



Enthralled in the beauty of the uku, Daniel finds his creative flow. With his mauri balanced and in a state that ebbs and flows between 'oho', 'tau', and 'ora' learning is limitless and there are endless possibilities.

My thoughts on your learning...

Hine Uku-Rangi is our atua wāhine of the uku, the clays of Papatūānuku. She is in close kinship with Papatūānuku, and she supports us from our foundations into our creative energy. Each time I notice Daniel immersed in the uku, I see this to be true. As I see you connect with the uku, I watch in awe as your thoughtful, curious, reflective, and creative nature flourishes.

Intuitively, you kick off your gumboots to feel grounded upon the whenua,

'Mauri tau', I smile, connected, calm, and in balance.

Slowly, you lower your body connecting with Papatūānuku, inspired, you scheme intricate and complex designs,

'Mauri oho' I smile, awake, alert, creative, energized, and surprised.

You sit for what feels like hours at a time, absorbed in your tūhurahura (exploration),

'Mauri ora' I smile, alive, beaming with learning power, potential, and ideas.

Daniel, as we all look towards your learning future, there is a whakataukī that comes to mind, "Me te wai kōrari" Like the nectar of the flax flower. For me, this whakataukī reminds us to delight in the abundance and beauty of Papatūānuku, and as we continue to do this it nurtures our connection and attunement to our whenua. Daniel, as we continue to explore te ngahere together we will continue to empower you to drive your learning forward by providing you with the freedom, time, and space to slow down, wonder, and wade within the muddy waters of Hine-Uku-Rangi. Daniel, I wonder how your curious and creative tūhurahura and your deep connection with the uku will inspire our teina to, "Me te wai kōrari", delight in the abundance of Papatūānuku and become more in tune with the whenua.