Foundations for Tomorrow

Scoping the Past to Reach the Future - A Personal Account

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This is an extract from Tā Mason Durie's paper titled "Scoping the Past to Reach the Future - A Personal Account".

Kotahi	Whenua and Health Go Together	Land grounds us; land feeds us; land connects us; land underpins our homes; and land defines us. The task in the future is to protect the land and, in so doing, protect us, as tangata whenua.
Rua	Mātauranga Māori	Māori models for health and wellbeing and kaupapa Māori health initiatives will enable 'Māori to be Māori', even when circumstances change.
Toru	Te Taiao	The impact of natural and built environments is recognised. Designated kaitiaki are appointed to monitor and refresh the environment and to ensure desecration ceases over land, waterways, forests and, the air. In so doing, kaitiaki have the authority to oppose environmental ventures that threaten Māori health and wellbeing.
Whā	Whakauruuru	A holistic approach that brings together health, education, housing, employment, welfare and the economy, to align with the realities of Māori. Collective action transcends disciplinary and sector silos, endorses Māori world views and strengthens resolve.
Rima	Ākonga	Learning and education remains an integral part of te ao Māori and is increasingly important in a future where digital learning is the norm, where Māori learners explore contemporary and future Māori realities. Learning comes from whānau, rangatahi and online options, as much as it does from schools.
Ono	Whānau	Whānau is at the centre of ongoing Māori transitions. Whānau autonomy is the starting point for rangatiratanga and reflected in the ways whānau assume leadership roles in a changing society. Rangatahi, within whānau, lead the way as new technologies and values dominate. Rangatahi ensure whānau are able to adjust to a changing world, without losing the essence of whanaungatanga.
Whitu	Hautūtanga	Māori leadership is collective and distributed, so it is shared, embraces iwi and recognises Māori community priorities. Leadership transcends health, education and other sectors and able to serve the people.
Waru	Te Ao Whānui	As global citizens, Māori are represented on international forums, indigenous governance bodies, worldwide sporting and academic committees, and trade and economic ventures.
lwa	Te Tiriti o Waitangi	Te Tiriti is part of all environmental, social and economic legislation and policies.
Tekau	Rangatiratanga	Māori decision-making is evident in communities, regions and nationally. It is possible 'to live as Māori'. There are many Māori authorities built on the foundations laid by marae, by iwi, by Māori commissioning agencies, by kaupapa Māori systems and by Māori community agencies. An independent, national, Māori health authority plays a key role in improving Māori outcomes for Māori. Māori authorities do not necessarily mimic state systems or be fragmented by a sectoral approach to development. Māori authorities adopt kaupapa Māori values to ensure that Māori can flourish into the future.

The main point of the paper titled "Scoping the Past to Reach the Future – A Personal Account" was to recall significant national hui that have occurred over the past five decades. This is not a comprehensive review but rather, part of a personal journey.

The last five decades are foundations for tomorrow. Ten key pointers to the future have emerged.

To move on, dedicated Māori planning capacity is needed so that, over the next 20 or 30 years, a comprehensive approach to health and other challenges can be addressed in a coordinated way. The agenda for change does not need to be modelled on current systems as part of the government-of-the-day's agenda. Instead, the way must be opened for innovative ideas that are future focused, globally relevant and, most of all, aligned to tikanga, mātauranga and rangatiratanga.



