

Rangatahi Futures

Ngā mahi a ngā tūpuna Careers of our ancestors

Introduction

There are many tales of the great journey Māori took across the Pacific Ocean over 1,000 years ago that led them here to the shores of Aotearoa New Zealand. The many waka (canoes) that successfully arrived are confirmation these voyages were purposeful and well planned.

They would not have arrived safely without the highly skilled tūpuna (ancestors) who were, among other things, expert astronomers, navigators, doctors, carvers, teachers and fishers. Likewise, establishing themselves in Aotearoa would have been impossible if not for the warriors, midwives, builders, hunters and gatherers among them.

These examples from the past are evidence that tūpuna Māori were movers, shakers, innovators and creators. They also illustrate that careers are not something new to Māori. They are in fact an integral part of where rangatahi have come from, and therefore something they carry within them today. Through Ngā mahi a ngā tūpuna Careers of our ancestors you are invited to take your rangatahi on a journey to remind them of who they descend from, and reinforce that they are equally as talented as those who walked before them. Challenge rangatahi to consider their own legacy. Like their tūpuna they too have a responsibility to pave the way for the descendants who will follow in their footsteps.