

MEKA RĀKAU

# Kahikatea

(White pine)

*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*



Sparklers

## MEKA RĀKAU

# Characteristics

Kahikatea are the tallest tree native to Aotearoa. They can grow up to 80 metres tall and live past 500 years. Also called 'white pine' because the bark is textured grey and white with small, scale-like leaves.

The edible red-orange berries found way up the top are called koroī. These are a valuable food source for native species like tūī, kererū, and even people! But only the very best climbers could get to them.



## MEKA RĀKAU

Kahikatea stand together in groves, with their roots supporting and strengthening one another.

Kahikatea prefer swampy ground, so their connected roots are a way of making sure they don't fall over!

**Do you depend on  
your friends like  
kahikatea?**



MEKA RĀKAU

**What can we learn from  
kahikatea?**

**How might we apply  
this in our classroom?**

