

Te Manahua - New Zealand Universities Women in Leadership (NZUWiL) Logo and name

Our waitohu (logo) was designed by Ranga Tuhi of Waikato and Ngati Maniapoto iwi, (Bachelor of Design; Graphic Design; Massey University) and adopted for our 2010 alumni symposium. This taonga has been a respected symbol of what NZUWiL represents ever since.

The pattern KŌWHAI-NGUTU-KĀKĀ – also known as the red kowhai, is unique to Aotearoa New Zealand and derives from the scroll or pitau pattern normally seen in marae on carved poupou (wall panels) or as kowhaiwhai patterns on the heke (painted roof panels).

This waitohu represents nature, symbolising the female element of the carving Te Poutūārongo which was situated at Te Kuratini Marae on Massey University's Wellington Campus. It represents two leading Māori deities; Papatūānuku (Earth Mother) and Hine-nui-te-pō (Goddess of the night).

The internal half crescent shapes represent Unaunahi (fish scales) emphasising rhythm and movement. The roundness of the pitau bulb is also included because according to tradition, woodcarving came from Tangaroa, god of the sea.

To reflect the Treaty principle of partnership, and to demonstrate the importance of acknowledging tangata whenua and te reo Māori, we wanted to consider a Māori name for NZUWiL that aligned with the meaning of our waitohu and the kaupapa of the programme.

In 2020, after several wānanga with Prof. Rawinia Higgins (Tūhoe) and Dr Meegan Hall (Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāti Tūwharetoa), the name Te Manahua was chosen. We want to acknowledge Rawinia and Meegan for sharing their knowledge, expertise and support in providing this taonga to adorn our programme.

Te Manahua expresses the moment when petals open, grow and become a flower. This aligns strongly with our waitohu that draws on the kōwhai ngutu kākā (kākā beak plant) to symbolise the mana of female deities, and the importance of women leaders who give of their time, knowledge and experiences to teach and tautoko the next generation.

Te Manahua also combines the word 'mana', which alludes to power, authority and status, with the word 'hua', which means outcomes, results and benefits. This name and its component parts reflect the aspirations of our programme to encourage wāhine working in universities to build their capacity, realise their value and reach their full potential.

