



PIPIRI | JULY 2025

Kua kitea te kalpa a te ahi i ngā tūri o te tangata. The scorching effect of fire on the knees of people is seen.

CO-FOUNDERS
TĀKORONGO NŌ NGĀ POU MATARUA
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TE PŪRONGŌ NŌ NGĀ POU MATARUA CO-DIRECTORS UPDATE

Whaungatanga is one of the core values we pride ourselves on at Ngā Pou o te Māramatanga. With that in mind, we were delighted to have the opportunity this month to visit with the Hon Dr Shane Reti, the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology, and to update him on the good mahi being undertaken at NPM and Kanapu.

In this e-pānui we speak with Tāne Karamaina, a Māori language translator and one of the researchers involved in the NPM research project Te Ahunga atu ki ngā Ōhanga Oranga Māori: Towards Māori Economies of Wellbeing. Born and raised in Australia, Tāne's love for the reo has taken him on many interesting pathways including creating a Māori dictionary of business and financial kupu for the project. Some of his colleagues will share their main findings from the project in a NPM webinar on 28 August - the link can be found below.

In this e-pānui we also speak with Dr Jaclyn Aramoona-Arledge, one of the organisers of Māori Doctors in Solidarity with Palestine, about the devastated health system in Gaza and the urgent need for global solidarity and action.

Hopukina mai, wānangata me kōrerotia!
Ngā Pou Matarua | Co-Directors
- Professor Tahu Kukutai
- Professor/Chellie Webber



Our team with the Hon Dr Shane Reti at Parliament last month.

KAUPAPA MATUA

DOCTOR CRITICAL OF GAZA HEALTH SYSTEM DESTRUCTION

It's been nearly two years since Israel began to systematically bomb hospitals and other medical facilities in Gaza after the Hamas attack in southern Israel. The World Health Organization's Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRSAMS) has been deployed in Gaza since February 2024 and last month released a new report documenting the previous state of essential health resources and services in Gaza.

Using real-time data gathered from a range of sources, it provides a painstaking stocktake of the devastation caused to hospitals and other medical facilities, finding that only 30 of the 127 Health Services Delivery Units (HSDUs) identified in Gaza now remain intact. The report follows on the heels of an investigation by the UN Human Rights Office into Israel's pattern of attacks on and near hospitals in Gaza and its devastating effect on Palestinians' access to health and medical care. During the period covered by the UN report, there were at least 136 strikes on at least 27 hospitals and 12 other medical facilities, with significant casualties among the health workforce and civilians.

The sustained targeting of healthcare facilities in Gaza has become a call-to-action for those working in healthcare in Aotearoa. Jaclyn Aramoona-Arledge (Waikato) is a general surgery registrar at Rotorua Hospital and one of the key organisers of Māori Doctors in Solidarity with Palestine. The roopu is one of a growing number of healthcare professional groups around the world speaking out against the crisis in Gaza. The roopu published an open letter in support of the Palestinian people back in October 2023 and has continued to express solidarity and call for urgent action since then. Jaclyn says Palestinian and Muslim immigrants were comforted by the support.

"We wanted Palestinian colleagues who live in New Zealand, who were having to watch this all unfold before them, to know we supported them," she says. They were grateful to know people here in Aotearoa supports Palestine - that there were people in the hospitals they could feel safe to be around."

With the targeted destruction of hospitals in Gaza, and the ongoing humanitarian crisis, Jaclyn believes medical professionals need to speak out more. "Doctors have a powerful voice. Historically, we have been the so-called 'healing profession', westernised medicine has built its entire public license around being trustworthy to deal with ill-health, and its determinants. We have garnered lots of power and privilege and generally we say something, people listen." In the UK the British Medical Association has undertaken a number of actions relating to Gaza including releasing public

statements and taking an emergency resolution to the World Medical Association. Its calls have included a ceasefire, respect for international law and the resumption of supplies and resources entering Gaza. Despite evidence of health facilities being destroyed, and mounting evidence of widespread starvation, Jaclyn says most medical institutions and associations have been disappointingly quiet. "Everybody has been asked what their position is, but I feel disillusioned with the loud silence of some organisations. It would almost be better and more honest if these organisations said, 'we don't care about what's happening in Gaza.'"

The New Zealand Government recently condemned the killings in Gaza and the lack of aid. "It is devastating to see the situation in Gaza is much worse now. When you know hospitals are being destroyed and the most vulnerable people, as well as the doctors and nurses are being targeted, we need to speak up about this," she says. "As someone working in surgery it is hard to watch what is happening because you know people can be saved and cured if there is access to basic equipment and resources, but that isn't happening. One of the ways you can commit genocide is not to just destroy life, but to destroy the possibility of life, and that is what the destruction of the health system is doing in Gaza. In a news item from May this year, the UN warned that the health system was at 'breaking point', and that the destruction is 'systematic'."

"When doctors and nurses can't do their jobs, you are attacking the future of a people, you are ensuring the destruction of a people when you come after their present as well as their future in terms of their ability to heal and recover."

"This situation is a litmus test for humanity and if you claim that your work is to talk about racism, colonialism, human rights and justice, then as academics and doctors you should be speaking out. At the heart of being a doctor for me is believing in the preciousness of life, and this is what standing up for Palestinians is about."

RANGAHAU | RESEARCH

AUSSIE-BORN TE REO SPEAKER CREATES MĀORI DICTIONARY



Australian born Tāne Karamaina couldn't be prouder of his Australian heritage, and he credits both sides of his whakapapa for his love of words and his job as a translator at Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori.

"Dad was a fluent te reo speaker and from a young age had impressed on me the importance of learning te reo, so while I had a typical Aussie upbringing, I also grew up enjoying kapa haka, speaking te reo and going to all the whānau gatherings. My mum owned a second-hand bookstore when I was little; the loved words, was surrounded by books, and had a deep curiosity for language and she was a huge influence," he says.

Tāne eventually moved to Aotearoa where he took the opportunity to finesse his language skills via an arts degree at the University of Auckland. And it was that reo process which led him to being recommended for a translator role in the NPM funded research project: Te Ahunga atu ki ngā Ōhanga Oranga Māori: Towards Māori Economies of Wellbeing, led by Professor Chellie Spiller.

Tāne was tasked with creating a Māori dictionary of business/finance and wellbeing kupu that would complement the wider research project. It was a huge task, involving months of intensive research to create the carefully curated papakupu. The choice of a name: He Rauhi Kupu, reflects the essence of this work - gathering, collecting, and cherishing words that hold deep meaning in Māori contexts," says Tāne.

With over 790 entries, and approximately 80 new kupu, the project has meant months of sifting existing words from an array of dictionaries, websites, organisations, and Māori television channels. Kupu were then cross-checked, categorised and recorded. Working as a translator, Tāne is well used to this activity, however he believes a project of this magnitude has emphasized the necessity for one authoritative Māori dictionary.

"Because our Māori kupu are spread high and low, people really need to have access to all those different sources if they want to be well informed," he says. The research also highlighted the issue of how new technology is forcing organisations to create new Māori words. While this is a good thing, they are often doing so in isolation from each other, and the new words are not being recorded into a centralised system. This means there are multiple translations for the same word.

Tāne believes not having one centralized Māori language dictionary means learning the language can be more of a challenge than it needs to be. "As a translator who has all of this wonderful training and the time to find these words - if I am frustrated, then what hope does a second-language learner who is just starting their journey, or newly down at the marae who wants to learn a new word or two to keep up with Gen Z."

Tāne says he was very mindful of the importance of not becoming a te reo gatekeeper while creating the dictionary. In the instances where he found a variety of different translations for the same word, he has listed them all in the dictionary, with each entry cross referencing each other. "This enables people to make up their own minds and to have the choice for the words they want to use," he says.

The research team hopes that He Rauhi Kupu will continue to grow as a living resource, strengthening the connection between language, culture, and everyday life. "One of the reasons I am deeply proud of this research is because it reveals the work of other translators who have put their hearts and energy into creating new Māori words. This mahi honours them because it brings their work into the light," says Tāne.

Encouraging other people to value te reo has been a motivator for Tāne and he hopes He Rauhi Kupu will make learning new words easier and more enjoyable for others who are still learning. "For me, speaking te reo is like I'm swimming in a wide beautiful ocean under a vivid blue sky with the sun shining down on me. It is glorious. I hope through this research and the creation of He Rauhi Kupu will be a way for others to dip their toes in the water and eventually start swimming with confidence, relishing the language in the same way I do."

KŌRERO WITH NPM RESEARCHERS

Each month we feature one of our NPM lead researchers. This month our kōrero is with surgeon, Dr Jamie-Lee Rahiri. Jamie-Lee is the lead researcher on a NPM funded Matakitenga research looking at patient experiences of apronectomy following significant weight loss.



Ko wai tō ingoa, nō whea koe?
Ko Jamie-Lee Rahiri tōku ingoa. He uri au nō Ngāi Porou, Te Āhuhauia-a-Pōpōrangī me Ngāi Whānau a Kaipara. I tūpu ake au i Tokororongan e hōho ana mātau ko tōku whānau ki Te Raki Paewhenua ki Tānaki Makaurau.

What are your areas of research?
As a surgeon researcher, my research aims to improve surgical access, outcomes, and experiences for patients and whānau. I investigate systemic barriers and inequities in surgery and, through kōrero with patients and whānau, design policies, surgical pathways, and interventions to improve our surgical practice and make our surgical spaces culturally safe for whānau. Being committed to integrating kaupapa Māori into surgery and surgical research, I also carry out research focused on cultural safety in surgery, especially for women, and on developing a stronger Māori surgical workforce. The coolest piece of research I recently completed was publishing on cultural safety wānanga that we ran to enhance our practice as surgical trainees in Taranaki.

What excites you about your work?
What excites me most is seeing the real-world impact of surgical research for patients and whānau, and also for aspiring surgeons. Having the opportunity to develop better surgical pathways, improve access to surgery, and foster a supportive culture for women and aspiring Māori surgeons is a privilege. I am also passionate about mentoring rangatāhi Māori and supporting the next generation of Māori surgeons, doctors and researchers. In terms of my surgical mahi, I love the unpredictable nature of it despite sometimes needing to stay until the early hours of the morning. Sometimes, when I leave the hospital at 2-3am with my airports in, bobbing along to my playlist 'Kōwhirihiu', I catch myself smiling, thinking I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. The next day is, of course, a different story - less smiling but still happy to be at mahi.

Our NPM vision is flourishing Māori futures. What does that mean for you?
For me, flourishing Māori futures means reclaiming tino rangatiratanga and empowering ourselves and our whānau to determine our own health journeys, whether that involves surgery or other areas of health. It is about creating opportunities for us as Māori to thrive and instead of 'embedding' our culture into our current colonial systems, we take a stand to create our own where where te reo Māori, tikanga, and mātauranga Māori are the norm. As a surgeon, this would be the ultimate dream to operate (literally) in spaces like this.

Lastly, can you tell us something surprising about you?
I depend on cottage cheese (garlic and chives) to survive in my mahi. I go through about three pottles a week and I am not sorry.

NGĀ MANAAKITANGA | OPPORTUNITIES

NPM WHAKAAWAEWE IMPACT AND TRANSFORMATION GRANTS

These grants support Māori researchers employed at one of our 21 NPM partner entities to share knowledge from their research and promote uptake and impact. Previous applicants have used this grant to support research outputs that have included books, journal articles, free online resources, app development, compositions (e.g. waiata and haka), translation of existing work into te reo Māori for publication, and to attend and present research at conferences.

Applications close: 01 September, 2025
For more information:
https://www.mararamatanga.ac.nz/funding-opportunities/whakaaewe-grant

HUI, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS

MĀORI ECONOMIES OF WELLBEING WEBINAR

This webinar will discuss findings from the groundbreaking research project by Chellie Spiller, John Reid, Matt Rout, Jason Mika, Jarrod Haas, Xiaoliang Niu, Tāne Karamaina and Te Aho-a-ma Hānau-Cribb. The research centres whānau as catalysts for resilient, flourishing Indigenous futures. It explores how Māori families navigate work and livelihoods while nurturing a wellbeing-based economy grounded in te ao Māori.
When: Thursday 28 August, 2025, 12 noon
Register now:
https://auckland.zoom.us/join/register?Wt\_YssoYv8QomWtF79JmRfD

INDIGENOUS FUTURES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025

Where: Kabi Kabi Country, Novotel Sunshine Coast Resort, Australia
When: November 4th - 7th, 2025
Find out more: https://indigenous-futures.org/news-events/ifc-conference-2025

MĀORI RESEARCHERS HITTING THE HEADLINES

E-Tangata July 6

Ngāriro Ellis - We draw Strength from our Art
Indigenous history GP Māori ART, Delia Husband talks to Ngāriro Ellis about growing up and her work.
https://e-tangata.co.nz/arts/moari-no-ellis-we-draw-strength-from-our-art/

E-Tangata July 6

Racism is not a dirty word
Oceans Between Us, a new book that confronts racism against Pacific people in New Zealand.
https://e-tangata.co.nz/comment-and-analysis/racism-is-not-a-dirty-word/

Stuff July 8

Marae visits highlights urgent need for dementia support in remote Māori communities
Dr Makarena Dudley is determined to take mate wareware education to Māori communities.
https://www.stuff.co.nz/nz-news/360748765/marae-visits-highlight-urgent-need-dementia-support-181806-maori-communities

Stuff July 8

Parliament ignites over Regulatory Standards Bill
Professor Bev Lawton speaks against the Regulatory Standards Bill in Parliament, bringing an HPV swab test as a prop.
https://www.stuff.co.nz/politics/360609837/live-nz-politics-blog

TVNZ - Breakfast July 10

Threat to one of NZs oldest burial sites the 'canary in the coal mine'
Referred to as the birthplace of the nation, the Waitaru Bar, or Te Pokohiwi o Kupe, is at risk from rising sea levels.
https://www.1news.co.nz/2025/07/10/threat-to-one-of-nzs-oldest-burial-sites-the-canary-in-the-coal-mine/

Stuff July 10

One of Aotearoa's oldest burial sites at risk from flooding, in latest sea level rise modelling
New modelling shows one of Aotearoa's oldest known burial sites, at Te Pokohiwi o Kupe, is increasingly at risk from climate change.
https://www.stuff.co.nz/climate-change/360751210/aotearoas-oldest-known-burial-site-risk-flooding-in-latest-sea-level-rise-modelling

Waatea News July 11

Professor Amanda Black discusses a project to bring back the moa
Director of Bioprotection Aotearoa Amanda Black discusses the announcement of a project to bring back the moa.
https://waateanews.com/2025/07/11/ata-tu-prof-amanda-black/

Waatea News July 11

Māori identity and wellbeing
Professor Linda Nikora discusses Māori identity and wellbeing in digital spaces.
https://waateanews.com/2025/07/11/ata-tu-professor-linda-wainarie-nikora/

Waatea News July 16

Lets kōrero - the attack on wāhine Māori
Professor Tracey McIntosh talks about the historical elements that diminish the status of wāhine Māori.
https://waateanews.com/2025/07/16/ata-tu-tracey-mcintosh/

Waatea News July 17

The power of education
Dr/ro Seranaa haepi comments on the landmark NPM-funded study on Māori and Pacific people with PhDs.
https://waateanews.com/2025/07/17/ata-tu-seranaa-haepi/

Te Ao Māori News - Maori TV July 15

Professor Valmaine Toki leads UN efforts on Indigenous rights at EMBEP
At the UN in Geneva, Professor Valmaine Toki says there are clear synergies between Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
https://www.teao.org.nz/2025/07/15/valmaine-toki-leads-un-efforts-on-indigenous-rights-at-embep

E-Tangata July 20

Census change - can we make it work for us? Comment Tahu Kukutai
Professor Tahu Kukutai discusses the implications of the government scrapping the five-yearly nationwide census.
https://www.stuff.co.nz/news/360609837/live-nz-politics-blog

Inside Government July 22

Auckland University study finds wealth in whānau enterprise
More on the NPM project Te Ahunga atu ki ngā Ōhanga Oranga Māori: Towards Māori Economies of Wellbeing.
https://insidegovernment.co.nz/auckland-university-study-finds-wealth-in-whanau-enterprise/

RNZ July 29

More support needed for rural Māori caring for whānau with dementia
Māori lack support, diagnosis or the information they need when caring for whānau with dementia, according to Dr Makarena Dudley.
https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/568349/more-support-needed-for-rural-maori-looking-after-whanau-with-dementia-researchers-say

Waatea News July 29

The rise of e-hui and Pacific doctors
Professor Melinda Webber reveals how Māori and Pacific PhD graduates contribute to stronger communities, improved wellbeing, and reduced inequalities across Aotearoa.
https://waateanews.com/2025/07/29/professor-melinda-webber-co-director-of-nga-pae-o-te-maramatanga

Waatea News July 29

Study finds whānau businesses offer path to success for Māori
NPM study finds that whānau-led businesses could be one of the most immediate ways to improve livelihoods within Māori communities.
https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/568344/study-finds-whanau-businesses-offer-path-to-economic-success-for-maori

Māi rā ngā kōrero mō tēnei wā,

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