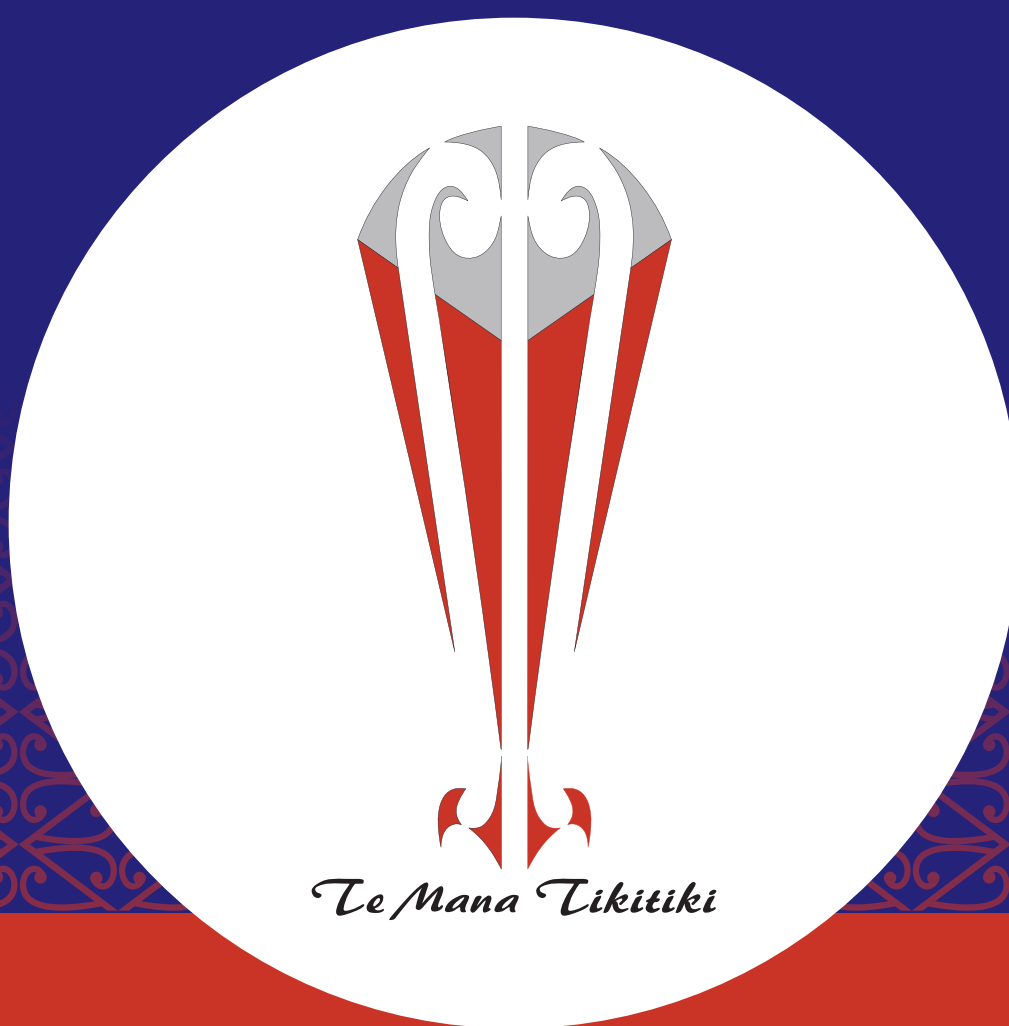


# Te Mana Tikitiki

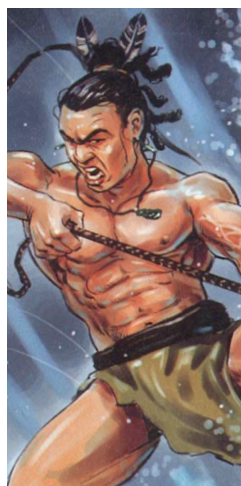
*The Strength of Learning*

## Brief overview

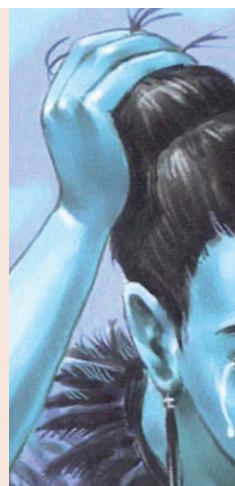


# Mā te rākai o te tikitiki, ka kitea te mana.

*Through the adornment of the topknot,  
one's skills are recognised.*



When Māui was born his mother, Taranga, cut off her topknot (tikitiki), wrapped Māui in it, and cast him into the ocean. The full name used for Māui is 'Māui-Tikitiki-a-Taranga' – 'Māui who was wrapped in the topknot of Taranga'. A feather in a topknot can be seen as a sign of nobility and mana, qualities ākonga learn and gain from Te Mana Tikitiki.



Te Mana Tikitiki is a 'home-grown' initiative that uses tikanga and te reo Māori to build the mana, self-esteem, and confidence of young ākonga Māori and improve their learning and achievement. It is targeted at ākonga Māori aged 8–12 years who require support in relation to behaviour and wellbeing.

An ākonga in this situation joins a rōpū (group) that meets twice a week throughout a school term to learn about Māori language and culture. Two kaiārahi (facilitators) lead rōpū sessions, selecting one of the four available modules based on the strengths and needs of the ākonga in the rōpū. The term ends with a graduation that allows whānau, the regular teachers of ākonga, and others to recognise rōpū participants and their achievements.

Schools partner with mana whenua and the local Ministry office to identify and appoint the kaiārahi. When schools collaborate with iwi on Te Mana Tikitiki, they are putting the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi into practice – through partnerships with iwi and mana whenua, the protection of the mana and wellbeing of ākonga, and the participation of whānau and iwi in teaching and learning for their tamariki.

The Te Mana Tikitiki manual is for primary and intermediate schools in Aotearoa New Zealand wanting to adopt Te Mana Tikitiki. It consists of:

- a guide that provides key information on Te Mana Tikitiki and support for implementing it
- four modules for use by kaiārahi (Tikanga Marae, Tikanga Waka, Toi Māori, and Ngā Atua)
- a set of activities for kaiārahi to draw on during sessions.

The diagram below provides an overview of the steps a school (or cluster) will need to take once it decides to partner with local iwi to put Te Mana Tikitiki in place.

