

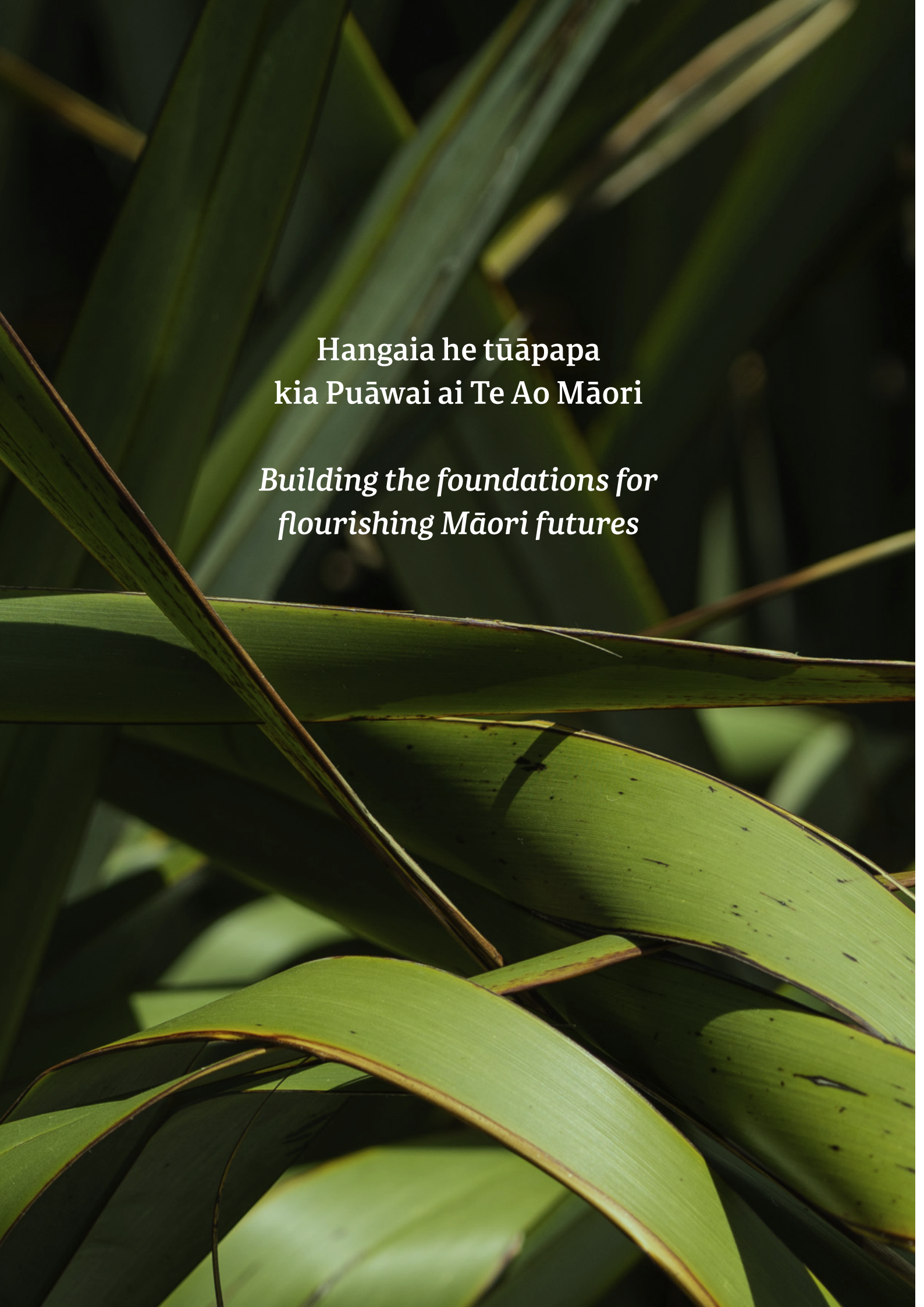


NGĀ PAE O TE  
MĀRAMATANGA

# PŪRONGO Ā-TAU 2025

Annual Report 2025

Aotearoa New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence

A close-up photograph of several long, green, lanceolate leaves, likely from a native New Zealand plant like a harakeke. The leaves are layered and overlap, with some showing signs of wear or damage. The background is dark, making the vibrant green of the leaves stand out. The text is centered over the upper portion of the image.

Hangaia he tūāpapa  
kia Puāwai ai Te Ao Māori

*Building the foundations for  
flourishing Māori futures*

# PŪRONGO Ā-TAU 2025



Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga

Aotearoa New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence



**Whāia ngā pae o te māramatanga  
Ko te pae tawhiti, whāia kia tata  
Ko te pae tata, whakamaua kia tina  
E puta ai ki te whaiao, ki te ao mārama!**

*Pursue the many horizons of insight,  
Bring each one closer,  
Master them and emerge enlightened!*



# He Mihi

Matika te pae, toro te pae, tū te pae, takoto te pae.  
He pae whenua, he pae moana, he pae tangata,  
He pae kaupapa, he pae kōrero, he pae rangakura.  
Whāia te pae, e tau ki te pae,  
ka tika te pae ki a Uri, ki a Mokopuna.

Kei te paewai o te rangi e āritarita mai ana te hanga nei,  
Te āheinga o Manako, te whakatinanatanga o Rangahau,  
Te whakahikoitanga o Ara Hou, Matomatotanga;  
Tōnuitanga, Taurikuratanga, Pāhauteatanga,  
Whanaketanga i tōna ao i tōna wā.  
Hua atu. Hua mai. Hua ki te ake ake.

Kei hea te papa o te pito mata? Kei te whakapono i te ngākau,  
Te whakakitenga a Kui, a Koro mā; a Onamata, a Anamata  
He kite i te hīnāoretanga o Ora i te nehenehetanga o Pōuriuri.  
He kite i te korenga i kitea, engari, he rongō kei konā.  
Kei a koe. Kei ahau.  
Tāua. Tātou. I a ha ha

Kia rere te pātai, he aha rawa ia kei tua i ngā pae o te māramatanga?  
Me te whakautu anō, he whakaputa i ā tātou i ako ai hei whakaāhei i te kōrero  
“Ko au hei rangatira mōku, māku anō te rā e whīti ai ki tua”.

# He Maimai Aroha

Ngaru nui, ngaru roa, ngaru pou, ngaru pae  
E whati tonu mai ana te ngaru tai tangata  
Nā koutou te aumoana o rangahau i whakatere  
Kua tau rawa ake ki uta hei pītau whakarei

He koiora manawa rahi, ringa ki te hoe  
Kāti, okioki ai koutou, kua ea ai tō rahi  
Māhue mai mātou i te kauuanuanu  
Pēnei anō a Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga

Hoake nā ki tua e te kōpuni kauika  
Rāhiritia e ngā kauwheke o rongo  
Whakawāhia rā ki te pōmotomoto  
Whetūrangitia, nā tō Rangī waka i hao

## Dr Morehu McDonald

Ngāti Hinerangi, Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Mahuta, Waikato-Tainui, Ngāti Ngutu, Ngāti Ruanui  
1954–2025

Historian, researcher, academic and documentary filmmaker, Dr Morehu McDonald was widely recognised for his scholarship, leadership, resistance and commitment to Te Ao Māori. A founding member of Ngā Tamatoa, he was passionate about ensuring mātauranga Māori, the ancient forms and multiple bodies of Māori knowledge, continued to survive and thrive through rangahau.

Gaining his doctorate at Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi, Morehu's thesis revealed the resistance, struggle and survival of Ngāti Hinerangi. This work was awarded the Emeritus Professor Roger Green, ONZM, Award for Top Thesis.

Morehu had extensive experience in iwi Treaty settlement claims, and he was the founding chairman and chief negotiator for the Ngāti Hinerangi hapū and iwi Treaty settlement claim. Morehu was also a senior manager at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, where he was Head of Education for Tāmaki Makaurau and Te Tai Tokerau.

## Robyn Kahukiwa

Ngāti Porou, Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti, Ngāti Hau, Ngāti Konohi, Te Whānau a Ruataupare  
1938–2025

A pre-eminent figure in Māori art and literature, Robyn Kahukiwa explored issues of identity, heritage, colonisation and dispossession. Her work was often viewed through the lens of wāhine Māori, and she was a staunch supporter of women's rights. It was through her 1983 exhibition Wāhine Toa: Omniscient Māori Women that Robyn earned national recognition.

Her art has been exhibited nationally and internationally, and in 2020, Robyn was awarded Te Tohu Aroha mō Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangikaahu, the Exemplary / Supreme Award at Te Waka Toi Awards in recognition of her life's work. Robyn was also a children's book author and illustrator, writing 12 of her own books and illustrating for writers such as Patricia Grace.

## Fred Graham

Ngāti Korokī Kahukura, Tainui  
1928–2025

Considered a pioneer in Māori contemporary art, Fred Graham became a heavy weight in the world of New Zealand sculpture. His public sculptures grace the Auckland High Court, Auckland Domain and the Auckland Art Gallery, among other significant works situated throughout the country. Prior to working as a full-time artist, Fred was a primary school teacher and a talented sportsman, briefly playing for the Māori All Blacks. He taught art at Palmerston North Teacher's Training College, later becoming a mentor to young artists. In 2018 he was named an Arts Foundation Icon in recognition of his lifetime of artistic excellence and achievement.

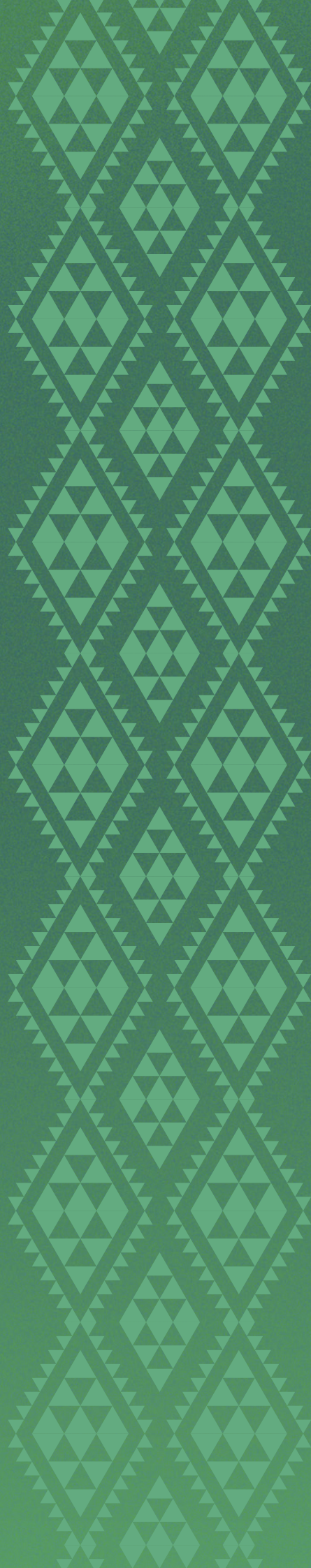
# Contents

<b>Te Iho o NPM</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>About Us</b>	
Te Pou Whāinga <i>Our Mission</i>	9
Te Matakiteinga <i>Our Vision</i>	9
Ngā Pou Kura <i>Our Values</i>	10
Ngā Pātai <i>Our Questions</i>	11
Ngā Rangahau <i>Our Research</i>	11
Ngā Pae Kairangatira <i>Our Excellence Platforms</i>	12
Ngā Rautaki <i>Our Strategies</i>	12
<b>Te Whakatutuki i Ngā Whāinga</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Realising Our Goals</b>	
Ngā Tipako <i>Highlights 2025</i>	14
He Pūmahara nō te Tiamana <i>From the Board Chair</i>	16
Te Poari o NPM <i>The NPM Board</i>	17
He Pūmahara nō ngā Pou Matarua <i>From the Co-Directors</i>	18
<b>Ngā Ruānuku</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Our Wisdom Holders</b>	
Ngā Ruānuku <i>Our Wisdom Holders</i>	21
Te Tira Takimano <i>Electoral College of Partners</i>	22
<b>Whakanuia te Angitū</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Celebrating Success</b>	
<b>Ngā Rangahau</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Our Research</b>	
Tūhononga ā-Ao <i>International Connectedness</i>	34
Pātai Puāwai <i>Transformative research     for flourishing futures</i>	40
Pae Ahurei <i>Living Uniquely</i>	45
Ngā Tipako <i>Highlights 2025</i>	47
Rangahau <i>Research</i>	48
Whakaaweawe <i>Influencing Transformation</i>	50
Ngā Amokapua Rangahau ā Mua <i>Future Research Leaders</i>	54
He Hua Kua Puta <i>Selected Outputs</i>	57

<b>Pae Ora <i>Living Well</i></b>	<b>59</b>
Ngā Tīpako <i>Highlights 2025</i>	61
Rangahau <i>Research</i>	62
Whakaaweawe <i>Influencing Transformation</i>	64
Ngā Amokapua Rangahau ā Mua <i>Future Research Leaders</i>	69
He Hua Kua Puta <i>Selected Outputs</i>	71
<b>Pae Tawhiti <i>Living Lightly</i></b>	<b>73</b>
Ngā Tīpako <i>Highlights 2025</i>	75
Rangahau <i>Research</i>	76
Whakaaweawe <i>Influencing Transformation</i>	80
Ngā Amokapua Rangahau ā Mua <i>Future Research Leaders</i>	82
He Hua Kua Puta <i>Selected Outputs</i>	83
<b>Pae Auaha <i>Living Smartly</i></b>	<b>83</b>
Ngā Tīpako <i>Highlights 2025</i>	87
Rangahau <i>Research</i>	88
Whakaaweawe <i>Influencing Transformation</i>	93
Ngā Amokapua Rangahau ā Mua <i>Future Research Leaders</i>	97
He Hua Kua Puta <i>Selected Outputs</i>	99
<b>Ngā Rautaki <i>Our Strategies</i></b>	<b>100</b>
Te Kupenga o MAI	101
Kanapu	105
Media Savvy Workshop	107
Knowledge Sharing	108
<i>AlterNative: A New Zealand Journal of Indigenous Peoples</i>	109
<i>MAI Journal: A New Zealand Journal of Indigenous Scholarship</i>	111
<b>NPM Whānau <i>Our People</i></b>	<b>113</b>
<b>Te Taha Pūtea <i>Financials</i></b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Te Whakapā Mai <i>Contact Us</i></b>	<b>118</b>

# Te Iho o NPM

About us —



# Te Pou Whāinga

## Our Mission

Our mission is to grow and enhance excellent Māori researchers and Māori-led research that together build the foundations for flourishing Māori futures. Te reo, tikanga and mātauranga, and our vast network of Māori researchers, communities and partners, in transformation, define and distinguish Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga as Aotearoa New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence.

# Te Matakitenga

## Our Vision



Cherish and celebrate flourishing Māori futures.



Grow responsible economic and environmental relationships.



Influence positive change for healthy and meaningful Māori lives.



Nurture wise and ethical Māori technological transformations.



Inspire Māori and Indigenous research and excellence.



Connect with partners for impact and transformative change.



# Ngā Pou Kura Our Values



## Rangatiratanga

We lead with integrity and commitment to our people.



## Kaitiakitanga

We care responsibly for each other, the planet  
and future generations.



## Manaakitanga

We respect all life forces.



## Whanaungatanga

We build genuine and meaningful relationships.



# Ngā Pātai

## Our Questions

Four Pātai or systems-oriented questions generate transformative interventions and policy advice for stakeholders and next users. All our research contributes mātauranga-informed theories, models and evidenced solutions in response to our Pātai.

### *Pātai Te Ao Māori*

How can te reo, tikanga and mātauranga continue to inform our futures?

### *Pātai Whānau*

How can whānau wellbeing be realised in everyday life?

### *Pātai Mauri*

How can mātauranga inform and drive sustainable and just societal practices?

### *Pātai Puāwai*

How can research be used transformatively to accelerate the achievement of flourishing Māori futures?

# Ngā Rangahau

## Our Research

Our 2021–2028 research programme is designed to address real-world challenges facing Māori. We do so in Māori-determined and inspired ways, engendering sustainable relationships that grow the mana (respect and regard) and mauri (life essence) of the world we inhabit.

The excellence and expertise of the NPM researcher network is organised by four Te Ao Māori knowledge and excellence clusters or Pae. Pae are where our transdisciplinary research teams rise with the knowledge, tools and expertise to build a secure and prosperous future for Māori and for Aotearoa New Zealand.

# Ngā Pae Kairangatira

## Our Excellence Platforms

✦✦ *Pae Ahurei – Living Uniquely*  
Research to cherish and celebrate  
distinctively Māori futures.

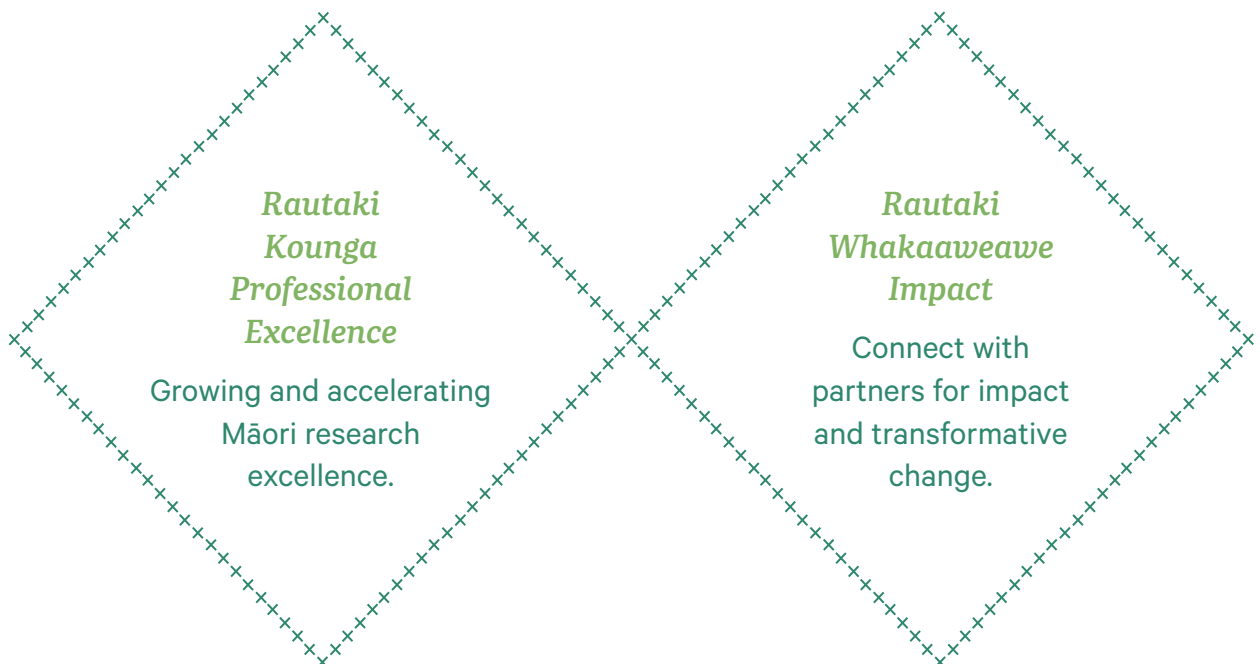
✦✦ *Pae Ora – Living Well*  
Research to influence positive change  
for healthy and meaningful lives.

✦✦ *Pae Tawhiti – Living Lightly*  
Research that pursues responsible social,  
economic and environmental relationships.

✦✦ *Pae Auaha – Living Smartly*  
Research that creates wise and ethical  
technological transformations.

## Ngā Rautaki

### Our Strategies



# Te Whakatatutuki i Ngā Whāinga

— Realising Our Goals



# Ngā Tipako Highlights 2025

- ❖ **Welcoming new NPM Pou leaders.**  
NPM welcomes Professor Sarah-Jane Paine and Dr Daniel Wilson as the new leads of our Pae Ora (Living Well) and Pae Auaha (Living Smartly) portfolios.
- ❖ **Indigenous data sovereignty on the rise.**  
Our researchers and students continue to make an outsized contribution to Indigenous data sovereignty scholarship and advocacy in Aotearoa New Zealand and globally.
- ❖ **New multi-year research programmes.**  
NPM launches three multi-year research programmes investigating success factors for te reo Māori revitalisation in the home, Indigenous Data Sovereignty in universities, and Māori social wellbeing.
- ❖ **Landmark report on nearly 1400 Māori and Pacific graduates with PhDs.**  
A landmark report is published using 20 years of statistical data to investigate the wellbeing outcomes of nearly 1400 Māori and Pacific doctoral graduates.
- ❖ **Hui Hihiri and Ngā Tohu Kanapu awards.**  
Kanapu holds its first in-person Hui Hihiri at Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato and launches Ngā Tohu Kanapu awards.

6

In-progress FIRST  
and SECOND  
research  
programmes

13

Live  
Matakitenga  
projects

25

Completed  
Matakitenga  
projects

9

New  
Matakitenga  
projects in 2025

❖ **New international partnership.**  
NPM enters a new partnership with the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research to support Māori and other Indigenous early career researchers to undertake world-leading interdisciplinary research centring Indigenous Knowledges.

❖ **Connecting with our partners at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds.**  
The Waitangi Treaty Grounds provides a stunning venue for our annual gathering with our 21 institutional partners Te Tira Takimano.

❖ **Record numbers at MAI Hui ā-Tau.**  
The highly anticipated Te Kupenga o MAI Hui ā-Tau at Ōtākau Whakaihu Waka draws a record number of Māori and Indigenous doctoral scholars from Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia and Hawai'i.

❖ **TAIKURA Aotearoa Tri-Academy Indigenous Summit.**  
NPM Fellows, researchers and students are a strong force at TAIKURA summit, the second gathering of the Tri-Academy Partnership on Indigenous Engagement between the Royal Society Te Apārangi, the Royal Society of Canada, and the Australian Academy of Science.

13

New  
Whakaaweawe  
Projects  
in 2025

37

PhD full  
scholarships  
since 2021

12

Raumati  
interns in  
2025/2026

# He Pūmahara nō te Tiamana

## From the Board Chair

*Mānawatia Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga  
Whakamānawatia tōna kunengatanga  
Whakamānawatia tōna rangiwhāwhātanga  
Whakamānawatia tōna tiro kai matarae*

*Kei ngā matā kai kutu, ngā mumu rangahau Māori  
Inā rā te tau whakatara ā-rohe, ā-ao anō hoki  
Hāngai pū tonu tēnei whare ki tōna i matakite ai  
Toitōi ao Māori i te rangahau aweawe te take*

*Kāti, tē whakakauriki te reo aumihi ki te whare nei  
Tūtohungia te whakahoutanga, te whakamāuitanga  
He whare toro kawekawe ki tua o te tai o Hinekirikiri  
He whare kawe rangahau taketake ki tua o pae tawhiti*

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Geopolitical uncertainty, rising living costs, and increasing pressure on social cohesion made 2025 a difficult year for many in Aotearoa, particularly whānau Māori. For NPM, securing the foundations for flourishing Māori futures is much more than a vision statement – it is an intergenerational commitment that our researchers take seriously. Our kaupapa-driven way of working means we hold ourselves accountable for doing research that makes a positive difference for our communities and environs, and we hold tight to that through changing political cycles and whims.

2025 was also a time of renewal for our board, with the departure of Che Wilson and long serving members Professor Pare Keiha, Professor James Metson and Dr Amokura Kawharu. We are grateful for the wisdom, expertise and whanaungatanga they brought to their roles, and know they will always be part of our NPM whānau. We extend a warm welcome to our new board members Dr Meika Foster, Dr Chelsea Grootveld, Associate Professor Hona Black and Professor Simon Holdaway, and the diverse expertise and perspectives they bring.

This refreshed board has had much to commend. We applaud the significant achievements that the Centre has sustained in a challenging environment. Our researchers continue to work alongside iwi, hapū, hapori and pakihi to do research that meets their priorities, while also pursuing investigator-led opportunities for bold, innovative thinking. Our MAI Te Kupenga Māori and Indigenous postgraduate network is growing year on year, and the depth and breadth of talent within it is remarkable. The launch of our landmark report examining the wellbeing outcomes of nearly 1400 Māori and Pacific PhD graduates evidences the multi-layered positive impacts of holding a PhD – impacts that radiate beyond the individual. Under the able guidance of Emeritus Professor Poia Rewi, our Kanapu platform has continued to deepen research connections and capacities within communities, and we eagerly await the launch of their science, innovation and technology system navigation tool, Kanapu Connect, in 2026.

Our internationalisation strategy has also proceeded apace, with important partnerships secured and increased visibility on the world stage. We are delighted that NPM has partnered with the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research to support Indigenous early career researchers around the world to pursue collaborative, interdisciplinary research that centres Indigenous Knowledges. This affirms our conviction that Indigenous-led research is critical to addressing the pressing challenges facing humanity – a view that was also reflected at the 2025 TAIKURA Tri-Academy Indigenous Summit and the resulting communiqué released by the presidents of the Royal Society Te Apārangi, the Royal Society of Canada and the Australian Academy of Science.

As we look to 2026, we do so with confidence in the strength of our people, the integrity of our kaupapa, and the growing recognition that the work of NPM matters, in Aotearoa and across the world.

**Ngā manaakitanga, Kerensa Johnston**  
**Chair, Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Board**

# Te Poari o NPM

## The NPM Board

### **Kerensa Johnston (Chair)**

Ngāti Tama, Ngāruahine, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Whāwhakia

### **Professor Te Kawehau Hoskins**

Ngāti Hau, Ngāpuhi  
 Waipapa Taumata Rau, The University of Auckland (UoA)

### **Professor Simon Holdaway**

Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland (UoA)

### **Dr Erina Watene**

Waikato, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāi Te Rangī  
 Governance Professional, Kaitiaki – Indigenous Freshwater Leadership

### **Associate Professor Hona Black**

Tūhoe, Te Whānau a Apanui, Ngāti Tūwharetoa  
 Massey University

### **Dr Meika Foster**

Te Ātiawa; Ngāti Mutunga  
 Edible Research Limited

### **Dr Chelsea Grootveld**

Ngāi Tai, Ngāti Porou, Te Whānau ā Apanui, Whakatōhea, Te Arawa  
 Aiko Consultants Limited



Board and the NPM secretariat members from (L- R) Professor Tahu Kukutai, Dr Meika Foster, Dr Erina Watene, Dr Chelsea Grootveld, Marie-Chanel Berghan, Honorine Franswah, Professor Te Kawehau Hoskins, Professor Melinda Webber, Kerensa Johnston, Professor Simon Holdaway, Associate Professor Hona Black. Photograph: NPM

# He Pūmahara nō ngā Pou Matarua From the Co-Directors

Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga remains deeply committed to strengthening Māori research capacity and capability through sustained investment in people, programmes and platforms.

In 2025, this commitment was reflected in the continued delivery of our Te Kupenga o MAI programme (including the hugely successful MAI Hui ā-Tau annual gathering), two-year PhD scholarships, Raumatī research internships, and the Wānanga Paetukutuku online seminar series. Together, these initiatives support flourishing Māori futures both in and through Māori-led research, with a focus on positively transforming Māori social, political, cultural and economic well-being.

The Centre continued to support excellent and impactful Māori-led research through its Priority Research Programmes and the Matakītenga and Whakaaweawe research grants. These investments enable Māori research teams to develop and apply transformative methodologies that respond to complex challenges across multiple sites, using diverse tools and strategies.

Dissemination of this work remains a core priority, achieved through our two journals – *AlterNative* and *MAI Journal* – Te Arotahi policy impact papers, and the Wānanga Paetukutuku series, ensuring high-quality research informs policy, practice and public debate. Impactful research is central to NPM's mission, underpinning empowerment, tino rangatiratanga and positive transformation for Māori communities.

In 2025, NPM also focused on extending its reach beyond Aotearoa New Zealand and the academy. New international collaborations with the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, the Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity, and an Indigenous-led Horizon Europe programme mark an important step in strengthening the Centre's global presence. Our senior researchers continue to work with the Royal Society Te Apārangi on the Tri-Academy Partnership on Indigenous Engagement with the Royal Society of Canada and Australian Academy of Science.

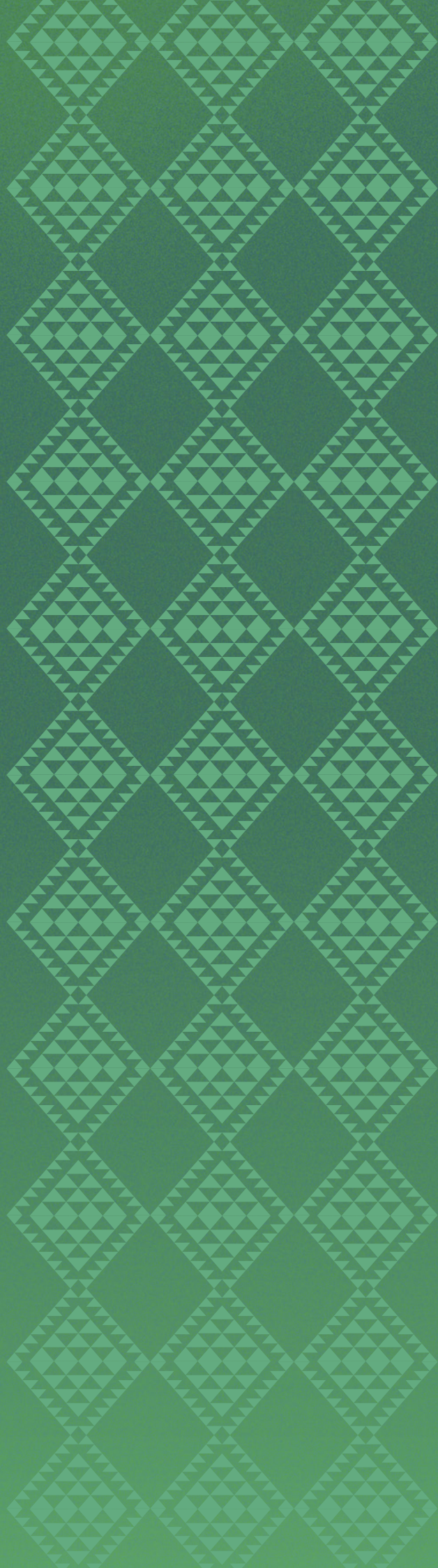
These initiatives support NPM's vision to remain the pre-eminent international Indigenous research organisation, as originally envisaged by Distinguished Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith and Professor Michael Walker. The impacts of these new and exciting collaborations will be reported in our 2026 Annual Report.

**Nā māua,**  
**Professor Tahu Kukutai FRSNZ**  
**Professor Melinda Webber FRSNZ**



# Ngā Ruānuku

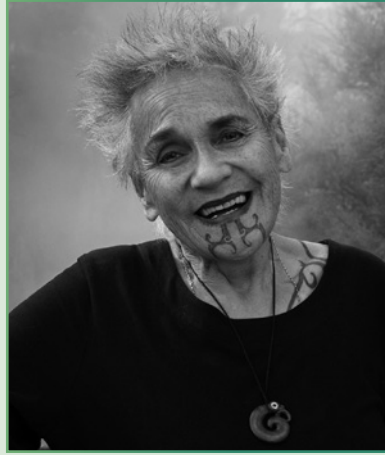
Our Wisdom Holders —





**Kaitiaki  
Tā Pita R. Sharples**

KNZM, CBE  
Ngāti Kahungunu



**Emeritus Professor  
Ngāhuia  
Te Awekōtuku**

MNZM, FAWMM, CRSNZ  
Te Arawa, Tūhoe, Waikato



**Emeritus Professor  
Tā Mason  
Harold Durie**

ONZ, KNZM, FRANZCP,  
FNZAH, FRSNZ  
Rangitāne, Ngāti Kauwhata,  
Raukawa



**Adjunct Professor  
Tā Tipene O'Regan**

ONZ, KNZM, CRSNZ  
Ngāi Tahu



**Distinguished  
Professor  
Linda Tuhiwai  
Smith**

CNZM, FRSNZ  
Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Porou



# Te Tira Takimano Electoral College of Partners

## ❖ Te Tira Takimano (TTT) Hui ā-Tau

### Hui ā-Tau brings together TTT Partners and NPM Researchers at Waitangi

It was a privilege for NPM to hold our Hui ā-Tau at the stunning Waitangi Treaty Grounds this year. The hui is a crucial engagement in our annual calendar, giving our 21 TTT partners the opportunity to connect with our researchers and students, learn about our research, and foster future collaboration. We can think of no better location to do this than a place of profound cultural and historical significance, and a living site of ongoing dialogue about tino rangatiratanga and partnership.

Our hui began with a pōwhiri and warm welcome from Far North Mayor Moko Tepania. It was a particularly significant occasion for our new Pou Matarua Professor Melinda Webber and Pou Pae Auaha Dr Daniel Wilson, who both whakapapa to Ngāpuhi.



It was a privilege to gather at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds for our 2025 TTT Hui ā-Tau. Photograph: NPM

A highlight of the hui was a research showcase featuring short, lively presentations from Te Tai Tokerau māreikura Professor Margaret Mutu and senior and early career researchers. The presentations showcased the breadth and depth of NPM supported research and left us all feeling energised and uplifted.

Our presenters were:

Professor Margaret Mutu (Ngāti Kahu)  
 Dr Tania Cliffe-Tautari (Te Arawa, Ngāi Tahu)  
 Coral Wiapo (Ngāti Whātua)  
 Dr Maia Hetaraka (Ngāti Wai, Ngāpuhi, Ngāi Tahu)  
 Ruby Gane (Waitaha)  
 Nova Paul (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine), and  
 Dr Ngahuia Harrison (Ngāti Wai, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Pukenga).

A key feature of TTT is to serve as an electoral college for the NPM board. With the retirement of Professor Pare Keiha (our longest-serving board member) and the resignation of Che Wilson, our partners were able to instigate the nomination and election of three new board members. We are thrilled to welcome on board Associate Professor Hona Black (Tūhoe, Te Whānau a Apanui, Ngāti Tūwharetoa), Dr Chelsea Grootveld (Ngāi Tai, Ngāti Porou, Whānau-ā-Apanui, Whakatōhea, Te Arawa), and Dr Meika Foster (Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Mutunga).

We know that their collective expertise, experience and commitment to the vision of Flourishing Māori Futures strongly positions NPM to continue to deliver research that is excellent and impactful, now and in coming years.



(L–R) Presenters Ruby Gane, Nova Paul, Dr Maia Hetaraka, Ngahuia Harrison, Coral Wiapo and Dr Tania Cliffe-Tautari highlight the varied research supported by NPM. Photograph: NPM

## ✦ TTT Partner representatives

**Professor David Tipene-Leach MNZM (Co-Chair)**  
Ngāti Kahungunu  
Te Aho a Māui Eastern Institute of Technology (EiT)

**Dr Rāwiri Tinirau (Co-Chair)**  
Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangī, Ngāti Rangī, Ngā Rauru  
Kītahi, Ngāti Ruanui, Ngā Wairiki-Ngāti Apa, Ngāti  
Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Maru  
Te Atawhai o te Ao

**Associate Professor Te Kawehau Hoskins**  
Ngāti Hau, Ngāpuhi  
Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland (UoA)

**Dr Valance Smith**  
Ngāpuhi, Waikato, Ngāti Haina, Ngāti Pākehā  
Te Wānanga Aronui o Tāmaki Makau Rau Auckland  
University of Technology (AUT)

**Dr Deborah Heke**  
Ngāpuhi, Te Arawa  
Te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka UNITEC

**Rowena Dunn**  
Ngāti Whātua  
Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Whai Maia Ltd

**Vasiti Margaret Palavi**  
Te Rarawa, Ngāti Kuia  
Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial  
Museum (AWMM)

**Professor Kura Paul-Burke**  
Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Whakahemo  
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato University of Waikato  
(UoW)

**Associate Professor Marama Muru-Lanning**  
Waikato Tainui, Ngāti Maniapoto  
Waikato-Tainui College for Research and  
Development

**Dr Rebecca Kiddle**  
Ngāti Porou, Ngāpuhi  
Te Whare Wānanga o Aotearoa (TWOA)

**Professor Te Kani Kingi**  
Ngāti Pūkeko, Ngāti Awa, Ngāi Tai  
Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi (TWWoA)

**Distinguished Professor Graham Smith**  
Ngāti Porou, Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Apa and  
Ngāti Kahungunu  
Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University (MU)

**Dr Amohia Boulton**  
Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāi te Rangī, Ngāti Pūkenga,  
Pirirākau, Ngāti Kahu  
Whakauae Research Services for Māori Health &  
Development

**Associate Professor Meegan Hall**  
Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāi te Rangī, Ngāti Tūwharetoa  
Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington  
(VUW)

**Holden Hohaia**  
Ngāti Maru, Taranaki Whānui ki te Ūpoko o te Ika  
Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research (MWLR)

**Dr Arapata Hakiwai**  
Ngāti Kahungunu, Rongowhakaata, Ngāti Porou,  
Ngāi Tahu  
Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand

**Anaru Luke**  
Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Rangitāne ki  
Wairau, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Kinohaku  
Cawthron Institute

**Professor Shaun Ogilvie**  
Ngāti Whakahemo, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Pūkeko  
Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha University of  
Canterbury (UC)

**Liz Brown**  
Ngāi Tahu  
Tokona te Raki: Māori Futures Collective

**Sheree Jahnke-Waitoa**  
Ngāti Porou, Rongowhakaata, Ngāti Kahungunu  
Te Whare Wānanga o Aoraki Lincoln University (LU)

**Distinguished Professor Jacinta Ruru**  
Raukawa, Ngāti Ranginui  
Te Whare Wānanga o Ōtākou University of  
Otago (UoO)



# Whakanuia te Angitū

Celebrating Success \_\_\_\_\_



## ❖ New Zealand Honours

### CNZM

#### Dr Lesley Rameka

Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Tukorehe

For services to Māori and early childhood education

### ONZM

#### Dr Te Tuhi Robust

Ngāpuhi Nui Tonu, Ngāti Porou

For services to Māori and education

### MNZM

#### Professor Rawinia Ruth Higgins

Tūhoe

For services to Māori language, education and governance

#### Dr Makarena Diana Dudley

Te Rarawa, Te Aupōuri, Ngāti Kahu

For services to people with dementia, particularly Māori



(L-R) Professor Rawinia Higgins,  
Dr Makarena Dudley.

## ❖ Australasian Cities Research Network (ACRN) Medal

#### Professor Michelle Thompson-Fawcett

Ngāti Whātua



## ❖ NZ Association for Research in Education

### Te Tohu Pae Tawhiti Award

**Professor Melinda Webber**

Ngāti Hau, Ngāti Hine, Te Paatu / Ngāti Kahu, Ngāti Whakaue

## ❖ NZ Geographical Society

### President's Award for Best Master's Thesis in Geography

**Kaila Tawera**

Ngāti Porou

## ❖ Ockham Book Awards

### General Non-Fiction Award

*Hine Toa: A Story of Bravery*

**Emeritus Professor Ngāhuia te Awekōtuku MNZM, FAWMM, CRSNZ**

Te Arawa, Tūhoe, Waikato

### Illustrated Non-Fiction Award and Apollo Award – Book of the Year

*Toi Te Mana*

**Professor Deidre Brown FRSNZ**

Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahu

**Professor Ngarino Ellis**

Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Porou

**Jonathan Mane Wheoki CNZM**

Ngāpuhi, Te Aupōuri, Ngāti Kuri



Professor Ngarino Ellis (left) and Professor Deidre Brown with Lisa Reihana's *Māramatanga* in the background. Photograph: Auckland University Press

## ❖ Royal Society of New Zealand – Te Apārangi Fellows

### Ngā Ahurei Fellows

**Professor Yvonne Underhill-Sem MNZM DNZG FPAS FRSNZ**

Cook Island, Niuean, Pākehā

**Professor Waikaremoana Waitoki FNZPsS FRSNZ**

Ngāti Hako, Ngāti Māhanga

## ❖ Royal Society of New Zealand – Te Apārangi Awards

### Te Rangi Hiroa Medal

**Professor Tahu Kukutai FRSNZ**

Ngāti Tiipa, Ngāti Māhanga, Ngāti Kinohaku, Te Aupōuri

### The Humanities Aronui Medal

**Distinguished Professor Jacinta Ruru MNZM FRSNZ**

Raukawa, Ngāti Ranginui



(L-R) Professor Tahu Kukutai and Distinguished Professor Jacinta Ruru. Photographs: Royal Society Te Apārangi

### Pou Aronui Medal

**Dr Reuben Collier MNZM**

Horouta, Mataatua, Te Arawa, Tainui

### Te Kōpūnui Māori Research Award

**Helena Abolins-Thompson**

Ngāti Toarangatira, Ngāi Tahu

### Te Rangaunua Hiranga Māori Medal

**Te Kāhui-a-Te-Rū-Rangahau (UoC):**

**Ms Jennifer Smith**

Ngāti Whātua, Te Roroa, Ngāpuhi

**Associate Professor Sonja Macfarlane FRSNZ**

Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Waewae

**Associate Professor Te Hurinui Renata Karaka-Clarke MRSNZ**

Te Arawa and Ngāi Tahu

**Dr Matiu Rātima**

Whakatōhea, Ngāti Pūkeko

### Te Ata Hāpara Award

**Dr Angelique Reweti**

Ngāpuhi

## ❖ Health Research Council of New Zealand Awards

### Te Tohu Rapuora Medal

**Dr Paora Moyle KSO and the team at Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki**  
Ngāti Porou



Dr Paora Moyle (right) and colleague from Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki.  
Photograph: Royal Society Te Apārangi

### Catalyst in the Community Award

**Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou Taurite Tū Limited**  
Taurite Tū programme

### Te Ata Hāpara Award

**Dr Angelique Reweti**  
Ngāpuhi  
For contribution to advancing Māori health as an emerging researcher

## ❖ New Professors

### Waipapa Taumata Rau

**Marama Muru-Lanning**  
Waikato, Ngāti Maniapoto

**Ngarino Ellis**  
Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Porou

**Maire Harwood**  
Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Rangī, Te Mahurehure and  
Ngāti Hine

**Sarah-Jane Paine**  
Tuhoe

### Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

**Te Kahautu Maxwell**  
Te Whakatōhea, Ngāi Tai, Ngāti Awa, Te Whānau a  
Apanui, Ngāti Porou, Tūhoe, Ngāti Maniapoto

**Sophie Nock**  
Ngāti Kūri

**Waikaremoana Waitoki**  
Ngāti Hako, Ngāti Māhanga

### Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa

**Rochelle Stewart-Withers**  
Ngāti Rāhiri Hapū o Te Ātiawa

### Te Herenga Waka

**Mere Skerrett**  
Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Ruahikihiki

### Te Whare Wānanga o Ōtākou

**Diane Ruwhiu**  
Ngāpuhi

**Jason Gurney**  
Ngāpuhi

**Karyn Paringatai**  
Ngāti Porou

**Kirsten Robertson**  
Kāi Tahu

## ❖ New Horizons for Women Trust: Hine Kahukura

### NPM Wāhine Ora Award

#### Nadine Riwai

Ngāti Porou, Te Aitanga a Mahaki, Te Uri o Hau, Ngāi Takoto

*Research Title: How can kaupapa Māori frameworks transform cancer screening programmes in Aotearoa to better meet the needs of Māori?*

#### Alice Karetai

Kāi Tahu, Kāti Mamie, Waitaha

*Research Title: Kā Rika Rehe o kā Taua – An investigation into Kāi Tahu weaving traditions*

## ❖ Fulbright Awards

### Fulbright – NPM Graduate Award

#### Leteisha Te Awhe-Downey

Ngāti Ruanui, Ngaa Rauru

### Fulbright – NPM Scholar Award

#### Kelly Tikao

Waitaha, Kāti Māmoe, Kāi Tahu

## ❖ Michael and Suzanne Borrin Foundation Awards

### Borrin Foundation – Postgraduate Scholarship Awards

#### Kelly Mitchell

Ngaati Maahanga

Kelly Mitchell will use this award toward PhD study at the University of Victoria, Canada, examining how Māori legal theory can inform the constitutional role of the judiciary within a Tiriti-consistent legal landscape in Aotearoa.

### Borrin Foundation – Legal Research Internship Awards

#### Articulations of honourable kāwanatanga from submissions opposed to the defeated Treaty of Waitangi Principles Bill 2025

##### Intern: Kahukura Jones

Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairoa

##### Supervisors: Adjunct Associate Professor Clive Aspin

Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Whanaunga, Ngāti Tamaterā

##### Adjunct Professor Heather Came

Pākehā

#### Examining tino rangatiratanga in post-Treaty settlement Aotearoa through the Matike Mai reports

##### Intern: Mairangi Campbell

Tūhoe, Ngāti Porou, Te Whānau-ā-Apanui, Rongomaiwahine

##### Supervisor: Associate Professor Anaru Erueti

Ngā Ruahinerangi, Ngāti Ruanui, Āti Hau Nui a Pāpārangi, Ngāti Pākehā

## ❖ Cawthron Institute

### Te Pitau Whakarei Karahipi Scholarship

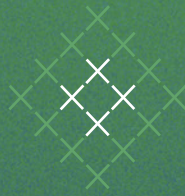
#### Artificial intelligence environmental avatars: Elevating Indigenous perspectives

##### Intern: Shontelle Steeg

Whakatōhea

##### Supervisor: Anaru Luke

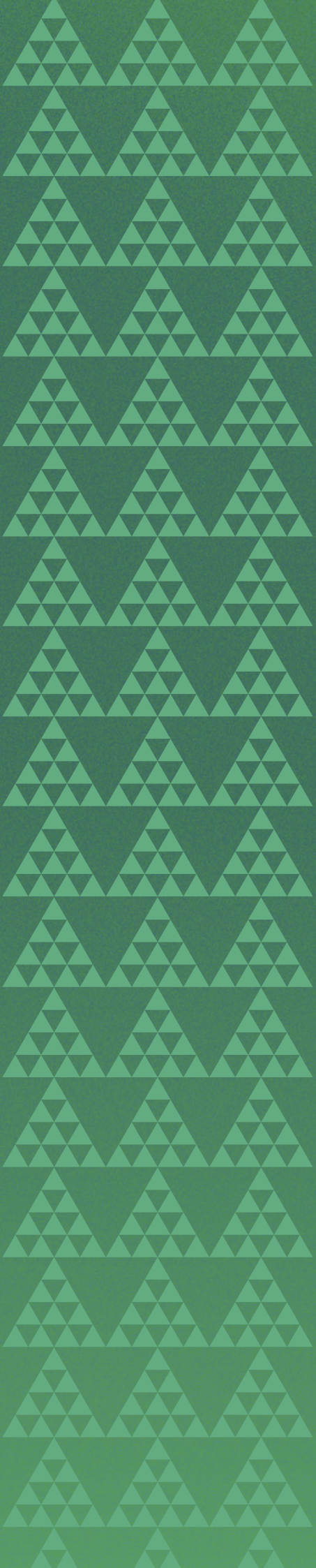
Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Rangitāne ki Wairau, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Kinohaku



NPM research solves real-world challenges facing Māori. We do so in Māori-determined, Māori-led and Māori-inspired ways, engendering sustainable relationships that grow the mana and mauri of the world we inhabit. The excellence and expertise of the NPM researcher network is organised in four Pae – where our researchers excel using Te Ao Māori knowledge, tools and expertise to build a secure and prosperous future for Māori and Aotearoa.

# Ngā Rangahau

— Our Research



# Tūhononga ā-Ao

International Connectedness —



*Tūmau ake te rangi e tū ake nei  
Tūmau ake te papa e takoto nei  
Tūmau ake te tiro ā-iwi taketake  
Kia puta rawa ake ki tōna ao anō  
Iwi whenua o te ao! Pahekotia!  
Kia rangatira ai tāua i a tāua anō  
Kia whiua reretia ake nei  
He ariā taketake, he kura huna  
Koia pū te koronga, koia anō te kōingo  
Kōkiritia kia tāmaua kia ita  
Haramai te whākuru o te toki  
Haumi e! Hui e! Tāiki e!*

Strong connections are central to Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga's global impact and reach. By building relationships with scholars, allies, research organisations and funders around the world, we strengthen our international presence and learn from others' experiences and insights. These connections have created real opportunities – collaborative projects, co-authored research and funding pathways – that have lifted our research excellence and supported emerging Māori scholars to grow their networks.

Throughout 2025, NPM remained a bold and unapologetic advocate for the vital role of Indigenous knowledges in addressing challenges, both at home and around the world, and worked strategically alongside influential partners to amplify that message.



## ✦ TAIKURA Aotearoa – Tri-Academy Indigenous Summit

TAIKURA Summit was the second of three gatherings held as part of the Tri-Academy Partnership on Indigenous Engagement between the Royal Society Te Apārangi (RSTA), the Royal Society of Canada, and the Australian Academy of Science. The partnership supports an international, Indigenous-led research agenda and celebrates the achievements of Indigenous scholars and knowledge-holders.

With Pou Matarua Professor Tahu Kukutai and Professor Poia Rewi as emcees, TAIKURA gathered 130-plus Indigenous Fellows, scholars and students to advance three kaupapa:

- leading and shaping international research agendas to include Indigenous knowledges and practices;
- transforming academia for Indigenous Peoples through addressing structural racism, epistemic violence and inequities, and;
- indigenising the academy.

A communiqué from participants affirmed the importance of Indigenous knowledges, languages and practices for addressing urgent global challenges, and urged the academies to support transformation of higher learning to dismantle structural inequities.

The presidents of the three academies responded with their own statement outlining their commitment to working in partnership to help protect the rights and responsibilities of Indigenous Peoples to determine their own research agendas; to explore, preserve and grow traditional knowledge systems; to participate actively in research; and to benefit from its applications and outcomes.



Indigenous ECRs from Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia and Canada at TAIKURA Summit.

## ❖ Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity (AFSE)

Pou Matarua Melinda Webber and NPM board member Te Kawehau Hoskins are the Waipapa Taumata Rau co-directors for the AFSE programme based at the University of Melbourne. AFSE is supporting a dynamic network of Indigenous leaders and allies committed to driving Indigenous-led social change across Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and Pacific Island nations. In collaboration with AFSE Director Damien Miller, NPM is working to organise opportunities for Indigenous student and ECR knowledge exchanges in 2026 and beyond.



Members of the AFSE 2025 cohort.

## ❖ Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR)

In April, NPM welcomed a visit from Professor Stephen Toope, president and chief executive of the CIFAR, a global research organisation based in Canada that brings together world-leading researchers to address fundamental questions across science, society and the humanities. The visit was facilitated by former NPM Co-Director Professor Tracey McIntosh, who serves on the CIFAR Research Council. On the heels of that visit, NPM and CIFAR have partnered to co-host an Indigenous Early Career Researcher (ECR) forum in Canada in 2026 as part of CIFAR's Next Generation "radical interdisciplinarity" series. NPM Pou Matarua Professor Melinda Webber and Professor Tahu Kukutai will serve on the forum's steering committee, with Professor Tracey McIntosh as co-chair.



Professor Stephen Toope (CIFAR) was welcomed by (L-R) Professors Melinda Webber, Tracey McIntosh, Sarah-Jane Paine and Tahu Kukutai. Photograph: NPM

## ❖ National Dong Hwa University (NDHU), Taiwan

NPM welcomed a delegation from Taiwan’s NDHU in August. Professor Melinda Webber and NPM Pouhere Matua Marie-Chanel Berghan hosted the delegation alongside Waipapa Taumata Rau senior leaders Professor Te Kawehau Hoskins, Professor Frank Bloomfield and Professor Simon Holdaway. The purpose of the visit was to explore opportunities for research collaboration, particularly in the field of Indigenous studies, and to strengthen relationships with NPM and with universities here that have a focus on Indigenous research and academic programmes.



NPM Pou Matarua Professor Melinda Webber and Marie-Chanel Berghan with members of the NDHU delegation. Photographs: NPM

## ❖ Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (UC Chile; Spanish: Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)

Professor Melinda Webber was a visiting scholar at Pontifical Catholic University of Chile in Santiago, Chile. At the invitation of Dr Verónica García Lazo, Melinda presented a keynote address on Indigenous research as it relates to culturally responsive teaching and the role of cultural connectedness to student wellbeing. She also advised and helped critically interpret data associated with a project exploring the challenges and possibilities for intercultural visual arts in Chilean schools.

## ❖ Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDSov)

NPM's large and growing community of IDSov scholars are an active and valued part of a thriving global community committed to upholding Indigenous Peoples' rights in data. In 2025, they attended several international conferences and gatherings tackling topics from data justice and data equity to AI governance and IDSov and universities. More detail about those engagements can be found in the Pae Auaha section of this report.



Aotearoa delegates were out in full force at the Global Indigenous Data Sovereignty Conference on Ngunnawal and Ngambri country, Canberra. The conference marked the 10 year anniversary since the first IDSov conference.



(L-R): Aotearoa New Zealand and Australian members of the Global Indigenous Data Alliance attending the International Sociological Association Forum of Sociology in Rabat, Morocco – Dr Bobbi Maher, Professor Tahu Kukutai, Distinguished Professor Emerita Maggie Walter and Dr Kiri West.

# Pātai Puāwai

Transformative research for flourishing futures —



*How can research be used transformatively to accelerate  
the achievement of flourishing Māori futures?*

A commitment to transformative research drives everything we do at Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga. Our vast research platform shows that research accelerates flourishing Māori futures when it is designed, governed and mobilised in ways that centre Māori world views, aspirations and authority – and when it produces change beyond knowledge generation alone.

Since our inception in 2002 we have worked with Māori communities and diverse partners, building Māori research capability, capacity and practice as well as generating mātauranga that contributes to change in multiple domains.

Our NPM infrastructure supports highly relational research embedded in practice and we are committed to engaging with actors who can enact change. The impacts of NPM’s 20+ years of research are cumulative, reaching across cohorts of researchers and extending from the local to the global. Here we provide examples of these interconnected and cumulative impacts.

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*“What tumbles down is a national  
infrastructure that could support Māori  
development across a range of dimensions  
that simply cannot be provided for  
by existing institutions.”*

*– Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith*

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## ❖ Te Taiao

Climate change and adaptation have been a sustained focus of NPM's research, generating wide-ranging impact from enhanced international reputation and ecological restoration to improved water quality, community-led monitoring of lakes and rivers, pest control and species protection. Working alongside partners, we have developed practical, implementation-focused frameworks that offer clear guidance for researchers, policymakers and hapū/iwi.

This work includes integrating blue-green-grey infrastructure with mechanisms to protect collectively held assets, as well as formally recognising marae as essential infrastructure for disaster preparedness, response and recovery – with the sustained resourcing that role requires.

Our NPM research programme from 2016–2021 had a strong emphasis on te taiao and the international collaborations built during that period still endure, particularly with Pacific and Canadian colleagues. NPM senior researchers Professors Helen Moewaka Barnes and Ocean Mercier worked with the Planetary Health Oceania Regional Hub, as part of the Planetary Health Alliance, and Professor Moewaka Barnes was on both the organising and planning committees for the Hub's 2025 Forum in Fiji. The initiative has been successful in shaping policy and action in the Pacific region, and the 2025 Forum produced a paper calling for sustainability of action and ways to achieve it. Professor Moewaka Barnes also collaborated with Hub members to produce an ecological framework for planetary health, published in *Lancet Planet Health* in 2025.

## ❖ Whai Rawa

Research into the Māori economy has been another strong and enduring thread within NPM. The late Professor Mānuka Hēnare and Dr Shaun Awatere led this work as early Whai Rawa Theme Leaders (2016–2021), exploring and articulating diverse concepts and modes of Māori economies through both theory and practice.

Building on this foundation, a 2021 project led by NPM-affiliated researchers Professors Carla Houkamau and Jason Mika developed a Māori theory of value for the Māori economy and engaged directly with policymakers to explore practical application. Smaller projects have added further richness and depth, covering financial literacy, Indigenous collaboration and business networks.

Across this body of work, a clear through-line emerges: Māori knowledge, values, resources, kaitiakitanga and sustainability are deeply interconnected, and understanding them together has strengthened Māori entrepreneurship and expanded the networks that sustain our communities.

A prime example of these cumulative insights is the recently completed Māori Economies of Wellbeing project (2022–2025), led by Professor Chellie Spiller. The project culminated in a comprehensive book – *Te ahunga atu ki ngā ōhanga oranga Māori: Towards Māori economies of wellbeing* – and an extensively researched papakupu. This publication represents a significant and transformative contribution to advancing Māori wellbeing economies.



## ❖ Nurturing Transformative Researchers

NPM's commitment to capacity and capability building also supports inter-disciplinary linkages and cumulative impacts. Beginning as an early Raumati intern exploring kaitiakitanga, Dr Ken Taiapa went on to complete his master's and doctorate, the latter focused on a hapū-led maara kai initiative. He then joined the Tangata Whenua Tangata Ora Health Research Council programme – an NPM collaborating initiative – as a postdoctoral fellow, investigating whenua initiatives including the Kaimahi for Nature employment scheme and its wide-ranging impacts.

Dr Taiapa has since led two Matakiteanga projects focused on climate adaptation, providing employment for PhD candidate Dr Summer Wright across both projects. He has also supervised two NPM Summer Internships – one examining the healing dimensions of Indigenous relationships to place (2024), and another exploring the economic benefits of kai sovereignty initiatives (2025). Most recently, Dr Taiapa is co-leading an HRC-funded project investigating the mental health impacts of climate change on kai sovereignty in Te Tairāwhiti, with Dr Wright continuing as a postdoctoral fellow on the project.



(L-R) Dr Ken Taiapa and Dr Summer Wright with Pātai Puāwai lead Professor Helen Moewaka Barnes.



**Hāmamatia, waiatatia,  
whakawahatia te Ahurei Māori**

*Research to cherish and celebrate  
distinctively Māori futures*

# Pae Ahurei

— Living Uniquely





Pae Ahurei enables research that explores Te Ao Māori in conscious and dynamic ways. It brings together an extensive and varied body of research that examines our connections to whenua, whakapapa and cultural ways of being, doing and knowing.

In 2025 we launched a new programme Kia Tōnui Te Reo Māori – Prosperous Whānau, Prosperous Reo Māori, led by Associate Professor Awanui Te Huia. The study explores the challenges and achievements of te reo Māori revitalisation, with the goal of securing its future as a living, functional language. By learning from the journeys of others, we aim to help whānau envision and shape a te reo Māori future that is distinctly and authentically their own.

Pae Ahurei also celebrates transformative contributions to Māori leadership and cultural expression. Recent examples include the revised edition of Margaret Mutu's *The State of Māori Rights*, the monograph *Wānanga Rau, Taumata Rau, Pūkenga Rau*, and an innovative zine about the experiences of māmā. Together, these works reflect NPM's dedication to preserving and advancing uniquely Māori futures, and our vital role in the resurgence of Indigenous knowledge and scholarship.

# Ngā Tīpako Highlights 2025

- ✦ Launch of new multi-year research programme supporting te reo Māori revitalisation in the home.
- ✦ Associate Professor Awanui Te Huia hosts a 5-part seminar series with rising Māori influencers on the use of social media to maximise the impact of research.
- ✦ NPM researchers sought out for expert commentary on te reo Māori revitalisation, mātauranga, Indigenous rights and the Waitangi Tribunal.
- ✦ Support for PhDs, graduate students and Raumati interns continues to build a research workforce grounded in Te Ao Māori and disciplinary excellence.



# Rangahau Research

## ❖ Kaupapa Mātāmua *Featured Work*

### Kia Tōnui Te Reo Māori – Prosperous Whānau, Prosperous Reo Māori

**Lead: Associate Professor Awanui Te Huia** (Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāi Tūhoe) (VUW), with Dr Maureen Muller (Ngā Puhī) (CEO Te Ataarangi), Paul Edwards (Whakatōhea, Ngāti Awa) (VUW), Dr Mike Ross (Ngāti Hauā) (VUW), Dr Ririwai Fox (Ngāti Kahungunu) (UoW), Dr Ellie Rukuwai (Ngāti Tūwharetoa) (VUW), Kanaueha Wessles (Waikato) (VUW), Kahu Haimona (Te Arawa, Waikato) (VUW alumni), Ashley McGregor (Te Rarawa, Te Aupōuri, Ngāti Whātua ki Kaipara) (VUW), Kody Ward (Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Kahungunu), and Leah Gifford (Ngāti Kahungunu, Rarotonga).

All te reo Māori experts say that language revitalisation begins at home, with language passed from one generation to the next. Kia ūkaipō te reo. But how that happens is unique to each whānau. Kia Tōnui Te Reo Māori aims to better understand the conditions that enable te reo Māori to thrive by examining innovative practices that encourage the acquisition and use of te reo, with a focus on whānau who are traversing the Māori language immersion schooling landscape.

The programme is led by te reo revitalisation researcher Associate Professor Awanui Te Huia and a team of experienced Māori language experts. Together they are exploring four areas: 1) raising te reo Māori speaking children; 2) the role of friendships, whānau, iwi/hapū and language communities; 3) creating growth in te reo Māori acquisition processes; and 4) creating useable outputs for reo Māori and academic communities.

While still at the early stage, Awanui's team is already achieving impact, partnering with Te Mātāwai to co-host a national symposium for te reo Māori researchers in 2026.

We look forward to seeing this team and kaupapa progress in coming years.

Listen to Awanui talk to Mihingarangi Forbes about the successes and challenges facing te reo Māori:  
<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/saturday/audio/2019004094/maori-language-week>.




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*“It takes one generation to lose the language.  
And three generations to get it back.”*  
– Associate Professor Awanui Te Huia

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# ❖ Kaupapa Kua Porotutuki *Completed Work*

## Māori Streets

**Lead: Dr Rebecca Kiddle** (Ngāti Porou, Ngāpuhi) (TWOA) with Dr Morehu McDonald (Ngāti Hinerangi, Ngāti Mahuta, Ngāti Ngutu, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Hauā, Waikato-Tainui, and Ngāti Ruanui) (TWOA), Dr James Berghan (Te Rarawa, Te Aupōuri) (TWOA), Dr Marjorie Lispham (Waikato-Maniapoto, Ngāti Rereahu, Ngāti Raukawa ki Wharepūhanga) (TWOA), and Dr Kimiora Raerino (Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Rangiwewehi, Kōtimana) (TWOA).

Streets shape how people move, connect and participate in everyday life. For Māori, wellbeing is deeply interconnected with relationships to whenua and the natural environment, yet these relationships are rarely reflected in contemporary urban street environments. Historically, urban planning in Aotearoa has been guided by colonial frameworks that imposed standardised street forms and governance systems, limiting Māori authority, cultural expression and ecological integration in our cities.

And yet streets are everywhere. They connect us to one another, serve as channels of communication, and provide spaces for community life. This raises a compelling question: What might a Māori street look and feel like?

In this project, researchers conducted a targeted scoping review to identify gaps in current street planning practice, which informed the development of a national Māori Streets Survey. The survey translated these issues into community-facing questions, surfacing shared priorities and areas of concern. A series of online design wānanga then helped shape the Māori street design principles, priority outcomes, and pathways presented in a landmark White Paper. This resource is intended for policymakers, planners, designers, mana whenua and Māori communities working to reimagine street environments that better reflect Māori realities, aspirations, and long-term wellbeing.

The outcomes of the project consistently point towards more inclusive and equitable environments for everyone who lives in and moves through these spaces. Through Māori leadership, partnership and sustained commitment, streets can become places that restore relationships between people and place, regardless of ethnic background, and contribute to a more just and resilient Aotearoa.

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*“Māori street design cannot resolve entrenched inequities associated with housing, income or health in isolation. However, when aligned with broader structural changes, streets can contribute meaningfully to physical activity, social connection, cultural presence and environmental resilience, particularly in communities experiencing long-standing disadvantage.” – Dr Rebecca Kiddle*

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Designers worked with the research team to illustrate what Māori streets would look like.

# Whakaaweawe

## Influencing transformation

### ❖ Whakaaweawe Grants

#### Reflecting on 50 Years of the Waitangi Tribunal

**Lead: Professor Maria Bargh** (Te Arawa, Ngāti Awa) (VUW).

As the Waitangi Tribunal and te Tiriti are subjected to unprecedented attacks by the Coalition Government, this edited collection reminds us of the vital role that the Tribunal plays. Edited by Professors Carwyn Jones and Maria Bargh, it brings together Māori scholarly analyses of the Waitangi Tribunal under topic areas of particular interest to Māori. The aim of the collection is to acknowledge the importance of the Tribunal, its processes, and the cumulative weight and value of its findings and recommendations. Although successive governments have yet to appropriately act on these recommendations, many Māori communities continue

to hold dear to the independent research conducted by the Tribunal and the potential contained in its reports and recommendations. Contributors include Professor Margaret Mutu, Dr Ani Mikaere, Associate Professor Linda Te Aho, Associate Professor Mamari Stephens, Dr Luke Fitzmaurice-Brown, Horiana Irwin, Jayden Houghton, Dr Peter Meihana, Professor Jacinta Ruru and Tracey Whare.



PHOTOGRAPH: HUIA PUBLICATIONS

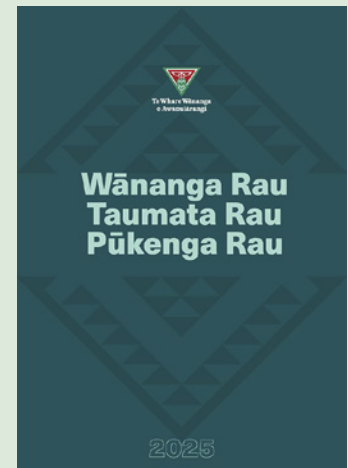
#### Wānanga Rau, Taumata Rau, Pūkenga Rau

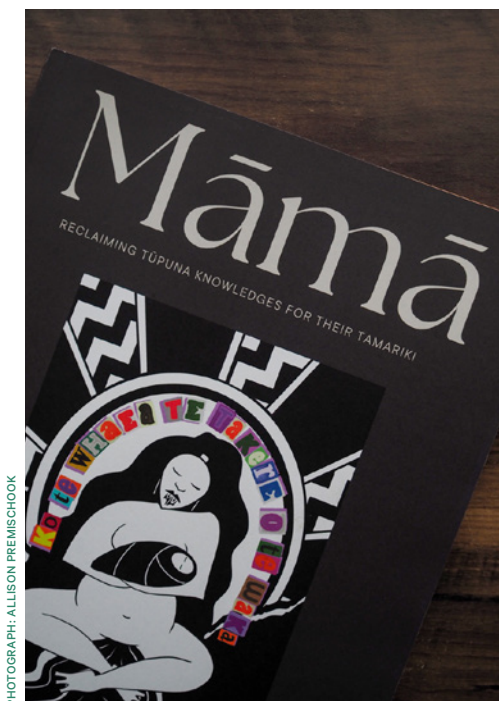
**Lead: Dr Billie Jo Pomare Rameka** (Te Rarawa, Te Arawa, Ngāi Tūhoe) (TWWOA).

The growing popularity of kapa haka has seen an increasing number of people engage in kapa haka research. Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiāraangi is the only tertiary institution to offer a Bachelor of Māori Performing Arts, and hosts an annual kapa haka symposium, Te Rautoki a Toi. With the support of NPM, the symposium produced its first monograph, which is a significant contribution to a field where published literature remains sparse.

The monograph offers insights from leading experts and invites readers to think more critically about the role kapa haka plays beyond the stage, within marae and pā communities. It calls for greater attention to sustainability, identity politics and intergenerational responsibility, closing with the powerful words of Ngāmoni Huata's son:

E ko koia, nō te hāhā whenua, nō te hihi kōhatu, nō te hū o Tarawera!





PHOTOGRAPH: ALLISON PREMISCHOOK

## He Tumu Herenga Waka: Māori Mothers Navigating the Never-Ending Beginnings of Whakapapa

**Lead: Dr Hine Funaki-Cole** (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Whātua, Ngāi Tahu) (VUW).

He Tumu Herenga Waka by Dr Hine Funaki-Cole is a powerful case study exploring the experiences of Māori mothers who are learning and reclaiming aspects of whakapapa for their tamariki and mokopuna. It builds on an earlier case study, Ko te whaea te takere o te waka, that examined Māori mothers as key change-makers for their whānau. Dr Funaki-Cole's study resulted in the production of a unique zine that weaves pūrākau of māmā experiences with beautiful imagery to inspire and support all māmā on their reclamation journey. NPM's Whakaaweawe Grant enabled Dr Funaki-Cole to publish more copies of the in-demand zine which communities were printing at their own expense.

The zine is available free online – <https://tatoutatou.org/mamazine/> – and has had more than 5000 views.

## ❖ Wānanga Paetukutuku

### Social Media for Early Career Researchers

**Facilitator:** Associate Professor Awanui Te Huia

This five-part webinar mini-series was designed for early career researchers and PhD candidates looking to harness social media to share their work. Speakers were selected based on their own successful use of social media to communicate their research. A key insight from the series was that researchers are increasingly moving away from traditional media channels, choosing instead to develop and share their own content directly with communities.

**Panellists:**

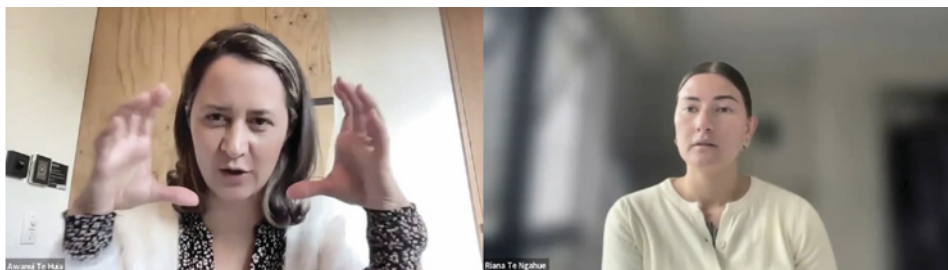
**Dr Luke Fitzmaurice-Brown** – Social media and te Tiriti o Waitangi  
<https://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/node/2216>

**Eru Kapa-Kingi** – Using social media as a tool for promoting social justice  
<https://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/node/2213>

**Te Amohaere Ngata-Aerengamate** – Communicating complex environmental issues.  
<https://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/node/2215>

**Professor Rangi Mātaamua** – Matariki – The creation of a public holiday and social media  
<https://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/node/2231>

**Riana Te Ngahue** – Understanding your audience & platform  
<https://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/node/2276>



Associate Professor Awanui Te Huia and prominent Tik Tok political influencer Riana Te Ngahue presenting a webinar on the importance of understanding social media audiences.

## ❖ He Pitopito Kōrero *In the News*

### Renowned Linguist Reflects on Māori Language Week

Professor Margaret Mutu reflects on the 50 years since the first Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori, born from the 1972 Māori Language Petition. Story originally published on [waateanews.com](https://www.waateanews.com).

### Māori Researcher Leads Efforts on Indigenous Rights at the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

EMRIP Chair Professor Valmaine Toki sees clear synergies between te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). <https://www.teaonews.co.nz/2025/07/15/valmaine-toki-leads-un-efforts-on-indigenous-rights-at-emrip/>

### Te Reo Māori Celebrated on the World Stage

“Not today coloniser.” The rallying cry of longtime NPM researcher and Te Taura Whiri I te Reo Māori chair Professor Rawinia Higgins went viral on social media after her address at the Waves 2025 Indigenous Languages Summit in Canada. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/te-manu-korihi/571288/te-reo-maori-celebrated-on-world-stage-at-indigenous-summit-in-canada>

### Warning of Māori Roll Confusion

Political scientist Associate Professor Lara Greaves says confusion over the Māori roll is growing amid changes to the electoral boundaries. <https://waateanews.com/2025/03/27/greaves-warns-of-maori-roll-confusion/>

### “Absolutely breaches of te Tiriti o Waitangi”: UN-bound Report Warns Racial Discrimination is Worsening in NZ

Professor Claire Charters talks about a report from the Aotearoa Centre for Indigenous Peoples criticising the negative impacts of the Government’s policies on Māori. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/577223/absolutely-breaches-of-te-tiriti-o-waitangi-un-bound-report-warns-racial-discrimination-is-worsening-in-nz>

### Why Tā Moko Should Never Be Dismissed As “Scribbles”

NPM Pou Tikanga Paora Sharples says tā moko have deep cultural and spiritual significance. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/te-manu-korihi/564364/why-ta-moko-should-never-be-dismissed-as-scribbles-maori-academic>

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*“Te reo Māori is an official language of  
Aotearoa. Our five-year-olds can handle it.  
The problem isn’t literacy – its prejudice.  
‘Not today, Coloniser!’ Enough of this pettiness.”  
– Professor Rawinia Higgins.*

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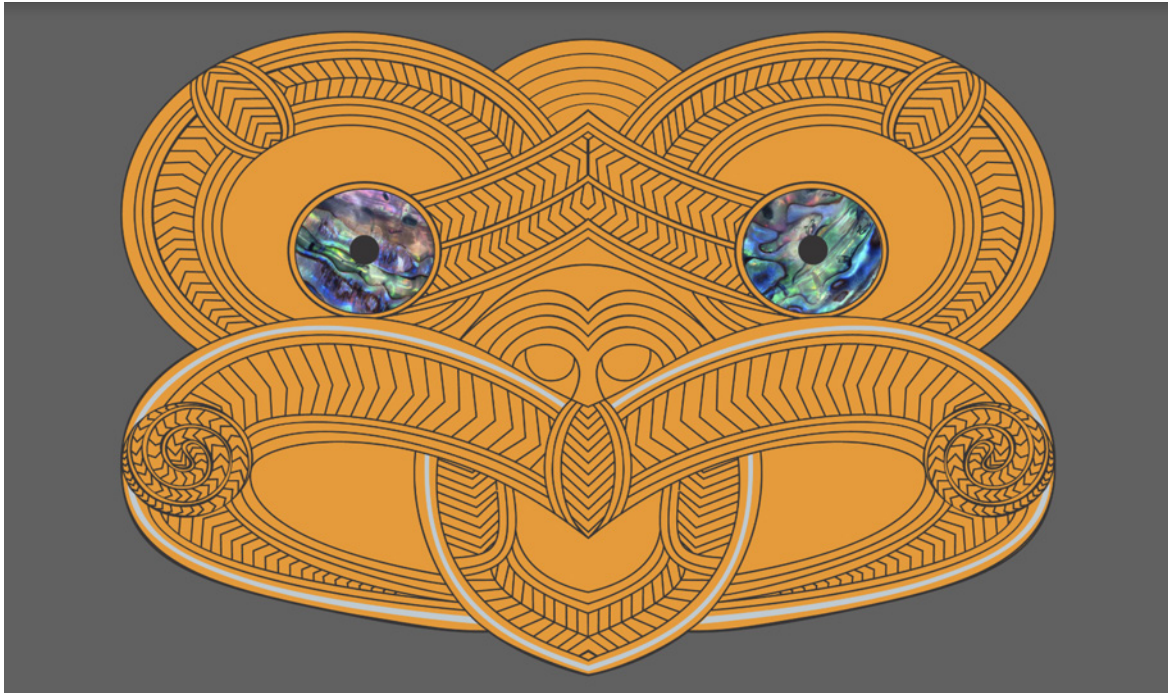
## ✦ Impact and Collaboration

### Rārangi Pukapuka Kōrero Audio Book Series

NPM researcher Dr Joseph (Joe) Te Rito (Rongomaiwāhine, Ngāti Kahungunu) has dedicated his life to te reo Māori. A founding member of the Te Reo Māori Society at Victoria University, he was part of the group that delivered the landmark Māori language petition to parliament in 1972, and has championed revitalisation efforts ever since.

Dr Te Rito's latest contribution is three audiobooks – *Pukapuka Kōrero Tahī*, *Pukapuka Kōrero Rua*, and *Pukapuka Kōrero Toru* – produced with his research team and partially supported by an NPM grant. The books were compiled from Radio Kahungunu archival recordings of two renowned rūruhi, Apikara Rarere and Te Arahea Robin, and are now available on the [www.pukapukakorero.nz](http://www.pukapukakorero.nz) website launched this year.

Dr Te Rito says the audiobooks have several beneficial features. They are free, accessible, and easy to use; focus on conversational language using authentic native speaker voices; cover a broad range of genres and metaphorical language; and are rich in traditional knowledge. He particularly encourages Ngāti Kahungunu and Rongomaiwāhine secondary teachers and students to use the books given their depth of local mita (dialect) and knowledge.



# Ngā Amokapua Rangahau ā Mua Future Research Leaders

## ❖ NPM PhD Scholars

### Nova Paul

Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine (AUT).



PHOTOGRAPH: NPM

When the new oncology centre at Whangārei Hospital opens in 2026, more than 40 metres of photographic panels will line its walls. The panels depict the rongoā of Tāne Mahuta, brought to life through the trees, light, and manu of Pukenui Forest – a ngahere that wraps around the western hills of Whangārei, close to the hospital. The images draw from the tūpuna whenua of artist Nova Paul who turned to te taiao to guide the creation of this significant commission.

“When you are vulnerable, you need to draw on the rongoā of Tāne-mahuta – the wairua and mauri of the ngahere. My intention was for people who are māuiui to feel they had a direct connection to the rākau on their doorstep, to support them through the cancer treatment journey,” says Nova.

The installation is the culmination of many years of work, including PhD research supported by NPM, exploring the healing power of trees through image-making. Nova’s practice-led PhD research explores a Māori ontology of temporality in relationship to mauri, wairua and hau in moving images, considering whanaungatanga relationships and whakapapa connections to ngā rākau and ngahere. Her work is driven by a commitment to decolonising representation and privileging Indigenous processes to enable whānau and communities to celebrate distinctively Māori futures.



PHOTOGRAPH: NOVA PAUL

## Deacon Fisher

Ngāpuhi, Te Parawhau, Te Uriroroī, Te Māhurehure ki Whatitiri (MU).



While there is growing interest in the potential of pūrākau for therapeutic intervention, their application within the social work profession remains largely unexplored. Similarly, while tikanga Māori across social services has been well traversed, tikanga ā-iwi and kawa ā-iwi are often treated as secondary considerations.

Deacon Fisher's PhD research addresses these gaps by exploring how pūrākau shape the tikanga and kawa of iwi social services across five iwi social services of Te Whare Tapu o Ngāpuhi. As a registered social worker, Deacon brings valuable frontline experience in social and community work to the project. His research reorients attention towards pre-colonial sociological groupings of tangata whenua, advocating for the distinct identity of each iwi and challenging the tendency to view tangata whenua as a singular homogenous group with common philosophies and practices. The outcome will be a unique, localised model of practice that reflects the social work environment of Te Whare Tapu o Ngāpuhi.

*“Without the assistance and guidance offered through Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga and the PhD Doctoral Scholarship, this research would find difficulty in reaching its conclusion. This scholarship has enabled this research to flourish, and importantly, enabled the possibility for tangible and transformative change within our communities.*

*“E kore te manu e rere ki te kore wōna huruhuru. Ko tā te Korahipi Tohu Kairangi nā Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga he takoha i ngā matakīrea kia taea ai e tēnei rangahau wōna huruhuru te aroarohaki, mā tērā ka koko ake te rangahau ki tōna tihi.”*

– DEACON FISHER, NPM PHD SCHOLAR

## ✦ Masters Submitted

### Charting the Journey: Indigenous Kinship, Identity and Replanning the Settler-Colonial City

**Student:** Kaila Tawera

(Ngāti Porou) (UoO).

**Supervisor:** Professor Michelle Thompson-Fawcett (Ngāti Whātua) (UoO).

**Degree:** Master of Arts - MA, University of Otago

**Handle:** <https://hdl.handle.net/10523/45966>

### Planning for Indigenous Food Practices & Food Sovereignty in Urban Spaces

**Student:** Daizy Isis Violet Thompson-Fawcett

(Ngāti Whātua) (UoO).

**Supervisor:** Associate Professor Robin Quigg (Raukawa, Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāti Mōtai, Ngāti Tūkorehe, Ngāti Takaha) (UoO).

**Degree:** Master of Planning - MPlan, University of Otago

**Handle:** <https://hdl.handle.net/10523/45980>

## ❖ 2025/2026 Raumati Internships

### Te Rere o te Piwakawaka: Exploring Pūrākau, Mōteatea, and Whakataukī to Reframe ADHD

**Intern:** Aria McKee (Ngāti Porou) (VUW).

**Supervisor:** Associate Professor Byron Rangiwai (Ngāi Tūhoe, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Manawa, Ngāti Whare) (UNITEC).

This internship explored how pūrākau, mōteatea, whakataukī and published sources can provide insights into behaviours and characteristics that connect with ADHD. The project examined how Māori narratives describe energy, movement, curiosity, impulsivity and relational awareness, and considers how these can inform new ways of understanding ADHD as part of Māori ways of being. Known for its alertness, agility and relational awareness, the pīwakawaka (fantail) provided the guiding metaphor for this research.

### Te Mana o te Reo Māori: Analysing Word Choice in Assessments Written in Māori

**Intern:** Mareikura Waiti (Te Rarawa, Te Aupōuri, Ngāti Pīkiao, Te Aitanga-a-Hauti) (UoA).

**Supervisor:** Dr Julia Wilson (Ngāti Rangitīhi (Te Arawa) (UoO).

Te Mana o Te Reo Māori internship was part of a broader research project aiming to support health science first year students at Te Whare Wānanga o Ōtākou to submit their assessments in te reo Māori. Using a set of health science mock assessment answers written in te reo, the aim was to provide a robust analysis of the different word choices, and to contribute to the development and sharing of translations for discipline specific terms.

### Ko Te Hua o te Rengarenga, He Maumaharatanga: Supporting the Archiving and Analysis of Māori Women's Leadership Histories

**Intern:** Kaitlyn McLean (Te Arawa, Tūhoe, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, Kāi Tahu) (UoO).

**Supervisor:** Associate Professor Mere Skerrett (Ngāi Tahu, Waikato/Maniapoto, Te Arawa, Ngāti Awa) (VUW).

Tātau tātau: Māori Women's Voices from the Twenty-First Century is a kaupapa Māori research project that celebrates and honours 75 years of Māori women's leadership, activism and service through the Māori Women's Welfare League. As part of this national commemorative effort, a rich archive of interviews was gathered from League members, life members and key partners, capturing their experiences, insights and aspirations from 1951 through to the present. The NPM internship offered a unique opportunity for a student to support the next phase of the project by synthesising and analysing this powerful collection of oral histories.



Associate Professor Mere Skerrett and Raumatī intern Kaitlyn McLean starting their project.

### Examining Tino Rangatiratanga in Post-Treaty Settlement Aotearoa Through the Matike Mai Reports

**Borin Intern:** Mairangi Campbell (Tūhoe, Ngāti Porou, Rongomaiwahine) (VUW).

**Supervisor:** Associate Professor Anaru Erueti (Ngā Ruahinerangi, Ngāti Ruanui, Āti Hau Nui a Pāpārangi, Ngāti Pākehā) (UoA).

This Borin-NPM internship examined claims that the Waitangi Tribunal has exceeded its original mandate by engaging with contemporary issues. By analysing Tribunal reports across its full history, the research showed that the Tribunal has never been limited to historical fact-finding alone. From its earliest reports, it has also acted as a watchdog over government decision-making and a contributor to policy development, demonstrating that its contemporary work reflects long-standing institutional roles rather than a recent expansion of mandate.

# He Hua Kua Puta

## Selected Outputs

**Funaki-Cole, Hine. (n.d.)** *Zine – Māmā reclaiming tūpuna knowledges for their tamariki*. TatouTatou. Org. <https://tatoutatou.org/mamazine/>

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**Harris, A., Leenen-Young, M., Harrison, N., & Meihana, W. (2025).** Whanaungatanga, teaching and connecting through responsibility and place. *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples*, 21(3), 478–486. <https://doi.org/10.1177/11771801251367818>

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**Jones, C., & Bargh, M. (Eds) (2025).** *Fifty years of the Waitangi Tribunal: Whakamana i te Tiriti*. Huia Publishers. <https://huia.co.nz/products/50-years-of-the-waitangi-tribunal>

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**Kokaua, J., Theodore, R., Naepi, S., Lucas, A., McAllister, T., Ruhe, T., Kukutai, T., Richards, R., Bowden, N., Nikora, L. W., & Kidman, J. (2025).** *Highly qualified Māori and Pacific Peoples in Aotearoa: A study of Māori and Pacific Peoples PhD graduates (2002–2023) using administrative data in the Integrated Data Infrastructure* (Te Arotahi Paper Series No. 8). Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga. <https://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/node/2280>

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**Meads, B. J. M. (2025).** Te tōrino haere whakamua, whakamuri: Spiral storytelling, Cousins (2021), and Māori screen adaptations. *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples*, 21(2), 236–244. <https://doi.org/10.1177/11771801251337771>

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**Raerino, K., Kiddle, R., Lipsham, M., & Berghan, J. (2025).** (Re)designing Māori Streets: Priorities and Pathways for Supporting Urban Aotearoa Street Design – White Paper (Version 1). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20076819>

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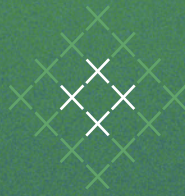
**Ka whakawhenua tātou i a tātou anō,  
kia toitū te noho tahi mō āke tonu atu**

*Research to influence positive change  
for healthy and meaningful lives*

# Pae Ora

— Living Well





Pae Ora is dedicated to fostering healthy, meaningful, and flourishing Māori lives. Central to this mission is the nurturing of strong relationships, the empowerment of whānau, and the integration of mātauranga Māori within wellbeing practices. Our 2025 portfolio reflects this commitment through a range of projects that both challenge the structures contributing to inequities and lay foundations for equitable and thriving Māori futures.

The portfolio spans improvements in clinical care, responses to critical social issues, and initiatives that strengthen cultural identity through te reo Māori and tikanga. We are particularly proud of the contributions from several early career researchers whose work is supporting the development of meaningful resources for whānau and communities. Collectively, these projects position Pae Ora as a rich and interconnected body of work that advances the application of Te Ao Māori knowledge to enhance wellbeing now and for future generations.

# Ngā Tīpako Highlights 2025

- ✦ NPM publishes groundbreaking study of the outcomes of nearly 1400 Māori and Pacific Peoples PhD graduates (2002–2023) using administrative data in the Integrated Data Infrastructure.
- ✦ Dr Jamie-Lee Rahiri wins 2025 L’Oreal UNESCO for Women in Science Award and four Māori academics are recognised at the inaugural Te Pae Huinga Manu Māori Research Excellence event at Waipapa Taumata Rau.
- ✦ Associate Professor Donna Cormack presents to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Geneva.



# Rangahau Research

## ❖ Kaupapa Mātāmua *Featured Work*

### Te Ara Pokanga o te Kiri – Patient experiences of apronectomy for excess skin removal following significant weight loss in Te Tairāwhiti

**Lead: Dr Jamie-Lee Rahiri** (Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Whātua ki Kaipara, Te Ātihaunui-a-Pāpāurangi) (UoA), with Professor Matire Harwood (Ngāpuhi) (UoA), Dr Samantha Grace (Te Whānau-a-Apanui, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāpuhi) (Te Whatu Ora), and Ms Atareta Mangu (Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Hine) (Te Puni Kōkiri).

In Te Tairāwhiti, a transformative research partnership has reshaped what equitable surgical care can look like for Māori communities. This year, an innovative project brought together by award winning Ngāti Porou doctor and surgical trainee Dr Jamie-Lee Rahiri and iwi research organisation Ngāti Porou Oranga explored the lived experiences of whānau who had undergone apronectomy surgery – a procedure to remove excess abdominal skin after major weight loss. The study emerged from kōrero with patients and whānau who shared their journeys, challenges and aspirations for a more culturally grounded, informed surgical pathway.

Access to apronectomy surgery within the public system is extremely limited, and Māori are disproportionately affected by these barriers. By positioning whānau experiences at the heart of the research, the project illuminated both the

inequities and the powerful potential for change. Through these stories, the team identified four key themes: 1) the apronectomy as part of a broader weight loss journey, 2) the physical and emotional burdens of living with excess skin, 3) the transformative impact of surgery, 4) and the ongoing challenges encountered during recovery.

Importantly, this research did more than document experiences – it led to action. Guided by Kaupapa Māori principles and grounded in pūrākau shared by whānau, the team co-designed new resources to support patients navigating the surgical pathway. These include a digital survey and an informative resource sheet designed to empower future patients and improve access and outcomes. These resources are now available to whānau in Te Tairāwhiti preparing for apronectomy surgery.

At the centre of this work is the adapted Hua Oranga Tool for Apronectomy Surgery, developed to strengthen whānau wellbeing throughout their surgical journey and promote equitable, informed care in the region. Traditionally, patients may receive only minimal preoperative information and very little material that reflects authentic Māori experiences or perspectives. This project directly addresses that gap.

By capturing and uplifting lived experiences, the project has created a platform for Māori voices to inform and transform surgical pathways. It stands as a powerful example of the impact Kaupapa Māori research can have in advancing equitable, culturally grounded healthcare, not only in Te Tairāwhiti but across Aotearoa New Zealand.



## ✦ Mahinga Hou *New Work*

### Social Wellbeing – Ngā whenu haumarū hei raranga

**Lead: Professor Bridgette Masters-Awatere** (Te Rarawa, Ngāi te Rangi, Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau) (UoW), with Dr Ririwai Fox (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, Ngāti Porou) (UoW), Dr Moana Rarere (Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Kahungunu, Tūhoe, Whakatōhea) (UoW), Rewi Nankivell (Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāpuhi, Waikato) (UoW), Dr Denise Blake, Dr Pita King (Te Rarawa), Dr Eleanor Brittain (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa and Ngāti Rakaipaaka), and Professor Darrin Hodgetts (Ngāi Tahu) (MU).

This multi-year research programme focuses on Māori approaches to social wellbeing, exploring innovative ways of building and sustaining collective wellbeing through meaningful connections. Applying Kaupapa Māori principles and a case study approach, the programme examines Te Ao Māori contributors (tikanga values including manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, kotahitanga) to mental health and suicide prevention, climate health and socio-environmental wellbeing.

The first case study will examine Te Ao Māori contributors and develop Māori-centred approaches to support rangatahi at risk of suicide distress; the second will develop methods to address climate-related health and disaster response challenges for vulnerable Māori whānau; and the third will investigate how Te Ao Māori contributors can create transformative kaitiaki pathways for socio-environmental connectedness and rangatahi wellbeing.



Professor Bridgette Masters-Awatere.

### He Whawhai Hou – A new struggle: Aotearoa perspectives on mass incarceration

**Lead: Dr Emmy Rākete** (Ngāpuhi, Te Rarawa) (UoA), with Professor Tracey McIntosh (Tūhoe) (UoA).

Over the past four decades, Aotearoa New Zealand has begun imprisoning people on an unprecedented scale, with Māori comprising at least half of the prison population and bearing the heaviest impacts of mass incarceration. This research project seeks to understand what issues in the justice system Māori communities are concerned with, how they understand those issues, and how social science can provide leadership to bring about positive social change. Through wānanga in Tāmaki Makaurau and Te Whanga-nui a Tara and interviews with key informants, the project is gathering community perspectives to inform academic publications, media outreach and reports for partner organisations for use in their campaigns. The research will be used as a pilot for a larger project, replicating the methods on a national scale, to develop a theory and praxis of struggle against racial injustice.

# Whakaaweawe Influencing transformation

## ❖ Wānanga Paetukutuku

### Lifeworlds Beyond The Degree

**Panellists:** Professor Moana Theodore, Associate Professor Jesse Kokaua, Associate Professor Sereana Naepi.

**Facilitator:** Professor Linda Waimarie Nikora.

In this webinar, NPM researchers presented their findings from the first comprehensive, population-level study examining the long-term outcomes of Māori and Pacific PhD graduates in Aotearoa New Zealand. The study, published by NPM, found that higher education confers significant private benefits for graduates, such as higher earnings and rates of employment, and generates wider social benefits for communities and society. Māori and Pacific Peoples are underrepresented and underserved within Aotearoa New Zealand universities, and experience persistent and entrenched inequities across education, health, justice and other social domains. However, gaining a higher education qualification has the potential to reduce disparities and has been a key Government strategy for improving Māori and Pacific Peoples' wellbeing.

**Watch here:** <https://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/index.php/node/2281>



(Clockwise from top left) Professor Linda Waimarie Nikora, Professor Moana Theodore, Associate Professor Jesse Kokaua, Associate Professor Sereana Naepi.

## ❖ Whakaaweawe Grants

### Tairāwhiti Waka, Tairāwhiti Tangata: Exploring Tairāwhiti Voyaging Philosophies

**Lead: Dr Ngahuia Mita** (Te Aitanga ā Mahaki, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Hako) (UoO).

This project created a resource booklet and prompt cards that translate Dr Ngahuia Mita’s research on Tairāwhiti voyaging philosophies into accessible tools for tamariki, rangatahi and the wider community. By transforming pūrākau waka into user-friendly formats, the project broadens engagement, strengthens cultural identity and wellbeing, and moves this knowledge beyond the confines of academia, returning it to the communities and the eyes and ears of those it was created by, with and for.



PHOTOGRAPH: ALLISON PREMISCHOOK

## Pukapuka Hanganga Reo Matatini: Ngā Kōrero O Te Aitanga A Mahaki Iwi

**Lead: Dr Karen Brewer** (Whakatōhea, Ngāiterangi) (UoA).

Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki has led the creation of Ngā Kōrero o Māhaki Reo Matatini, the first series of its kind to combine iwi kōrero tuku iho with structured literacy in te reo Māori. Designed for tamariki aged four to eight, these pukapuka are illustrated by iwi rangatahi and developed using the tuakana-taina pedagogy. They strengthen identity and foundational literacy, support neurodiverse learners, and address a significant gap in structured literacy materials available in Māori medium education. Free digital and printed resources ensure equitable access, enhance speech and literacy support, and demonstrate iwi-led innovation with national and global relevance.

## Māori Perinatal Mental Health

**Lead: Dr Cara Meredith** (Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha) (UoO).

This project translates Dr Cara Meredith's PhD research findings on Māori perinatal mental health into accessible resources for whānau and the health workforce. Outputs include open access publications to support system change and clinical practice improvements when working with Māori mothers and birthing parents.

To ensure research findings directly benefit whānau, a series of community-focused resources such as infographics, brochures, animations and gifted artwork have been produced and shared with the community. The animation incorporates a Kāi Tahu karakia composed specifically for wāhine, used with full consent from the composers.

## Te Rito o te Harakeke: Collective Resilience and Relational Research with Whānau Māori

**Lead: Dr Anna Adcock** (Ngāti Mutunga) (VUW).

This project supports the dissemination of He Tamariki Kokoti Tau, a longitudinal Kaupapa Māori study with whānau whose pēpi were born preterm. The Whakaaweawe grant enabled the presentation of key findings at the Indigenous Futures Unbound conference in Australia, amplifying Māori whānau experiences of resilience, aroha and Indigenous flourishing in global spaces. The grant also supported travel and engagement with Indigenous colleagues, helping extend research impact and inform the development of a new postdoctoral programme.

## Kia Kārohirohi te Wairua: Empowering Rangatahi Māori and Their Whānau to Understand, Nurture and Practise Wairuatanga to Support Wellbeing

**Lead: Dr Alana Haenga-O'Brien** (Ngāti Porou) (MU).

Kia Kārohirohi te Wairua explores how rangatahi Māori understand, experience, nurture and practise wairuatanga to support their wellbeing. It aims to deepen discussion and share findings in culturally meaningful ways through the production of a resource booklet and community and online presentations designed to empower rangatahi and support whānau, communities and practitioners. The project also highlights enablers and barriers to accessing mātauranga and tikanga wairua and contributes to systemic change by advocating their integration within healthcare provision.

## Ngāti Kuia: He Pūtake, Hei Pakiaka Ora; A History

**Lead: Dr Madi Williams** (Ngāti Kuia, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, Rangitāne o Wairau) (UoC).

The Whakaaweawe grant enabled Dr Madi Williams to complete her book that re-centres Ngāti Kuia history, addressing its absence and misrepresentation in existing narratives. The grant funded the creation of an index and enabled a book launch in the Ngāti Kuia rohe, ensuring the work is accessible to whānau, the wider community and academic audiences. The book provides a meaningful platform for Ngāti Kuia perspectives and serves as a map home for current and future generations.

## Māori Nurse Practitioners: Kaupapa Māori Workforce Development Realising Equity

**Lead: Josephine Davis** (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Whātua Orakei) (UoA).

The project explores the experiences of Māori registered nurses pursuing the nurse practitioner pathway and responds to the lack of a national framework supporting their development. It proposes a culturally grounded framework, created through Kaupapa Māori research and collaboration with Māori creatives, to strengthen Māori nurse workforce development. The framework aims to guide health providers in advancing equity in line with te Tiriti o Waitangi, the New Zealand Health Strategy 2023, and WAI 2575.

## Kai, Race, Data and Identity: Sharing Insights from Doctoral Research

**Lead: Dr Hannah Rapata** (Kāi Tahu, Ngāti Rahiri Tumutumu) (TWOA).

The project translates the findings of Dr Hannah Rapata's PhD research Kai Ora, Piki Ora into accessible resources for academic and non-academic audiences. Dr Hannah Rapata will produce peer-reviewed publications along with infographics and visual summaries to support knowledge uptake by whānau, hapū, iwi, policymakers and practitioners. Together, these outputs aim to support the translation of evidence into practice to improve Māori public health and nutrition outcomes.



## ❖ He Pitopito Kōrero *In the News*

### **The Rise of Our Māori and Pacific Doctors**

Professor Melinda Webber, co-director of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, says research reveals how Māori and Pacific PhD graduates contribute to stronger communities, improved wellbeing and reduced inequalities across Aotearoa. Story originally published on waateanews.com.

### **Can Canada and the US Guide the Way on Indigenous Child Protection?**

Dr Luke Fitzmaurice-Brown and Kaea Hudson discuss the Oranga Tamariki Amendment Bill and compare what is happening in the USA and Canada regarding Indigenous rights of children. <https://thespinoff.co.nz/atea/20-02-2025/can-canada-and-the-us-guide-the-way-on-indigenous-child-protection>

### **24 Years of Life Lost: People in State Care Have Died Earlier**

A new study, authored by Dr Belinda Borell and Jose S. Romeo, has revealed the lasting and damaging consequences for children placed in state care between 1950 and 1999. <https://theconversation.com/24-years-of-life-lost-people-placed-in-state-care-have-died-earlier-more-violent-deaths-new-study-248540>

### **Lowering the Eligibility Age for Bowel Screening**

Longtime NPN researcher Dr Elana Curtis has been among several prominent voices raising the alarm about the Government's decision to lower the eligibility age for bowel cancer screening tests to 58. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/mapuna/audio/2018979984/dr-elana-curtis>

### **Marae Visits Highlight Urgent Need for Dementia Support in Remote Māori Communities**

Dr Makarena Dudley is determined to take mate wareware education to Māori communities because people with the condition are suffering without support. <https://www.stuff.co.nz/nz-news/360748765/marae-visits-highlight-urgent-need-dementia-support-remote-maori-communities>

# Ngā Amokapua Rangahau ā Mua Future Research Leaders

## ❖ Te Kupenga o MAI Alumni

### Jordon Lima

Ngāti Porou, Te Aitanga a Hauiti, Ngāpuhi (UoO).

Jordon Lima's passion for biomedical research and Māori health is coming together as she embarks on a major new project to establish a molecular biology laboratory in Te Tairāwhiti to enable in-community cancer-specific screening tests.

Jordon was an active and enthusiastic member of Te Kupenga o MAI network while undertaking her PhD at the University of Otago. Her dedication to her mahi and innovative approach has seen her receive a 2025 University of Otago Health Sciences Māori Postdoctoral Fellowship. With support from the Mātai Research Centre in Gisborne, Jordan's project will see her partnering with existing health care providers to trial blood-based tumour DNA testing as a less invasive diagnostic tool for bowel cancer. The goal is to develop simple, community-run diagnostics that could transform early cancer detection and improve health equity. Deeply connected to her home in Te Tairāwhiti, Jordon continues to champion community-led, equitable health research through strong partnerships across clinical, academic, community, council, and education sectors.

*"I attended my first Te Kupenga o MAI conference in April 2021, just months before beginning my PhD in Biomedical Sciences and Māori Studies. Te Kupenga o MAI became an invaluable space of aroha, tautoko and manaaki throughout my doctoral journey – a place where I could wānanga with excellent scholars and grow in both my taha Māori and my confidence as a researcher. Being able to engage with academics who used similar Kaupapa Māori methodologies empowered me to pursue what became a unique interdisciplinary thesis, weaving together Biomedical Sciences and Māori Studies. I am deeply grateful to the Te Kupenga o MAI whānau for fostering me throughout this journey, and I look forward to giving back to this community in the years ahead."*

– JORDON LIMA, CANCER RESEARCHER



## ❖ PhDs Submitted

### Te Heke o Kaiamio: Kāi Tahu Wāhine and Gender Diverse Stories of Navigating Gender, Sexuality, and Identity

**Student:** Ahinata Kaitai-Mullane (Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha) (VUW).

**Supervisor:** Dr Annie Te One (VUW).

## ❖ 2025/2026 Raumati Internships

### Articulations of Honourable Kāwanatanga from Submissions Opposed to the Defeated Treaty of Waitangi Principles Bill 2025

**Borrin Legal Summer Intern:** Kahukura Jones (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairoa) (UoA).

**Supervisors:** Adjunct Associate Professor Clive Aspin (Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Whanaunga, Ngāti Tamaterā) (VUW) and Adjunct Professor Heather Came (Pākehā) (VUW).

Contratulations to NPM Borrin Legal Summer intern Kahukura Jones, who also won the Raumati Internship Competition for 2025/2026.



Kahukura Jones

### Whare Tangata Ora: A Whakapapa Informed Review of Mātauranga Māori And Literature

**Intern:** Eilensia Williams-Ransfield (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga) (VUW).

**Supervisor:** Dr Deanna Haami (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Tapuika, Tūhourangi, Te Wainui a Rua, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Maru ki Hauraki) (MU).

### Ngā Pou Māreikura: Mapping Literature to Wāhine Māori Wellbeing and Belonging

**Intern:** Denise Paora (Te Aupōuri, Ngāti Kahu) (AUT).

**Supervisor:** Associate Professor Deborah Heke (Ngāpuhi, Te Arawa) (UNITEC).

### Pharmacist Precepting for Cultural Safety in Aotearoa New Zealand

**Intern:** Maria Reti (Ngāti Kahungunu ki te Whanganui-a-Orotu, Ngāti Hineuru, Tūhoe) (UoO).

**Supervisor:** Dr Lisa Kremer (Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha) (UoO).

# He Hua Kua Puta

## Selected Outputs

**Cormack, D. (2025).** *116th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination New Zealand's 23rd and 24th periodic CERD review. Shadow report* (UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies, p. 20). [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCERD%2FNGO%2FNZL%2F66481&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCERD%2FNGO%2FNZL%2F66481&Lang=en)

**Hetarakā, M., & Hemara, R. (2025).** Lessons from Te Tai Tokerau taiohi for teachers who want to see and change their racial biases. *MAI Journal: A New Zealand Journal of Indigenous Scholarship*, 14(2), 164–176. <https://doi.org/10.20507/MAIJournal.2025.14.2.3>

**Kohere-Smiler, N.-M., & Brewer, K. (2025a).** *Ko Horouta*. Kereru Publishing. <https://read.bookcreator.com/jjzTDYwHzYUrjUUAzWeVGKj7CMu2/lboTfXUvRimK6mhGwg8Giw>

**Kohere-Smiler, N.-M., & Brewer, K. (2025b).** *Ko Māhaki*. Kereru Publishing. <https://read.bookcreator.com/jjzTDYwHzYUrjUUAzWeVGKj7CMu2/l2tpEsrEQnegNx2HuGTaTw>

**Kohere-Smiler, N.-M., & Brewer, K. (2025c).** *Ko Tarakiuta rāua ko Tarakitai*. Kereru Publishing. <https://read.bookcreator.com/jjzTDYwHzYUrjUUAzWeVGKj7CMu2/zZ-jtisHSku51Tn6yDg2RA>

**Meredith, C., Haitana, T., McKerchar, C., & Pitama, S. (2025).** “They were my anchors” Māori with perinatal mental illness identify culturally safe and clinically excellent health care. *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 24(1), Article 226. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-025-02592-2>

**Meredith, C., Haitana, T., McKerchar, C., & Pitama, S. (2025).** Kotahitanga – connection, unity, and belonging: Perspectives of Māori mothers on a kaupapa Māori group intervention for perinatal mental health. *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples*, 21(2), 204–215. <https://doi.org/10.1177/11771801251334500>

**Rapata, H. (2025).** A Kaupapa Māori review of Māori food data within national health surveys in Aotearoa New Zealand. *Journal of Global Indigeneity*, 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.54760/001c.146713>

**Rout, M., Spiller, C., Reid, J., Mika, J., & Haar, J. (2025).** Māori economies and wellbeing economy strategies: A cognitive convergence? *Local Economy: The Journal of the Local Economy Policy Unit*, 39(3–4), 165–186. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02690942251323559>

**Smith, H. (2025).** Toi Ora, Whatuora: Exploring whatu pedagogy and wellbeing. *MAI Journal: A New Zealand Journal of Indigenous Scholarship*, 14(2), 141–151. <https://doi.org/10.20507/MAIJournal.2025.14.2.1>





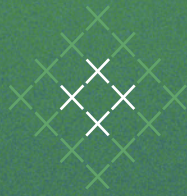
**Ka whakawhenua tātou i a tātou anō,  
kia toitū te noho tahi mō āke tonu atu**

*Research to influence positive change  
for healthy and meaningful lives*

# Pae Tawhiti

— Living Lightly





Pae Tawhiti enables research into healthy, liveable environments and meaningful livelihoods, with a strong whānau focus. Our research considers alternative economic models and laws driven by Māori values that recognise and support Māori forms of participation and engagement. Dramatic shifts in the nature of work require different and more portable skill sets and the removal of societal impediments. Strengthening the capacity of whānau to be self-determining and self-sufficient in their daily lives is key.

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*“To truly unlock Māori economic potential,  
we need to stop treating Indigenous business as niche.  
The evidence is there, whānau enterprise is already  
delivering the kind of transformation we want to see.”*

*– Professor Jason Mika*

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# Ngā Tīpako Highlights 2025

- ✦ Over 20 conference presentations, guided tours, public talks and exhibitions across Aotearoa New Zealand and overseas.
- ✦ Deepening partnerships with iwi, councils, government agencies and sector organisations, using research to inform regional climate strategies, urban planning practice and Māori wellbeing economy policy discussions.
- ✦ Innovative Indigenous-led methods and tools, from species distribution models and rapid habitat assessment techniques for tuangi, to kaupapa Māori wellbeing economy frameworks and creative documentary practice for moana conservation.
- ✦ Strong capacity and capability building, with multiple research fellows, postgraduate students, interns and community researchers supported.



# Rangahau Research

## ❖ Kaupapa Mātāmua *Featured Work*

### Toitū He Kāinga: Healthy Environmental Relationships in Urban Settings

**Lead: Professor Michelle Thompson-Fawcett** (Ngāti Whātua) (UoO), with Dr Robin Quigg (Raukawa, Ngāti Tamaterā) (UoO), Dr James Berghan (Te Rarawa, Te Aupōuri) (TWoA), Dr Crystal Victoria Olin (UoO), Els Russell (Ngāti Maru), Corrigan Millar (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa), and Kaila Tawera (Ngāti Porou) (UoO).

Award-winning Professor Michelle Thompson-Fawcett is the driving force behind one of NPM's first multi-year research programmes: Toitū he Kāinga. Her interdisciplinary team is advancing new approaches at the intersection of Indigenous urban planning and environmental sustainability while building workforce capability, deepening community partnerships, and ensuring findings reach end-users.

The programme has several strands. *Indigenising urban planning, professional pathways and policy uptake* explores how Māori identity and rangatiratanga shape quality of life, and how Māori young people perceive and experience their urban environments. This research demonstrates how incorporating Māori histories, narratives and practices strengthens quality of life, identity, wellbeing and self-determination for tangata whenua living in cities.

*Nourishing greenspaces, parks and Treaty-based planning* focuses on Māori relationships with parks, reserves and green spaces. Researchers work closely with mana whenua and regional council kaimahi to ensure the research findings are relevant and put into practice.

In *Decolonising urban areas and sustainable kāinga*, students have co-designed marae, papakāinga and hauora-based urban landscapes with whānau and hapū. The team also designed a participatory tool for housing research that integrates Māori and Indigenous perspectives.



Toitū he Kāinga researchers collaborated with designers of Te Whare Wānanga o Ōtākou's Te Rangihiroa College, supporting the incorporation of mana whenua and Ngāti Mutunga narratives into the building's design. Photograph: NPM

## Key achievements

- *Publications.* 14 articles, theses and portfolios have been published or are in press, and an edited book is under way. The Toitū He Kāinga National Poetry Competition will contribute creative work to the book, enhancing engagement with Māori relationships in urban environments.
- *Capacity and capability building.* The programme has supported 13 students, including eight master's students who have produced a stunning array of theses on varied topics including kāinga nui, hauora-based urban design and whenua-based housing, Māori experiences of urban spaces, and food sovereignty.
- *Knowledge translation and research impact.* Senior researchers and students have worked closely with mana whenua, practitioners and policymakers to bridge the gap between research and real-world use. Graduates now work in planning roles in New Plymouth and Wellington City Council, taking Toitū he Kāinga insights into everyday planning practice. At Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka, a master's thesis on rangatahi Māori urban experiences has been taken up by the Sustainability Office, Campus Planning Office and DVC Māori to support improved planning for tauira Māori on campus.
- *Outreach.* Researchers have given talks, presentations and keynotes in local, iwi, national and international forums. Professor Thompson-Fawcett was an invited panellist for a webinar hosted by the Sustainability Society on what future urban centres could look like if we used Māori urbanism to plan for Aotearoa 2050.

**Watch here:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=at\\_8JLZ1x54](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=at_8JLZ1x54).

## Te Rangianiwaniwa a te Harakeke

**Lead: Angela Kilford** (Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairoa, Te Whānau a Kai) (MU), with Sonya Withers (Sama'i, Falelatai, Sāmoa) (MU), Tanya Ruka (Ngāti Pakau, Ngāpuhi) (VUW), Briar Moffat (Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Tukorehe) (Te Whare Kotare), William Xu (MU), David Lun (passed away) (MU), Allly Ataria (Ngāti Raukawa) (MU), Julia Hope (Independent), Huhana Smith (Ngāti Tukorehe, Ngāti Raukawa) (MU), Faith Kane (MU), and Mark Waterland.

A fascinating Matakiteanga research project is deploying mātauranga harakeke, textile practice, and chemistry to restore Indigenous dye traditions through a living wetland laboratory. Led by artist and researcher Angela Kilford in partnership with Ngāti Tukorehe, the team has hosted wānanga at a restored pā harakeke, bringing together tikanga-based hauhake, habitat restoration, and communal dye making.



(L-R) Muka fibre dyed with mānuka (plant material from industry waste). Dye extracts derived from mānuka and harakeke ready to send to the lab. Photographs: A. Kilford



Pā harakeke clean up during Wānanga, Te Hakari Wetland, Kuku, Horowhenua. Photograph: A. Kilford

Crude dye extracts from harakeke and mānuka by-product streams are being analysed to identify colour compounds and tannins, while iwi and hapū participants deepen their connection to whenua and kaitiaki responsibilities. Next steps include producing woven samples for iwi evaluation and sharing findings through exhibitions, publications and wānanga. The goal is to support chemical-free, tikanga-grounded textile practices for future generations.

## ✦ Mahinga Hou *New Work*

### Kaitiakitanga: On the Philosophical Foundations of Indigenous Climate Activism in Aotearoa

**Lead: Associate Professor Krushil Watene** (Ngāti Manu, Te Hikutu, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, Tonga) (UoA), with Dr Marco Grix (UoA).

This new project aims to strengthen Māori leadership in climate decision-making and bring Indigenous perspectives into national and global climate debates. It does so by examining how kaitiakitanga underpins Māori climate activism in theory and practice. Working in close partnership with Ngāti Manu, the team will explore how responsibilities to act for the climate are grounded in relationships between people, whenua, wai and other beings, and how these responsibilities are expressed through diverse forms of activism, from marae-based regeneration to artistic practice and public protest.

Using kaupapa Māori and Indigenous methodologies, the research combines philosophical analysis with qualitative interviews with Māori scholars, community activists, rangatahi leaders, climate artists, and legal and policy experts. Wānanga with Ngāti Manu guide the research, ensuring community priorities shape research questions, interpretation and outcomes. Findings will inform a major symposium on Indigenous climate activism and a collaboratively written policy statement on kaitiakitanga and climate justice.

## Mana Ngahere: The Past, Present and Future of Māori Forestry

**Lead: Professor Carla Houkamau** (Te Whānau o Tūwhakairiora, Ngāti Porou; Ngāti Kere, Ngāti Kahungunu; Ngāti Hateatea, Kāi Tahu) (UoA), with Robert Pouwhare (Ngāi Tūhoe) (UoA), and Professor Jason Mika (Ngāi Tūhoe, Ngāti Awa, Te Whakatōhea, Ngāti Kahungunu ki te Wairoa) (UoA).

Developed in partnership with Ngā Pou a Tāne, the National Māori Forestry Association, this project investigates a key paradox in Aotearoa's forestry sector: while Māori now own a significant share of commercial forest land and make up a large proportion of the workforce, they remain underrepresented in governance and senior leadership. The research asks how Māori can fully realise the potential of their growing forestry ownership while balancing commercial imperatives with mana, mauri and kaitiakitanga.

The team will combine interviews with Māori forestry leaders, workers and policy influencers with archival research and case studies, including the Central North Island “Treelords” settlement and emerging initiatives such as the Tōtara Industry Pilot. Wānanga hosted with Ngā Pou a Tāne will shape the analysis and ensure the work reflects iwi and hapū aspirations.

The primary output will be a book *Mana Ngahere: The past, present, and future of Māori forestry*, to be published by Auckland University Press. It will serve as a foundational resource for Māori forestry owners, policymakers, students and practitioners seeking tikanga-grounded, mātauranga Māori-informed pathways towards just and sustainable forestry futures.



Renewable pine forestry on Matakana Island Tauranga, New Zealand.  
Photograph: Brian Scantlebury, Shutterstock

## ❖ Kaupapa Kua Porotutuki *Completed Work*

### He Oranga Whānau: Mahi Ngātahi – Whānau Livelihoods within the Context of Work and Māori Economies of Wellbeing

**Lead: Professor Chellie Spiller** (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairoa) (UoW) with Professor Jarrod Haar (Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Mahuta) (AUT), Dr John Reid (Ngāti Pikiao, Tainui) (MU), Professor Jason Mika (Tūhoe, Ngāti Awa, Whakatōhea, Ngāti Kahungunu) (UoA), Tāne Karamaina (Ngāti Whanaunga (Pare Hauraki), Ngāti Apakura (Pare Waikato), Te Rarawa) (UoW), Te Ata-a-rua Hansen-Cribb (Ngāti Ranginui) (UoW), and Xiaoliang Niu (Han Chinese) (UoW).

### Understanding and Enhancing Climate and Oranga/Wellbeing Research

**Lead: Te Weu Charitable Trust with Natasha Koia** (Ngāti Porou), Renee Raroa (Ngāti Porou) Naomi Simmonds (Raukawa), and Dr Teah Carlson (Te Whānau-a-Apanui, Ngāti Porou) (MU).

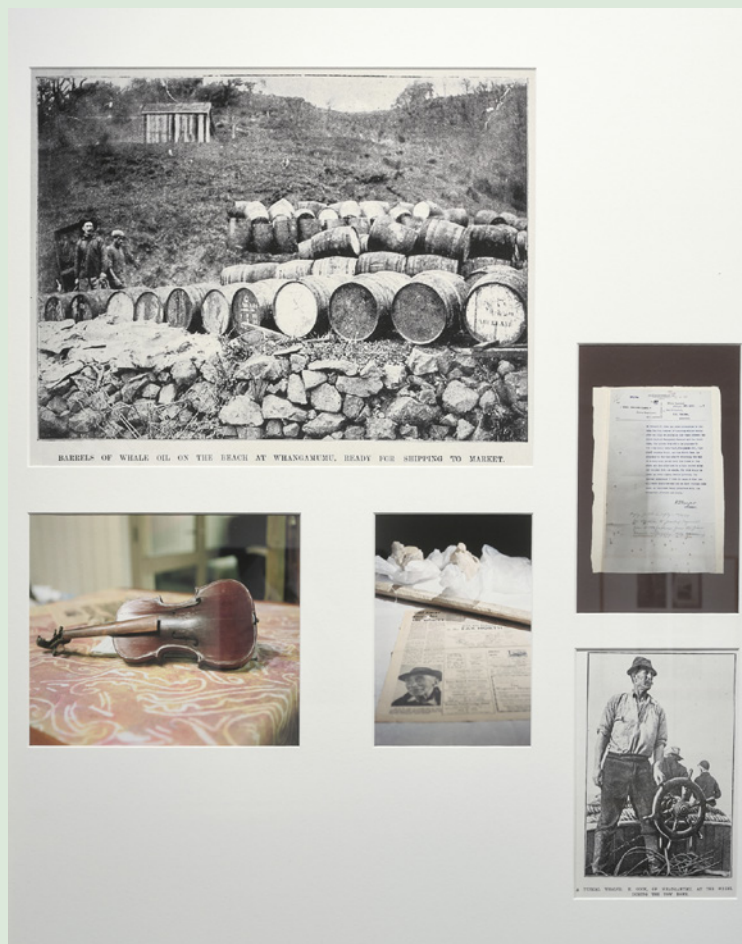
# Whakaaweawe Influencing Transformation

## ❖ Whakaaweawe Grants

### Ngā Pōito i te Kupenga o Toi te Huatahi (The Floats in the Net of Toi te Huatahi)

**Lead: Dr Ngahuia Harrison** (Ngātiwai, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Pukenga) (UoA).

Dr Ngahuia Harrison’s Ngā Pōito i te Kupenga o Toi te Huatahi (The Floats in the Net of Toi te Huatahi) is a creative-led project grounded in Ngātiwai relationships with Te Moananui o Toi, the ocean territory known as Te Kupenga. Working with the whale as a guiding figure, Harrison uses photography, moving image and exhibition-making to explore inter-species relationships with ngā ika nui o te moana and to record mātauranga-ā-Ngātiwai. Interviews with Ngātiwai kaumātua were recorded, translated and shaped into a documentary for a solo exhibition “Te Kupenga” at Whangārei Art Museum, with a second showing planned for Christchurch Art Gallery. Full interviews and visual works are being returned to Ngātiwai as enduring resources, supporting future work on ngā pōito, Aotea whaling histories and fishing grounds.



“Ngā Pōito i te Kupenga o Toi te Huatahi” was exhibited at Te Kupenga at Whangārei Art Museum in 2025.

## ❖ Wānanga Paetukutuku

### Towards Māori Economies of Wellbeing

**Panellists:** Professor Chellie Spiller, Professor Jason Mika, Dr Matthew Rout, Professor Jarrod Haar, Xioaliang Niu and Tane Karamaina.

**Facilitator:** Dr Shaun Awatere.

This webinar discussed themes emerging from the NPM research programme Te Ahunga atu ki ngā Ōhanga Oranga Māori / Towards Māori Wellbeing Economies, led by Professor Chellie Spiller. The webinar focused on how reconnecting with traditional values – kaupapa, tikanga and collective leadership – can drive economic transformation from the inside out. Among other things the webinar explored how whānau navigate work and livelihoods while nurturing a wellbeing-based economy grounded in Te Ao Māori. It highlights insights and lived experiences, revealing the strength of grassroots, whānau-centred approaches.

**Watch here:** <https://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/index.php/node/2291>

## ❖ He Pitopito Kōrero *In the News*

### Ōhiwa Harbour's Restoration Heralded as a Triumph for Māori-Led Campaign

Working with community and council partners, marine scientist Professor Kura Paul-Burke and team help turn the tide for Ōhiwa Harbour's mussel population. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/te-manu-korihi/558032/ohiwa-harbour-restoration-heralded-as-triumph-for-maori-led-campaign>

### Graeme Atkins Leads Land Restoration Efforts

NPM researcher and conservation expert Graeme Atkins leads work to stop further land erosion on the East Coast. <https://waateanews.com/2025/04/16/graeme-atkins-leads-land-restoration-efforts/>

### Budget Breakdown with Professor Jason Mika

Professor Jason Mika unpacks the 2025 Budget, highlighting which tax, spending and investment decisions are likely to have the biggest impact on Māori businesses and enterprises. <https://waateanews.com/2025/05/23/jason-mika-professor-of-maori-business-at-te-raupapa-waikato-management-school/>

### Study Finds Whānau Businesses Offer Path to Success for Māori

A new 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/te-manu-korihi/568364/study-finds-whanau-businesses-offer-path-to-economic-success-for-maori>

### Marae Resilience Research Takes to the Global Stage

Haukapuanui Vercoe's groundbreaking research Adaptations of Marae for Natural Hazards Resilience earns him the prestigious 2025 New Zealand Esri Young Scholar Award. <https://www.teaonews.co.nz/2025/08/25/marae-resilience-research-takes-the-global-stage/>

### Kotahitanga Fund and Ōhanga Ki Te Ao Indigenous Economic Summit

Professor Matt Roskrige comments on the announcement by Te Arikinui Kuini Ngawai hono i te po on a \$30 million Kotahitanga Fund. Story originally published on [waateanews.com](https://www.waateanews.com).

# Ngā Amokapua Rangahau ā Mua Future Research Leaders

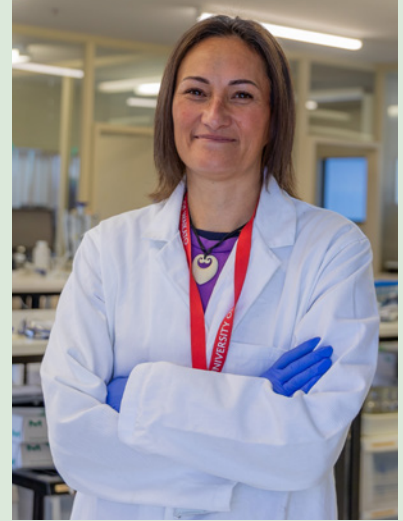
## ❖ Te Kupenga o MAI Alumni

### Kiri Reihana

Ngāpuhi, Te Rarawa, Ngāi Tūhoe, Whakatōhea (UoW).

Marine biologist and PhD candidate Kiri Reihana combines mātauranga Māori, marine science and technology to safeguard tuangi (cockles) in Ōhiwa Harbour. Her doctoral research responds to kaumātua concerns about the scarcity of legal-size tuangi and the implications for manaakitanga, whānau wellbeing and kaitiakitanga. For mana whenua, the harbour is a living ancestor whose health is inseparable from the people who gather kai from its sands.

Working in partnership with iwi, hapū, councils and scientists, Kiri weaves multiple evidence bases to understand change over time and support iwi-led decision-making. Field surveys, species distribution modelling and tohu-based rapid assessment tools are used to map tuangi populations, identify stressors and predict the best locations for restoration. Her findings confirm that harvestable tuangi have been scarce since the 1980s, signalling an urgent need for integrated, tikanga-grounded shellfish management that respects rāhui, supports mana motuhake and sustains future generations' access to this culturally significant kai moana and wider harbour ecosystems. As an NPM PhD scholar and L'Oréal UNESCO For Women in Science mentoring fellow, Kiri helps to shape estuarine co-management approaches that centre Indigenous leadership in marine decision-making.



**Read more:** <https://www.waikato.ac.nz/study/student-success-stories/kiri-reihana/>

*“The Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga scholarship constituted far more than financial support for me; it represented a critical investment that enabled me to investigate complex research questions and extend both my own knowledge and that of the associated iwi and hapū concerning the tuangi within Ōhiwa Harbour. This support afforded me the necessary time and intellectual space to navigate my newly identified challenges associated with my dyslexia. . . its impact on both my academic journey and personal development has been profoundly transformative.” – KIRI REIHANA*

## ❖ 2025/2026 Raumati Internships

### Hāpai te Hauora: Breathing Your Ancestors Into Life

**Intern:** Kelly Wilson (Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Ranginui) (MU).

**Supervisor:** Dr Teah Carlson (Te Whānau a Apanui, Ngāti Porou, Waikato-Tainui) (MU).

### He Aha te Utu mo Te Kai? Exploring the Economic Benefits of Kai Sovereignty

**Intern:** Anahera Whaanga-Smith (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Porou, Rongomaiwahine) (UoO).

**Supervisor:** Dr Kenneth Taiapa (Ngāti Porou, Rongowhakaata) (UoO).

# He Hua Kua Puta

## Selected Outputs

**Berghan, J. F. C., Adcock, A., & Tawhai, S. (2025).** The HOMING method: A participatory interview tool integrating Indigenous perspectives in housing research. *Frontiers in Research Metrics and Analytics*, 10. <https://doi.org/10.3389/frma.2025.1620770>

**Berghan, J. F. C., Morrison, K., & Pou, V. (2025).** Ka mua, ka muri: Designing whenua-based kāinga for a climate-resilient future. *Scope: Tīrou*, 1(September), 40–50. <https://doi.org/10.34074/scop.7001004>

**Doyle, C., & Thompson-Fawcett, M. (2025).** Insurgent Indigenous practices and the guardianship of cultural landscapes. In K. D. Silva, K. Taylor, & D. S. Jones (Eds.), *A research agenda for landscape studies of planning* (pp. 75–90). Edward Elgar. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781803929705.00011>

**Jolly, D., & Thompson-Fawcett, M. (2025).** Explaining variability in cultural impact assessment outcomes: Insights from Aotearoa New Zealand. *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal*, 43(5), 327–337. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14615517.2025.2555110>

**Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga. (2025).** *Climate Change Risks and Solutions for Māori* [Arowhānui Paper, Te Arotahi Policy Paper Series No. 10]. <https://doi.org/10.20507/tearotahi.arowhanui.2025.010>

**Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga. (2025).** *Towards Māori Wellbeing Economies* [Aropū Paper, Te Arotahi Policy Paper Series No. 9]. <https://doi.org/10.20507/tearotahi.aropu.2025.009>

**Quigg, R., & Russell, E. (2025).** Indigenous rights and managed public land: A critical treaty analysis of parks and reserves in New Zealand. *Local Environment*, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13549839.2025.2543308>

**Reihana, K., Paul-Burke, K., Ellis, J., Bulmer, R., Burke, J., O'Brien, T., & Bluett, C. (2025).** Ko Ōhiwa E (Our Ōhiwa), How weaving knowledges is shaping marine research in Ōhiwa Harbour. *Journal of Ocean Technology*, 20(4), 80–107. <https://doi.org/10.48336/P8KD-OT92>

**Russell, E., Quigg, R., & MacDonald, H. (2025).** A scoping review exploring the relationships between Indigenous peoples and parks and reserves: Just more colonial structures. *Settler Colonial Studies*, 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2201473X.2025.2594504>

**Spiller, C., Rout, M., Haar, J., Mika, J., Reid, J., Karamaina, T., & Niu, X. (2025).** *Te ahunga atu ki ngā ōhanga oranga Māori: Towards Māori economies of wellbeing. Ngā whānau i te pokapū o te oranga.* The University of Waikato in partnership with Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga. <https://maorieconomy.co.nz/downloads/Towards%20M%C4%81ori%20Wellbeing%20Economies%20Review%20%E2%80%93%20Spiller%20et%20al.pdf>

Thompson-Fawcett, M. (2025). Indigenous futurities: Māori planning histories and ingenuity. In L. Andres, Y. Beebeejaun, & Y. Rydin (Eds.), *New planning histories. Planning, environment, cities* (pp. 105–124). Palgrave Macmillan. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-96-3867-3\\_7](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-96-3867-3_7)





**Whakaumutia te whakaaro,  
whakaumutia te hangarau,  
whakaumutia te ao**

*Nurture wise and ethical Māori  
technological transformations*

# Pae Auaha

— Living Smartly





Pae Auaha research is focused on securing the technological foundations for flourishing Māori futures. It explores what tikanga-informed digital, data and technology systems look like in practice; develops tools that support te reo Māori and mātauranga revitalisation and builds ethical frameworks to guide Māori technological futures.

Because the digital technology field moves quickly and demands a wide range of expertise, Pae Auaha brings together researchers across digital and advanced technologies, social sciences, arts, tikanga, te reo and mātauranga. Innovation and creativity are at its heart.

In 2025, Pae Auaha research continued to grow with numerous Matakiteanga projects getting underway. Our researchers regularly appeared in the media, providing evidence-based commentary on pressing issues from artificial intelligence to census transformation and the future of iwi data. A significant milestone was reached with the Global Indigenous Data Sovereignty Conference (GIDSov) in Canberra, marking a decade since the first Indigenous data sovereignty (IDSov) forum convened by Professor Tahu Kukutai and Emeritus Professor John Taylor. NPM researchers across the motu also helped to organise events to advance IDSov locally.

# Ngā Tīpako Highlights 2025

- ✦ NPM researchers provide evidence-based advocacy for IDSov and Māori data sovereignty (MDSov) in Aotearoa New Zealand and overseas.
- ✦ Senior NPM researchers continue to receive awards for their eminent and sustained contributions. Professor Tahu Kukutai won the prestigious Te Rangi Hiroa Medal and Professor Te Taka Keegan was named Living Icon at the Te Hapori Matihiko awards.
- ✦ Pou Pae Auaha Dr Daniel Wilson and other NPM researchers convened and presented at NPM co-sponsored training programme Indigidata Aotearoa.
- ✦ A large Māori contingent attended the GIDSov conference in Canberra marking the 10-year anniversary of the first IDSov forum.



# Rangahau Research

## ❖ Kaupapa Mātāmua *Featured Work*

### Activating Māori Research Data Sovereignty (MDSov)

**Lead: Dr Kiri West** (Ngāti Marutūahu, Ngāti Whaanga) (UoA) with Dr Paul Brown (Tainui, Ngāti Hikairo) (UoW), Dr Maree Sheehan (Ngāti Maniapoto-Waikato, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Tahu Ngāti Whaoa, Raukawa) (TWOA), Associate Professor Te Taka Keegan (Waikato-Maniapoto, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Whakaue) (UoW), Dr Daniel Wilson (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Pūkiao) (UoA), Dr Tracey Maniapoto (UoA), Larissa Renfrew (Te Rarawa, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Paoa, Tainui) (UoA), Ammon Hāwea Apiata (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Toarangatira, Ngāti Koata), Te Mihinga Komene (Waikato-Maniapoto, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Pūkiao, Ngāti Porou) (TWOA), Dr Hannah Rapata (Kāi Tahu, Ngāti Rahiri Tūmutumu) (UoA), and Dr Dion O’Neale (Tauīwi) (Nicholson Consulting).

Universities generate, store and retain large amounts of Māori data during their research activities, yet there is little visible evidence of institutions enabling MDSov with respect to these taonga. The current situation is that mainstream universities operate as gatekeepers with respect to Māori research data in all its forms, and knowledge is often regarded as a commodity that can be utilised to gain further

funding and institutional prestige. Under these kinds of practices and institutional incentives, this knowledge is often not readily accessible to the people to whom the mātauranga belongs or to those whom the research may involve.

Dr Kiri West is leading a research programme, alongside Dr Paul Brown and Dr Maree Sheehan, exploring MDSov in universities. The programme has three broad objectives:

- to explore the potential for algorithmic methods to identify and locate Māori research data held within a university
- to develop and implement Māori governance over Māori research data, and
- to connect communities (kaitiaki) to their data (taonga) so that they can make decisions about it and benefit from it.

Dr West describes the programme as focused on dismantling the “complex of failure” that currently exists within universities. By challenging research norms and institutional requirements that sit in tension with MDSov, the programme aims to develop and put into practice the processes, tools and mechanisms that enable Māori research data to be used by Māori and their communities, on their own terms and in pursuit of their own aspirations.



## ❖ Mahinga Hou *New Work*

### Hand Made: Crafting the Future of More Inclusive Prosthetics

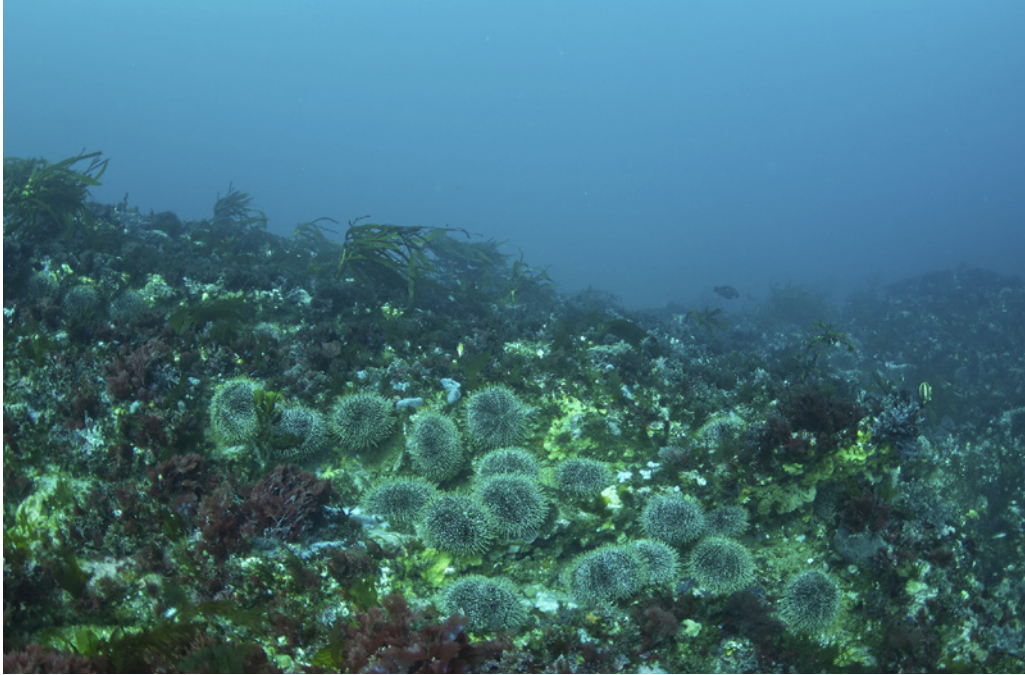
**Lead: Dr Mahonri Owen** (Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Tūwharetoa) (UoW) with Dr Sandi Ringham (Ngāti Kuri) (UoW), and Luke August (Muaūpoko) (UoW).

Additive manufacturing technology (3D printing) can be used to accelerate the design and development process, reduce material waste, minimise cost and create personalised solutions for challenges faced in industry. One powerful example of 3D printing use is the development of personalised, affordable and functional prosthetic devices.

Dr Mahonri Owen's research explores how we can use rapid manufacturing techniques like 3D printing to improve health outcomes. Critical to his project is the application of traditional knowledge (particularly the pūrākau of Hineahuone) in guiding the material choice for prosthetic development. His project, undertaken alongside Dr Sandi Ringham and Luke August, tests the feasibility of designing and developing a prosthetic device from harakeke by leveraging the advantages of 3D printing. This approach is new and novel with the potential to overcome some of the challenges identified with prosthetic rejection.



Dr Mahonri Owen is developing prosthetic limbs created from harakeke fibre.  
 Photograph: Royal Society Te Apārangi



## He Taonga Tuku Iho: Evaluating Tohu Taiao and Ecological Indicators for Kina within Coastal Ecosystem-Based Management

**Lead: Dr Ani Kainamu** (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahu ki Whangaroa), alongside Shaun Nuku (Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Ruanui, Ngā Ruahinerangi, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Tūwhareroa), Professor Chris Hepburn and the dive and diving research team (Ngāi Tahu, Tangata Tiaki, Tangata Tiriti).

Across Te Tai-o-Araiteuru, spanning the coastal rohe between the Waitaki and Matakaurau, kina are increasingly framed in narratives such as “kina barrens,” which inform fisheries management responses, despite limited place-based evidence. While mana whenua hold detailed knowledge of their rohe moana, this is not consistently reflected in their fishery assessment reviews or decision-making processes.

This project evaluates whether existing ecological indicators adequately represent kina and their role within coastal ecosystems, and whether the inclusion of tohu taiao enhances system-level understanding. Within Puketeraki and Moeraki, the research brings together mātauranga ā-hapū and marine science to assess the relationships between kina, habitat, and wider ecosystem dynamics, weaving together knowledge essential to Te Tiriti-led Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM).

## Scoping and Kaupapa Māori Grounding for ADHD Research Among Māori Adults

**Lead: Associate Professor Byron Rangiwai** (Ngāi Tūhoe, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Manawa, Ngāti Whare) (UNITEC) with Associate Professor Shiloh Groot (Te Arawa) (UoA), Lefaoali'i Associate Professor Dion Enari (Samoa) (UNITEC), and Tua'ipulotu Inspector William Cuthers (Tainui, Cook Islands Māori).

This project is the foundational phase of the broader He Ara Mārama project. It establishes the kaupapa, relationships and credibility required to guide a multi-phase research programme focused on ADHD in Māori adulthood. ADHD remains significantly under-researched among Māori, particularly beyond childhood. This project involves a comprehensive literature review, hui with Māori stakeholders, and the co-development of a Kaupapa Māori research framework and ethical approach. Grounded in Māori values and ways of working, the research team is centring Māori lived experience and perspectives on neurodiversity, ensuring relevance, integrity and meaningful impact for whānau and communities.

## Mā te Mōhio Ka Mārama: Understanding the Primary Care Data and Digital Landscape to Support Hauora Māori and Māori Health Equity in Aotearoa

**Lead: Dr Karen Wright** (Kāi Tahu) (UoA) with Dr Nina Bevin (Waikato-Tainui) (National Hauora Coalition).

Māori in Aotearoa experience large and persistent differences in health outcomes compared with non-Māori in nearly all health conditions. Primary health care, a critical component of our health system, is facing large and rapidly evolving challenges such as workforce shortages, an ageing population, increasing clinical complexity and multimorbidity. In response, data and digital technologies have rapidly developed and research exploring impacts of specific innovations on hauora Māori and Māori health equity is emerging. The current extent of data and digital technologies used in primary health care is unknown and, therefore, the potential impact on hauora Māori and Māori health equity is similarly unclear. Grounded in Kaupapa Māori theory and practice, Drs Karen Wright and Nina Bevin are undertaking a critical and structural analysis to describe the current primary health care data and digital landscape and how it supports hauora Māori and health equity.

## Maiea Te Mauri, Taiea Te Taiao: Connecting Indigenous Knowledge, Climate Change and Kōrero Tuku Iho for a Sustainable Future

**Lead: Professor Tom Roa** (Ngāti Maniapoto, Waikato, Ngāti Apakura) (UoW) with Leon Hemara (Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Urunumia, Ngāti Te Kanawa ki Te Tai Hauauru) (He Koniahi Story Circle), Fabrice Coquet (He Koniahi Story Circle), Nikki Koroheke (Ngāti Maniapoto) (He Koniahi Story Circle), and Dr Robyn Roa (Waikato, Ngāti Hauā) (He Koniahi Story Circle).

Led by respected academic and cultural leader Professor Tom Roa, this project centres on the digital documentation of stories in which participants share their ancestral connections to the land, their knowledge and experiences of environmental degradation, and their sustainable practices. The project also features significant karakia and waiata composed by Professor Roa, connecting important sites in Waikato to tūpuna and their uri. These karakia and waiata play a central role in exploring the relationship between cultural heritage, land and climate resilience.

## Big Data Insights into Treaty Principles Bill Submissions

**Lead: Professor Waikaremoana Waitoki** (Ngāti Hako, Ngāti Māhanga) (UoW) with Professor Tom Roa (Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Apakura) (UoW), Dr Kyle Tan (Tuiwi, Malaysian Chinese) (UoW), and Dr Justin B. Phillips (Tuiwi/Pākehā) (UoW).

In 2024, the ACT Party introduced the Treaty Principles Bill, claiming to protect all New Zealanders' equal rights before the law. The Bill has sparked immense debate over the Crown's attempt to rewrite the articles of te Tiriti o Waitangi and undermine tino rangatiratanga. Although the Justice Select Committee members undertook preliminary analyses of the 300,000 submissions, they missed significant opportunities to fully understand record-level public input on te Tiriti. This study identifies the operation of racism in the discussion of Māori and te Tiriti in the submissions and explores solutions to these. A multi-method analysis of the submissions involves: 1) large language model analyses to identify recurring themes, 2) theory-driven analyses on the intersection of racism and problematic reasoning, and 3) counter-storytelling to amplify responses to racist rhetoric.

## ❖ Kaupapa Kua Porotutuki *Completed Work*

### Tohunga Talks: Digital Narratives of Tohunga/Mātanga That Nurture Multiliteracies of Ākonga

**Lead: Dr Selena Meiklejohn-Whiu** (Ngāti Raukawa) (UoA).

<https://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/project/tohunga-talks-digital-narratives-tohunga-nurture-multiliteracies-konga>

### Mā Te Taiaho Matawai Kia Whakahura Ngā Kōrero O Nehe – Laser Beam Scanning Technologies for Unlocking Landscape Narratives

**Lead: Laise Harris** (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Whakaki, Tūhoe, Ngāpuhi) (Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research).

<https://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/project/m-te-taiaho-matawai-kia-whakahura-ng-korero-o-nehe-laser-beam-scanning-technologies>

### Hononga Raraunga – Te Rohe Eke a Turora

**Lead: Dr Robin Quigg** (Raukawa, Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāti Mōtai, Ngāti Tūkorehe, Ngāti Takaha) (UoO).

<https://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/index.php/project/hononga-raraunga-te-rohe-eke-turora>

### Weaving Māori Hearts in the Digital Whareni: Nurturing Whakawhanaungatanga Through a Kaupapa Māori Social Media Platform – Tōku Whānau

**Lead: Dr Moana Rarere** (Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Kahungunu, Tūhoe, Ngāti Whare, Whakatōhea) (UoW).

<https://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/project/weaving-m-ori-hearts-digital-whareni-nurturing-whakawhanaungatanga-through-kaupapa-m-ori>

### Indigenising Movement: Building Technology to Fuel Cultural Vitality Among Rangatahi and Whānau Māori in Aotearoa

**Lead: Dr Sierra Keung** (Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāi Tāmanuhiri, Rongowhakaata) (AUT).

<https://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/project/indigenising-movement-building-technology-fuel-cultural-vitality-among-rangatahi-and-wh-nau>

# Whakaaweawe Influencing Transformation

## ❖ Impact and Collaboration

### Aotearoa New Zealand

Indigidata Aotearoa 2025 was hosted at Waipapa Taumata Rau (UoA) in November, with Pou Pae Auaha Dr Daniel Wilson serving as the university lead on the organising committee. The six-day residential wānanga gathered 18 Māori interns to build their understanding of IDSov and data science, learning alongside some of our leading Māori technologists. The interns engaged in workshops covering data science, Unix, and AI technologies, while Māori researchers shared their mahi and experiences in the field. Group activities, including waka ama and a guided visit to Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum, helped build connection and camaraderie across the cohort. By the end of the week, the interns had formed a tight-knit group, equipped and energised to put their new skills to work for their communities.



Participants at Indigidata.

NPM senior researchers Professor Tahu Kukutai, Associate Professor Donna Cormack and Dr Daniel Wilson attended a national gathering, Hui Raraunga, to discuss Iwi-Māori concerns about census changes. The hui was hosted in Pōneke by Te Kāhui Raraunga, the independent trust that progresses MDSov initiatives on behalf of the National Iwi Chairs Forum Data Iwi Leaders Group. A post-hui communiqué called on Stats NZ to (among other things) implement the Māori Data Governance Model, explore options for Māori-led collection, storage and use of Māori descent and iwi affiliation data, support an Iwi-Māori survey programme, and recognise that Iwi-Māori data should be under the control and possession of Iwi-Māori.

Pou Pae Auaha Dr Daniel Wilson organised an AI and Te Ao Tūroa workshop at the Pūtaiao Symposium, a biennial event hosted by Te Whare Pūtaiao, Faculty of Science at Waipapa Taumata Rau. This year's event was held at Tai Tokerau Wānanga NorthTec, under the theme Maranga Mai – Rise Up!, exploring connections between pūtaiao and STEM with a focus on opportunities for Te Tai Tokerau.

Also in Te Tai Tokerau, Dr Daniel Wilson joined Te Hiku Media's Peter-Lucas Jones and others on a panel at a Selwyn Foundation's Northern Iwi Leaders' symposium in Paihia, addressing AI and kaumātua wellbeing. The symposium was hosted in collaboration with Te Rūnanga-ā-Iwi o Ngāpuhi and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine. Dr Daniel Wilson was also co-organiser of the Data and Computing Noho NorthTec, Marae for Māori and Pacific taura at Waipapa Taumata Rau, a weekend event for approximately 20 taura to develop their skills and knowledge in IDSov and data science.

Dr Hazel Abraham and Lee Timutimu ran a Māori and Pacific AI Hackathon at Te Wānanga Aronui o Tāmaki Makau Rau (AUT) South Campus as part of the AI Forum AI Hackathon festival. The winning team from their event, Empathy, went on to win the national prize for overall winner across all festival events, which was awarded at the AI Forum AI Summit in September. Several NPM researchers served as mentors for the event.

## International

NPM researchers presented at several IDSov panels at the 5th International Sociological Association Forum of Sociology at Rabat, Morocco.

NPM PhD scholarship recipient Ella Pēpi Tarapa-Dewes presented her research on hapū data sovereignty, Dr Kiri West presented on the NPM project she is leading on MDSov, and Professor Tahu Kukutai organised and participated in two sessions on IDSov and universities, and IDSov and social change.



Ella Pēpi Tarapa-Dewes, Professor Tahu Kukutai and Dr Kiri West with members of the Maïam nayri Wingara Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data sovereignty network in Rabat, Morocco.

Professor Maui Hudson is a member of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Future Council on Data Frontiers. In September 2025, the Council released a briefing paper on the use of synthetic data – artificially generated data that mimics the statistical properties of real data, without containing any actual real-world information. The paper describes various risks associated with the use of synthetic data and makes recommendations for synthetic data usage.

At SciDataCon in Brisbane, held as part of International Data Week 2025, NPM researchers Associate Professor Dr Kiri West, and Dr Daniel Wilson joined others on a panel titled “The Transformative Impact of the CARE Principles and MDSov: Lessons from Aotearoa New Zealand.”

Professor Te Taka Keegan presented “Māori algorithmic sovereignty: Idea, principles, and use” at the Language Technologies for All 2025 conference (LT4All-2025), hosted by UNESCO in Paris. He also had a poster presentation: “Testing Māori Data Sovereignty Principles with AI models”.

Professor Kukutai was part of the first Indigenous privacy panel ever to be held at the International Association of Privacy Professionals Global Privacy Assembly. Panel members also featured on the award-winning *Serious Privacy* podcast.

**Listen here:** <https://seriousprivacy.buzzsprout.com/840448/episodes/17130000-indescribably-intuitive-indigenous-privacy>



(L–R) Professor Tahu Kukutai, Jade Makory and Shana Morgan – speakers on the Indigenous privacy panel at the Global Privacy Assembly in Washington DC.

## ❖ Wānanga Paetukutuku

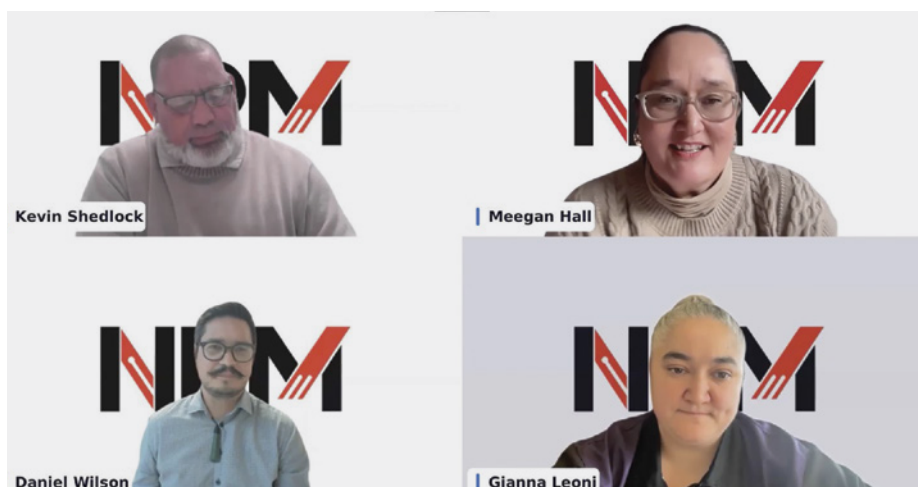
### Atamai Hangahanga: AI and Māori Research

**Panellists:** Dr Daniel Wilson, Dr Gianna Leoni and Dr Kevin Shedlock.

**Facilitator:** Associate Professor Meegan Hall.

Hosted by NPM, an AI and Māori research webinar examined the ways AI technologies are both supporting and challenging Māori research and researchers. Expert speakers from the Māori tech and research communities explored the ethical considerations, opportunities and obstacles that arise when integrating AI with traditional and contemporary Māori knowledge and practices.

**Watch here:** <https://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/node/2297>



(Clockwise from top left) Dr Kevin Shedlock, Associate Professor Meegan Hall, Dr Gianna Leoni, Dr Daniel Wilson

## ❖ He Pitopio Kōrero *In the News*

### **World first AI That Speaks in the Waikato-Maniapoto Dialect**

Professor Te Taka Keegan develops AI to converse in the Waikato-Maniapoto dialect. <https://www.1news.co.nz/2025/09/18/what-is-real-what-is-not-ai-generated-voice-speaks-with-iwi-dialect/>

### **The Importance of Māori Data Governance and Iwi-Controlled Iwi Data**

Professor Tahu Kukutai argues that census transformation will negatively impact iwi data and proposes a way forward. <https://e-tangata.co.nz/comment-and-analysis/census-change-can-we-make-it-work-for-us/>

### **First Māori Professor of Computer Science**

Professor Te Taka Keegan advocates the importance of creating technology that aligns with tikanga and reinforces the everyday use of te reo Māori. <https://waateanews.com/2026/01/15/summerseries-maori-innovation-in-tech-professor-te-taka-keegan-leading-the-way/>

### **Scrapping National Census Raises Māori Data Sovereignty and Surveillance Fears**

NPM researchers analyse the risks of replacing the census with administrative data and surveys. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/on-the-inside/564733/scrapping-national-census-raises-data-sovereignty-surveillance-fears-for-maori>

### **Te Hapori Matihiko Living Icon Award**

Professor Te Taka Keegan named Living Icon at the 2025 awards. <https://www.cambridgenews.nz/2025/06/living-icon-has-big-plans/>

### **Call for Artificial Intelligence Regulation**

Dr Kevin Shedlock argues that AI regulation giving effect to Māori rights is urgently needed. <https://www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz/2025/09/01/ai-experts-call-for-more-regulation-expert-qa/>

### **Te Rangi Hiroa Medal**

Professor Tahu Kukutai awarded the Te Rangi Hiroa Medal by the Royal Society Te Apārangi. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtP0rH16PAA>

### **University Building AI Tool to Help Te Reo Māori Learners with Real-Time Pronunciation Feedback**

Dr Piata Allen tells Checkpoint that Auckland University's AI tool will give te reo Māori learners confidence. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/569028/university-building-ai-tool-to-help-te-reo-maori-learners-with-real-time-pronunciation-feedback>

### **New Social Media Platform a “Digital Marae” For Māori**

Supported by an NPM Matakiteanga project, social media platform Tōku Whānau is close to being launched. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/te-manu-korihi/569664/new-social-media-platform-a-digital-marae-for-maori>

### **Data Sovereignty Risks with Local US Company Owned Data Centres**

Dr Daniel Wilson highlights that Māori data stored in local data centres belonging to American companies are vulnerable to risk of US government access. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2025-09-30/VHJhbnNjcmlwdDg2Njc5/index.html>

# Ngā Amokapua Rangahau ā Mua

## Future Research Leaders

### ❖ NPM PhD Scholars

#### Ella Pēpi Tarapa-Dewes

Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Tiipa, Ngāti Pāoa, Ngāti Tamaoho (UoW).

As data colonialism grows, tikanga-based approaches to protecting Indigenous data are increasingly vital. While the literature on IDSov and MDSov is well developed, hapū data sovereignty remains largely unexamined.

Ella's study addresses this gap directly, focusing on hapū data sovereignty for Ngāti Tiipa – one of the 33 hapū and iwi of the Waikato-Tainui confederation. Through various research projects, Ngāti Tiipa have developed their own digital pātaka and historical whakapapa database. Ella's PhD study explores how tikanga can support Ngāti Tiipa to protect, access and use their data in ways that benefit their whānau.

From a Te Ao Māori perspective, data is inherently relational – concepts such as mana and tapu are essential for understanding and safeguarding both individual and collective privacy. Ella's research draws on the mātauranga, knowledge and experience of Ngāti Tiipa to guide wise decision-making around hapū data sovereignty, data protection and information privacy.



PHOTOGRAPH: NPM

#### Hine-Matakaunuku-ki-Tai (Morgana) Watson

Taranaki, Te Atiawa, Te Atihaunui-a-Papaarangi, Ngāpuhi (UoC).

Hine-Kaunuku's research explores how Māori Futurism can be expressed through Indigenous interactive media, weaving mātauranga, speculative storytelling and emerging technologies. Grounded in a kaupapa she calls "Tika-nology", her work describes innovation guided by tikanga, where technology is accountable to both human and non-human relationships. Together, these ideas form a unified vision that centres Māori design, philosophy and self-determination.

Through interactive media as a catalyst for decolonisation and cultural resurgence, Hine-Kaunuku's research imagines digital futures that actively support whakarauora reo, tiaki taiao and mana motuhake – futures where Māori innovation shapes realities grounded in balance, identity and collective flourishing.

Her research supports the revitalisation of Te Ao Māori in modern and future-focused contexts, ensuring Māori thrive in both digital and physical spaces. It also addresses the underrepresentation of Indigenous women and girls in games, gaming and technology, and aims to create new pathways for leadership, representation and empowerment in these industries.



PHOTOGRAPH: NPM

## ❖ 2025/2026 Raumatī Internships

### Exploring Neurodivergence and Māori Wellbeing through Indigenous-Informed Technology

**Intern: Madison Mackie** (Ngāti Maniapoto) (UoA).

**Supervisor: Dr Hazel Abraham** (Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Tūwharetoa) (AUT).

This internship supported the development of a systematic literature review examining how neurodivergence is understood and addressed within Māori communities, and how Indigenous knowledge systems can inform the design of culturally grounded digital technologies. By identifying gaps in existing literature, the project laid the groundwork for codesigning digital tools that support neurodivergent wellbeing in ways that are meaningful and culturally appropriate.

### Matihiko Whakairo Māori, Rorohiko Hoahoaina Hangarau – Carving Māori Experiences With 3D Digital Technologies

**Intern: Arpo Deer** (Kāi Tahu) (UoC).

**Supervisor: Dr Rory Clifford** (Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe) (UoC).

This project promotes Kāi Tahu manaakitanga in tourism by protecting the kaupapa and design processes of whakairo taonga, while offering manuhiri distinctive and authentic Kāi Tahu experiences when visiting Ōtautahi. It explores the use of modern 3D design and manufacturing technology through a distinctively mātauranga Māori lens.



(L-R) Dr Rory Clifford (left) and Arpo Deer explored the used of 3D design and manufacturing practices during the summer internship.

# He Hua Kua Puta

## Selected Outputs

**Andersen, C., Walter, M., Kukutai, T., & Gabel, C. (2025).** *Indigenous statistics: From data deficits to data sovereignty*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003173342>

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**Edwards, C., West, K., & McSherry, A. (2025).** OA Week 2025: Who owns our knowledge? Community ownership: relation, reciprocity and responsibility. [Webinar] Open Access Australia. <https://oaaustralasia.org/events/oa-week-2025-who-owns-our-knowledge-event-2/>

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**Edwards, N., Yowelunh McLester-Davis, L. W., Kline, C., Brown, A., Caron, N. R. & Parr-Brownlie, L. C. (2025).** Towards the implementation of Indigenous data governance in neurogenomics research. *Nature Neuroscience*, 28, 2171–2174. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41593-025-02070-6>

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**Kukutai, T. (2025).** Census in crisis – further erasure of Indigenous Peoples? *Science*, 389(6760). <https://www.science.org/doi/full/10.1126/science.aea0932>

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**Kukutai, T. (2025).** Protecting pieces of us: The need for Indigenous perspectives in the fuzzy world of biometric data regulation. *Science*, 388(6743). <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.adw9973>

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**Lythberg, B., Wolfgramm, R. M., Refiti, A. L., & Blackwell, A. F. (2025).** Making relations: Reimagining AI through crafted and embodied knowledge systems in Moana Oceania. *Big Data & Society*, 12(2). <https://doi.org/10.1177/20539517251337097>

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**Maniapoto, T., Barcham, M., Corbett, J., Crow, T., Noe, K., & O’Leary, P. (2025).** Incorporating cultural difference in computer science education – Indigenous perspectives. In C. Seton & Simon (Eds.), *ACE ’25: Proceedings of the 27th Australasian Computing Education Conference* (pp. 8–15). Association for Computing Machinery. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3716640.3716642>

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**O’Neale, D. R. J., Wilson, D. Brown, P. T., Dickinson, P., Rikus-Graham, M., & Ropeti, A. (2025).** Ten simple guidelines for decolonising algorithmic systems. *Journal of Responsible Technology*, 23(September), Article 100125. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrt.2025.100125>

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**Shedlock, K., Chung, A. Q. H., Corbett, J., & Rawson, Z. (2025).** Indigenous Knowledges as justificatory knowledge in design science research: An expository case. *Data Base for Advances in Information Systems*, 56(4), 36–55. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3774330.3774334>

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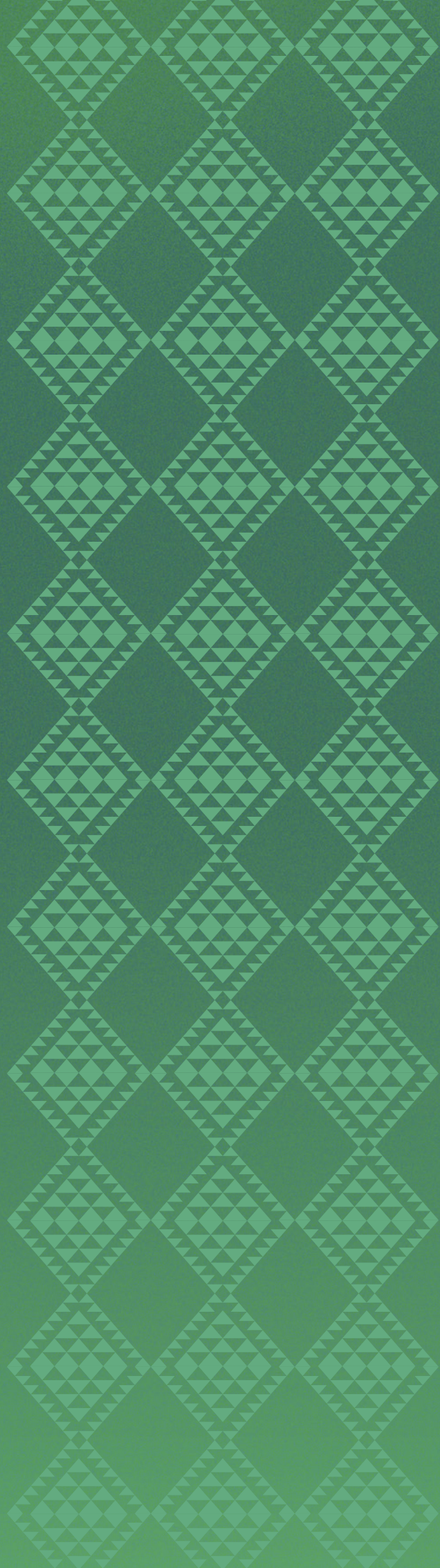
**West, K. (2025).** “Changes the way”: Asserting Māori data sovereignty through the restor(y)ing of Māori data in Aotearoa. In A. Harris & M. Williams (Eds.), *Te Pouhere Kōrero*, 11. <https://www.bwb.co.nz/books/te-pouhere-korero-11>. Originally published by Bridget Williams Books.

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# Ngā Rautaki

Our Strategies —



# Te Kupenga o MAI

## ❖ MAI Site Snapshots

Te Kupenga o MAI (MAI) is an internationally celebrated Māori and Indigenous postgraduate student network that provides mentorship, support and specialist workshops to boost the number of qualified Māori researchers, enhance academic skills, and foster collaboration across tertiary institutions.

Across MAI's diverse sites, scholars benefit from a wide range of events organised by their local site coordinators. A key driver of MAI's success is the dedication these coordinators bring to supporting their scholars. Their contributions frequently go well beyond their formal roles. We extend a special welcome to our newest coordinators who joined in 2025: Tia Barrett (MAI ki Aronui) and Oscar Wakelin (MAI ki Pōneke). The mahi our coordinators do is deeply valued, and we highlight a selection of events from across the motu below.

- MAI ki Pōneke hosted several guest talks from esteemed speakers including Professor Rawinia Higgins, Dr Mike Ross, and Professor Lisa Te Morenga.
- MAI ki Aronui hosted a Whakairo workshop by Dr Zena Elliott in collaboration with the Office for Pacific Advancement and Moanaroa Network at AUT.
- Several MAI ki Matau-a-Māui scholars attended the Ringa Rangahau Conference at EIT, engaging with rangahau being undertaken by Ngāti Kahungunu uri across the motu.
- MAI ki Wairaka hosted MAI coordinators and NPM secretariat members for a wānanga involving one of our largest NPM research projects, Promising Futures Tahatū o te Rangi.

*“MAI has been an integral part of not only my academic but my personal haerenga as well. The whakawhanaungatanga I have received from the participants, from meeting whānau and friends, to support for my rangahau has been phenomenal. As an older participant of MAI, I can't begin to tell you how full my heart feels when I look around the room to see the next generation of Māori and First Nations excellence. I know our future is in good hands. Ka mua, ka muri.” – JO KĀMIRA, MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY PHD STUDENT*

*“Being part of the MAI Te Kupenga network was more than an opportunity to connect with other Māori doctoral candidates; it was instrumental in strengthening my scholarship through meaningful networks for wānanga and collaboration. Also, as a parent balancing whānau and community commitments alongside my doctoral studies, MAI provided a unique and safe space where I could bring my whole self. The MAI Te Kupenga network is a space that acknowledges and upholds the many dimensions of identity that exist alongside the PhD journey for Indigenous doctoral candidates”. – HANNAH RAPATA, WAIPAPA TAUMATA RAU PHD STUDENT*



Highlights from the 2025 MAI Hui ā-Tau. Photographs: NPM

## ❖ MAI Hui ā-Tau

As the flagship event of the MAI calendar, Hui ā-Tau continues to go from strength to strength. In 2025, MAI ki Otago – supported by the Graduate Research School and Te Pou Koko (DVC Māori Office) – welcomed around 120 Māori and Indigenous scholars to Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka for the annual hui (27–29 November).

Led by Dr Rachel Sizemore and her talented team, attendees enjoyed warm southern hospitality alongside some classic Dunedin weather. Scholars from MAI sites across Aotearoa, Australia, and Hawai'i presented in multiple formats: 7-minute and 3-minute kōrero, as well as poster presentations. In a highlight of the programme, two te reo Māori sessions were offered in collaboration with Te Aka Reo and facilitated by Dr Wahineata Smith and Professor Karyn Paringatai, with presentations conducted entirely in te reo Māori. We look forward to continuing this opportunity at future hui.

As MAI grows, we remain committed to evolving how we gather so that all whānau can participate in ways that honour their strengths and needs. This includes intentional support for neurodivergent whānau and the ongoing inclusion of te reo Māori sessions that enrich how knowledge is shared.

To reflect MAI's growth while acknowledging the resourcing required to run a quality annual conference, Hui ā-Tau will move to a biennial cycle from 2027, alternating with NPM's biennial International Indigenous Research Conference.

We look forward to Hui ā-Tau 2026, to be hosted by MAI ki Pōneke (Te Herenga Waka) in Te Whanganui-a-Tara.

## ❖ Te Kupenga o MAI Leads

### **Aoraki**

Awa Edwards

### **Aronui**

Tia Barrett, Professor Nigel Harris

### **Manawatū**

Dr Monica Koia

### **Ōtākou**

Dr Rachel Sizemore, Professor Diane Ruwhiu

### **Pōneke**

Oscar Wakelin, Nayte Davis, Dr Mike Ross

### **Waipapa Taumata Rau**

Abigail McClutchie, Professor Te Kawehau Hoskins

### **Taranaki Whānui**

Professor Leonie Pihama

### **Te Tai Tokerau**

Coral Wiapo, Rowan Tautari, Dr Tania Cliffe-Tautari

### **Te Matau-a-Māui**

Sharron Fabish, Professor David Tipene-Leach

### **Te Wānanga o Aotearoa**

Dr Rebecca Kiddle

### **Waikato**

Reina Daji, Dr Sarah Jane Tiakiwai

### **Wairaka**

Hinewaimarama Reihana-White,  
Associate Professor Deborah Heke

### **Wairoa**

Waireti Rostenberg

### **Waitaha**

Unaiki Melrose, Professor Carl Mika

## ❖ Celebrating new PhD Research from across the MAI Network

**Dey, K. (2025).** Health by stealth, lifting the load, and just food: The influence of Ka Ora Ka Ako on the lives of whānau [Doctoral thesis, Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington]. Open Access Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington. <https://doi.org/10.26686/6W9Q-2KSX>

**Elliott, Z. (2025).** Indigi-[IA] Techno-ecologies: Non-Human, wāhine, and takatāpui whakairo futurism [Doctoral thesis, Auckland University of Technology]. Tuwhera Open Access. <http://hdl.handle.net/10292/19702>

**Haenga-O'Brien, A. (2025).** Kia kārohirohi re Wairua: Exploring how rangatahi Māori understand, experience, nurture, and practise wairuatanga [Doctoral thesis, Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington]. Open Access Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington. <https://doi.org/10.26686/wgtn.29108735>

**Holmes, R. (2025).** Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Tikanga Māori and labour frameworks: An exploration of collective agreement clauses and the experiences of Māori workers [Doctoral thesis, Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington]. Open Access Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington. <https://doi.org/10.26686/8TQ0-9WTA>

**McClutchie, A. T. (2025).** MAHI RANGATIRA THEORY and PRAXIS: A Kaupapa Māori approach to utu and rangatira-inspired entrepreneurial endeavour [Doctoral thesis, Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland]. ResearchSpace@Auckland. <https://hdl.handle.net/2292/74081>

**McGregor, J. T. (2025).** Conceptualising Kawa Whakaruruhau as a nursing praxis: Learnings from Māori nurses [Doctoral thesis, Te Wānanga Aronui o Tāmaki Makau Rau Auckland University of Technology]. <http://hdl.handle.net/10292/20619>

**Rapata, H. U. (2025).** Kai Ora, Piki Ora: Intersections of kai, race, data and identities [Doctoral thesis, Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland]. ResearchSpace@Auckland. <https://hdl.handle.net/2292/72855>

**Rose, B. (2025).** Tāngata whaiora as ngā kaiwhakatere – Understanding the experiences and needs of Māori with ngā māuiui kai (eating disorders) [Doctoral thesis, Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington]. Open Access Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington. <https://doi.org/10.26686/BRRP-86CE>

**Were, L. (2025).** Tukua Te Ringa Aroha: Reclaiming evaluation for all of us [Doctoral thesis, Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington]. Open Access Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington. <https://doi.org/10.26686/wgtn.30019540>

**Worchel, J. (2025).** Decolonizing the colonizer: Indigenous education as the foundation for mainstream teacher education in Hawai'i and Aotearoa New Zealand [Doctoral thesis, Auckland University of Technology]. Tuwhera Open Access. <http://hdl.handle.net/10292/19251>



**Te Kupenga o MAI**  
Māori and Indigenous Scholar Network

# Kanapu

Kanapu offers a bespoke programme supporting Māori researchers, scientists, innovators and knowledge-holders to meet their aspirations and enhance the research, science, innovation and technology (RSIT) sector.

Designed and led by NPM under a six-year funding agreement with the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, the programme is hosted by the National Institute for Population Research, Te Ngira, at the University of Waikato.

## ❖ Ngā Tīpako Highlights 2025

In 2025, Kanapu hosted its third annual Hui Hihiri and its first in-person format. True to its name, Hihiri – evoking energy, liveliness and rekindled passion – the hui brought together more than 100 delegates from across the RSIT sector to connect, share and learn. The programme featured four keynote speakers, three interactive workshops and a panel discussion.

With the theme “Rangakura: Intergenerational Approaches to Mana Motuhake through RSIT”, the hui celebrated successful ventures and drew participants affiliated with 70+ iwi and 100+ hapū. A central aim of Hui Hihiri was to showcase and promote Māori innovation and commercial success grounded in rangahau, mātauranga and intergenerational approaches to business and enterprise. Kanapu also launched its inaugural Ngā Tohu Kanapu awards, acknowledging Māori brilliance in RSIT with taonga created by Tūkaroto Mahuta.



Kanapu Hui Hihiri 2025 Panellists: (L-R) Poia Rewi, Michela Anderson, Stacey Whitiora, Raewyn Mahara.



## ❖ Research Science Innovation and Technology Mentoring

Kanapu continued its online support for grassroots Māori collectives in 2025, helping likeminded people maintain momentum and accelerate progress in the RSIT sector. The six-week free online mentoring programmes – Te Ako Rau and Te Ako Rau+ – covered a wide range of practical topics including legal structures, mātauranga Māori, intellectual property, accounting, taxes, funding sustainability, governance and writing applications for research or business initiatives. Complementing this, Mātanga sessions brought together knowledge-holders and experts to share their pathways and experiences across RSIT related topics, such as developing Te Ao Māori frameworks and data storage. Much of this programme was developed and delivered in partnership with Aatea Solutions, whose team brought both expertise and energy to the mahi.

Shifting government priorities across the sector prompted Kanapu to refine and consolidate its programmes into a more focused offering – one aligned to current priorities while continuing to provide communities with meaningful access to:

- Māori specialists, experts, and leaders sharing their experiences across pūtaiao (science), hangarau (technology), and auaha (innovation)
- pathways, leadership development, and opportunities for Māori and Māori knowledge within the sector, and
- insights that inform and strengthen Māori participation in RSIT going forward.

A redesigned programme is now underway, featuring a strong line-up of speakers across the Kanapu tri-thematics series, regional wānanga, and new targeted support initiatives. In development is Kanapu Connect, an online navigation tool designed to improve knowledge of and access to RSIT networks and resources.

Our open-access approach ensures that insights and resources from Kanapu activities remain available to a wider audience, supporting ongoing learning and engagement across the sector

## ❖ Nau mai, whakahiko mai

### Kei te whakahikonga uira o Kanapu, Vanessa Clark

Nāu i kanapa ai a Kanapu nōu i te tūnga Pouhere Kanapu mai i te papātanga o tōna reo hei hanga whakapakari i te rāngai pūtaiao, auaha, hangarau, arā, RSIT, mā te pūkenga Māori me te Māori pūkenga.


Tēnei te kaupapa, tēnei hoki mātou i te Tari me Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga e mihi nei i a koe me te mōhio kua pakari tō whai i ērā tūāmahi e ngākaunuitia nā e koe.


### Hoake! Whanake!

E ai hoki te kupu a tō matua, a Koro Motu, “E oi i a koe”.

**Email:** [kiaora@kanapu.maori.nz](mailto:kiaora@kanapu.maori.nz)

**Website:** <https://kanapu.maori.nz>

 [kanapu.maori.nz](https://www.facebook.com/kanapu.maori.nz)

 [kanapu\\_maori\\_nz](https://www.instagram.com/kanapu_maori_nz)

 [kanapu](https://www.linkedin.com/company/kanapu)



**Emeritus Professor  
Poia Rewi FRSNZ  
and Vanessa Clark.**

# Media Savvy Workshop

It is always a pleasure to host the Media Savvy workshop where we get to witness a dramatic lift in researcher confidence at the end of an intense two days. Held at the University of Auckland's Ngā Tauira Marae, this year's workshop was led by the Science Media Centre team and drew researchers from across the motu, representing a wide range of fields including computer science, health, biological and social sciences, and agricultural research.

For most of the participants, it was their first experience of media training, and many had limited confidence engaging with journalists. The workshop gave them practical skills and a safe environment to build that confidence. By the end of the two days, participants were ready to face the final challenge: presenting their research to a panel of seasoned Māori journalists, with the possibility of being published.

The Media Savvy workshop has proven to be a highly effective strategy for upskilling our researchers. Former participants consistently describe it as pivotal to their success in media engagement, and many alumni have gone on to become authoritative voices and media experts in their respective field.



Science Media and Media Savvy attendees.



# Knowledge Sharing

**143**

Journal  
Articles

**2**

Book  
chapters

**6**

Research  
Reports

**3**

Wānanga  
Paetukutuku

**59**

Kounga  
(professional  
excellence)

**7**

Books

**5**

Keynotes

**8**

Webinars

**16**

Conference  
presentations

**31**

Writing  
Retreats

**30**

Wānanga

**14**

Theses

**121**

Multimedia

# AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples

<https://journals.sagepub.com/home/aln>

2025 was a year of significant transition and continued growth for *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples*. As an Indigenous-led, Indigenous-centred scholarly journal, *AlterNative* continued to provide a vital platform for Indigenous research, knowledge systems and intellectual sovereignty.

## ✦ 2025 Publications

In 2025, *AlterNative* Journal published four issues. **Impact Factor:** 1.3 (5-year: 2.0). **Google Scholar h5-index:** 29.

## ✦ Significant Papers

2025 featured scholarship contributing to pressing Indigenous issues including land rights, mātauranga Māori, Indigenous governance, digital Indigenous futures, and community-led research methodologies. Top reads include:

- Persaud, J. N., Wannamaker, K., Stark, K., Lambert, C., Harrison, C., & Keller, N. (2025). Decolonizing education: Advancing Indigenous student success through culturally responsive practices in Ontario. *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples*, 21(2), 264-273. <https://doi.org/10.1177/11771801251340657>
- Croteau, K., Quinn, A., Jablonska, B., & De La Sablonnière-Griffin, M. (2025). Developments and challenges implementing Bill C-92 in Canada: a critical rapid review. *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples*, 21(4), 686-698. <https://doi.org/10.1177/11771801251356077>

## ✦ Journal Purpose and Contribution

*AlterNative* was established to address the historic absence of dedicated Indigenous-centred publishing spaces within academic scholarship. Its goals remain:

- to contribute to the development of an Indigenous research infrastructure
- to elevate Indigenous-led research
- to safeguard Indigenous intellectual sovereignty
- to support scholarship that benefits Indigenous communities locally and globally, and
- to provide rigorous peer review grounded in Indigenous knowledge and lived experience.

Within Aotearoa New Zealand, *AlterNative* plays a critical role in showcasing Māori and Pacific scholarship, strengthening global connections, and supporting the visibility and impact of Indigenous research internationally.

## ✦ Acknowledging Outgoing Leadership

We offer deep gratitude to our long-serving co-editors: Professor Tracey McIntosh (Ngāi Tūhoe) – serving the journal since 2009, and Dr Carwyn Jones (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa) – serving since 2019.

Their intellectual guidance, commitment to Indigenous scholarship, and years of careful editorial stewardship have shaped *AlterNative* into a respected global publication grounded in Indigenous values and excellence. Ka nui te mihi ki a kōrua mō ngā tau maha o te mahi rangatira.

We also acknowledge Wiremu Meha, who completed five years as publication coordinator in October 2025. His steady oversight, professionalism and dedication supported authors, reviewers and the Editorial Board through a period of rapid growth. Ngā mihi nui, Wiremu, for your significant contribution.

## ❖ Welcoming New Leadership

In late 2025 we welcomed incoming Associate Professor Meegan Hall (Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Apakura) and Dr Emalani Case (Kanaka Maoli). Their combined expertise in Indigenous research, decolonial practice and international Indigenous scholarship positions the journal strongly for its next phase. We also welcomed Daniel Patrick as managing editor, tasked with leading a comprehensive review of editorial systems, resourcing and strategic priorities to support the journal’s growth and long-term sustainability.

### Co-Editors:

- Professor Tracey McIntosh MNZM (UoA) – to November 2025
- Dr Carwyn Jones (Te Wānanga o Raukawa) – to November 2025
- Associate Professor Meegan Hall (VUW) – from October 2025
- Dr Emalani Case (UoA) – from October 2025

## ❖ Ngā Tīpako Highlights 2025

Despite change and transition, 2025 was a highly productive year defined by growth and diversification in submissions, readership and published work. Our highlights:

- strong global engagement from authors, reviewers and readers
- successful publication of a Special Issue (September): “Living a life that feels just right”: Indigenous and decolonial approaches to environmental (re)learning for planetary care in a time of climate uncertainty, featuring 14 articles
- continued professionalisation of editorial workflows and ScholarOne processes
- strengthened Indigenous representation across published research, and
- expansion of online-first publishing, contributing to improved timeliness and visibility

## ❖ Snapshot 2025



These indicators demonstrate a sustained global interest in Indigenous scholarship and a strong presence across international readership and citation metrics.

The collective efforts sustain the journal’s kaupapa and Aotearoa New Zealand’s scholarly and research leadership internationally, along with global impact of Indigenous Knowledges and solutions.



# MAI Journal: A New Zealand Journal of Indigenous Scholarship

<https://www.journal.mai.ac.nz/>

Aotearoa New Zealand's dedicated open-access journal of Māori and Indigenous scholarship. Grounded in mātauranga, Indigenous methodologies and community-engaged research, the journal continues to provide a vibrant platform for work that advances equity, self-determination and transformative Indigenous futures.

## ❖ 2025 Publications

In 2025, *MAI Journal* published two issues

### **Special Issue, Volume 14, Issue 1 (June 2025): Caring for Earth Mother: Indigenous-Led Pathways to Climate Adaptation**

This special issue brought together Māori and Indigenous scholars to explore climate justice, land and water governance, sustainable futures, and the critical role of Indigenous Knowledges in global climate responses. The collection highlights Indigenous-led solutions rooted in whakapapa, whenua and intergenerational responsibility.

### **Volume 14, Issue 2 (September 2025)**

A general issue featuring 14 contributions – 12 articles and two commentaries – across wellbeing, education, housing, health, governance and youth perspectives. These works reflect the depth of Māori and Pacific scholarship and the aspirations of communities striving for systemic transformation.

## ❖ New Developments

*MAI Journal* made several important advancements this year as part of the ongoing commitment to enhancing our editorial processes and supporting Indigenous scholarship to flourish.

- **Online First:** Fully citable, peer-reviewed articles are now published online ahead of issue assignment, increasing timeliness, visibility, and impact.
- **New Alerts System:** Readers can now subscribe for Calls for Papers, Table of Contents alerts, and journal updates, strengthening our connections with communities, researchers, and institutions.

These developments support *MAI Journal's* mission to provide an accessible, responsive and impactful platform for Māori and Indigenous research.

## ❖ Acknowledging Outgoing Leadership

We extend our warm appreciation and mihi to Dr Vincent (Vini) Olsen-Reeder (Tauranga Moana, Te Arawa), who concluded his role as co-editor in November 2025. We acknowledge his leadership, care and significant contribution to *MAI Journal* over the past three years.

## ❖ Welcoming New Leadership

We are pleased to welcome Dr Annie Te One (Te Āti Awa, Ngāti Mutunga), who joined Professor Te Kawehau Hoskins (Ngāpuhi) as co-editor from December 2025. Annie brings deep expertise in Māori politics, policy and community-engaged research, and her appointment strengthens the journal's capacity as we continue to refine processes and nurture high-quality Māori and Indigenous scholarship.

### Co-Editors

Professor Te Kawehau Hoskins (Waipapa Taumata Rau)

Dr Vincent Olsen-Reeder – to 30 November 2025

Dr Annie Te One (Te Herenga Waka) – from 1 December 2025

## ❖ Snapshot 2025



378,024  
total views



69,026  
active users



121  
authors

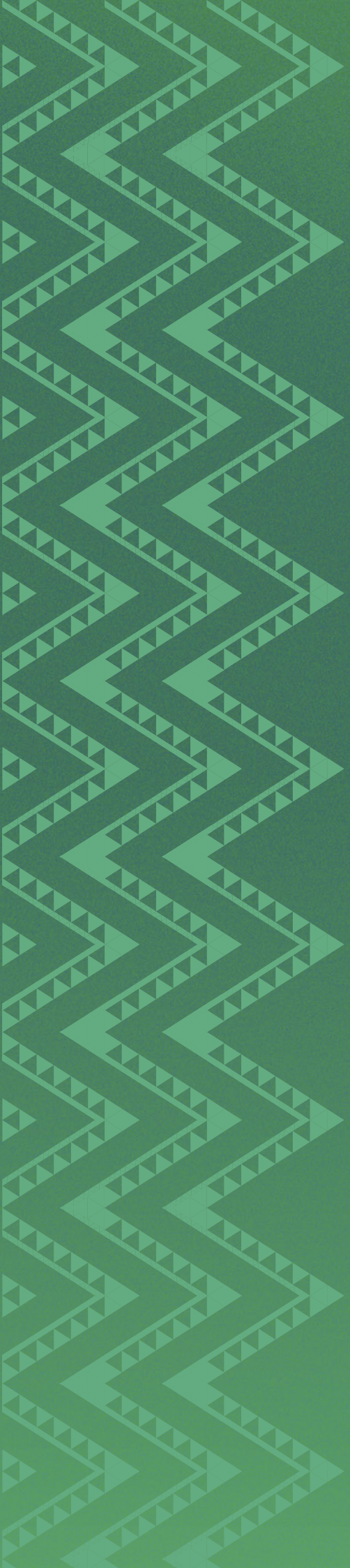


25  
published  
contributions



# **NPM Whānau**

— Our People



## Ngā Kaitohutohu NPM Directorate

### Professor Melinda Webber

Host Pou Matarua Co-Director (UoA) from January 2025

### Professor Linda Waimarie Nikora FRSNZ

Host Pou Matarua Co-Director (UoA) to June 2025

### Emeritus Professor Poia Rewi FRSNZ

Pouhere Kanapu (UoW)

### Professor Tahu Kukutai FRSNZ

Pou Matarua Co-Director (UoW)

### Paora Sharples

Pou Tikanga Māori (UoA)

### Marie-Chanel Berghan

Pouhere Matua (UoA)

## Kāhui Ārahi NPM Research Leadership Team

### POU PAE

#### Professor Sarah-Jane Paine

Pou Pae Ora (UoA)

#### Dr Daniel Wilson

Pou Pae Auaha (UoW)

### POU RAUTAKI

#### Associate Professor Meegan Hall

Pou Rautaki Kouna Professional Excellence (VUW)

#### Associate Professor Deborah Heke

Pou Rautaki Kouna MAI Te Kupenga (UNITEC)

### POU PĀTAI

#### Professor Karyn Paringatai

Pou Pātai Te Ao Māori (UoO)

#### Dr Shaun Awatere

Pou Pātai Mauri (MWLR)

#### Professor Helen Moewaka Barnes FRSNZ

Pou Pātai Puāwai (MU)

## Komiti Rangahau Research Committee

### Professor Bridgette Masters-Awatere

(Chair) (UoW)

### Dr Nathan Kenny

(UoO)

### Associate Professor Krushil Watene

(UoA)

### Associate Professor Ngairo Eruera

(UoW)

### Associate Professor Katharina Ruckstuhl

(UoO)

### Dr Ririwai Fox

(UoW)

### Associate Professor Liana MacDonald

(UoO)

## AlterNative Journal Co-Editors

### Professor Tracey McIntosh MNZM

(UoA) to November 2025

### Dr Carwyn Jones

(Te Wānanga o Raukawa) to November 2025

### Associate Professor Meegan Hall

(VUW) from October 2025

### Dr Emalani Case

(UoA) from October 2025

## MAI Journal Co-Editors

### Professor Te Kawehau Hoskins

(UoA)

### Dr Vincent Olsen-Reeder

(VUW) to November 2025

### Dr Annie Te One

(VUW) from November 2025

## Te Ringatohu The Secretariat

### Honorine Franswah

Pouhere Whakahaere Executive Centre Coordinator

### Cindy McQuade

Pouhere Whakapā Media Communications

### Dr Tim West-Newman

Pouhere Pūnaha Web and Systems Manager

### Cheryle Willoughby

Kaihāpai Hautaka Journal and Events Coordinator

### Sarah-Marū Berghan

Pouhere Whakaaweawe Knowledge and Impact Manager

### Ahere Hapi-Harrison

Pou Hapori Kanapu Community Lead Engagement

### Dr Josie Teorongonui Keelan

Research Fellow – to August 2025

### Dr Sonia Garcia

Pouhere Rangahau Research Manager – from August 2025

### Wiremu Meha

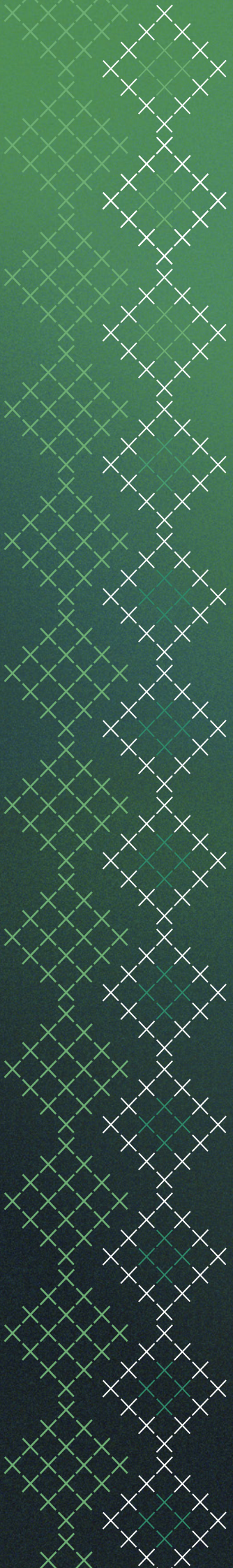
Pouhere Hautaka Publications and Journal Coordinator to October 2025

### Daniel Patrick

Managing Editor from October 2025

# Te Taha Pūtea

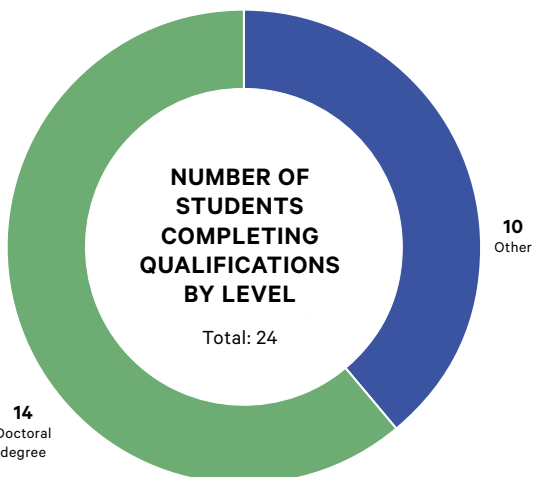
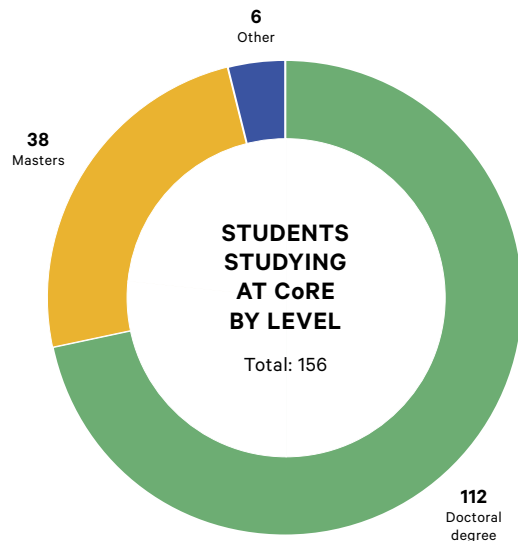
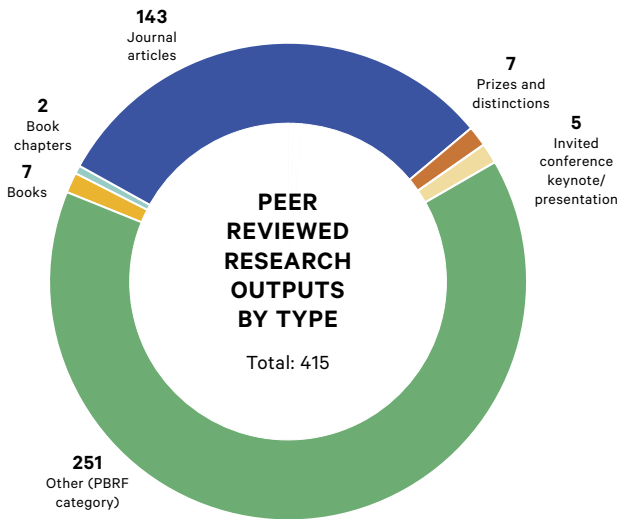
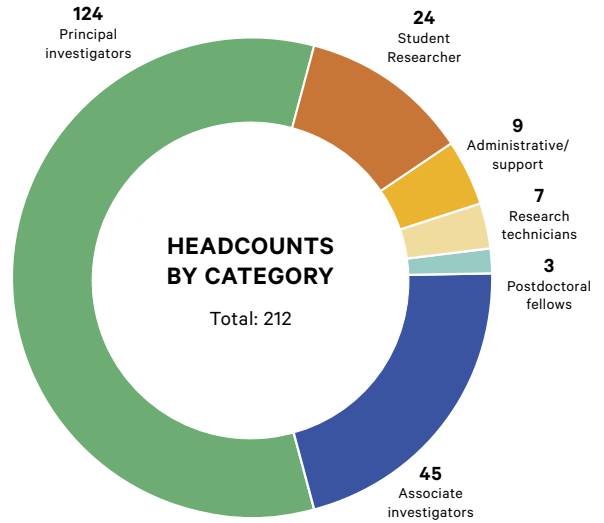
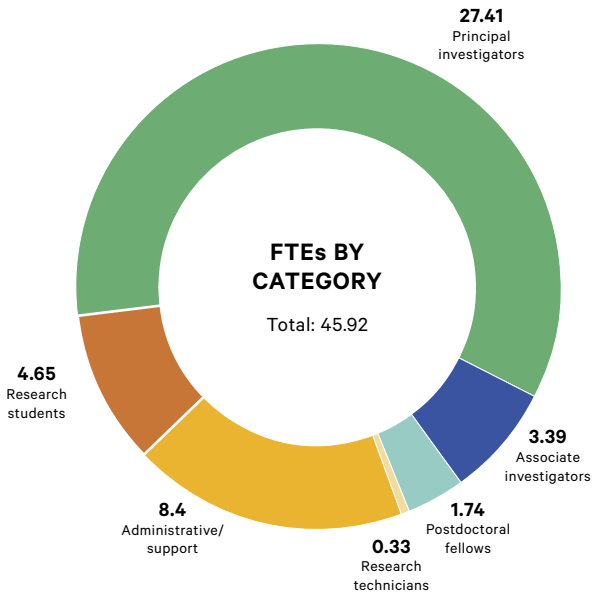
Financial



## Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga *TEC Financial Report*

NPM's 2025 financial statement is presented below as required by Tertiary Education Commission reporting. The financial statement has been prepared and approved by the University of Auckland and NPM Board and verified as an accurate and true set of accounts.

	<b>2025 Actual (\$)</b>
Funding received from TEC	5,000,000
Surplus/Deficit carried forward	4,016,653
<b>Total CoRE funding</b>	<b>9,016,653</b>
<b>Salaries</b>	
Director and Principal Investigators	652,273
Associate Investigators	91,901
Post Doctoral fellows	99,235
Research/Technical assistants	46,080
Others	710,317
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Salary-related costs</b>	<b>1,599,805</b>
<b>Other Costs</b>	
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	
Overheads	1,728,011
<b>Direct Costs</b>	
Project Costs	552,595
Travel	213,725
Postgraduate Students	636,074
Subcontractor(s) specified	730,188
Extraordinary Expenditure (specified)	—
<b>Total Other Costs</b>	<b>3,860,593</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,460,398</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>3,556,255</b>
Other income	1,000,000
Other expenses	988,981
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) including Other Income</b>	<b>3,567,273</b>





## Physical Address

Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga  
University of Auckland | Waipapa Taumata Rau  
Rehutai Building 253  
16 Wynyard Street  
Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand

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## Postal Address


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Waipapa Taumata Rau  
Waipapa Marae Complex  
Private Bag 92019  
Auckland Mail Centre  
Auckland 1142, Aotearoa New Zealand


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