



# Te Matataua

The Scouting Party of Air Power

## RNZAF Air Power Development Centre Bulletin

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### Heke Patterns of the RNZAF Tūrangawaewae

NZDF bicultural policy sets a framework that respects Māori cultural interests, and recognises that operational effectiveness is enhanced by New Zealand's cultural heritage, including Maori practices and customs. Our bicultural approach enhances our military ethos, fighting spirit and camaraderie. Of equal importance, the NZDF is noted worldwide for its unique ability to accept and engage with diverse cultures while on operations. Our distinctly New Zealand perspective is unique, which further enhances New Zealand's international reputation.

The RNZAF is the custodian of New Zealand's military air power, which during operations is enhanced by our bicultural approach. The Tūrangawaewae at Ohakea is home to a series of heke (rafter) patterns that reflect the values and principles of our Tūrangawaewae. These in turn are collective reflections of the RNZAF. The art of heke decoration (kowhaiwhai) originated as a gift to mankind from the heavens as both a means of decoration and a way to record history, geneology, values and principles. All but two of the heke patterns that stand in the Wharenui of our Tūrangawaewae are generic and belong to all of Māoridom. Matikara Kia Mau and Ngā Hau e Wha are the exceptions, unique and designed specifically for RNZAF. Heke patterns can be interpreted in many ways. This document is an interpretation of the eight heke patterns found in the RNZAF Tūrangawaewae as viewed from an Air Power perspective.

The following patterns incorporate characteristics of air power as well as of personal and professional mastery, which together contribute to the art of air operations. These heke patterns are visual representations that convey a sense of identity, meaning and spiritual connectedness to New Zealand's shared culture. They draw on New Zealand's natural and spiritual elements, flora and fauna that identify with air power characteristics, and aspects of underlying RNZAF values: readiness, agility, persistence, our shared purpose, our people, knowledge, personal growth, and welfare.

#### Readiness: *Matikara Kia Mau – Grasping Claw*



The Matikara Kia Mau heke represents: Readiness. The claws of the hawk at rest are firmly clamped around the supporting branch of a tall tree. Thus, even when it is not airborne it is ever poised ready to alight in an instant. It reflects the Air Force's philosophy of being ever prepared to deploy, to encounter the foe in war and to carry hope in times of peace. The colours are based on heraldry with red symbolising the courage and wrath of war whilst yellow symbolises peace and happiness.

*"Kia Tū. Kia oho. Kia mataara"*  
*"Ready. Alert. Watchful"*

#### Agility: *Pūhoro – Breaking Waves*



The Pūhoro heke represents speed, swiftness, and agility. It comes from the waves breaking upon the prow of a swiftly moving canoe. It reflects the Air Force's resolve in its advance. Symbolises an enduring journey forward regardless of the hurdles and obstacles that may lay ahead. The colours depict the joint nature of the NZDF with our fellow Services: light blue for Air, dark blue for Navy, and green for Army.

*"He moana pukepuke e ekengia e te waka"*  
*"A choppy sea can still be navigated by a strong canoe"*

#### Persistence: *Mangopare – The Hammerhead Shark*



The Mangopare heke represents strength, tenacity, fight, persistence, resolve. It reflects the Air Force's commitment to the Nation, and to our Values, Vision

and Mission. The colours used are black and white to depict biculturalism in Aotearoa, and life and death or past and future. The Mangopare heke features on the back wall of the RNZAF Turangawaewae.

*"Kaua e mate Wheke. Mate Ururoa"  
"Don't concede like the Octopus. Fight like the Shark"*

### Shared Purpose: Ngā Hau E Whā – The Four Winds



The Ngā Hau E Whā heke represents the four points of the compass, North, South, East and West, and the coming together of people. It reflects the Air Force's diverse composition spanning the land and the world and how, in all that diversity we find commonality and unity in the shared purpose of defending our nation. The colour blue represents the sky and is consequently the primary colour of the RNZAF.

*"Koekoe te Tui. Ketekete te Kākā. Kūkū te Kereru"  
"Gather as the Tui, the Kākā and the Kereru in splendid variety"*

### Our People: Rau Tawa – Leaves of the Tawa tree



The Rau Tawa heke represents plenty or multitudes of resources, in particular the people of New Zealand who serve in the Air Force. It depicts the Tawa or Broadleaf tree as it was common in central New Zealand and was often the dominant canopy on lowland forests, rich with edible purple berries. It reflects the people of Aotearoa – numerous like the leaves of the Tawa tree yet each is an important individual in the tree's development. The colour green draws on the colour of the Tawa tree foliage.

*"Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini"  
"My bravery is not that of a single warrior but of many"*

### Knowledge: The Ngutu Kākā – The Parrot's Beak



The Ngutu Kākā heke represents knowledge, which reflects the ongoing training, education and development that our people receive in support of both their trade requirements and the war fighting ethos of the RNZAF. The colours used in the Ngutu Kākā heke depict the earthy tones of the Kākā, the

native parrot of New Zealand. The Kākā is famous for two things – its high intelligence and its seemingly endless chatter. It is therefore likened to a teacher and the process of passing on knowledge to the student.

*"Ko te manu kai i te matauranga, nōnā te Ao"  
"The bird that feeds on knowledge, his is the World"*

### Organisational and Personal Growth: Pitau Takarangi – Spiralling Fern Frond



The Pitau Takarangi heke represents growth and development. Both the frond and the spiral symbolise those changes that occur naturally as part of the process of evolution. It reflects the Air Force's and its personnel's ongoing development through positive change and continuous improvement. The colours depict the sky in two tones to symbolise the Air Force past and Air Force present. With each new spiral, today becomes yesterday and a new today is born.

*"Mate atu he tete kura. Ara mai rā he tete kura"  
"As one fern frond dies another unfurls"*

### Welfare (spiritual and emotional): Ngutu Kura – Red Lips



The Ngutu Kura represents the senses of Body and Mind. It refers to the passing on of "The Word" from generation to generation. The knowledge referred to is less that of physical knowledge and more so of the way of the emotion and spirit – the mind and soul being equally as important as the body. It reflects the importance that Air Force places on the maintenance of emotional and spiritual welfare of its personnel. The red colour reflects the red beak of the parrot. It is a symbol of spoken knowledge.

*"Ko te Amorangi ki mua. Ko te hāpai o ki muri"  
"Care for your spiritual self first. Physical needs come second"*

### Key Points

- NZDF operational effectiveness is enhanced by New Zealand's cultural heritage.
- The heke patterns reflect aspects of our underlying values.
- The heke patterns contribute to the art of air operations.