


HE KUPU RANGATIRA, THE PROVERB PATHWAY - Guide to the proverbs

Palmerston North City Council has supported the creation of He Kupu Rangatira – The Proverb Pathway on Te Arapiki a Tāne - The Stairway of Tāne. The pathway is for the public to explore and enjoy. It celebrates our bicultural foundations and our multiculturally diverse city, with proverbs selected from ones submitted by the community. The proverbs appear in the language of origin, with a te reo Māori equivalent, and an English translation.

Te Arapiki a Tāne - The Stairway of Tāne is two sets of steps that take you from Te Motu o Poutoa (Anzac Park) and Vaucluse Heights to the Manawatū awa (river). One set is 207 steps and the other is 220.

	Origin	Original language	Te Reo Māori	English	Location
	Rangitāne	Tini whetū ki te rangi, ko Rangitāne ki te whenua		Like the multitude of stars in the heavens, so is the greatness of Rangitāne upon the earth	Top of first staircase (set of stairs closest to Te Motu o Poutoa) – in a tile on ground at top of stairs
	Japanese	石の上にも三年 Ishi no ue ni mo sannen	Itiiti rearea teitei kahikatea ka taea	Even a stone will warm up if you sit on it for three years	¼ way down first staircase – set into corten steel on a stone next to the pathway
	German	Wer nicht wagt, der nicht gewinnt	Kia oke ururoatia	Who doesn't dare, doesn't win	1/3 way down first staircase – corten steel sign next to stairs
	Persian	پایان شب سیه سپید است Payan e shab e siaah sepid ast	He rā ki tua	At the end of a dark night is a bright day	½ way down first staircase – etched into seat timber on back of a bench seat
	Greek	Φασούλι το φασούλι γεμίζει το σακούλι He tira kaumātua te haere nei	He tira kaumātua te haere nei	Bean by bean the sack gets filled	¾ way down first staircase - on front face of steps laser cut into step face

	Origin	Original language	Te Reo Māori	English	Location
	Chinese	千里之行始于足下 Qiān lǐ zhī xíng shǐ yú zú xià	Ka rere te hue mataati	A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step	Bottom of first staircase – set into tiles
	Fijian	Dui seva ga na bua ka tea	He kai kei aku ringaringa	You harvest the flowers you sow	Bottom of second staircase – corten steel sign next to stairs
	Vietnamese	Có công mài sắt, có ngày nên kim.	Kaua mā te waewae tūtuki engari mā te upoko pakaru	Put effort into filing a metal bar and it eventually becomes a needle	¼ way up second staircase on front face of steps – laser cut into step face
	Romanian	Înțeleptul nu grăiește tot ce gândește, dar gândește tot ce grăiește	Waiho mā te tangata e mihi	The wise man doesn't say everything he thinks, but he thinks about everything he is going to say	½ way up second staircase – etched into seat timber on back of a bench seat
	Samoan	Leai se vevesi, leai se popole, leai se tasi e misi le pasi	Kai ana ngā kākā, noho ana ngā kererū	No rush, no fuss, no miss the bus	½ way up second staircase at horizontal path section – etched into timber leaning/stretching post/frame with dog clips
	Rangitāne	Te paepaeroa o Kahukura		Kahukura's paepaeroa of peace	Top of second staircase – etched into seat timber on back of a bench seat
	Aotearoa	Koekoe te kōkō, ketekete te kākā, kūkū te kererū		The tūi sings, the parrot chatters, the pigeon coos	Top of second staircase path, on the bank to the left (left if coming up the stairs, on right if going back down) – corten steel Waka Kererū