

Pūrerehua

This is a waiata (song) from New Zealand Aotearoa. It was written by Dr Hirini Melbourne for his daughter, who he hoped 'would grow up to be a beautiful butterfly'. As you can see from the English translation (page two) it is about the flight of a butterfly. Maori version first; some notes on Maori pronunciation on page two.

CHORUS

D

Pūrerehua

G D

rere runga hau

Papaki parihau

G D

Rere runga hau

Ka piki, ka piki

Runga rawa e

Papaki parihau

G D

Rere runga hau

VERSE 1

Em D

Ka tau, ka tau

Em D

Runga pūāwai

Em D

Ka whānauhua

Em D

A pūrerehua

Em D

Katahi, ka rua

Em D

Ka toru, ka wha

Em Em

Ka ru, ka rē

Em D

Ka puta e whā whē

CHORUS

VERSE 2

Ka kai, ka kai

Ka pau ngā rau

Ka huri ngā whē

Hei tungoungou

Ka tahi, ka rua

Ka toru, ka wha

CHORUS

VERSE 3

Ka huri takaweri

Ka tungoungou

Ka puta ki waho

He upoko nui

He waewae roa

He parihau pakipaki

Rū rū rū rū re re rē re

Ru ru ru ru e

CHORUS

END REFRAIN

D

Pūrerehu-a

Rere runga hau

Pūrerehu-a

Rere runga hau

Butterfly
carried on the wind.
Fluttering its wings
on the wind.
Up and up,
way up high
fluttering its wings
on the wind.

It lands
on a flower
to lay its eggs,
this butterfly.
One, two,
three, four.
They shake and quiver,
out pops four caterpillars.

They eat and eat,
every leaf consumed.
The caterpillars
become pupae.
One, two,
three, four.

They quiver and change
from a pupa.
Out pops
a head,
a long bendy leg.
Fluttering wings.
Flitter, flutter, flap.

Butterfly,
carried on the wind.
Butterfly,
carried on the wind.

Whakahuatanga - Pronunciation

There are five vowels and ten consonant sounds in the Māori alphabet.

5 vowels: a, e, i, o, u

8 consonants: h, k, m, n, p, r, t, w

2 digraphs (two letters that combine to form one sound) :
wh, ng.

Vowels

While there are five vowels, combinations of vowels (diphthongs) are common. You should regard the set of vowel sounds as a much larger group than simply the five vowels themselves.

A vowel can be long or short. A long sound is shown by a macron (a bar appearing over a vowel to indicate it is lengthened during pronunciation e.g. 'ā' as in motokā).

Vowels are pronounced as follows:

Vowel		Short	Long
a	as in	about	far
e	as in	enter	bed
i	as in	eat	sheep
o	as in	awful	pork
u	as in	put	boot

Consonants

Māori language doesn't have consonant clusters (a group or sequence of consonants that appear together in a syllable without a vowel between them).

Consonants are mainly pronounced as they are in English, the exceptions being:

T varies depending on which vowel appears after it.

- When succeeded by an 'a', 'e' or 'o', it's pronounced with little or no sibilant (s) sound.

- When followed by an 'i' or 'u', it includes a slight sibilant sound, however not nearly as much as an English 't'.

R is commonly called a 'rolled' or 'liquid' r. If you're able to imitate the purring sound of a cat, you'll know exactly what's required to pronounce the consonant correctly. Failing this, the sound you should aim for is something similar to an English 'd' – but softer.

Digraphs - The 'ng' digraph (representing the combined sound of two consonants) is pronounced as it sounds in the English word 'singer'. A common mistake is to pronounce it as it appears in the word 'finger'.

The 'wh' digraph is usually pronounced as an English 'f' sound.