



He kākano conveys growth, development, and expansion. Even before a seed is planted or nourished, it has inherent promise to take root, emerge, and flourish. A person, like a seed, is intrinsically linked to generations who have gone and are yet to come. He kākano derives from somewhere, belongs to something, and cannot be isolated or detached from its whakapapa. In this manner humans are kin with creation and we are to accept that our existence is accountable to all forms of life, and not to ourselves alone. We are to concede that we must not knowingly cast ourselves above another to claim what is to primarily provide for all. As our inner seed stirs let us collectively grow ourselves for the common good of all living things.

Māori<sup>1</sup> indigenous philosophy offers the holistic attitude needed for Earth to survive the human onslaught on its resources. Commitment to the sustainable care and respect of harvesting these resources will enable the Earth to proffer its wealth in a cycle of mutual reciprocity. “Aroha atu, aroha mai” means ‘love received is love given’. With unreserved faith let us join in the chorus of hope that our efforts to halt the propensity for humans to exploit other forms of life can be realised.

“I am a seed born of greatness, descended from a line of chiefs”<sup>2</sup> who handed down the treasures for abundance so that I may hand that on to the next generation. This act of perpetual wisdom, lessons, and generosity are very much embedded in my duty to apologise to nature for the “wrong we have done and in the good we have not done”.<sup>3</sup> When humans accept that we are but one seed in all of creation we can then actively move to better ourselves and our environmental relationships so that the future is brighter for all.

We are all blessed with the precious gift of life. It is our fundamental duty therefore as humans to bestow that same gift upon the many parts of creation we equally

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<sup>1</sup> Indigenous peoples of Aotearoa, New Zealand.

<sup>2</sup> A whakataukī or saying in Māori referring to the retention of cultural language and practices.

<sup>3</sup> A New Zealand Prayer Book, *The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, NZ and Polynesia*, p407.

share and enjoy. It will be in that blessing to do so that we all join in the planting, take root, emerge, and flourish. He kākano ahau.

*Reverend Jacynthia Murphy*  
*Kaiwhakamana (Enabler)*  
*Local Shared Ministry - Anglican Diocese of Auckland*  
*Operations Support Manager*  
*Te Hāhi Mihinare ki Aotearoa Niu Tīreni,*  
*me Ngā Moutere o Te Moana Nui a Kiwa.*  
[supportmanager@anglicanchurch.org.nz](mailto:supportmanager@anglicanchurch.org.nz)  
[wahinetia@gmail.com](mailto:wahinetia@gmail.com)  
+64274057465

