

The story behind our Aotearoa New Zealand 2024 hoodie design¹.

Kia Ora,

This hoodie was designed for the 2024 Huntingtower Year 9's New Zealand Trip. The traditional Māori symbol on the front of the hoodie, known as a triple twist or "Pikorua", encapsulates the meaning of two cultures two peoples Coming together, just like our Australian culture and Aotearoa New Zealand cultures coming together. It also represents the bonding of friendship for life, which is an ideal representation of the Year 9's trip, as it will most definitely create lifelong memories.

On the back of the hoodie is a depiction of a silver fern or "Ponga", a national icon of Aotearoa New Zealand. The silver fern "Ponga" was used by hunting parties during a full moon. In the dark, dense bush the hunting troop would spread themselves out to increase the hunting area and also to reduce the noise made while stalking prey. The leading hunter would place the fern on the ground, silver side facing upward lit by the moonlight it would glow. The fern would point the following troop toward the next fern marker. safely guiding the troop. The hunter trailing at the very rear will reach each marker flipping the marker eliminating the glowing marker and stopping anyone tracking from find the trail. It symbolises guidance, direction, protection and ingenuity.

The top side includes four Koru (spiral) which symbolises the uncurling fern frond. It represents new beginnings and hope for the future and good that with follow, such will be the new experiences and fun times that the Year 9s will have in Aotearoa New Zealand. In the center of the fern there are four Hei-Matau (fishhook) which represent strength, prosperity, good luck and safe travels over water.

The last part of the design, a pattern called "Puhoro" which symbolises speed, agility, power, strength and successful travels. It honours the vast oceans that connect us. The passageways, although the oceans separate our lands, Australia and Aotearoa, the waka (canoe), where this motif is derived, from designs found underside the hull of the waka, this motif is later adopted and tattooed into the skin of proven warriors. For the waka, it speaks of the ability to cut through the water at high speed without resistance. For the warrior it is the same, a swift foot upon the land so that you may safely arrive at your destination. From the Pito "belly button" to the knees, the entire front and rear the warrior was tattooed with the Puhoro design and other motifs that tell a story of its people, bringing honour to the wearer, such as our journey to Aotearoa, "The Land Of The Long White Cloud".

We pay homage to the peoples of the land.

¹ This design was created by Huntingtower student Tehya Stephens, along with the story behind the design. Thank you, Tehya.

We also thank Matua Adrian Tihema of Tamaki College for his help in refining both the design and the story behind the design.

We are very grateful for the opportunity to embrace and celebrate Māori culture on our hoodies and throughout our tour of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland and Rotorua.