

Karakia

Te Ao o te Harakeke Karakia

Ko Io-matua-kore

Ko Whaea rikoriko

Ko Rangi-nui

Ko Papatūānuku

Ko Tāne

Ko Pakoti

Ko te Harakeke

Ko te Kōrari

Ngā Taonga whakarere iho

O te Rangi

O te Whenua

O ngā Tūpuna

Homai hei oranga mō tātou

Tihei Mauri Ora!

Prayer for matters related to flax

Treasures handed down

By the Heavens

By the Earth

By the Ancestors

As sustenance for us

The first breath of life!

This karakia acknowledges the whakapapa of the harakeke and is used before harvesting harakeke.

Harakeke Guidelines

Phormium tenax (harakeke) is the flax mainly used for making baskets, mats, head bands, food baskets, cloaks and tāniko – finger weaving.

Phormium cookianum (wharariki) is largely ignored but it used for plaiting mats and baskets.

Say a Karakia before you cut the flax. (optional)

Don't cut flax in the rain or at night.

Don't cut flax while mate wahine (menstruating)

Do not eat while working with the flax.

Children and women do not step over flax or unfinished flax work.

Dispose of flax back to the earth/compost, this is where it has come from, do not burn it.

One something is started it must be finished no matter what it looks like.

It is usual for the first article to be given away or buried.

Cut flax using the following instructions.

Cutting

When a suitable plant has been selected, the leaves are harvested. The central shoot, called the rito (1 in fig. viii), and the leaves on either side of it (2 in fig. viii) should not normally be cut as doing so weakens the plant considerably and also these leaves tend to shrink more than more mature ones as they dry.

The next leaves (3 in fig. viii) outside the three central ones are used for plaiting. From two to six will generally be taken from

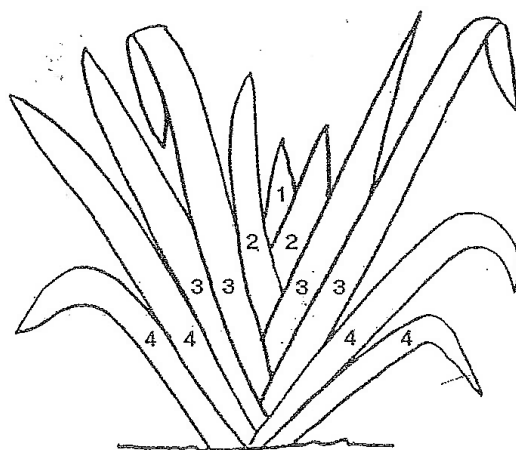
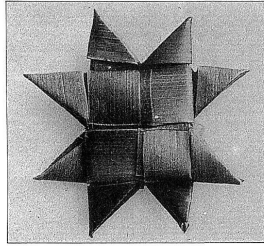


FIGURE viii

each fan of leaves. They are cut with a downward motion with a sharp knife, as near as possible to where they join the fan.

The older tattered leaves (4 in fig. viii) should also be cut to encourage new growth and to make the next cutting easier.

Harakeke Star



This star uses the first movements of the third star (unit 17) and is included here as a simpler form for practice.

The first movements are made following the movements for figs. 14.1 to 14.10 for the frog (unit 14). Fig. 15.1 shows the work at the end of fig. 14.10 for the frog. Continue from here.

Fold strip 1 in fig. 15.2 diagonally, along the dotted line and in the direction indicated by the arrow to lie in the position shown in fig. 15.3.

A third fold is made in the same strip 1 in fig. 15.4 at the dotted line marked with the arrow. The whole strip is now folded over onto itself, as indicated by the arrows, to lie in the position shown in fig. 15.5.

The end of the same strip 1 in fig. 15.5 is threaded under the strip labelled 2. It is pulled through towards the worker to lie in the position shown in fig. 15.6.

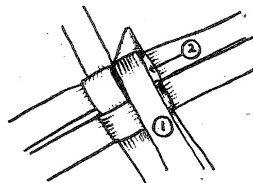


FIGURE 15.5

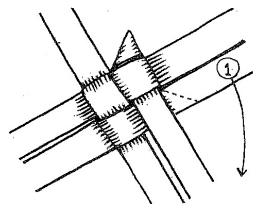


FIGURE 15.6

In the same way, fold strip 1 in fig. 15.10 diagonally along the dotted line, then diagonally again, then onto itself and thread it through the loop beneath. These are the same movements that have already been completed twice.

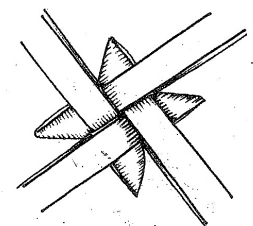


FIGURE 15.11

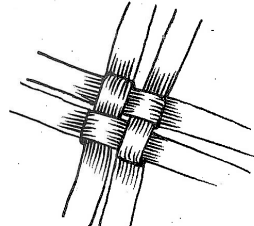


FIGURE 15.1

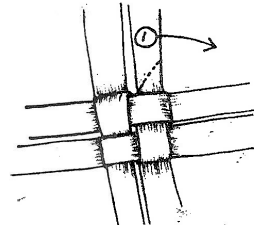


FIGURE 15.2

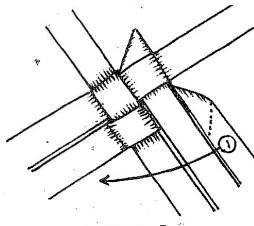


FIGURE 15.7

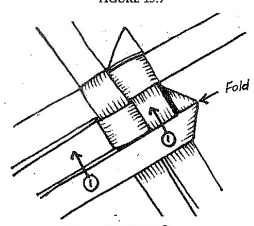


FIGURE 15.8

Strip 1 in fig. 15.6 is folded under diagonally, along the dotted line and in the direction indicated by the arrow, to lie in the position shown in fig. 15.7.

The same strip 1 in fig. 15.7 is again folded along the dotted line and in the direction indicated by the arrow to lie in the position shown in fig. 15.8.

Strip 2 in fig. 15.10 is treated in the same way. The work will now look like fig. 15.11.

Turn the work over and treat the four strips on the other side in the same manner. Begin as in fig. 15.12.

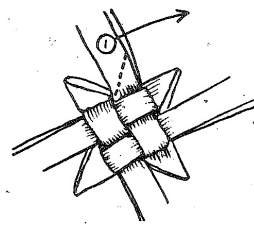


FIGURE 15.12

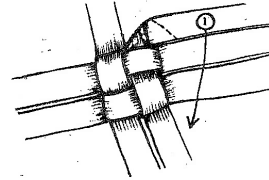


FIGURE 15.3

The same strip 1 in fig. 15.3 is again folded diagonally along the dotted line, in the direction indicated by the arrow, to lie in the position shown in fig. 15.4.

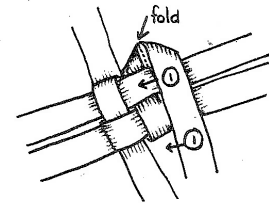


FIGURE 15.4

The same strip 1 in fig. 15.8 is again folded at the point marked, and onto itself, as indicated by the arrows, to lie in the position shown in fig. 15.9.

The same strip 1 in fig. 15.9 is threaded through the loop that lies beneath the position marked with *. The actual loop through which it is threaded is hidden in the diagram by strip 2. The work will now look like fig. 15.10.

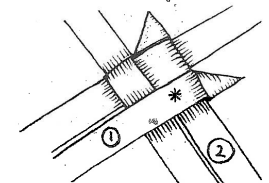


FIGURE 15.9

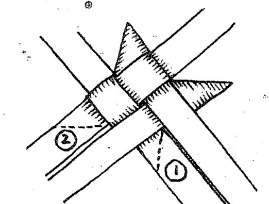


FIGURE 15.10

The work should now look like fig. 15.13.

Cut away the ends of all strips and the first star is complete. Thread it on a strip of flax if it is to be worn as a pendant.

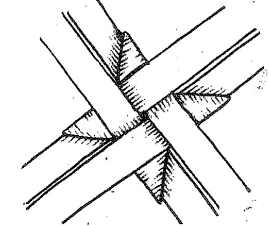


FIGURE 15.13