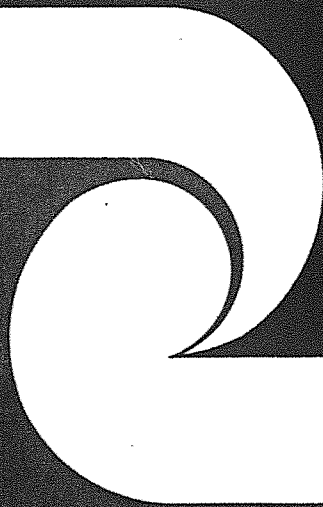


# THE MAORI FLAG

A symbol of liberation and identity



- ☐ *Black represents Te Korekore the realm of Potential Being. It represents the long darkness, from whence the world emerged. It represents the heavens, the male element is formless, floating and passive.*
- ☐ *White represents Te Ao Marama, the realm of Being and Light. It is the Physical World. White symbolises purity, harmony, enlightenment, balance and air rising.*
- ☐ *The Koru, curling frond shape, represents the unfolding of new life, that everything is reborn and continues. It promises renewal and hope for the future.*
- ☐ *The design can also be interpreted as a white cloud mass over Aotearoa.*
- ☐ *Red represents Te Whei Ao, the realm of Coming into Being. It symbolises female, active, flashing, south, yelling, emergence, forests, land, gestation and spirals. Red is Papatuanuku, Earth Mother, the sustainer of all living things. Red is the colour of earth from which the first human was made.*
- ☐ **The design represents the balance of natural forces with each other.**  
**To live life is to live with nature.**  
**To appreciate life is to understand nature.**

Design by winners of National Maori Flag Competition  
Hiraina Marsden, Jan Smith, Linda Munn. 1990

Te Kawariki Box 546 Kaitaia Aotearoa