

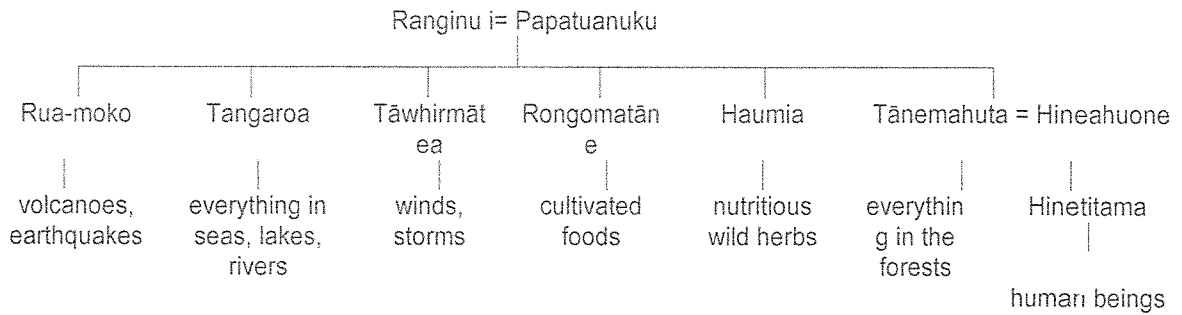
# WHAKAPAPA

The meaning of whakapapa is 'to lay one thing upon another' as, for example, to lay one generation upon another; hence, the frequent translation of whakapapa as genealogy. Everything has a whakapapa. Whakapapa is a basis for the organization of knowledge in respect of the creation and development of all things.

It is through genealogy that kinship and economic ties are cemented and that the mana or power of a chief is inherited. Whakapapa is one of the most prized forms of knowledge and great efforts are made to preserve it.

All the people in a community are expected to know who their immediate ancestors are and to pass this information on to their children so that they too may develop pride and sense of belonging through understanding the roots of their heritage.

It is through whakapapa that human beings can be linked to all parts of the environment (partial diagram below), and to each other: *Nā Rangi tāua, nā Papatūānuku e takoto nei* – We are both from Rangi, from Papatūānuku also.

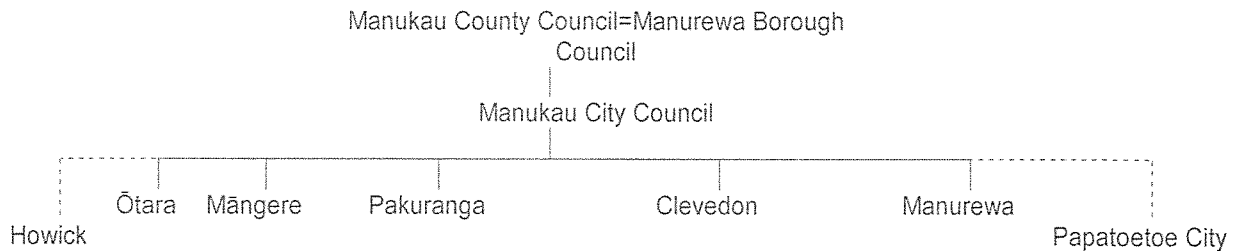


This world view has a strong impact, for example, on Māori values and practices in relation to resource management. A relevant whakatauki (proverb) is: *Kei te raweke koe i to tupuna i a Tāne* - You are interfering with your ancestor Tāne.

⇒ How would this compare to the Council's approach to resource management?

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The Manukau City Council itself has a whakapapa.



⇒ How might knowing this whakapapa be useful in your work?

⇒ can you think of an example of a problem that might arise if a Council staff member didn't know this whakapapa?



Barlow, Cleve (1991) in *Tikanga Whakaaro: Key Concepts in Maori Culture*. Auckland: Oxford University Press, pp 171-174.