Celebrate Maori language week

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Water New Zealand is proud to tautoko (support) te wiki o te reo Maori (Maori language week), Mahuru (September) 10–16.

This year’s theme is kia kaha (being strong) and focuses on how we can all make the Maori language strong in everything we do.

What better way for our water industry to embrace this theme than to understand the importance of water and understand the words we can use to describe water from a Maori perspective.

We’ve prepared a poster for you to pin up in your office or by your desk (see next page). Go to waternz.org.nz to download it.

It shows key water types with a description of what they mean and includes the importance of Ranginui (Sky Father) and Papatuanuku (Earth Mother) in providing us with precious waiora – life-sustaining water.

He wero – a challenge for you (have some fun with this)
- Add some te reo Maori into your everyday work.
- Greet each other with “kia ora” (hi/hello) or tenakoe.

• Have a conversation about what you think when you hear the kupu (word) “wai” (water).
• Try to use the Maori terms on the poster in place of English ones.

And we can all help with the kia kaha theme by strengthening our understanding of “wai”.

Water and its mauri (lifeforce) is a taonga, a treasured resource that we should preserve and protect to look after us and the many generations to follow.

Ko au ko te awa, ko te awa ko au
I am the river, the river is me.

SEE YOU THERE! 19 – 21 SEPTEMBER.
JOIN US IN HAMILTON.

This year Water New Zealand will be celebrating 60 years as an association so this conference will be a particularly special occasion. The Water New Zealand Conference & Expo is one of the must-attend events on the 3-waters calendar.

Visit our website for more information.
www.waternzconference.org.nz
Types of water

Wai-ora
- pure / healthy water
  - This is water in its purest form. It contains the source of life and wellbeing.

Wai-māori
- fresh water
  - Water that is used for consumption, sustains life, runs free or unrestrained and has no sacred associations.

Wai-kino
- dangerous / polluted water
  - The mauri (life force) of the water has been altered through pollution and has the potential to do harm to all living things (incl humans and ecosystems). Also refers to dangerous water such as rapids.

Wai-mate
- dead water
  - Water that is no longer able to sustain life. It is dangerous to all living things (incl humans and ecosystems) because it can cause illness or misfortune.

Wai-tai
- seawater / salt water
  - This term also refers to rough or angry water as in surf, waves or sea tides.

Wai-tapu
- sacred water
  - This is water that is used for ritual and ceremony.

Ngā puna wai (tapu) o Papatūānuku
- The weeping springs of the earth mother