

e-pānui

NPM

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WHIRINGA-Ā-RANGI | NOVEMBER 2025

Kua noho ngā manu kai roto i te kōhanga.

Birds are now sitting in their nests.

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TE PŪRONGO NŌ NGĀ POU MATARUA

CO-DIRECTORS UPDATE

E ngā kaipupuri mātauranga – tēnā rawa atu koutou. I have been reflecting on my first year as Pou Matarua and the enormous privilege it has been to work alongside Tahu, the NPM secretariat, our Kāhui Kāhā and the many affiliated researchers, kaimahi and hapori members who exemplify our overarching kaupapa of Flourishing Māori Futures. NPM's important mahi wouldn't come to fruition if everyone wasn't actually on the waka and paddling in the same direction! As such, I am taking the liberty of using some space in this last e-pānui of 2025 to say "e mihi nunui ana ki a koutou katoa". I acknowledge and appreciate all of the contributions you make - ahakoa he iti, he pounamu.

I would also like to celebrate some of the NPM affiliated kairangahau who have recently received due acknowledgement for their stella mahi. At the end of this e-pānui we have acknowledged Professor Tahu Kukutai, Dr Reuben Collier, Helena Abolins-Thompson and Dr Apriel Jolliffe Simpson, Paora Moyle and Te Whāriki Manawhine o Hauraki, Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou Taurite Tū Limited and Dr Angeliqe Reweti. We also mihi to other awardees who have been rightfully acknowledged for their contributions to your discipline, organisations, communities and hapū/iwi. Ka tika me mihi tēnei ki a koutou katoa ngā ringa raupā o ngā kaupapa hakahirahira nei.

Four NPM kaimahi have just returned from Ōtākou Whakaihū Waka in Ōtepoti where we had the pleasure of watching a range of Indigenous students talk about their completed, in-progress and just started PhD projects. We were blessed to hear 3, 7 and 10 minute presentations in both te reo Māori and English – and also had the pleasure of listening to our relations from Australia, Hawaii and the Pacific who also talked to us about the research aspirations and kaupapa. The MAI Hui-ā-Tau was expertly organised by Rachel Sizemore, Professor Karyn Paringatai and a fabulous group of Ōtākou kaimahi. Nei waku haumihī ki a rātou!

Finally, I want to wish everyone a restful, relaxed and safe summer break with whānau. We look forward to catching up with everyone again in 2026! Kia pai ō koutou wā whakātā.

Aku mihi nui,

Melinda and Tahu  
**Ngā Pou Matarua | Co-Directors**

Christmas

kōrero

with our

secretariat

**Each month we feature one of our NPM lead researchers. However, as the academic year draws to a close, we wanted to have a Xmas kōrero with members of the NPM secretariat - our people behind-the-scenes who breathe life into the programmes, webinars, conferences and scholarships we support.**

Our first Kōrero is with Marie-Chanel Berghan, (Te Rarawa, Ngāti Wai, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Tarāwhai) who is our NPM Pouhere Matua. MC works with the grace and skill of an orchestra maestro, pulling everything and everyone together to ensure the secretariat operates in harmony to support our people and programmes. Nothing happens at NPM without the leadership of MC and no-one deserves to relax under a sun umbrella, kicking back with an ice-cool beverage more than she does.

**Where will you be spending this Xmas with? Who will you be sharing it with?**  
I'll be at Matapouri Bay, soaking up the sun and enjoying time with my immediate and extended whānau.

These holidays, I'll be with our whānau and hapū completing the build of a Tūwatawata – a physical and cultural expression of protection for our maunga, Rangitapu and Te Wai o te Taniwha (more commonly known as the Mermaid Pools).

This kaupapa is about safeguarding the health and safety of visitors and restoring the mauri of our whenua and moana, which have suffered from ongoing public misuse despite the rāhui we placed in 2018.

The mahi involves constructing a wall using kākūka logs and raising four pou. Our journey and kaupapa were featured on Te Karere – check it out here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZRG6IPwobk8>.

This work is in partnership with Toi Ngāpuhi. We've held wānanga to weave tāpou for our marae and carve the pou that will stand as guardians of our taonga tuku iho – sacred spaces carrying deep ancestral and spiritual significance for Te Whānau a Rangiwahakahu. For generations, these places have been treasured, and this mahi ensures they remain protected for our mokopuna and those yet to come.

**What is your favourite kai on the Xmas table?**  
My favourite Christmas kai is roast chicken with all the trimmings and the next day's fry-up because there's always heaps of leftovers!

**What is your most favourite/memorable Xmas present?**  
My most memorable Christmas presents has to be those classic "bathroom smelly packs" from my grandmother – you know the ones from Deka or Rendells back in the day – she always bought them for her mokopuna (or maybe just her favourites LOL).

**What music is on your playlist for a road trip away?**  
Music on my playlist for a road trip away this summer is UB40 with All Campbell – and lucky for me, they're here early 2026 playing at all the summer hot spots

**My Favourite summer beverage to cool down with?**  
A chilled low-carb Summit beer. Cheers. That's me for the festive season – kai, whānau, and kaupapa! Wishing you all a safe, happy, and fun-filled summer.

Our second kōrero is with Honorine Franswah who is NPM Pouhere Whakahaere and is proudly NPM's longest serving staff member, having joined NPM in 2006. Honorine knows where long forgotten files and misplaced items lurk, she knows who did what and in what year, and she keeps the lights on, the bills and the contracts paid. Much like all the secretariat members, Honorine pitches in to lend a hand at all our important events with her own brand of gentle enthusiasm and care.

**Where will you be spending this Xmas with? Who will you be sharing it with?**  
I will be spending Christmas with my son, my sisters and the rest of the family in Melbourne this year. I hope to visit Crown Plaza during the Christmas season in Melbourne and go to Philip Islands to watch the Penguins in their natural habitat.

**What is your favourite kai on the Xmas table?**  
My favourite kai on the Christmas table is roast duck with stuffing.

**What music is on your playlist for a road trip away?**  
The music on my playlist for a road trip away is Christmas Carols.

**What is your favourite summer beverage to cool down with on a hot summer afternoon?**  
My favourite summer beverage to cool down with on a hot summer afternoon is cold mango juice.

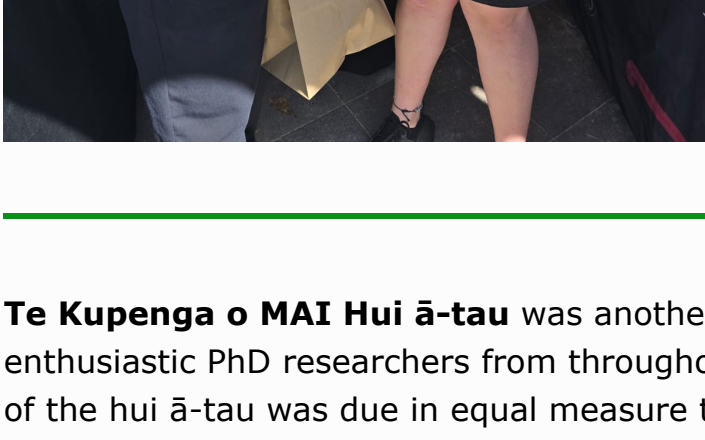
**What is your most memorable Xmas present?**  
We have a new addition to our family, a grandson born Wednesday, 26th November 2025.

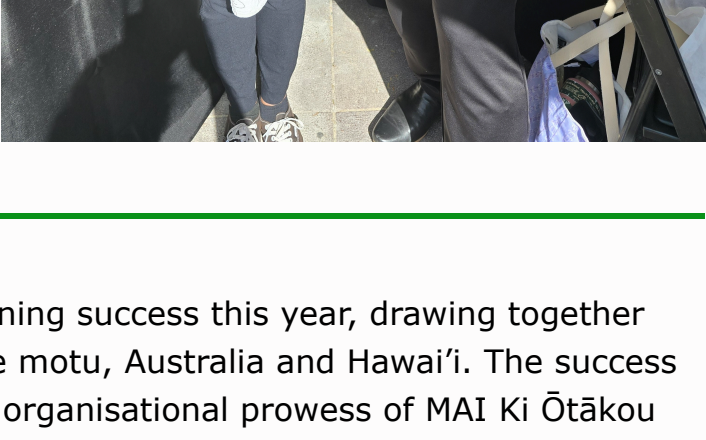
HUI, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS,

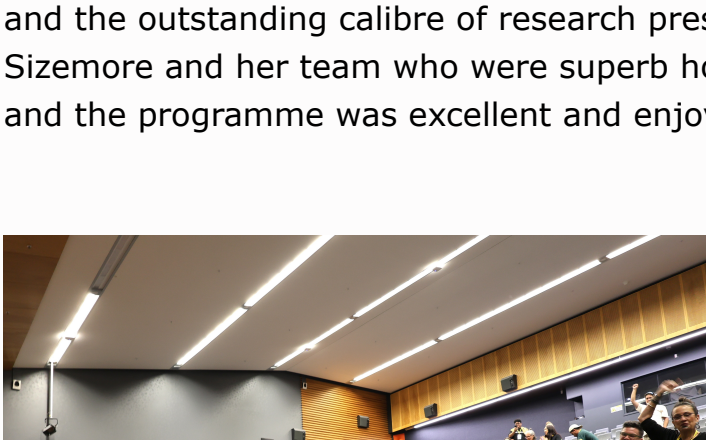
EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS

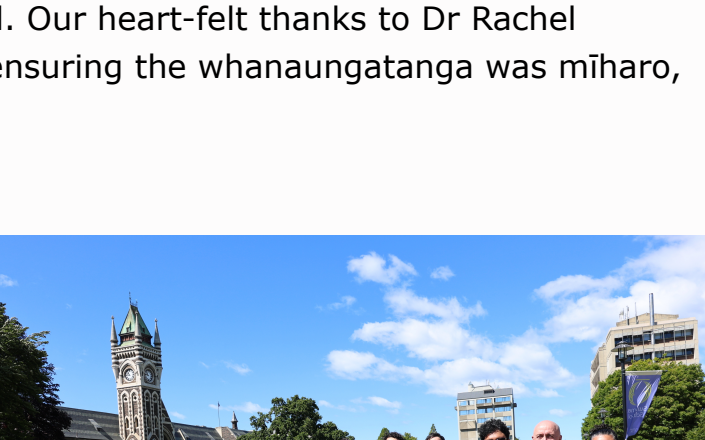
**We've had a lot going on in November, including WIPCE, Te Kupenga o MAI hui-ā-tau and the TAIKURA Summit. Here's a snapshot of where we went, what we did, and who we met last month.**

**WIPCE** - The NPM tent was buzzing with activity during WIPCE. We caught up with old friends, made a heap of new ones and gave away some awesome prizes to our visitors. Thanks to NPM's new board member, Dr Hona Black who supplied us with books and games. The IIRC 2026 registrations were a hit, as were the free copies of AlterNative and MAI Journal.













**Te Kupenga o MAI Hui ā-tau** was another stunning success this year, drawing together enthusiastic PhD researchers from throughout the motu, Australia and Hawai'i. The success of the hui ā-tau was due in equal measure to the organisational prowess of MAI Ki Ōtākou and the outstanding calibre of research presented. Our heart-felt thanks to Dr Rachel Sizemore and her team who were superb hosts, ensuring the whanaungatanga was miharo, and the programme was excellent and enjoyable.











TAIKURA Aotearoa Tri-academy Indigenous Summit was also held in November. It brought together Indigenous Fellows, thought leaders, and knowledge holders from Aotearoa New Zealand, Canada, and Australia to progress the kaupapa of collaborative international Indigenous-led research. Professors Tahu Kukutai and Poia Rewi shared MC duties, while Professors Helen Moewaka Barnes and Jacinta Ruru presented, with A.Prof. Deb Hekele leading out a wānanga at the event.

A powerful communiqué was created by those attending, affirming their shared vision of advancing Indigenous leadership and self-determination in research and scholarship at every level, to benefit people and planet. Their call to action was met with a positive response from the three Academy Presidents in a statement that can be read here: <https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/assets/Taikura-Communique.pdf>







NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Congratulations!!**  
**Royal Society Te Apārangi Awards**

**Te Rangī Hiroa Medal**  
**Professor Tahu Kukutai** FRSNZ  
(Ngāti Tiipā, Ngāti Mahanga, Ngāti Kinohaku, Te Aupōuri)

**Pou Aronui Medal**  
**Dr Reuben Collier MNZM**  
(Horouta, Mataatua, Te Arawa, Tainui)

**Te Kopunui Māori Research Award**  
**Helena Abolins-Thompson**  
(Ngāti Toa Rangitira, Ngāti Tahu)

Mana Tūāpapa Future Leader Fellowship  
**Dr Apriel Jolliffe Simpson**  
(Ngāti Tūwharetoa ki Taupō)

**Health Research Council Awards**

**Te Tohu Rapuora Medal**, and **Te Whāriki Manawhine** o Hauraki  
(Ngāti Porou)

**Catalyst in the Community Award**  
**Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou Taurite Tū Limited**

**Te Ata Hāpara Award**  
**Dr Angeliqe Reweti**  
(Ngāpuhi)

**Apollo Award for 2025 Best Book of the Year**

**Professor Deidre Brown** FRSNZ (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahū), **Professor Ngarino Ellis** (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Porou) and **Jonathan Mane Wheoki** CNZM (Ngāpuhi, Te Aupōuri, Ngāti Kuri) for **Tōi Te Mana** which won the prestigious Apollo Award for 2025 Best Book of the Year.



**Meri Kirihimete e te whānau.**  
**Kia matareka anō hoki**  
**te tau hou!**