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Tī kōuka

(Cabbage tree)

Cordyline australis



Sparklers

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Characteristics

Tī kōuka may get old, but new shoots keep growing out of the trunk! This means they stick around for a long time.

They have been used for many purposes including as a source of food, fibre (for weaving rope and other things) and medicine.

They were also helpful pathway markers, almost like road signs! The fact they live so long makes them a reliable landmark.



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One whakataukī reminds us that people are more fragile than the hardy tī kōuka.

"Ehara i te tī, e wana ake" means that unlike cabbage trees, we can't send up new shoots when we get old.

Are you tough like tī kōuka?



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**What can we learn
from tī kōuka?**

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

