Waka huia

A waka huia is a traditional Māori treasure container that is used to store a person’s most precious taonga. Waka huia were highly prized, carefully treasured and passed between generations as heirlooms. They were often gifted between hapū, whānau and individuals to acknowledge relationships, friendships, and significant social events.

Ipu whenua

When you have a baby, the whenua also comes out. An ipu whenua is a container that holds the whenua after pēpi is born. Traditionally made from hue or clay, ipu whenua were buried in special places where whānau knew they wouldn’t be disturbed.

Ipu whenua can be made from natural materials that are friendly to the whenua (land) and break down easily. This tikanga keeps māmā and pēpi connected to the land.