

# THE MEANING OF BEING AGED AND BEING MAORI

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Pani's story

# Being-with as Belonging





# Being-with as Belonging



His being aged and being Maori  
come together in the spiritual belonging



# May's story



Being-with as elder

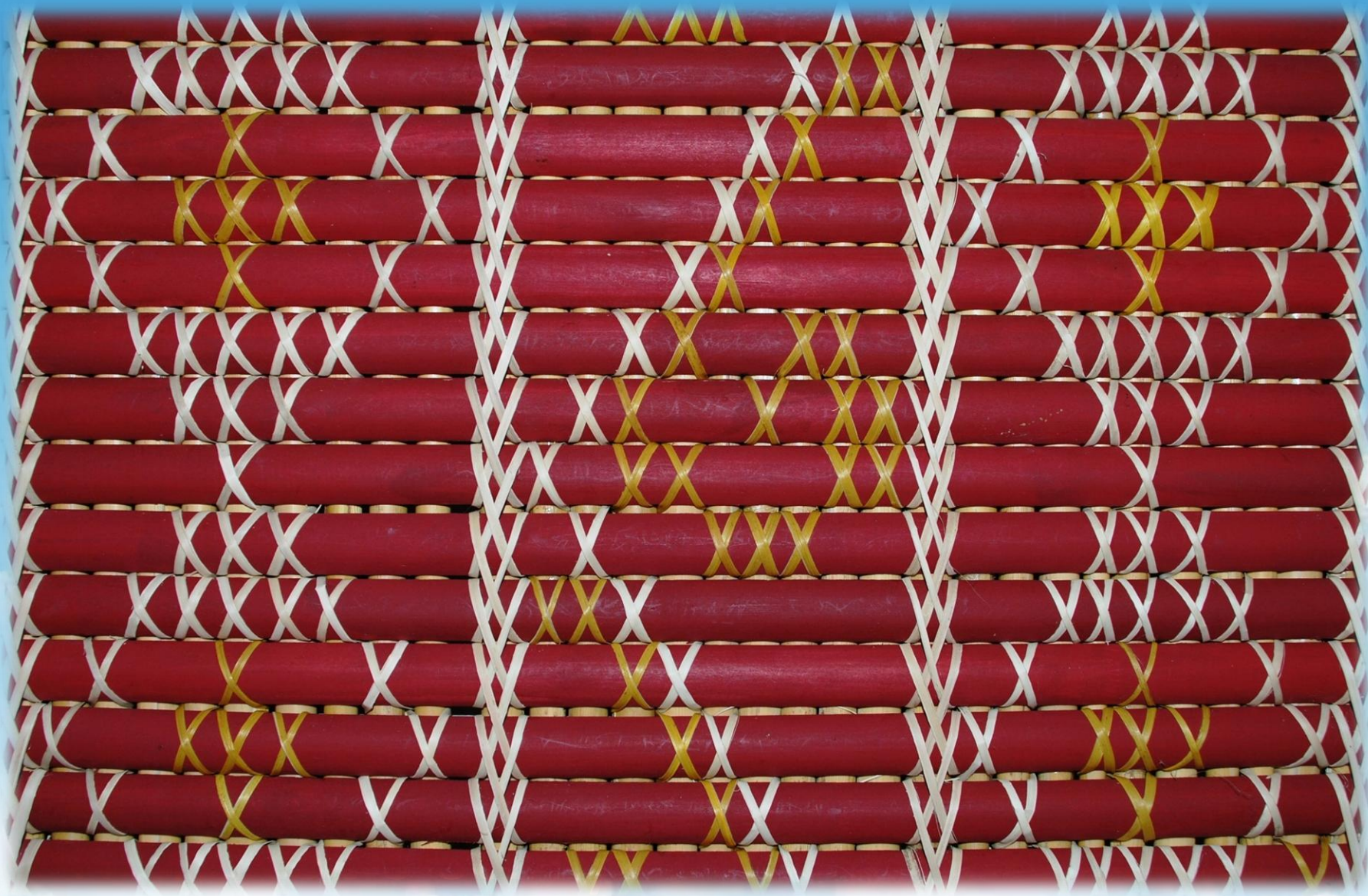


# Being-with as elder



In the event, some of the threads of the past  
are drawn forward, passing on the potential  
for the ancestral ways to be taken up and  
practised by her descendants







Contributing to community



# Contributing to community



He emphasises the purposefulness experienced in contributing as a Maori elder to something so much greater than himself



# Being-with-Others

- Being-in-the-world is always a mode of 'Being-with-Others' (Heidegger, 1927/1962).
- For Maori, membership of the extended family and tribe is thus interpreted as a societal, spiritual mode of Being-with-Others.
- In Maoridom, attachment to generations of family and the land settled by ancestors are deeply held sentiments, essential to wellbeing.

# The meaning of being aged

- Guided by hermeneutic phenomenology
- Individual research conversations with fifteen community-dwelling elders:
  - four Maori aged 71 to 93 and
  - eleven non-Maori aged 80 to 97 years
- Conversations of going about the everyday
- Cultural integrity of the study, the text and the interpretations was enhanced through partnership with Te Puna Hauora



Hutia te rito o te harakeke Kei hea te  
komako e ko uia mai ki ahau he aha te mea  
nui o tenei ao  
he tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

Heidegger, M. (1927/1962). *Being and time* (J. Macquarrie & E. Robinson, Trans. 7th ed.). Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishers.

Walker, R. (1990). *Ka whawhai tonu matou: Struggle without end*. Auckland: Penguin Books.

Wright-St Clair, V, A. (2008). *'Being aged' in the everyday: Uncovering the meaning through elders' stories*. Doctoral thesis, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand.  
<http://hdl.handle.net/2292/3080>