



POUTŪ-TE-RANGI | MARCH 2026

Kua putu ngā tupu o ngā kai i ngā paenga o ngā māra. All straw is now stacked at the borders of the plantations.

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TE PŪRONGO NŌ NGĀ POU MATARUA CO-DIRECTORS UPDATE

We were thrilled to partner with the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) to host the first Radical Interdisciplinary Indigenous Knowledge forum in Banff, Canada this month.

- Indigenous Knowledges, AI and data sovereignty
Planetary health and environmental research ethics
Storytelling, time and continuity across knowledge systems

ECRs Dr Emma Brown (Waipapa Taumata Rau), Dr Joni Angeli-Gordon (Te Wānanga o Aotearoa) and Dr Mahorri Owen (Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato) served on the forum steering committee...

The feedback we have received from Banff has been overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to deepening our partnership with CIFAR in coming months.



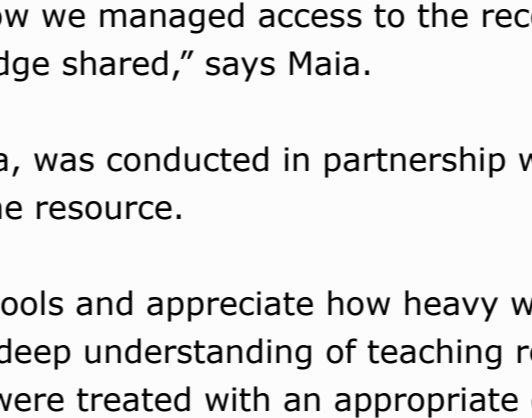
Ngā Pou Matarua | Co-Directors
- Professor Tishu Kukutai
- Professor Melinda Webber

KAUPAPA MATUA

Tohunga Wisdom For All Ages and Stages

By Cindy Simpkins-McQuade

A new digital learning resource that shares tohunga wisdom offers a deep wellspring of knowledge for learners of all ages.



Tohunga Papa Hori Parata recording his kōrero with Dr Maia Heteraka

The project started as a simple idea - collaborate with local tohunga and mātanga to co-design and digitally record a pūrākau special to them.

It was a simple idea but not so simple to execute, say Selena and Maia. "After we recorded the sessions, we realised the recordings were so rich and embedded with multiple layers of meaning that we had to be very careful about how we managed access to the recordings and how we support the teaching around the knowledge shared," says Maia.

The research, involving six tohunga and mātanga, was conducted in partnership with the Hihiaua Cultural Centre which is the kaiāiki of the resource.

To support that goal the researchers, with the help of a Whatua Tū Aka grant, will create additional resources to reinforce the digital stories, and develop wānanga for interested community members, including teachers.

"We want teachers to really dive into the videos and expand their vision. The videos have multiple levels which teachers can use as ramps to inspire teaching many different subjects and ages," says Selena.

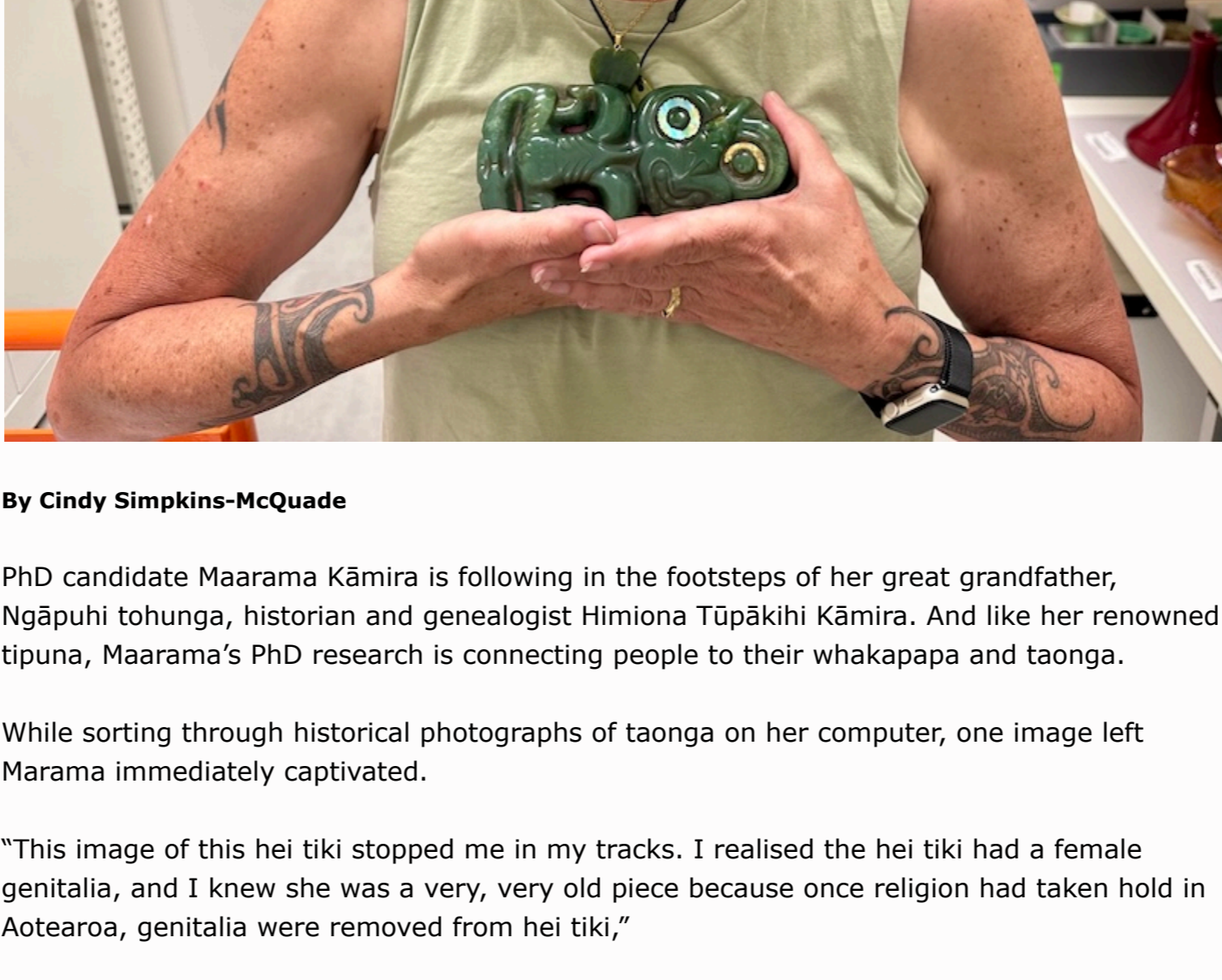
The videos have the potential to support the teaching of a variety of topics including science, history, geography and Te Ao Māori. "It is a real gift to teachers, and this project is a way of encouraging them to develop and evolve as teachers," says Maia.

Maia hopes the resources developed from this research project will unlock the possibilities that mātauranga has, particularly for young people.

"In this world where you can google everything, we hope people will take the wisdom our tohunga have created and make it relevant to their everyday world so they can build real life connections. And maybe these connections will keep them engaged to stay and enjoy school more," says Maia.

RANGAHAU | RESEARCH

Wāhine Māori Early Stories Finding the Light



By Cindy Simpkins-McQuade

PHD candidate Maarama Kāmira is following in the footsteps of her great grandfather, Ngāpuhi tohunga, historian and genealogist Himiona Tūpōkiki Kāmira.

While sorting through historical photographs of taonga on her computer, one image left Maarama immediately captivated.

"This image of this hei tiki stopped me in my tracks. I realised the hei tiki had a female genitalia, and I knew she was a very, very old piece because once religion had taken hold in Aotearoa, genitalia were removed from hei tiki."

Intrigued by the image, Maarama immediately made an appointment with the Sydney Powerhouse Museum vault where it was stored.

The meeting was pivotal to Maarama's research and to unravelling the history of the taonga - named Tangikore - and the whakapapa of those who had worn her.

Maarama says the only clue she had to work with was a sticker on the back of Tangikore, indicating James Albert Norton as her last owner. After following various leads, Maarama tracked Tangikore to Tasmania in the early 1810s when she appeared to be given to Lieutenant Governor Thomas Davey who then passed it to his daughter as a wedding gift.

But who was Tangikore's original Māori owner? This is a mystery still yet to be solved, although Maarama is determined to unearth more of Tangikore's secrets.

Maarama says the lack of knowledge we have about incredible women such as Atahoe, and other wāhine from the colonial era is indicative of the wider erasure of Maori women from recorded histories of that era.

"Wāhine here in Australia have been written out of history because in colonial times, Pākehā women had no independent standing other than that of their husbands. However, that was not the case in Māori culture.

Maarama says it was normal for Māori men to travel with wives and female relatives, and that these women were also traders. "Te Atahoe was a seminal figure here in Australia. She was more than a daughter and a wife. She was a trader who was an amazing woman - a walking ōa. She came back from India with her convict husband, George Bruce. Although she was brokering deals to trade with some of the big family names in Sydney on behalf of her father, she was written out of history."

Atahoe's story continues through her daughter, Mary who was put into an orphanage when her mother died of dysentery. According to Maarama, NSW power brokers, including Samuel Marsden, refused to allow young Mary to be returned to her father, or to whānau living back in Aotearoa.

Today, Atahoe and Mary's uri are living throughout Australia, and Maarama is proud to connect them with their whakapapa. "I got a message from one of Mary's uri recently who was trying to find the link to Mary and Te Atahoe. After they told me their whakapapa, I confirmed to them they are uri of Te Atahoe and her daughter Mary. They were amazed to find their whakapapa. They have always been told they had a Māori great grandmother, but they didn't know how to connect with it because of how female stories have been lost."

"I really value being able to connect people living today with their Māori whakapapa and to the stories of their amazing great, great grandmothers who were so resilient, courageous and who suffered greatly so their uri could survive."

The story of finding Tangikore is a symbol of what these women went through, says Maarama. "When she was calling out to me from that vault at the Powerhouse, she was crying, 'I'm here, don't forget me.' I would like to bring her story and the stories of other incredible Māori women into the light."

KŌRERO WITH NPM RESEARCHERS

Each month we feature one of our NPM lead researchers. This month our kōrero is with Prof. Carla Houkamau who is a Matakiteanga lead researcher, Carla works in the Department of Management and International Business at the University of Auckland.

Ko wai tō ingoa, nō whea koe?

Ko Carla Houkamau tōku ingoa. Nō Te Whānau-ā-Tōwhakairora - Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kere - Ngāti Kahungunu, Kāi Hīraka ki Moeraki - Kāi Tahu ahaui. He Pākehā tōku mānā, ā, he mea nui ki ahau te manaaki me te whakarangatira i ngā taha katoa o tōku whakapapa.

What are your areas of research?

My key research interests are identity and how it is shaped by history and politics. I work in a Business School, where so much of my recent mahi has focused on business and economics, including Māori commercial fisheries. I am currently also working on a book on Māori and forestry with Dr Robert Fouwhare, Prof. Jason Mika, and Michelle Cherrington.

More broadly, though, identity is relevant across many areas. I have researched educational experiences for tamariki Māori, financial literacy, body image and culture, relationships between voting behaviour and identity, and attitudes towards te taiao and the choices people make at different ages. My main focus is Māori, but I am also interested in other cultural groups and their experiences.

What excites you about your work?

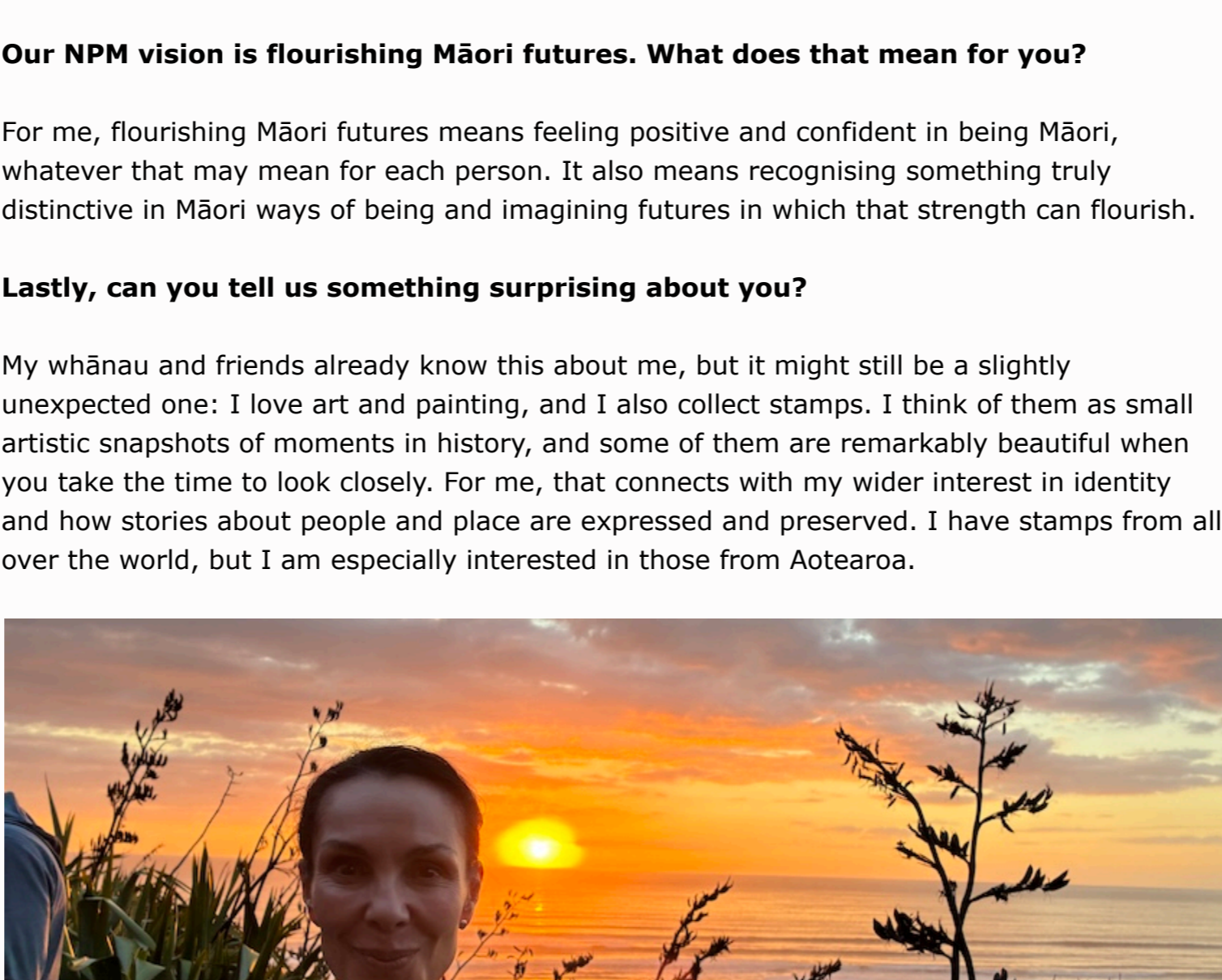
What excites me most is gaining a deeper understanding of how identity works in people's everyday lives - how it shapes their experiences of the world, their perceptions, and how it is formed, shaped, and transformed over time. As a social psychologist, I am especially interested in the ways identity can be ascribed, chosen, and actively crafted by individuals and collectives.

Our NPM vision is flourishing Māori futures. What does that mean for you?

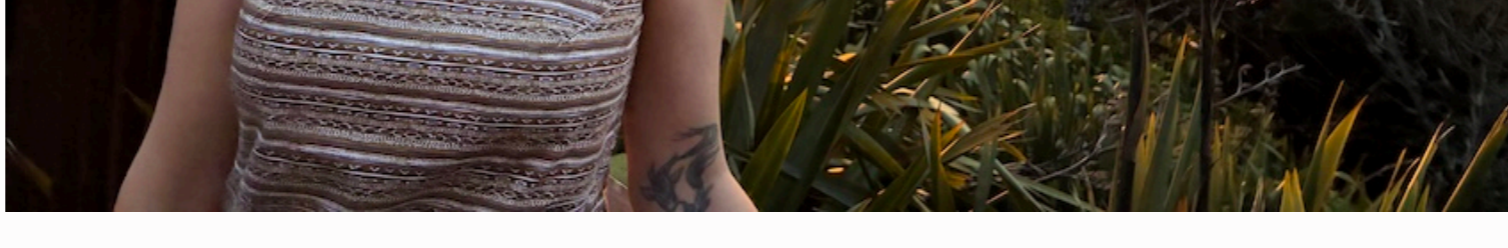
For me, flourishing Māori futures means feeling positive and confident in being Māori, whatever that may mean for each person. It also means recognising something truly distinctive in Māori ways of being and imagining futures in which that strength can flourish.

Lastly, can you tell us something surprising about you?

My whānau and friends already know this about me, but it might still be a slightly unexpected one: I love art and painting, and I also collect stamps. I think of them as small artistic snapshots of moments in history, and some of them are remarkably beautiful when you take the time to look closely. For me, that connects with my wider interest in identity and how stories about people and place are expressed and preserved. I have stamps from all over the world, but I am especially interested in those from Aotearoa.



KANAPU



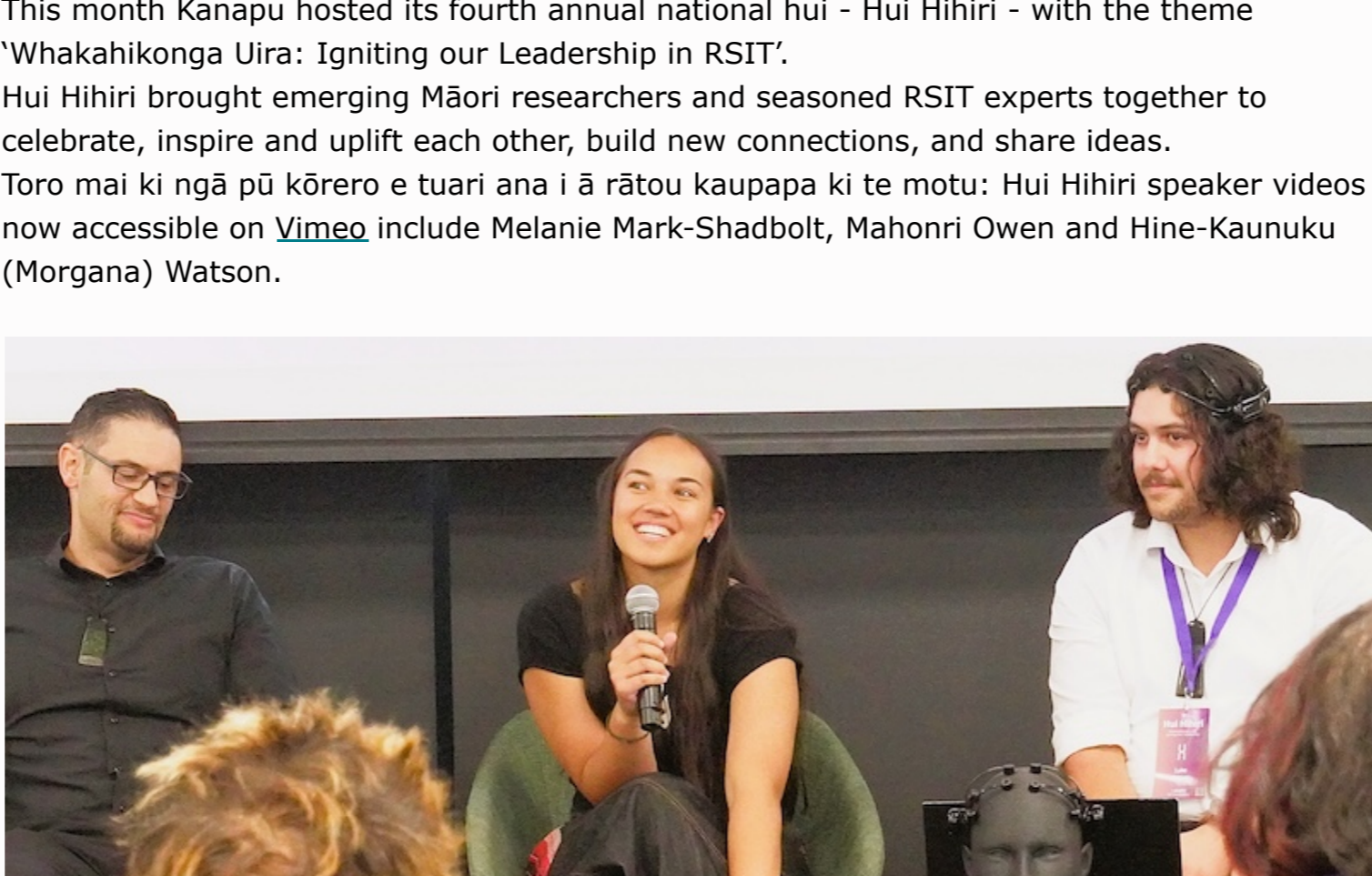
Funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), Kanapu is a NPM initiative to support Māori talent and leadership across te ao Māori in research, science and innovation spaces.

Hui Hihiri 2026: Uplifting Māori in RSIT

This month Kanapu hosted its fourth annual national hui - Hui Hihiri - with the theme 'Whakahikonga Uira: Igniting our Leadership in RSIT'.

Hui Hihiri brought emerging Māori researchers and seasoned RSIT experts together to celebrate, inspire and uplift each other, build new connections, and share ideas.

Toro mai ki ngā pū kōrero e tuari ana i ā rātou kaupapa ki te motu: Hui Hihiri speaker videos now accessible on Vimeo include Melanie Mark-Shadbolt, Mahorri Owen and Hine-Kaunuku (Morgan) Watson.



Tātai Pūtaiao | Science Series with Pauline Harris (30 April), Tania Wolfram (19 May), Elle Archer (20 May), Moka Apiti (21 May) and Dan Walker (22 May). Tātai Auaaha | Innovation Series with Antony Royal (June 11), Maria Ngawati (25 June), Kemp Reweti (2 July) and Rachel Taulelei (July 23).

Check out the Kanapu Support webpage for speaker bios and to register.

NGĀ MANAAKITANGA | OPPORTUNITIES

Matakiteanga Research Grant Open!

Applications for Matakiteanga Research Grant funding are now open for researchers who work at any one of our 21 partner organisations. The fund supports research projects that contribute to our overall mission and specific outcomes in our Matakiteanga Research Framework (view the framework here).

The full list of our 21 partners is here: https://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/about/partner For more queries about this funding email: research@maramatanga.ac.nz.

Applications close: Tuesday 28 April 5:00pm
Apply here: https://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/funding-opportunity/matakiteanga-research-round

NPM | Fulbright Awards Open!

Fulbright NZ and Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga are inviting applications for our NZ Graduate Awards and NZ Scholar Awards. If you are interested in the opportunity to study in the USA, you can learn more by attending the information sessions held at campuses throughout the motu.

View information session details and registration link here (including our online sessions).
Application closing dates:
Fulbright NPM Graduate Awards: close 1 August
Fulbright NPM Scholar Awards: close 1 October

Media Savvy Applications Open

If you would like to improve your communication confidence and skills, we welcome your application to participate in our annual Media Savvy two-day workshop. NPM hosts this workshop, alongside the awesome team from the Science Media Centre, with the aim of providing researchers a supportive space to become more effective research and science communicators.

Applications will be prioritised for Māori researchers based at one of our 21 partner research institutions. If you do not meet this criteria, you are welcome to apply and can be admitted if space permits. See the full list of 21 partners here: https://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/about/partners

Where: Tāmaki Makaurau
When: 15-16 July, 2026
Apply here: https://www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz/te-maui-media-savvy-maori/

HUI, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2026

Save the date!
The International Indigenous Research Conference held at Waipapa Taumata Rau will be hosted by NPM on 16-20 November, 2026.

Keep reading the E-Panui for updates on when to submit abstracts, early-bird ticket sales, and sign up to our mailing list: https://iuroevents.eventbair.com/iiirc-2026/store/oi/Site/Register

When: 16-20 November, 2026
Where: Waipapa Taumata Rau, Tāmaki Makaurau.
For more information: https://www.iiirc.ac.nz/