

