

Mangōpare

This design represents the hammerhead shark. It is a symbol of strength, courage and power.





Ngutu Kākā or Marama

When this pattern is referred to as 'Ngutu kākā', this shape is the beak of the kākā bird.

When it is 'marama', it is the moon.



Ngaru

This design represents the ocean waves – the cutting of the waves as the waka travelled.

Puhoro

This pattern is a split koru. It represents speed, swiftness and agility.





Pātiki

*The flounder - a
symbol of
hospitality.*





Rauru

This shape is the spiral. It shares similar meaning to the koru.



Koiri

This pattern is the koru repeating and turning back into itself – this may continue into infinity. The koiri is a symbol of self-reflection and nurturing; it also means to flourish.



Kōwhai Ngutukākā

This pattern
represents the
flowers of the
kākā beak plant.



Koru

Koru is the most common pattern found in Kōwhaiwhai. It represents the pitau, the unfurled shoot of a fern. Koru symbolises new beginnings, birth and the unfolding of life.