



PAENGAWHĀHĀ | APRIL 2025

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

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TE PŪRONGO NŌ NGĀ POU MATARUA CO-DIRECTORS UPDATE

Each month our wonderful Pouhere Whakapā Cindy McQuade comes up with new stories about the excellent and impactful research that our NPM researchers are doing. This month she talks to Associate Professor Phillip Wilcox, PhD student Kiri Reihana and Dr Jesse Pirini about their cutting edge research and what makes them tick.

Also this month NPM kicked off a new webinar series targeted at early-career researchers and PhD candidates wanting to use social media for greater research impact. The series gets up close and personal with five prominent Māori influencers who share the key elements of their social media success.

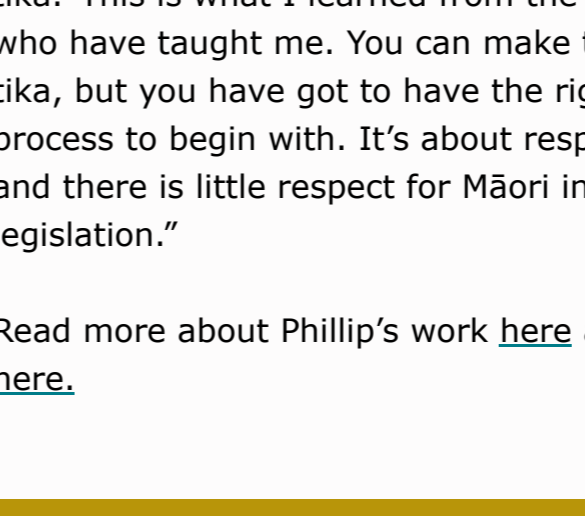
We'd also like to give a shout out to the Ngāti Kahungunu Runga Rangahau Research Conference that will be held at Eastern Institute of Technology in Napier in July. All the details can be found later in the news section of this e-pānui.

Ngā Pou Matarua | Co-Directors
Professor Tahu Kukutai
Professor Linda Waimarie Nikora

KAUPAPA MATUA

Tikanga Lens Needed for Future Gene Technology

By Cindy Simpkins-McQuade
The Gene Technology Bill is currently making its way through Parliament. Associate Professor Phillip Wilcox says if the Bill removes Māori consultation requirements, not only Māori - but the wider New Zealand public - will be impacted.



Associate Professor Phillip Wilcox believes genetic technologies require a comprehensive tikanga-based framework.

Phillip (Ngāti Rakaipaaka, Ngāti Kahungunu ki te Wairoa, Rongomaiwahine) is a quantitative geneticist and bioethicist at Ōtago Whakaiti Waka, The University of Ōtago. He believes genetic technologies need a comprehensive tikanga-based framework to mitigate the risks of lab-created, genetically modified organisms introduced into the environment.

obligations and opportunities, and it will enable a more comprehensive holistic discussion that takes into consideration the requirement for kaitiakitanga. These frameworks are not onerous, they are easily understood, and cost-effective to implement.

"This Bill also removes Māori from the wider conversation by limiting Māori input to only modifications of taonga species. This is a breach of the Treaty because te taiao is a taonga, and we have rights of kaitiakitanga over anything that might impact te taiao. Modifications of non-taonga species could have negative impacts on the taiao, and on taonga species," he says.

Phillip says there is a case to be made for medical research to be separated from economic research because medical researchers are more used to ethical evaluation of their research proposals.

Phillip, along with other experts in this field, have developed tikanga frameworks for evaluation of gene technology application since the early 2000's. He says such frameworks have a more thorough evaluation process that is holistic in nature. And because it examines issues more comprehensively, not only will it reduce risk, but it also has the potential to optimize benefits to more people.

When research has an economic focus, such as since the early 2000's, applications, he says scientists may not be as accepting of ethical evaluation as their medical counterparts often are. "At the moment it is up to industry and scientists to decide whether new technology should be implemented. And of course, they will do what is best for their interests which is often driven by monetary gain and career opportunities."

Phillip says a major problem with the current Bill is that it only caters to a small group of people who stand to benefit from the economic and research possibilities that gene technology offers. Phillip believes this is bad news for Aotearoa. "While the benefits of introducing genetically modified organisms will inevitably be privatized, the costs will be socialized, which means the public, the environment, and people's health will pay the price if genetic technology has negative impacts."

He is also concerned that the Bill will widen economic disparities. "However, if Māori evaluation frameworks are adopted, there is potential that benefits could be optimized for everyone."

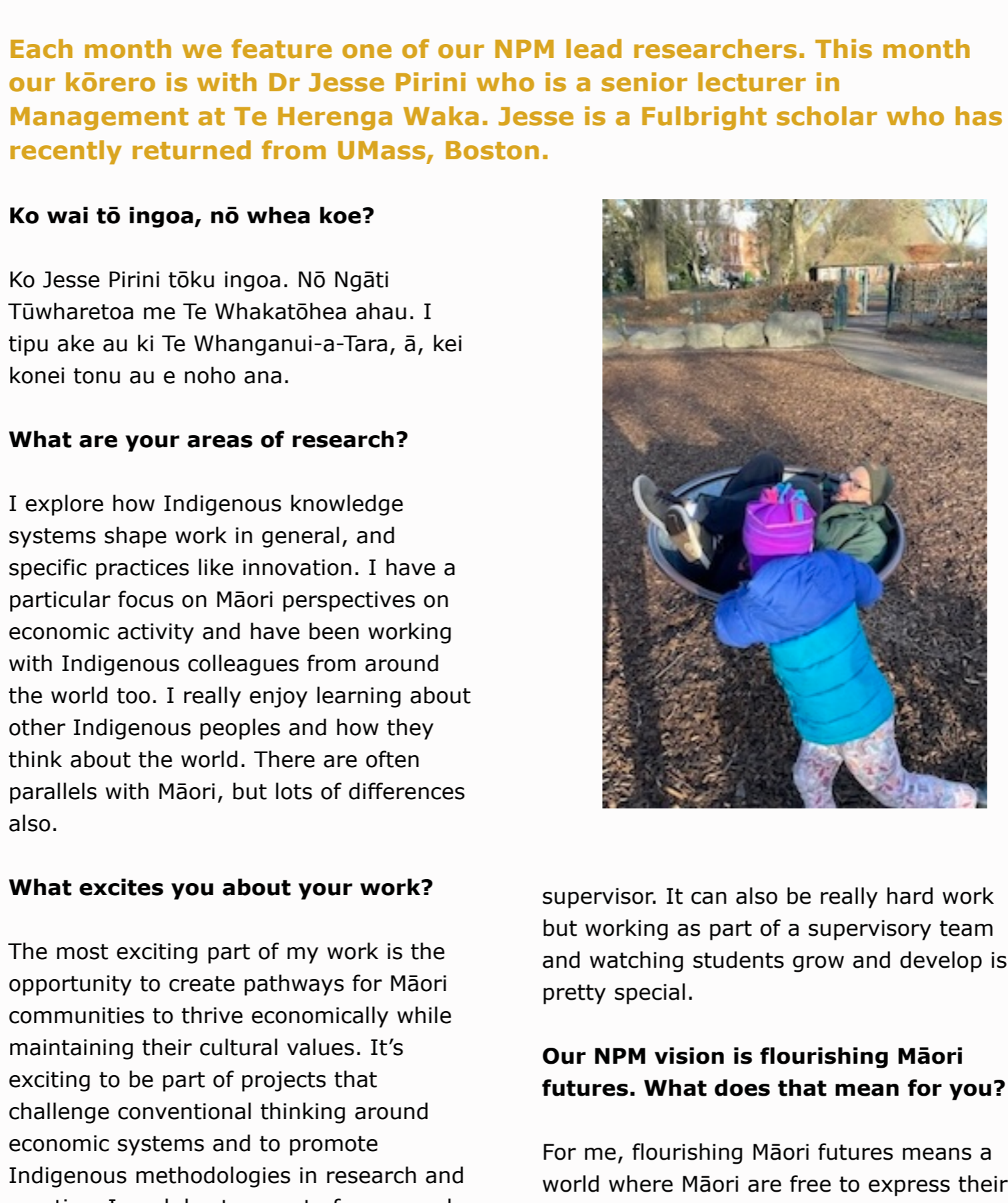
"The evaluation of the risks is being done with a mono-cultural, economic production lens, and the rest of New Zealand, including Māori, will have to pay the price downstream if it goes wrong."

"I believe there is emancipatory potential in gene technologies for Indigenous peoples. But the only way it will be realized is if Indigenous people oversee the application and provide a korowai of protection where they decide 'this is tika, this is not tika, and this is how we make it tika.' This is what I learned from the elders who have taught me. You can make things tika, but you have got to have the right process to begin with. It's about respect and there is little respect for Māori in this legislation."

Phillip, alongside other genetic researchers, have made submissions on their concerns. "The basis of our submission is that we are not a barrier to appropriate use of these technologies. We said if you have the conversations contextualized within a Te Ao Māori framework, people can evaluate all of the risks and benefits, as well as

Read more about Phillip's work here and here.

RANGAHAU | RESEARCH



NPM PhD student Kiri Reihana is working on improving the outcomes for tuangi in the Ōhiwa Harbour.

Cockles in Crisis in Ōhiwa Harbour

By Cindy Simpkins-McQuade
Marine biologist Kiri Reihana says urgent action is required to save the tuangi (cockle) population in Ōhiwa Harbour in the eastern Bay of Plenty.

Kiri (Ngāpūhi, Te Rarawa, Ngāi Tūhoe, Whakatohea) is a NPM PhD scholar who is using mātauranga Māori to improve co-management practices in the harbour. Prior to starting her research, there was limited data on the state of tuangi in Ōhiwa. While locals had been reporting sharp declines in the number and size of tuangi since the 1990s, there was a dearth of empirical data to support their reports.

Kiri interviewed kaumātua who collected tuangi during their survey, analysed monitoring information from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council then surveyed and mapped all the cockle beds in the Ngāti Awa region. From this she produced a deeper analysis of the state of the tuangi population.

Unfortunately, the news was all bad. The legal minimum size for harvesting tuangi is 30mm. Kiri's research found few cockles exist over that size and haven't existed in large numbers for over 30 years. "In the '80's our people were saying populations were declining and cockles were too small to take, but there hasn't been enough thorough research to test this. My research tells us the population of tuangi is at a crisis point and something needs to be done to save it from extinction," she says.

Kiri is now at the point of presenting her research back to iwi who will need to develop their own recommendations for ways to help tuangi thrive once again. Tuangi are a taonga species for Ngāti Awa, Whakatohea and Ngai Tūhoe - all who have governance over the Ōhiwa Harbour - along with the two district councils and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Kiri's research will play a critical role in allowing them to make decisions about tuangi management.

Kiri is now preparing publications for her PhD study. One paper looks at how government legislation has impacted the ability of Māori to interact with the marine environment. She says legislation has been pivotal in excluding Māori economically from the marine environment, beginning with the introduction of the 1866 Oysters Fisheries Act. Kiri says the Act was created to encourage oyster farming production in Aotearoa but it also impeded the ability of Māori to enact rangatiratanga in marine commerce. "The effects of this legislation impacted Māori hugely for the coming generations, and it was no different from being displaced from our whenua," says Kiri.

She says it wasn't until the 1980s, with the success of the Ngāi Tahu claim (WAI 27) and the Muriwhenua fishing claim (WAI 22), that Māori could begin to secure their rights to economic benefits from the marine environment. "This kind of research is as important as collecting data and doing hands-on research in the water, because it challenges colonial power dynamics that have been working to marginalize Māori. It is important to keep scrutinizing all legislation coming through to push back when it marginalizes Māori rights," she says.

Kiri, who has degrees in architecture as well as marine biology, also plans to visually present her findings to make it easier for whānau to understand what is happening to tuangi. At the start of her PhD Kiri was diagnosed with dyslexia and she says the diagnosis affirmed why visual communication is her super strength. She plans to put this strength to good use, creating graphs, maps, and models for use by iwi and local councils.

"Tuangi occupy different niche spaces in the harbour and depending on their age, they require different types of water characteristics to survive. I have created a range of maps, models and graphs to create more robust research reflective of our results," she says.

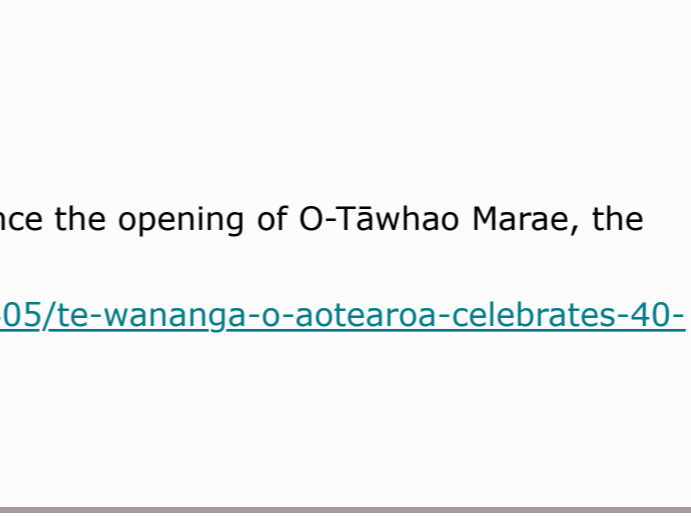
Kiri is based at the University of Waikato Coastal Marine Field Station and says being part of a research team that is interested in creating practical solutions to problems is the best part of her job. "Impact science is where we are at. We do it at the ground, we survey, we constantly engage with whānau. There is no point in having high level theories when they don't work practically and where people are not part of finding solutions," she says.

"I love my job because it is impactful, and it is working with our people of all ages. We need to tap into our kaumātua as a resource and we need to stand beside our young ones as they learn to protect our environment. Our young ones are innately connected to the harbour. It sparks me, and you can see it sparking them too when you take them out to work beside you."

KŌRERO WITH NPM RESEARCHERS

Each month we feature one of our NPM lead researchers. This month our kōrero is with Dr Jesse Pirini who is a senior lecturer in Management at Te Herenga Waka. Jesse is a Fulbright scholar who has recently returned from UMass, Boston.

Ko wai tō ingoa, nō whea koe?
Ko Jesse Pirini tōku ingoa. Nō Ngāti Tūwharetoa me Te Whakatōhea ahau. I tūpi ake au ki Te Whangānui-a-Tara, ā, kei konei tonu au e noho ana.



What are your areas of research?
I explore how Indigenous knowledge systems shape work in general, and specific practices like restoration. I have a particular focus on Māori perspectives on economic activity and have been working with Indigenous colleagues from around the world too. I really enjoy learning about other Indigenous peoples and how they think about the world. There are often parallels with Māori, but lots of differences also.

What excites you about your work?
The most exciting part of my work is the opportunity to create pathways for Māori communities to thrive economically while maintaining their cultural values. It's exciting to be part of projects that challenge conventional thinking around economic systems and to promote Indigenous methodologies in research and practice. I work best as part of a research team with close ties to a community. I really crave a real sense of impact from my work, and I get a lot of energy from working with others so I prefer team research.

I also love the variety of work that I'm involved in. My current work includes projects on progressive procurement, Indigenous intellectual property and data sovereignty, insurance and disaster resilience. The range of projects keeps things interesting, and I also find links running through them all. Insights in one project can apply to another and so on, so it's reinforcing to work across multiple kaupapa and to find the connections.

It's also a real honour to work with PhD students. It's a massive commitment to take on a PhD and it takes years, so I feel a real sense of responsibility as a supervisor. It can also be really hard work but working as part of a supervisory team and watching students grow and develop is pretty special.

Our NPM vision is flourishing Māori futures. What does that mean for you?
For me, flourishing Māori futures means a world where Māori are free to express their mātauranga and wairuatanga in whatever ways work for them. It means there are opportunities for Māori to be self-determining and prosperous on our own terms. I also think it's important that we bring others along with us - a tirohanga Māori has a lot to offer the world. I grew up in a time when there were all sorts of flippant comments that were derogatory to Māori, or positioned Māori in particular ways that are limiting. That still happens now, but it's getting better slowly. So flourishing might also mean that these types of comments and positioning are less impactful - and happen less too.

Lastly, can you tell us something surprising about you?
I can peel an orange really fast. I used to be able to juggle five balls - but I haven't tried for a while and I've probably lost it now.

KANAPU



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

FUTURE KANAPU EVENTS

TŪHONO RAU TANGATA | MĀTANGA TALKS
Tūhono Rau Tangata | Mātanga talks are online kōrero with Māori from diverse RRSIT fields (rangahau, research science, innovation and technology) sharing insights on their life and career journeys. Some sessions are in te reo Māori, others in English. All are welcome! We have many outstanding mātanga already confirmed for both our reo Māori and General sessions:

4 June 2025 - Peter-Lucas Jones
All sessions are held on Wednesdays, 12:00 - 1:00 pm. Registration is essential. Come along and be inspired. https://kanapu.maori.nz/matanga-talks/

KANAPU TŪHONO RAU TANGATA | MASTERCLASSES
These 2.5 hour classes (primarily in English) allow more time to explore important kaupapa for undertaking RRSIT-related mahi, whether that mahi is for whānau, hapū or iwi, academic studies or professional work. Here's what's in store:
2 July 2025: He Kura Nō Te Ao Atua with AATEA with Whare Kupenga-Keefe and Hinerangi Edwards
All Masterclasses are held on Wednesdays, 12:00-2:30 pm. Registration is essential. Nau mai, haere mai!
Masterclass Registration: https://kanapu.maori.nz/masterclass/
Follow Kanapu on Instagram, Facebook or LinkedIn

NGĀ MANAAKITANGA | OPPORTUNITIES

MĀORI STREETS SURVEY - A NPM MATAKITENGA PROJECT

Help Us Explore and Design a Māori Street - "By Māori, For Māori."
Te Manawahoukura Rangahau Centre invites you to participate in our survey about what a "Māori Street" could look, feel, and function like. Māori perspectives are often missing in street design, even though our streets shape our daily lives, health, and wellbeing. We are seeking Māori aged 17 and over to take part.
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MaoriStreetsSurvey

MEDIA SAVVY - IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS!

Applications are open for the Science Media SAVVY workshops. These workshops give valuable tips and tricks for those wanting to develop and improve their interactions with the media.
When: 3-4 July
Where: Ngā Tauria Marae, Tāmaki Makaurau
Register now: https://www.scienceandmediacentre.co.nz/media-savvy-maori/

FULBRIGHT | NPM GRADUATE AWARD APPLICATIONS OPEN

The Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Graduate Award is for a promising Aotearoa graduate student to undertake postgraduate study or research at a US institution in the field of indigenous development.
One award valued at up to US\$50k (plus NZ\$4k travel funding) is granted annually for up to one year of study or research in the US. Students undertaking multi-year Masters or PhD degrees have the opportunity to apply for additional funding of up to US\$40k towards their second year of study.
For more information: https://fulbright.org.nz/study-in-the-united-states/awards-for-nz-graduate-students/fulbright-nga-pae-o-te-maramatanga-graduate-award/
Applications Close: 1st August, 2025

CENTRE FOR WORLD INDIGENOUS STUDIES CALL FOR PAPERS SPECIAL EDITION

Submissions are invited for a special 2026 edition of our Fourth World Journal (FWJ), which will focus on The Role of Women in Traditional Medicine. The issue will highlight diverse perspectives on women's roles in traditional medicine across cultures and regions, and we welcome submissions from a range of contributors—including researchers, activists, traditional knowledge holders, and healers.
This will be a two-part special issue:
January 2026 edition - Submission deadline: August 1, 2025
June 2026 edition - Submission deadline: January 1, 2026
For more information: https://www.cwis.org/fourth-world-journal/call-for-papers-special-edition/
Contact: fwj@cwis.org

HUI, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS

SOCIAL MEDIA SUCCESS FOR EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS

This webinar series is targeted towards early-career researchers and PhD candidates wanting to use social media for greater research impact. We have chosen five highly successful social media influencers who will share the key elements to their success during this series.
Register here for webinars:
https://www.maramatanga.co.nz/news-events/main-front-page-news-item-news/nom-social-media-success-webinar-2025

RINGA RANGAHAU RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2025

This symposium run by the Te Kura i Awarua Rangahau Māori Research Centre aims to celebrate Ngāti Kahungunu researchers engaged in mahi rangahau and in research. "Nō Ngāti Kahungunu, nō Ngāti Kahungunu" - kōwhiri te karangahi! The final date for abstract submission is 16 May, so there is still time to take part!!
When: 9 - 11 July, 2025
Where: Te Aho a Māui | EIT Hawke's Bay
Registration: No cost for attendees. Spaces are limited, so be quick to register.
https://tekuraiawarua.org/events/workshops-o-nga-ringa-rangahau-nga-ringa-tohau-nui-o-ngati-kahungunu/

MĀORI RESEARCHERS HITTING THE HEADLINES

Waatea News
16 April
Khylee Quince criticises ACT's 'colourblind' Bill
Māori law educator Khylee Quince says everyday is a safe day to be racist in New Zealand ōlāmst Māori.
https://waateanews.com/2025/04/02/khylee-quince-criticises-acts-colourblind-bill/

RNZ
4 April
Is whakapapa the answer to better health treatment?
Associate Professor Phillip Wilcox on a bespoke data access and analysis platform that might lead to better treatment.
https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/te-manu-korhi/557203/is-whakapapa-the-answer-to-better-health-treatment

RNZ
13 April
Ōhiwa Harbour restoration heralded as triumph for Māori-led campaign
After years of decline, the Te Ao Māori-led campaign for Ōhiwa Harbour's misser population, thanks to a mātauranga Māori-led restoration.
https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/te-manu-korhi/558032/ohiwa-harbour-restoration-heralded-as-triumph-for-maori-led-campaign

Waatea News
16 April
Graeme Atkins leads land restoration efforts
Graeme Atkins, a conservation expert based near Rotorua, is working to stop further land erosion on the East Coast.
https://waateanews.com/2025/04/16/grame-atkins-leads-land-restoration-efforts/

Te Ao Māori News
28 April
Māori leaders urge UN to act on NZ's 'regressive' policies.
Professor Claire CHARLES has told the United Nations that the New Zealand government is pushing the most 'regressive' policies she has ever seen.
https://www.teaonews.co.nz/2025/04/28/maori-leaders-urge-un-to-act-on-nzs-regressive-policies/

RNZ
10 April
Te Wānanga o Aotearoa celebrates 40 years
Te Wānanga o Aotearoa is celebrating 40 years since the opening of O-Tāwhao Marae, the birthplace of the Wānanga, in Te Awamutu.
https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/te-manu-korhi/559405/te-wananga-o-aotearoa-celebrates-40-years-since-the-opening-of-its-spiritual-home

Kāri rā ngā kōrero mā tēnei wā.

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