



PAENGAWHĀWHĀ | APRIL 2024

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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NPM Researchers Hitting the Headlines

TE PŪRONGO NŌ NGĀ POU MATARUA
CO-DIRECTORS UPDATE

Amid ongoing efforts by the coalition government to redefine Aotearoa's founding document, Te Tiriti o Waikato, Māori around the motu continue to collectivise and strategise ways forward. The recent 'Designing our Constitution' conference at Waipapa Taumata Rau was one such initiative. Held in memory of the late Dr Moana Jackson, the conference focused on the practical steps needed to design an inclusive constitution for all of Aotearoa. NPM was proud to sponsor a post-conference public lecture at Waipapa Marae by the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Francisco Calé Tzay.

April also saw the announcement of the membership of two panels that will undertake major reviews of Aotearoa's universities and science system. The announcement came on the heels of the government's decision to halt the planned Performance Based Research Fund 2026 round and, before that, the cancellation of the 'Future Pathways: Te Ara Pea' reform. Given the significant time and energy that Māori researchers and institutions put into responding to the Future Pathways green paper and white paper consultation, our hope is that the new panels will take the time to familiarise themselves with the comprehensive recommendations and explore relevant topics related to Indigenous Peoples and communities from the Asia-Pacific region. Researchers from a range of fields are presenting their work, insights, and methodologies to extend the possibilities for collaboration.

A synthesis of those submissions and the full submission from Te Pūtātanga collective of Māori scientists and researchers can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Ngā Pou Matarua | Co-Directors

- Professor Tahu Kukulati
- Professor Linda Weimarie Nikora

KAUPAPA MATUA

SPEECH LANGUAGE THERAPISTS WALKING THE TALK

By Cindy Simpkins-McQuade

For Māori working in any health specialty, it can be lonely. And so it was for speech language therapist and researcher Dr Karen Brewer (Whakātohea, Ngāiterangi) At a crossroads in her career in 2018 she decided to seek advice from NPM co-director Linda Nikora about a path forward and ways to improve research for Māori speech-language therapy (SLT).

"Get yourself some mates," was Linda's sage advice, and so Karen set about establishing a roopu of Māori SLT professionals throughout the motu, specifically to undertake research.

NPM awarded her a seeding grant to undertake a literature review into what research already existed, and while this was the initial focus, the gathering of Māori SLT therapists under one korowai, Te Ōhu Māori o Aotearoa, was a major benefit, says Karen.

One reason it had previously been difficult for SLT therapists to find each other is that training in the career can occur in a variety of ways, and because the profession is divided into two main areas – health and education – where the two systems operate completely separately from each other.

SLT services are not often at the forefront of people's minds – until a major problem arises, like a stroke or brain injury – and they urgently need the service. In the education system, SLT services support younger people who often have learning and developmental challenges, or neurological conditions such as Cerebral Palsy.

One thing common to both health and education services is that getting access to SLT is extremely difficult. The lack of data, research and resources for Māori who need this service is another common theme across both.

There are long waiting lists for referrals and then getting seen. And while this is not unique to Māori, for kohanga reo and kura kids there are not many SLTs who can meet their needs so getting culturally appropriate care is even harder. "It's one thing to speak a language, it's another thing to have the resources and speak it to a level that you can deliver therapy in - and you can't just go and pull an assessment or a resource off the shelf because there aren't many to use," says Karen.

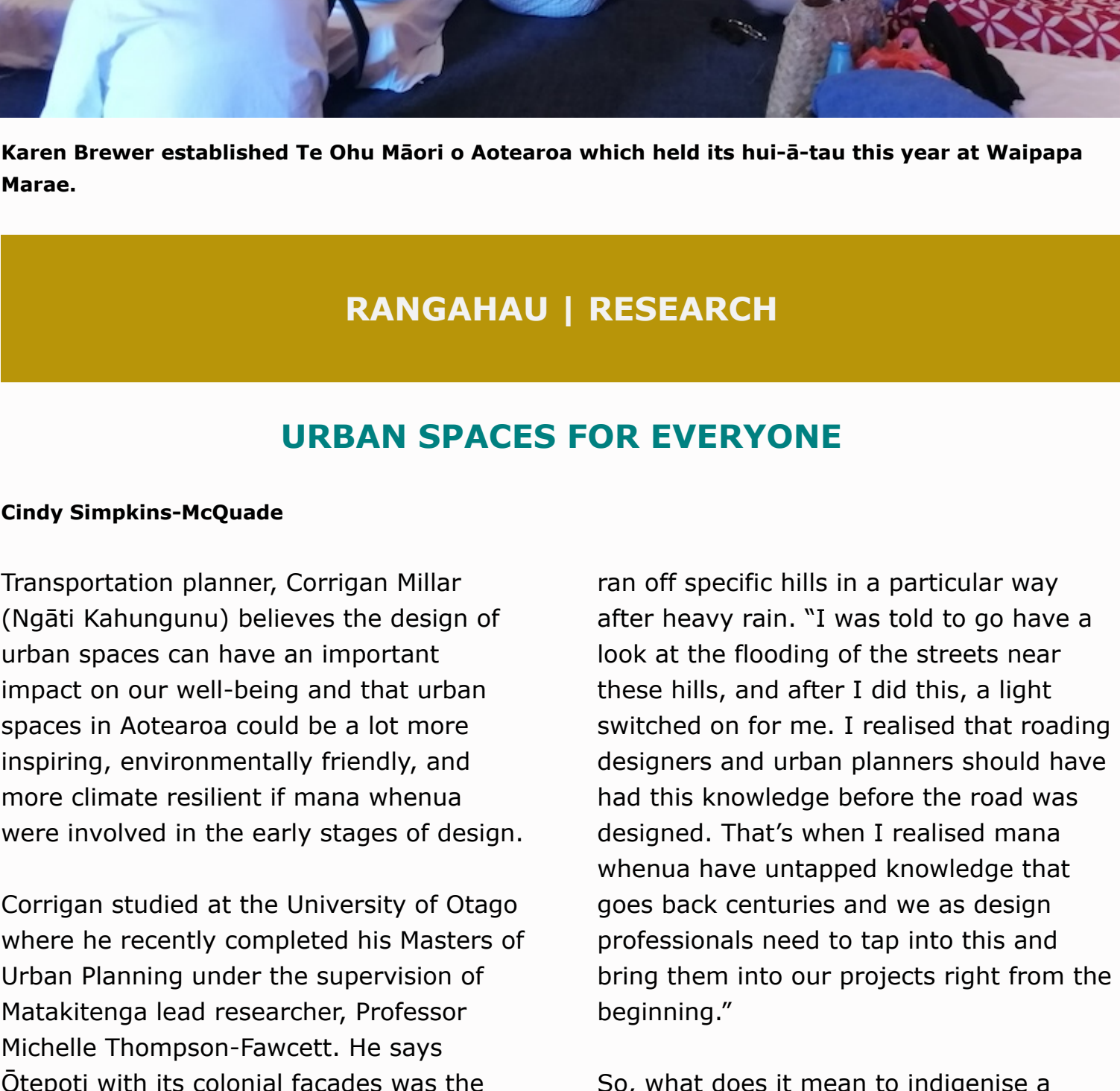
The NPM seeding grant helped by enabling community-based research to be undertaken in Tairāwhiti. SL therapist Nicky-Marie Kohere-Smiller lives and works in the rohe, and her involvement in the research inspired her to seek additional funding to undertake research with and under the mana of Te Atihanga-a-Māhaki iwi. When funding was received from Cure Kids, A Better Start and Teaching and Learning Research, Nicky-Marie developed a guiding framework and resources specifically for Te Atihanga-a-Māhaki kohanga reo and kura kaupapa Māori. "The great thing about Nicky-Marie's research is that it has come from the iwi, and it is unapologetically so," says Karen.

For SLT practice must be linked to the history and the dialect (both Māori and English) of the client, Karen says this is important for SLT because each iwi is distinct both in te reo Māori and English and this guiding framework has a message for the Ministries of Education, Health and SLT. "The message is that you need to understand colonisation and its impacts on tamariki mokopuna of all iwi today as specifically if you are going to work in this area – you need to know this stuff," says Karen.

There is a need for each iwi to have their own resources for SLT, and Karen is acutely aware of the lack of data government agencies have about client needs and the number of trained Māori SLT therapists.

A key area Te Ōhu Māori o Aotearoa works on, therefore, is supporting the next generation of therapists by providing peer support and supervision to those who are already working in the area. "The establishment of the group was necessary because while we know the right way to work with whānau Māori, we are working in systems that don't always allow us to work the way we need to work, so there is a need to tauoko each other with peer supervision, moral support and professional development," she says.

"This group has given us whanaungatanga. Our goal is to be supported to practice as Māori SLTs and there is well and truly a big need for us in education and health. The feedback from our Māori clients, for the lucky ones who do get it, is that it makes a big difference when you have someone who shares your culture."



Karen Brewer established Te Ōhu Māori o Aotearoa which held its hui-a-tau this year at Waipapa Marae.

RANGAHAU | RESEARCH

URBAN SPACES FOR EVERYONE

Cindy Simpkins-McQuade

Transportation planner, Corrigan Millar (Ngāti Kahungunu) believes the design of urban spaces can have an important impact on our well-being and that urban spaces in Aotearoa could be a lot more inspiring, environmentally friendly, and more climate resilient if mana whenua were involved in the early stages of design.

Corrigan studied at the University of Otago where he recently completed his Masters of Urban Planning under the supervision of Mātaakitanga lead researcher, Professor Ranginui Maaka.

Ōtēpoti with its colonial facades was the perfect place to observe how Māori heritage had been left out of urban design. He says today's planners are attempting to incorporate Te Ao Māori into new design concepts for the city and that the more successful projects bring mana whenua to the table from the very start.

Urban spaces can tell us a lot about the culture of people who use the spaces, as well as being a reflection of the designer's attitudes to the community. Corrigan says it is vital that planning professionals understand the need for Māori identity to be reflected in urban spaces, particularly because 85% of Māori live in urban areas.

"Urban spaces in New Zealand need to reflect more than just one culture. Places and spaces can boost or inhibit our well-being, and Māori need to feel as much at home in their urban spaces as any other culture using these spaces," he says.

Corrigan's thesis examined the barriers hindering design professionals in the practice of 'indigenising' urban spaces. He interviewed a range of people including city planners, architects and mana whenua, and says the results showed a lack of education about Te Ao Māori was completely unaware of Māori culture and was using a template system from a university in the United Kingdom to design spaces. The planner was unaware of how inappropriate it was to come to New Zealand with an overseas mentality and expect to impose this on top of an existing culture."

He says his research showed many planning professionals do not feel confident to engage with mana whenua and their education meant some lacked an understanding of why it is important. "I talked to a planner who was completely unaware of Māori culture and was using a template system from a university in the United Kingdom to design spaces. The planner was unaware of how inappropriate it was to come to New Zealand with an overseas mentality and expect to impose this on top of an existing culture."

He says designing with Te Ao Māori values often means you need to approach the process with a holistic mindset and not be wedded to particular outcomes and timelines. "However, my case studies showed that when Te Ao Māori was acknowledged at the very beginning of a project, it ran more smoothly and allowed the design professionals to gain extremely valuable insights."

One example of the usefulness of historic Māori knowledge came when Corrigan was advised by mana whenua about how water

ran off specific hills in a particular way after heavy rain. "I was told to go have a look at the flooding of the streets near these hills, and after I did this, a light switched on for me. I realised that roading designers and urban planners should have had this knowledge before the road was designed. That's when I realised mana whenua have untapped knowledge that goes back centuries and we as design professionals need to tap into this and bring them into our projects right from the beginning."

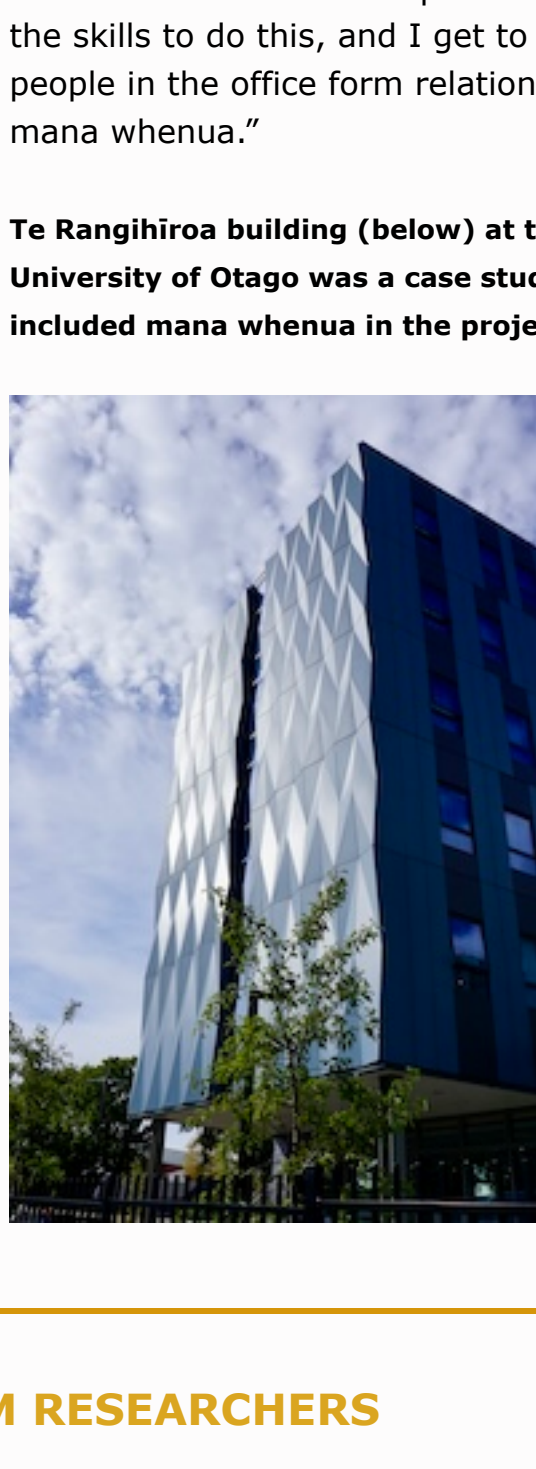
So, what does it mean to indigenise a space and how can it be done? For Corrigan it means acknowledging Indigenous and cultural connections to the land, as well as building respectful and authentic relationships with mana whenua.

Corrigan's thesis looked at two Dunedin case studies: the George Street redevelopment, and Te Rangihira student hall of residence. Both developments were ultimately successful, however, George Street got off to a better start because mana whenua were brought in from the outset. Corrigan says this was helped by Dunedin City Council updating its District Plan to recognize Te Ao Māori as a fundamental value.

George Street has had a complete transformation and now it flourishes with native plantings that reflect the plant and insect life that were there historically. Walking, sitting, and interacting with people have been made easier, and these spaces have replaced the busy, two-lane road that once existed.

Corrigan is now working in New Plymouth as a transport planner for BECA Consultants and he says he uses the knowledge gained from his thesis every day in his mahi. "Multi-disciplinary teams work on a lot of our projects, and what I learnt during my thesis was invaluable for my work now. My thesis taught me how to talk with, rather than talk to, mana whenua. I am now in a spot where I have the skills to do this, and I get to help other people in the office form relationships with mana whenua."

Te Rangihira building (below) at the University of Otago was a case study which included mana whenua in the project team.



KŌRERO WITH NPM RESEARCHERS

Each month we feature one of our NPM researchers. This month our kōrero is with Mātaakitanga researcher Dr Rāwiri Tinirau who is the director of Te Atahanga o te Ao and a co-chair of Te Tira Takimano, the NPM electoral college.

Ko wai tō ingoa, nō whea koe?

Ko Rāwiri Tinirau tōku ingoa. Ko Rachel Tinirau tōku whea, nō Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangi, Ngāti Rangī, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngā Wairiki, Ngāa Rauurū Kaitiaki, Ngāti Ruamui, Ngāti Porou, nō Rongowhakaata hoki a ia. Ko John Hamlin tōku pāpā, he uri nō Ngāti Kahungunu, Tūhono, Ngāti Awa, Te Whakatohea, me Te Whānau-a-Apanui. He hononga hoki āku ki Te Arawa, Rangitane me Kaiti Mānoa/Ngāti Tahu. I was born in Palmerston North, raised and educated in Waiuku, and spent much of my childhood on marae, attending hui, wānanga, and tangihanga, alongside my parents, grandparents and extended whānau. As a result of whānau and professional connections, I completed my tertiary studies at Massey University, and have worked as an educator, academic and researcher for most of my working life.

What are your areas of research?

As with many kaupapa Māori researchers, my research work continues to expand and it varies! My doctoral study was centred within management and business studies, and I have focused on the place and value of tikanga Māori in Māori organisations. Since then, I have branched into other areas of research, including economic development, oratory and performing arts, marae and hapū community development, history and museum studies, and holistic well-being. As the current director of Te Atahanga o te Ao, an independent kaupapa Māori research initiative based in Whanganui, our focus is on health and environment, and in particular, ending the impacts of intergenerational trauma for whānau, and realising innovative healing and recovery pathways based on ancestral knowledge.

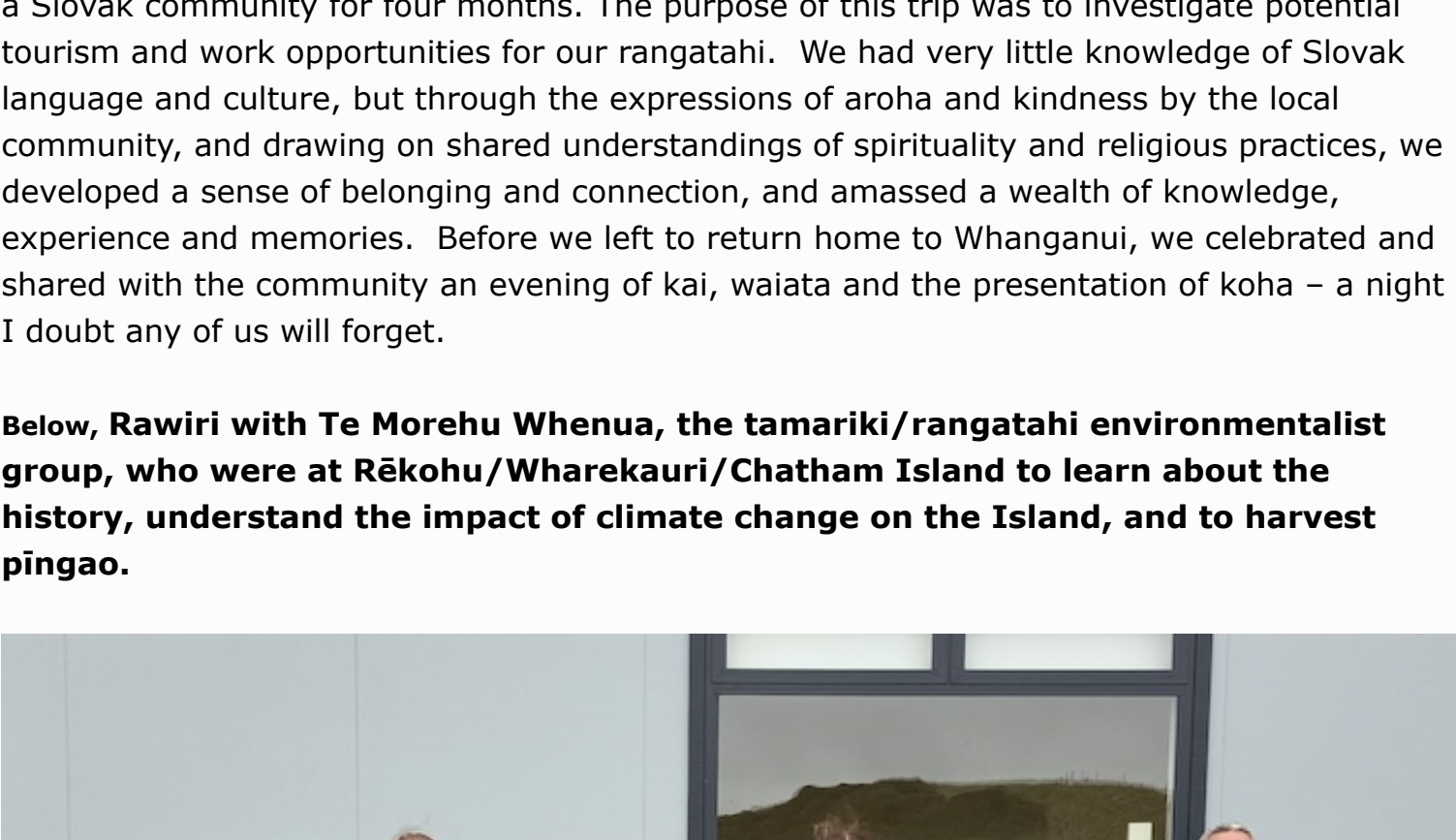
What excites you about your work?

I enjoy spending time within our community, listening to whānau, hapū, marae and iwi about issues that are important to them, and then discussing with them how research can inform and help progress their kaupapa and future aspirations. One example has led to the establishment of a tamariki and rangahau environmental projects as a result of our research. Secondly, our work is about, for and by Māori, and we understand that research will contribute positively to others, including Indigenous communities worldwide. Thirdly, our vision requires us to prioritise the needs of our tamariki and mokopuna; research platforms and projects, therefore, must be future and solutions focused.

Lastly, can you tell us something surprising about you?

I was part of a rangahau delegation from Whanganui to Slovakia in 2009, where we lived in a Slovak community for four months. The purpose of this trip was to investigate potential tourism and work opportunities for our rangahau. I had very little knowledge of Slovak language and culture, but through the expressions of aroha and kindness by the local community, and drawing on shared understandings of spirituality and religious practices, we developed a sense of belonging and connection, and amassed a wealth of knowledge, experience and memories. Before we left to return home to Whanganui, we celebrated and shared with the community an evening of kai, waiata and the presentation of koha – a night I doubt any of us will forget.

Below, Rāwiri with Te Mōrehu Whenua, the tamariki/rangahau environmentalist group, who were at Rakohi Wharakaui/Chatham Island to learn about the history, understand the impact of climate change on the island, and to harvest pingao.



KANAPU

Hikihiko te uira | Pāpā te whaitiri | I kanapu ki te rangi | Haruru ana te ao

Connections | Retention | Acceleration | Reverberation

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

KEY UPCOMING DATES AND DETAILS

TŪHONO RAU TANGATA | MĀTANGA TALKS
An online series of specialist talks throughout 2024.

20 May - Bobby Campbell Luke
6 June - Ernera Tarena
Register [here](#).

TE AKO RAU MENTORING PROGRAMME
Rōpū 3: 13 May - 23 June (for early stage / forming grassroots Māori collectives)
Register [here](#).

Follow Kanapu [Instagram](#), [facebook](#) or [LinkedIn](#)

NGĀ MANAAKITANGA | OPPORTUNITIES

MEDIA SAVVY FOR MĀORI RESEARCHERS

This two-day workshop is sponsored by NPM and the Science Media Centre. The aim of the workshop is to increase the visibility of Māori researchers by improving their skills and confidence in dealing with the media by helping researchers understand how to make their interactions strong and impactful.

NPM encourages any senior researcher who wants to improve their media skills to take part in this fully funded workshop. Māori researchers at one of our 21 NPM partners will be prioritised.

Where: Waipapa Taumata Rau, Waipapa Marae
When: 4-5 July
Register: <https://www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz/media-savvy-maori-august>

AKO AOTEAROA - REQUEST FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Ako Aotearoa is a government-funded organisation committed to supporting the country's tertiary sector teachers, trainers and educators to be the best they can be for learners' success.

It is vital that planning professionals understand the need for Māori identity to be reflected in urban spaces, particularly because 85% of Māori live in urban areas.

For more information: <https://tinyurl.com/4teozn6>

HUI, EVENTS, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, EXHIBITIONS

INFORMATION PRESENTATION - RESEARCH FUNDING FROM EUROPE

As a result of the free-trade agreement with Europe, €12.7 researchers are eligible to apply for funding from Horizon Europe which has a budget of €97.8. NPM is hosting a virtual information session to provide an overview of the Horizon Europe fund and the opportunities for Māori.

When: May 29, 12 noon
Who: Andrew Spörle, National Contact Point (Māori) for the EU's Horizon Europe Research Fund
To Register: https://auckland.zoom.us/joining/register?mtm_source=1w10YU0XKpJkJE2dgRui

APRU | ROOTS AND BRIDGES INDIGENOUS CONNECTIONS SEMINAR SERIES

This seminar series gives academics and students from APRU member universities and other guest universities the opportunity to share works-in-progress, exchange insightful ideas and strategies, and explore relevant topics related to Indigenous Peoples and communities from the Asia-Pacific region. Researchers from a range of fields are presenting their work, insights, and methodologies to extend the possibilities for collaboration.

20/21 May | Prof. Eldon Yellison, Simon Fraser University
27/28 June | Prof. Raymundo Rovillas, University of the Philippines
25/26 July | Prof. Ana Luisa Munoz, Universidad Católica de Chile
29/30 August | Prof. Freddy Greff, Universidad San Francisco de Quito
26/27 September | Prof. Veronica Figueroa Penedo, Universidad de Chile
24/25 October | Prof. Pillani Kaalia, Associate Specialist, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
28/29 November | Prof. Kam Kaur, The University of Adelaide Prof. Welyne Jeffrey, Universiti Malaysia

For more information: <https://www.apru.org/event/apru-indigenous-knowledge-seminar-series-2024/>

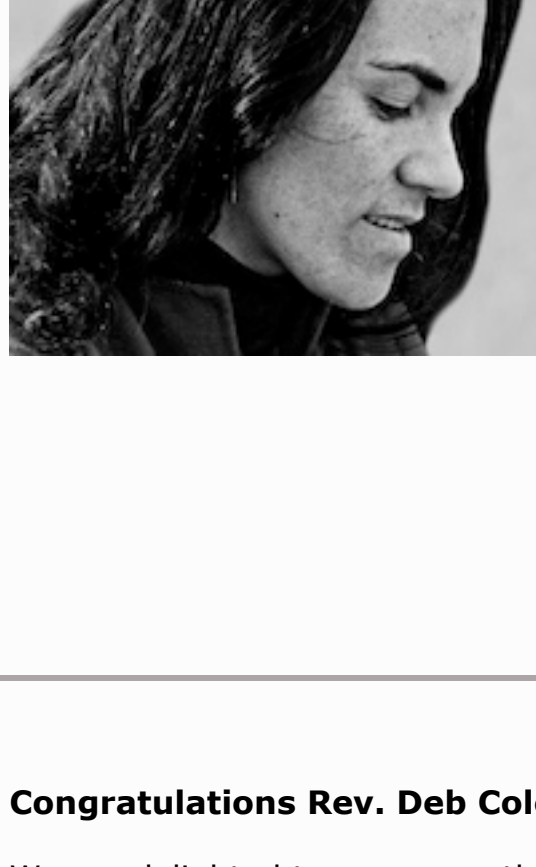
HE PITOPITO KŌRERO
NEWS, EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

He Auteaia! Ngāhaua Te Awēkōtuku

NPM Rūaōtuku Emeritus Professor Ngāhaua Te Awēkōtuku launched her memoir in April: Hine Toa - A story of the bravely. The memoir is a riveting read, telling the story of a working-class girl from the pā who went on to higher education and much, much more. As a founding member of Ngā Tamariki, and an advocate for Women's and Gay rights, the book is a rollicking account of some key moments in Aotearoa's history, as well as a deeply personal story.

Patricia Grace said the book is 'Remarkable, at once heart-breaking and triumphant'. Dame Fiona Kidman described it as 'Extraordinary, vivid, riveting. I learned and I wept over this book.'

Get it now - a must read. Available from most book stores or purchase here: <https://www.harpercollins.co.nz/9781775542322/hine-toa/>



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