



# KIA KAHA TE REO MĀORI

**E ngā Taurira o ō mātou Kareti, ko te tekau mā whā ki te rua tekau  
o Mahuru, ngā rā mō Te Wiki o te Reo Māori i tēnei tau!**

For those unsure about the meaning of the sentence above, it's in te reo Māori and translated means:

**To the Fellows of our College, the 14-20 September are the days  
for Māori Language Week this year!**

Māori Language Week (Te Wiki o te Reo Māori) is an annual event, held since 1975. It is the time of year Aotearoa, New Zealand celebrates the Māori language. It is also the anniversary of the Māori language petition being presented to the New Zealand parliament on 14 September 1972.

The 1972 petition had over 30,000 signatures and requested active recognition of te reo Māori (Māori language). It became the starting point for a significant revitalisation of te reo Māori and resulted in te reo Māori being acknowledged as an official language of New Zealand under the Māori Language Act 1987. Which is appropriate given that te reo Māori is a unique taonga (precious treasure) of Aotearoa (New Zealand). As with all our treasures we have a collective obligation to protect them.

Strength for any language comes from its status and the value we place on it, people being aware and committed to support its revitalisation, acquire and use it, and from the language being used appropriately and regularly for any purpose.

Māori Language Week is an opportunity to raise awareness and commitment for continued te reo Māori revitalization, learning, and use.

Māori Language Week is also an opportunity for us to celebrate and promote te reo Māori, and a chance for fellows to become champions for the Māori language.

As a college and as taurira (fellows) of our college we have the opportunity to contribute to the revitalisation of te reo Māori. We can do this by increasing our understanding and by using the Māori language daily. Some simple examples include greeting our patients in Māori (kia ora) or displaying the Māori language within our homes and workplaces. The more we champion the value of te reo Māori the more others will value it also.

To assist you on your own te reo journey, here is a link which lists 100 words (with their individual sound files) - <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/culture/maori-language-week/100-maori-words>

Also, here is a free APP called Āke Āke which was developed by Dame Naida Glavish & Riki Nia Nia, current RANZCO Māori and Pasifika Committee advisor, to support staff at Auckland & Waitemātā District Health Boards on their Reo journey. <https://apps.apple.com/nz/app/%C4%81ke-%C4%81ke/id1435134156>