



NGĀ RINGA RANGAHAU RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME

9–11 July 2025

Te Aho a Māui | EIT Hawke's Bay

NGĀ MIHI TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

This event was made possible through the generous support of our sponsors and supporters. Your contributions helped remove financial barriers, making the event more inclusive and accessible to all.

We acknowledge EIT's commitment to research, the promotion of mātauranga Māori, and its fundamental support of Te Ara o Tāwhaki Marae.

We especially acknowledge the support of Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi, whose significant financial and communications contributions helped bring this kaupapa to life.

A special mihi to Kohuorangi, a new and emerging collective committed to kaupapa Māori storytelling through photography and videography. Your koha of time has ensured the moments of this event are beautifully captured and remembered.



**Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi
INCORPORATED**



**Te Taiwhenua o
HERETAUNGA**



NAU MAI, HAERE MAI



Join us for the Ngā Ringa Rangahau Research Symposium 2025!

This is our third symposium celebrating Māori research and researchers from Te Matau-a-Māui | Hawke's Bay, across the motu, and abroad. While we focus on strengthening Māori research capacity and capability in our rohe, we warmly welcome attendees interested in kaupapa Māori research and collaborative partnerships across Aotearoa and beyond.

This symposium is a unique opportunity to:

- Share your research at home
- Connect and collaborate with others
- Support the growth of Ngāti Kahungunu research

**“Nō Ngāti Kahungunu, mō Ngāti Kahungunu”
– koirā te karanga.**

From our experienced mātanga to the pī ka rere just beginning their research journey, we all have something to contribute. Let's come together, strengthen our networks, and inspire the next generation of Ngā Ringa Rangahau o Ngāti Kahungunu.

KEYNOTES



Dr Pauline Harris (Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Rakaipaaka, Ngāti Kahungunu ki te Wairoa) is an astrophysicist and Associate Professor at Massey University. Her research focuses on Māori astronomy, maramataka, and climate change. She chairs SMART and is Deputy Director Māori at the MacDiarmid Institute. She was also part of the advisory group that helped establish the Matariki public holiday.



Dr Carwyn Jones (Ngāi Te Apatu, Ngāti Kahungunu) is Kaihautū of Te Whare Whakaturu Mātauranga at Te Wānanga o Raukawa, where he teaches in the Ahunga Tikanga (Māori Laws and Philosophy) programme. He is also an Honorary Adjunct Professor at Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington, a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, and a widely published expert on Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Indigenous legal traditions.



Dr Phillip Wilcox (Ngāi Te Rākato, Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Rakaipaaka, Ngāti Kahungunu ki te Wairoa) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Otago. He is Deputy Director (Māori) of the Maurice Wilkins Centre, convenor of MapNet, and an Affiliate of the Bioethics Centre. His research bridges genomics and Te Ao Māori, focusing on Māori health.



Professor Suzanne Pitama (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Whare) is Dean of the University of Otago Medical School and a registered educational psychologist. She has over 20 years' experience in Māori health research and education. Suzanne is widely recognised for her leadership in Indigenous medical education and has received multiple national and international awards for teaching and research excellence.

SYMPOSIUM DAY ONE

Wednesday 9th July 2025

11.00am	Pōwhiri
12.00pm	Whakawātea – kai
12.00pm	Tae mai / registrations
SESSION 1	
1.00pm	Te Kura i Awarua / EIT
1.05pm- 1.45pm	Keynote speaker: Pauline Harris <i>From dark matter to Matariki mā Puanga, a journey of the cosmological, space and time</i>
1.50pm- 3.00pm	Jefferson Dew <i>Changing Electricity Use Patterns on Dairy Farms to Reduce Peaks</i> Jaxson Tautala-Hanita <i>What's Your Wai? Rangahau on Applying Te Ao Māori for Freshwater Management</i> Ashleigh Keenan <i>Ngāti Kahungunu and Climate Change Adaptation: Weaving Indigenous Knowledge into Climate Resilience</i>
3.00pm	Afternoon tea
3.30pm- 3.55pm	Jean Te Huia <i>Māori Midwives Revitalising Mātauranga Wāhine Māori Birth Wisdoms in Ngāti Kahungunu.</i>
4.00pm- 4.25pm	Hukarere Valentine & Eleanor Brittain <i>Spiritual care in healthcare in Aotearoa New Zealand</i>
4.30pm- 4.55pm	Kerri Nuku <i>Identifying and Protecting Cultural Safety in Health</i>
4.55pm	Kōrero whakamutunga o te rā
5.00pm	Karakia whakamutunga

SYMPOSIUM DAY TWO

Thursday 10th July 2025

SESSION 2	
8.00am	Tae mai / registrations
8.30am	Karakia
8.35am	Te Kura i Awarua / Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi
8.45am- 9.25am	Keynote Speaker: Carwyn Jones <i>First Law and the Constitutional Foundations of Aotearoa</i>
9.30am- 9.55am	Brian Morris <i>He Waiata Tangi nā Te Rangitotohu</i>
10.00am	Morning tea
10.30am- 10.55am	Pareputiputi Nuku & Parekura Rohe-Belmont <i>Kai hea ngā kura o mua? Te Ūranga Waka degree & honours graduates' feedback on the impact of these tohu on their lives.</i>
11.00am- 11.25am	Hone Morris <i>Kei tua o te kupu tā he kura whenua, he kura reo, he kura tangata</i>
11.30am- 11.55am	Joseph Te Rito <i>"Kia areare ki ngā reo o ngā tīpuna" - multiple outputs arising from a longitudinal oral archives research project which began at EIT and Radio Kahungunu</i>
12.00pm	Wā kai

SYMPOSIUM DAY TWO

Thursday 10th July 2025

SESSION 3		
1.00pm	Te Kura i Awarua	
1.05pm-1.45pm	Keynote Speaker: Phillip Wilcox <i>Development of Rauemi for Precision Health in Māori based on tikanga and mātauranga Māori</i>	
	HAUORA, WAIRUA & WHĀNAU WELLBEING	MĀTAURANGA & REO
1.50pm-2.10pm	Zack Makoare <i>Tāne – Tika Tonu: Rebuilding the Pā Tūwatawata for Tāne Wellbeing in Ngāti Kahungunu</i>	Diana Cruse <i>Collectively reclaiming ngā taonga tuku iho a hākui, a hākoru, and authentically disseminating this knowledge through a localised early learning curriculum within Aotearoa.</i>
2.15pm-2.35pm	Renee Love <i>Marae-led COVID response, hauora Māori toolkit</i>	Dr Piata Allen <i>Te Whakataurite i te Mātauranga me te Marau ā-Kura. Rebalancing Mātauranga and School Curriculum.</i>
2.40pm-3.00pm	Tuakana August <i>How things need to work, for it to work for Māori – A kaumātua voice – aged care in Kahungunu.</i>	Sarah Ngawati <i>Building whanaungatanga to effectively communicate, lead and inspire others</i>

SYMPOSIUM DAY TWO

Thursday 10th July 2025

SESSION 3		
	HAUORA, WAIRUA & WHĀNAU WELLBEING	MĀTAURANGA & REO
3.05pm-3.25pm	Rhiannon Jones <i>Racism, marginalism and tokenism: the experiences of Māori dietitians</i>	Jade Marino Gifford <i>“Ngā pakiaka a Te Rēhia, ka tipua i te ao rangatahi” Kapa Haka and Healing for Rangatahi Māori</i>
3.30pm	Afternoon tea	
4.00pm-4.20pm	Sally Rye <i>Rongo ā Puku, Puku as a source of intelligence to inform well-being</i>	Piri Te Raina Galbraith <i>Taku koha ki te āhuru mōwai o Kurawaka</i>
4.25pm-4.45pm	Gabrielle Kupa <i>Tino Rangatiratanga- Deconstructing and Reconstructing the Ideology of Māori Sovereignty</i>	Ngairė Rewarewa Aben <i>Restoring Rongomaiwahine Tamatakutai Kahungunu Grammar: Tohunga Reo of the Ancient Wananga ki Wairarapa.</i>
4.50pm	Karakia whakamutunga	
6.00pm	Conference Dinner	

SYMPOSIUM DAY THREE

Friday 11th July 2025

SESSION 4	
8.00am	Tae mai / registrations
8.30am	Karakia
8.35am	Te Kura i Awarua
8.45am-9.25am	Keynote Speaker: Suzanne Pitama <i>He Uri ō Ngāti Kahungunu, He Tangata Pākiki: A Personal Reflection on Curiosity, Identity, and Becoming a Researcher</i>
9.30am-9.55am	Matthew Bennett, Sid Ropitini and Charlie Lambert <i>Kaumātua Ringarangahau Manaaki</i>
10.00am	Morning tea
10.30am-11.15am	Kristen Maynard <i>Wairua as a catalyst for public service transformation</i> Waireti Roestenburg <i>Taonga Ihi Orooro – The source & development of a wairua-centric Kaupapa Māori sacred sound healing practice</i>
11.20am-11.40am	Mara Andrews <i>Testing nine Critical Success Factors for Tribal Self-governance in health care in the United States</i>
11.45am	Ngā taonga - celebrating Kahungunu rangahau and ringa rangahau
12.00pm	Closing remarks – Te Kura i Awarua
12.15pm	Karakia whakamutunga - hōki ki te kāinga

NGĀ RINGA RANGAHAU SYMPOSIUM DINNER

He pō whakangahau, he pō Whakanui

As part of the Ngā Ringa Rangahau Symposium 2025, we warmly invite you to an evening of celebration, connection and kai - a special opportunity to unwind and enjoy whakawhanaungatanga with fellow attendees, presenters and guests.

The dinner is a separately ticketed event for those who have pre-purchased a dinner ticket.

Join us to honour the journeys of our ringa rangahau - from our mātanga to our pī ka rere - and celebrate the collective energy that shapes Māori research. Enjoy an evening of kai, kōrero, and connections.

DINNER DETAILS

Date: Thursday 10 July 2025

Time: 6:00pm – 9:30pm

Venue: EIT Campus, Taradale

Drinks: Cash bar

Tickets: \$60 + GST (via email link)

Dress Code: Smart casual

GUEST SPEAKERS

- Chair of Te Kura i Awarua board
- Dr Fiona Cram (Ngāti Pāhauwera)

KEYNOTE ABSTRACT

From dark matter to Matariki mā Puanga, a journey of the cosmological, space and time



PAULINE HARRIS

From Matariki mā Puanga and the maramataka to Māori aims, aspirations, issues, opportunities, and concerns in Aerospace. This talk will highlight some of the areas of astronomy I have been involved in over the past 30 years, which have focused on understanding the celestial from both a Māori and Western perspective - and the space in between.

This journey began with a passion for science fiction, a fascination with Matariki, and a calling to better understand our cosmological origins. Over time, this path has taken me from exploring colliding black holes, supernova, gamma ray bursts and dark matter to working with Māori systems of time and space through our maramataka and tātai arorangi.

Whatever the research topic, the foundation has always been a deep fascination with the night sky, the celestial realm, and our world around us. This journey has taken me all over the world - from Peru, to China, Hawai'i, Rarotonga, and the United States. Whether it has been to learn about alignments of ancient ruins, to sailing on waka with our 'ohana, or to fostering collaborations with amazing Indigenous peoples at NASA - this journey has always been made possible by the support of whānau, friends, and colleagues.

I'm delighted to share this journey so far, which has been both a privilege and a challenge—navigating many uncertain times and spaces along the way. What I have learned, and truly believe, is that we are surrounded by a sea of potential and an expanse of infinite possibilities.

KEYNOTE ABSTRACT

First Law and the Constitutional Foundations of Aotearoa



CARWYN JONES

Ani Mikaere has stated that tikanga is the first law of Aotearoa. This has also been recognised by judgments of the Supreme Court of New Zealand. But what are the implications of recognising tikanga as the first law of Aotearoa? In particular, what does it mean for our understanding of the constitutional foundations of Aotearoa and, consequently, for future constitutional change?

If we take seriously the statement that tikanga is the first law of Aotearoa, then we ought to consider how to ground our constitution in tikanga and organise our institutions of government accordingly. Matike Mai Aotearoa (the Independent Working Group on Constitutional Transformation) initiated important conversations about those matters, which have continued to develop, including through the series of hui-ā-motu last year.

My research builds on those conversations and examines key developments in the history of Māori constitutional thought and practice, identifying ways in which tikanga operates as a legal and constitutional system. This enables us to build a picture of Māori constitutionalism. Better understanding Māori constitutionalism helps us to develop potential constitutional models for organising governance, public decision-making, law-making, and dispute resolution as between hapū and iwi, such as Ngāti Kahungunu, and the Crown.

KEYNOTE ABSTRACT

Development of Rauemi for Precision Health in Māori based on tikanga and mātauranga Māori



PHILLIP WILCOX

Precision health refers to medical interventions tailored to individuals based on their genetic makeup. In mainstream medical contexts, this typically involves DNA (genomic) information, as clinically collected family health data is limited. However, DNA-based predictions often rely on overseas datasets, primarily involving people of European descent, which have proven inadequate when applied to other populations. Bespoke rauemi (resources) must be developed for Māori if precision health is to be effective in Aotearoa New Zealand.

We have developed two key resources and conducted pilot studies to support the application of precision health for Māori. The first, He Kākano Māori Variome, is a restricted-access DNA variation database developed using a tikanga-based study design, with data from over 1,000 individuals of Māori descent. Participants retain ownership of their DNA. The second is a bespoke computational platform, informed by tikanga Māori, enabling researchers to access and analyse genomic and health data under Māori governance at all levels.

Implementing precision health in Aotearoa requires Māori-led approaches and resources that reflect Māori realities. Our internationally recognised research highlights the need for continued investment and stronger engagement from hāpori and Māori health providers to realise the full potential of personalised medicine.

KEYNOTE ABSTRACT

He Uri ō Ngāti Kahungunu, He Tangata Pākiki: A Personal Reflection on Curiosity, Identity, and Becoming a Researcher



SUZANNE PITAMA

In this presentation, I reflect on a personal and professional journey shaped by whakapapa, place, and an enduring sense of curiosity. As an uri of Ngāti Kahungunu, I draw on the whakataukī “He tangata pākiki, he tangata mātauranga” – a curious person is a person of knowledge – to trace how questions born from lived experience, community commitments, and a desire to understand and uplift Māori realities led to a pathway in research.

This kōrero traverses the often nonlinear journey of ‘becoming’ a researcher – not just through academic milestones, but through growing confidence in positionality, navigating institutions not built for us, and finding courage to centre kaupapa Māori approaches in all aspects of inquiry. I share key lessons learned along the way: the importance of listening deeply, holding space for complexity, and remaining accountable to those whose stories and futures are entangled with our research.

Ultimately, this talk is not only about my own story, but about the collective potential of Māori-led inquiry grounded in whakapapa, tikanga, and pākikitanga (curiosity). It is a call to nurture our own and each other’s questions, to value the knowledge we carry innately, and to encourage emerging Māori scholars to see their curiosity not as a deviation from the path – but as the path itself.

NGĀ RINGA RANGAHAU



JEFFERSON DEW

Changing Electricity Use Patterns on Dairy Farms to Reduce Peaks

Jefferson Dew (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa) is a researcher based in Ōtepoti. Jefferson (they/them) focuses on how everyday energy use can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They recently rejoined Dunedin City Council to work on climate change policy and will present findings from their MSc thesis, completed at the University of Otago's Centre for Sustainability and Department of Physics. Their work explores how energy transitions can better reflect community values and everyday realities.



JAXSON TAUTALA-HANITA

What's Your Wai? Rangahau on Applying Te Ao Māori for Freshwater Management

Jaxson Tautala-Hanita (Ngāti Kahungunu, Samatau and Safune, Sāmoa) holds a BAppSc in Environmental Management and Politics and recently completed an MSc in Geography at the University of Otago. He has worked in pastoral care roles and completed a summer internship with New Zealand Trade and Enterprise. Jaxson's research interests reflect his connection to whenua and moana as mana whenua and tangata moana. He is also passionate about exploring decolonising approaches in geography and environmental management.

NGĀ RINGA RANGAHAU



ASHLEIGH KEENAN

Ngāti Kahungunu and Climate Change Adaptation: Weaving Indigenous Knowledge into Climate Resilience

Ashleigh Keenan (He uri nō te Pakipakitanga o Hinetemoa; nō Ngāti Ngarengare me Ngāti Mihiroa o Kahungunu) is passionate about te taiao, with a particular focus on strategies that support and enable the use of Indigenous ecological knowledge in climate change adaptation, grounded in the context of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. She completed her Master of Politics with Distinction at Ōtākou Whakaihū Waka in 2023 and was awarded the New Zealand Business and Parliament Trust Prize in recognition of her academic excellence.



JEAN TE HUIA

Māori Midwives Revitalising Mātauranga Wāhine Māori Birth Wisdoms in Ngāti Kahungunu.

Jean Te Huia (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Rangitāne) is a doctoral candidate at Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi and a lifelong advocate for Māori health. A midwife and nurse, she founded CHOICES, a kaupapa Māori maternity service, in 1994. Her research focuses on revitalising traditional Māori birthing practices in Ngāti Kahungunu to support hapū māmā and reclaim intergenerational mātauranga. Jean's work is grounded in decades of front-line and community-based health experience.

NGĀ RINGA RANGAHAU



**DR HUKARERE
VALENTINE**

Spiritual care in healthcare in Aotearoa New Zealand

Dr Hukarere Valentine (Ngati Kahungunu, Ngati Ngarengare) is a Senior Māori Clinical Psychologist and co-director of the Centre for Indigenous Psychologies at Massey University. She also leads within the Massey Psychology Clinic Manawatū and teaches in the Clinical Psychology Training Programme. Hukarere works mainly with Māori clients with chronic health conditions or cancer. Her passion is Māori approaches to wellbeing, especially wairua (spirituality). She has experience in forensics, mental health, research, supervision, training, and Māori health.



**ELEANOR (ELLE)
BRITTAIN**

Spiritual care in healthcare in Aotearoa New Zealand

Dr Eleanor (Elle) Brittain (Ngati Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa, Ngati Rakaipaaka) is a Senior Lecturer and Clinical Psychologist at Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa, Massey University, and Acting Co-director of the Centre for Indigenous Psychologies. Her research and teaching focus on Māori psychologies and wellbeing. Her doctoral work explored wairua and its role in psychological healing. In 2024, she received the Hauora Māori Emerging Researcher Grant to lead a three-year kaupapa Māori intervention for harmful substance use. Elle is committed to supporting Māori wellbeing and transformative change.

NGĀ RINGA RANGAHAU



KERRI NUKU

Identifying and Protecting Cultural Safety in Health

Kerri Nuku (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāi Tai) is Kaiwhakahaere of Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa and a national and international advocate for Indigenous nurses and health equity. A Registered Nurse and Midwife, she is involved in major kaupapa including the Mana Wāhine Inquiry and UN advocacy. Kerri serves on several governance boards and was awarded the International Human Rights and Nursing Award. Her work champions Māori, Indigenous, women's, and workers' rights through health, justice, and global forums.



BRIAN MORRIS

He Waiata Tangi nā Te Rangitotohu

Brian Morris (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Mārau, Ngāi Te Rangitotohu, Ngāi Te Rangitekahutia) is a fluent speaker of te reo Māori and a licensed translator, with a background in education as a teacher, lecturer, and principal. A graduate of Te Panekiretanga o Te Reo, he holds deep knowledge of kōrero tuku iho and Ngāti Kahungunu history. Brian led the development of Ngā Ara Tipuna, a digital storytelling trail showcasing the pā network surrounding Lake Whatumā and the Waipukurau area.

NGĀ RINGA RANGAHAU



PAREPUTIPUTI NUKU

Kai hea ngā kura o mua? Te Ūranga Waka degree & honours graduates' feedback on the impact of these tohu on their lives.

Pareputiputi Nuku (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Māhu, Ngāti Hinepare, Ngāi Te Upokoiri, Ngāti Rangikoianake) is Pouarataki of Te Ūranga Waka and Te Whatukura at EIT Māori Studies in Te Matau a Māui and Te Tairāwhiti. Her research focuses on whānau whenua and whakapapa, alongside maintaining the EIT BA (Māori) and BA Honours (Māori) 'Graduate Destinations' database since 1999. This tracks graduates' employment and further study pathways, contributing valuable insight into Māori tertiary outcomes and development over time.



PAREKURA ROHE-BELMONT

Kai hea ngā kura o mua? Te Ūranga Waka degree & honours graduates' feedback on the impact of these tohu on their lives.

Parekura Rohe-Belmont (Ngāti Kahungunu, Rongomaiwahine, Ngāi Te Apatu, Kaahu, Ngāti Hinepua, Ngāti Kauaha, Ngāti Hikairo) is a lecturer in the Bachelor of Arts (Māori) programme at Te Ūranga Waka, School of Māori Studies, based at the Taradale campus of Te Aho a Māui, EIT Hawke's Bay. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Māori Studies through Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangī. Her work contributes to the revitalisation and transmission of mātauranga Māori through teaching, research, and engagement with whānau, hapū, and iwi across the wider Hawke's Bay region.

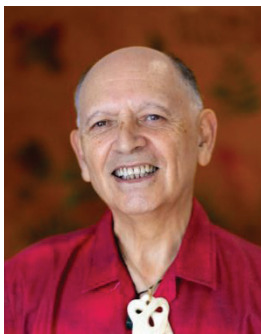
NGĀ RINGA RANGAHAU



HONE MORRIS

Kei tua o te kupu tā he kura whenua, he kura reo, he kura tangata

Hone Morris (Ngāti Mārau ki Kahungunu, Ngāti Te Rangitotohi ki Rangitāne) gained his Translator and Interpreter's license in 2004 from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo and has since worked as Director of Whakapiki i te Reo and Senior Editor Māori at Huia Publishers. He is currently Associate Professor, Pūkenga Reo, at Massey University. Previously, he lectured in te reo Māori and led wānanga reo. His deep knowledge of te reo Māori has been shaped by esteemed teachers including Sir Tīmoti Kāretu, Wharehuia Milroy and Sir Pou Temara.



DR JOSEPH SELWYN
TE RITO

**“Kia areare ki ngā reo o ngā tīpuna”
- multiple outputs arising from a
longitudinal oral archives research project
which began at EIT and Radio Kahungunu**

Dr Joe Te Rito (Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Rangitāne, Ngāti Hinemanu) is a long-time advocate for te reo Māori and community broadcasting. He worked at EIT for 17 years, where he founded Radio Kahungunu in 1988, which he still proudly leads today. Joe spent 11 years at Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga and has been with Ako Aotearoa for the past nine years, supporting Māori educational advancement. He also continues to contribute to research in Māori oral history and reo revitalisation efforts.

NGĀ RINGA RANGAHAU



ZACK MAKOARE

**Tāne – Tika Tonu: Rebuilding the Pā
Tūwatawata for Tāne Wellbeing in
Ngāti Kahungunu**

Zack Makoare (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Porou) is an unwavering leader committed to help rangatahi and their whānau facing mental illness. Through his many collaborations locally and across the motu he has been pivotal in elevating the need and urgency for effective suicide prevention strategies and programmes for Māori. He has been instrumental in the development of kaupapa grounded within te ao Māori and the connections with te taiao to create wellbeing wānanga and programmes for rangatahi.



DIANA CRUSE

**Collectively reclaiming ngā taonga tuku
iho a hākuī, a hākoro, and authentically
disseminating this knowledge through a
localised early learning curriculum within
Aotearoa.**

Diana Cruse (Ngāti Kahungunu) is a kaitiaki kōhungahunga for Kahungunu ki Wairapa and is completing a PhD on embedding ngā taonga tuku iho into early learning environments. An experienced kaiako, she has owned and managed early learning centres and mentors new teachers. Diana is committed to helping tamariki connect with the pūrākau and teachings of their mana whenua.

NGĀ RINGA RANGAHAU



RENEE LOVE

A Kaupapa Māori Response to COVID-19: Heretaunga Marae and Hauora Māori Partnership for Pandemic Preparedness

Renee Love (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāi Tahu, Te Āti Awa) is the Funding & Procurement Lead at Te Rau Ora, where she supports Māori health and wellbeing initiatives. With a strong background in kaupapa Māori research, whānau-centred facilitation, and community development, Renee is passionate about reconnecting Māori with mātauranga and hauora pathways. She is currently studying Toi Paemātua at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa and is an active contributor to her marae and hapū in Waimārama, where she also serves in governance roles.



DR PIATA ALLEN

Te Whakataurite i te Mātauranga me te Marau ā-Kura. Rebalancing Mātauranga and School Curriculum.

Dr Piata Allen (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Hinemanu, Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa) is Head of School at Te Puna Wānanga, Waipapa Taumata Rau—University of Auckland. A Māori-medium graduate, teacher, and parent, her PhD focused on rebalancing mātauranga and mathematics curricula. She develops online programmes in te reo Māori, digital technologies, and maths, and explores the potential of emerging technologies such as AI and VR for place-based learning and advancing te reo Māori proficiency.

NGĀ RINGA RANGAHAU



TUAKANA AUGUST

How things need to work, for it to work for Māori – A kaumātua voice – aged care in Kahungunu

Tuakana (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Porou) is affiliated with Waipapa Taumata Rau – University of Auckland and contributes to the Centre for Co-Created Ageing Research. Her work focuses on community-driven solutions in aged care, grounded in kaupapa Māori approaches. With over 35 years of experience across health, social services, and education, she brings deep insight into whānau and kaumātua wellbeing. Tuakana is committed to research, collaboration, and whānau-led care. She is currently involved in a project identifying aged care priorities with Wairoa kaumātua and whānau.



SARAH NGAWATI

Building whanaungatanga to effectively communicate, lead and inspire others

Sarah Ngawati (Ngāti Kahungunu/Rakaipaaka) brings a depth of sector experience working in justice, corrections and health. As a registered social worker Sarah has been pivotal in the delivery of family violence intervention programmes and equity-based kaupapa across Te Mātau ā Maui to ensure whānau have timely and appropriate access to health care. Sarah's special interest in Māori leadership and effective communication as an important contributor to improve equitable access, outcomes, and experiences for whānau.

NGĀ RINGA RANGAHAU



RHIANNON JONES

Racism, marginalism and tokenism: the experiences of Māori dietitians

Rhiannon Jones (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa) is a māmā, registered dietitian, teacher, and researcher with Te Rōpū Rangahau Hauora a Eru Pōmare at the University of Otago, Wellington. Her work focuses on anti-racism, decolonisation, and health equity for whānau Māori through research and public health practice grounded in kaupapa Māori approaches. She is also involved in teaching public health and Māori health at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Rhiannon is passionate about creating change that centres whānau voices.



**JADE MARINO
GIFFORD**

Ngā pakiaka a Te Rēhia, ka tipua i te ao rangatahi” Kapa Haka and Healing for Rangatahi Māori

Jade Marino Gifford (Ngāti Kahungunu ki te Wairoa – Ngāi Tamaterangi, Ngāti Hinemihi; Tūhoe – Ngāi Tamaruarangi; Tongareva – Ngāti Tapu Niu) is a kaupapa Māori researcher and designer based in Te Whanganui-a-Tara. She works in the public sector, primarily in Māori health policy and equity research. Jade’s research explores the role of kapa haka in healing cultural disconnection and strengthening identity and belonging for rangatahi Māori. She is affiliated with the Tātou Tātou Network and Victoria University of Wellington.

NGĀ RINGA RANGAHAU



DR SALLY RYE

Rongo ā Puku, Puku as a source of intelligence to inform well-being

Dr Sally Rye (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Porou, Te Arawa) is Head of Research at Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT) and founder of Rongo ā Puku Consultants. Born in Maraenui, Napier, she specialises in the gut-brain axis, the endocrine system, and Indigenous approaches to wellbeing. Sally uses neuro semantics and pūrākau to support whānau understanding of their tinana, sharing mātauranga and rauemi that empower whānau to be rangatira of their own hauora.



PIRI TE RAINA GALBRAITH

Taku koha ki te āhuru mōwai o Kurawaka

Piri Galbraith (Ngāti Kere, Te Whānau-a-Rākairoa, Kāti Kaweriri, Ngāti Tākihiku) is Director of Kurawaka Limited in Pōrangahau, a kaupapa Māori enterprise dedicated to revitalising te mana o te wahine through the artform of te reo karanga. In 2024, she received the Te Pou Whirinaki Business Collaboration Award at the MWDI Businesswomen's Awards. Piri holds Te Tohu Paerua: Master of Professional Practice (EIT), along with Bachelor degrees in Mātauranga Māori and Māori Performing Arts, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching. Inspired by her mother, Te Raina Ferris, she leads healing and empowerment through karanga as a taonga tuku iho.

NGĀ RINGA RANGAHAU



GABRIELLE KUPA

Tino Rangatiratanga- Deconstructing and Reconstructing the Ideology of Māori Sovereignty.

Gabrielle Kupa (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Tūwharetoa) is a Māori entrepreneur and advocate for tino rangatiratanga, specialising in rongoā and cultural restoration. A He Waka Huringa graduate (2025) with a Master of Applied Indigenous Knowledge, she is the founder of Te Ao Rongoā Ltd. Her mahi is grounded in mātauranga Māori and guided by Ngā Ara o Ngāi Mokopuna. Gabrielle creates spaces for mokopuna to stand proudly in their identity and inherit the strength of their tūpuna.



NGAIRE REWAREWA ABEN

Restoring Rongomaiwahine Tamatakutai Kahungunu Grammar: Tohunga Reo of the Ancient Wananga ki Wairarapa.

Ngaire Rewarewa Aben (Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Pāhauwera, Ngāpuhi nui tonu) is a te reo Māori researcher, teacher, and learner with over 30 years' experience. Beginning as a kōhanga reo parent, she went on to teach in English-medium schools and lecture at Victoria University of Wellington. She has worked as Director of Reo, Tikanga and Mātauranga for Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated. Ngaire is currently undertaking a PhD on Tohunga reo from the ancient wānanga of Wairarapa.

NGĀ RINGA RANGAHAU



MATTHEW BENNETT



CHARLIE LAMBERT



SID ROPITINI

Kaumātua Ringarangahau Manaaki

Matthew Bennett (Te Arawa, Ngāti Pāhauwera), Charlie Lambert (Ngāti Pāhauwera, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Ruapani), and Sid Ropitini (Te Whakatōhea, Ngāti Rakaipaaka, Ngāti Kahungunu) are hapori research advisors for Te Tātai Hauora o Hine at Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington. As kairangahau and kāhui kaumātua, they support community-led hauora research. Their contributions were recognised with the HRC's Te Tohu Rapuora Medal in 2023. They work in partnership with Ngāti Pāhauwera on hauora issues including hapū whānau, cervical cancer, and methamphetamine. Their leadership ensures research is grounded in local values and needs.



KRISTEN MAYNARD

Wairua as a catalyst for public service transformation

Kristen Maynard (Rongowhakaata, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ruapani) is Principal Consultant at Koru Ngākau in Tūranganui-a-Kiwa. Prior to becoming a consultant, she worked for over 20 years in public service policy and leadership roles. A qualified holistic life coach and Fractology practitioner, Kristen recently completed a doctorate exploring how Indigenous values—especially wairua—can enhance public administration and address complex global policy challenges.

NGĀ RINGA RANGAHAU



**WAIRETI
ROESTENBURG**

Taonga Ihi Orooro – The source and development of a wairua-centric Kaupapa Māori sacred sound healing practice

Dr Waireti Roestenburg (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Pāhauwera, Ngāti Iwi Kātere, Ngāti Māwete) is a Mama, Nana, and founder of Te Wānanga Wairua Māori - a wairua-centric Kaupapa Māori healing and research enterprise advancing Indigenous wellbeing through sacred wānanga spaces. She is Principal Academic and Degree Lead at the Open Polytechnic, specialising in Māori and Indigenous healing. Her practice draws on whakapapa, teachings, and lived experience to support self-determined, spirit-led transformation from the inside out.



**MARA ANDREWS
(MBA, PhD)**

Testing nine Critical Success Factors for Tribal Self-governance in health care in the United States

Mara Andrews (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tangoio, Ngāti Raukawa ki Ngātōkōwaru, Te Whakatōhea ki Ōpape) has dedicated her career to Māori and Indigenous development, working across key agencies including Te Puni Kōkiri and the Māori Land Court. She entered Māori health in the 1990s and received a WHO Fellowship in 1998 to study Indigenous health models abroad. In 2000, she founded Kāhui Tautoko Consulting, with offices later established in Canada and Hawai'i. Mara holds an MBA and PhD, with her research focused on Tribal Self-Governance in Healthcare in the U.S. and Aotearoa.



Our tribal experience of Te Kura I Awarua is seen in the waiata, Pinepine Te Kura. It represents the sacred knowledges brought from the Hawaiiki homeland to Aotearoa aboard the waka Takitimu.

According to Paraire Tomoana, there are five kura: karakia, tikanga, wānanga, tapu and mana. It makes sense that traditional invocation (karakia) and ways of doing and being (tikanga), which are practiced and preserved in wānanga, enable us to maintain tapu in our lives and thereby retain mana as we grapple with life's various challenges. It seems a perfect construct on which to base the pursuit of further knowledge that enables the flourishing of our people in the age ahead of us.

May you all be imbued with Te Kura I Awarua-like aims and attributes, and may the fruits of your work be upon Ngāti Kahungunu, Hawke's Bay and the nation.

Tihei Kahungunu!

