



WHIRINGA-A-NUKU | OCTOBER 2024

Kua raumati, kua kaha te rā.
It has now become summer, and the sun has acquired strength.

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TE PŪRONGO NŌ NGĀ POU MATARUA

CO-DIRECTORS UPDATE

The NPM offices are abuzz with activity and excitement as we head into our biggest ever International Indigenous Research Conference yet. We send a heartfelt thanks to our IIRC sponsors - The Faculty of Arts, Waipapa Taumata Rau; Ngā Wai a Te Tōi - Unitec; Auckland University Press and Kanapu - as well as the sponsors of our Indigenous Data Sovereignty Masterclass, Te Ngira Institute for Population Research and Tikanga in Technology. We could not have done this without you! Readers can also check out the final IIRC programme which is now online with all the details of speakers, sessions times and special events: <https://www.iirc.ac.nz/programme/>

Our recent NPM Wānanga Pātukutuku 'Te Whare Pora - Mātauranga Māori pregnancy, birthing and beyond' is also now accessible online: <https://www.mararamatanga.ac.nz/node/2149> A big mihī to NPM senior leadership member Professor Helen Moewaka Barnes and her team for sharing their time and expertise with us all.

Ngā Pou Matarua | Co-Directors

- Professor Tahu Kukutai
- Professor Linda Waimarie Nikora

KAUPAPA MATUA

GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVE - AN ATTACK ON SCIENCE AND EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

By Cindy Simpkins-McQuade

Public Health Physician Dr Elana Curtis (Ngāti Rongomai, Ngāti Pikiao, Te Arawa) has called on other doctors to object to the coalition Government's attack on science and good medical practice.

In October the Government released a circular advising government organisations "that services are not arbitrarily allocated on the basis of ethnicity or any other aspect of identity."

Elana says the Government's instruction is confusing, not based on science, will be more costly for the country as a whole, and will have negative impacts on Māori health.

She says there is a mountain of robust evidence highlighting that ethnicity is an important and more precise marker for determining need. "In terms of health needs for Māori, ethnicity outweighs high health needs associated with deprivation, it outweighs health needs associated with where you live."

Elana was joined by a group of other public health physicians who have all described the circular as an attack on science in an NZMI editorial re-published by E.Tāngata. "The circular is not evidence based and that is dangerous for all of us because once we go down the road of ignoring what the evidence tells us, then we've gone down the slippery slope where we are just following political rhetoric."

Elana believes if doctors and other health and science professionals accept this circular without pushback, they are abandoning their ethical duty. "They can't just accept because the government told them to do this, they will follow orders. Other doctors have an ethical duty to push back because it is an affront to their own evidence-based practice, and it is an affront to their profession. We are asking them as critical allies to stand up and not be silenced," says Elana.

Elana believes health outcomes for Māori will potentially suffer if the health system stops assessing need by ethnicity. Total population responses will be more expensive and less effective. "You will lose the nuanced, cost-effective targeted health responses. You will have generic in-nature interventions which tend to fail Māori."

She says the Government is pushing a narrative that is targeting Māori health needs, the system is somehow privileging Māori. This ignores the evidence that the health system overwhelmingly advantages the Pākehā majority. "This false belief of a level playing field totally disregards the impact of colonisation and how it has privileged Pākehā and disadvantaged Māori. The evidence of lower Māori life expectancy, higher exposure to risk factors, lower access to health services, poorer quality of care and poorer outcomes - all strongly indicate that the current system is not working as well for Māori."

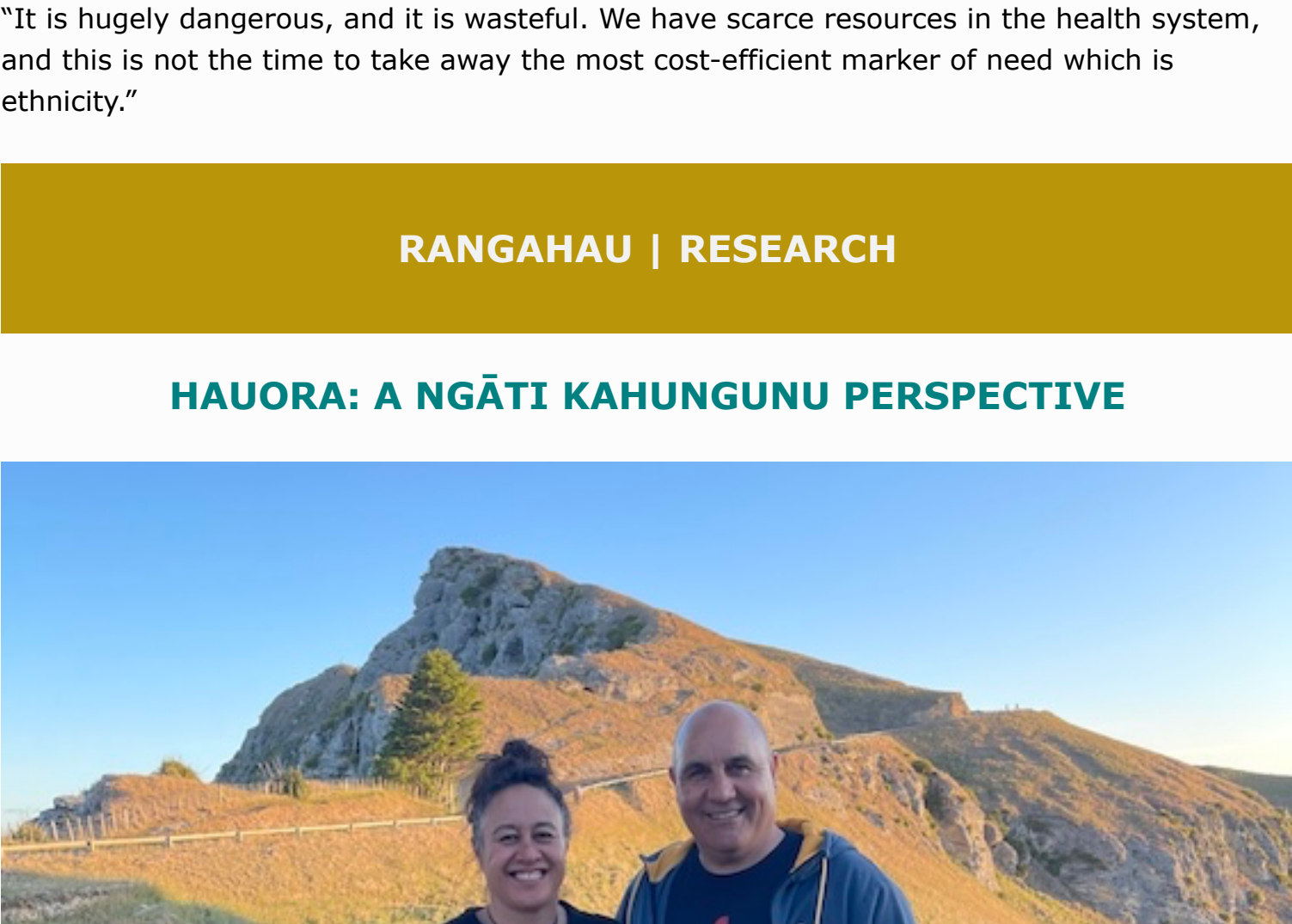
Elana says another confusing instruction from the circular is the message that organisations should effectively ignore any form of personal identity as a factor in determining need. Using multiple characteristics of an individual or a group to assess health needs is a key tool of evidence based medical practice. To suggest that health professionals shouldn't use all of those sources of information encourages weak analytical science and wasteful spending.

"It is very unclear what they are wanting. Our job as health professionals is to look at those identity markers, such as age, sex and ethnicity, and understand where they infer more to a patient." She says if the Government does not clarify what it means by the term "aspect of identity," health practitioners could be forced to treat entire populations, instead of targeting for risk. For example, women are identified as a higher risk for breast cancer, men are identified as a risk for prostate cancer, and people with fair skin are targeted as a higher risk for melanoma. Doctors need to infer risk, and use many aspects of identity to do this."

"It is hugely dangerous, and it is wasteful. We have scarce resources in the health system, and this is not the time to take away the most cost-efficient marker of need which is ethnicity."

RANGAHAU | RESEARCH

HAUORA: A NGĀTI KAHUNGUNU PERSPECTIVE



Sharron and her husband entered IronMāori to support a grassroots Māori event and they experienced multiple benefits as a result.

By Cindy Simpkins-McQuade

Sharron Fabish (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa, Te Whānau-ā-Apanui, Ngāti Maniapoto) is a great believer in community-led strategies to empower people. Sharron is an NPM PhD scholar, and her research focuses on understanding the relationship between participating in grassroots Māori initiatives and hauora.

Sharron herself is no stranger to taking part in Māori community initiatives, - she has participated in the gruelling IronMāori several times, undertaken community-led reo courses and is currently part of the Doctor of Education Programme (EDD) with Te Puna Wānanga, University of Auckland.

She says participating in community activities was highly beneficial to her overall hauora, which led her to explore whether others had similar experiences.

"My husband and I entered IronMāori as a fitness journey and to become involved in a kaupapa Māori event, but we found it facilitated all sorts of other health benefits, including improved mental well-being, wanaungatanga and being able to tautoko Ngāti Kahungunu aspirations for healthy, vibrant whānau," she says.

Her study focuses on three kaupapa Māori community-led initiatives in the Ngāti Kahungunu rohe. IronMāori is a Māori-centric sporting event based on the triathlon, and Te Toka Tūroa is a reo Māori revitalisation initiative aiming to improve the proficiency and iwi knowledge of the education workforce. Sharron has also included a localised curriculum and collaborative partnership between Wāitiki mana whenua, Ngāti Pārau, and educators focusing on place-based learning and curriculum design for the study.

From her own experience and talking to study participants, Sharron believes these initiatives benefit overall hauora. She says participating as a group rather than as an individual brings out the best in Māori. "The opportunity to connect at a deeper level often results, particularly when people are vulnerable and need help and encouragement. People respond to that."

"People are saying that when you are in the same waka, paddling towards a common goal, there is much more likelihood to succeed than if you are paddling alone. They are telling me these initiatives all have common threads with multiple benefits. For example, what starts as a reo or fitness journey might increase someone's confidence and allow them to explore other options to improve their hauora. One of my participants looked for a new job after he'd been involved in IronMāori because he felt so much more confident. Or they might do another course that helps them connect to their hapū or iwi. Your aspirations start to widen."

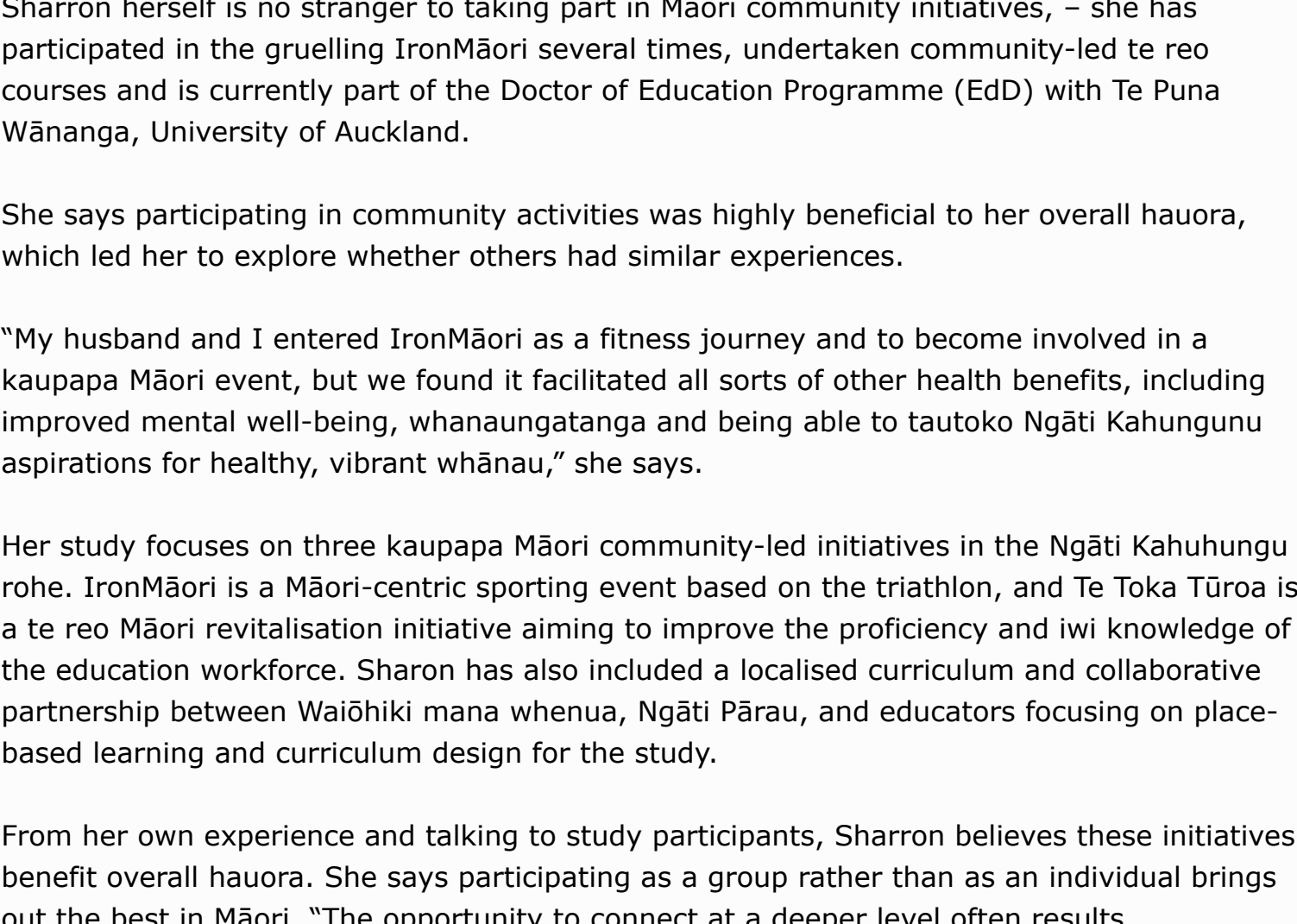
Ngāti Kahungunu perspectives of hauora are crucial to Sharron's EdD, and she is hopeful that her mahi will inform Te Aro Tūroa, the Ngāti Kahungunu Wellbeing Strategy as well as local health and educational initiatives. "People are finding balance and restoring themselves through the idea of 'hohou te rongō' - finding peace through a connection to te reo, whenua, whakapapa, and kaupapa. I believe this is foundational to our overall hauora and provides a greater enactment of our mana motuhake as Māori," she says.

"This work is important because it's another example of using our own grassroots kahungunu solutions to look after ourselves. Sharron says it is important not to use a Western lens when examining these projects. "All three initiatives are improving people's sense of belonging and I'm seeing people move from a place of Te Kore - potential, through to Te Pō - becoming, and finally through to Te Ao Mārama - being, where they are reaping the benefits from their hard work and dedication."

"One of my participants, Dr Jeremy Tātere MacLeod talked about the maunga Te Mata-o-Rongokako (Te Mata Peak) as a symbol of resilience. That mountain has withstood years of winds and rains and earthquakes and all sorts of things, but it still stands, and that's what Te Toka Tūroa means. The language would be entrenched here in this district and remain steadfast."

KŌRERO WITH NPM RESEARCHERS

Each month we feature one of our NPM lead researchers. This month our kōrero is with Dr Awanui Te Huiia, senior lecturer at Te Kawa a Māui, Te Herenga Waka.



Ko wai tō inoipa, nō whea koe?

He uri ahau nō Ngāti Maniapoto, ko Ngāti Paretekawa te hapū, ā, nō Ngāti Tūhoe ahau, ko Ngāti Rongomai te hapū. Ko Awanui Te Huiia ahau.

What are your areas of research?

My areas of research include te reo Māori language revitalisation, intergenerational te reo Māori use with a focus on te reo o te whānau, and how colonial history has impacted Māori and Pākehā relationships. I also focus on how Māori identity is shaped by language reclamation and the challenges Māori face when navigating challenging environments.

In addition to this, I am invested in oranga marae, including how we create opportunities for our collective benefit as whānau/hapū. Over the past few years, I've had the opportunity to work on rangahau that is particular to our marae at Mangatōtōa in Kīhikihī. It includes a project we were engaged in by Pūnui River Care (PRC), a marae-based organisation that revitalises our awa. The report focuses on PRC's kaupapa Māori approach, examining its impact on cultural identity, wellbeing, and the environment. The report also explores PRC's partnerships with external stakeholders, including government agencies and landowners, highlighting the importance of Treaty-led co-management and the need for equitable resourcing for Māori-led initiatives.

What excites you about your work?

What excites me most is being able to contribute to the revitalisation of te reo Māori and supporting whānau Māori in their journey to reclaim their language and identity. Seeing the impact of reo Māori research on whānau, students, and communities is incredibly fulfilling. I also enjoy finding creative ways to address barriers to language learning, such as through online content or resources that help whānau integrate te reo into their daily lives. I also appreciate contributing to our whānau, marae, and kura/kōhanga communities, seeing how research can have a meaningful impact on relationships, including those that we have with peers who are working through similar challenges in the efforts that we collectively make towards te reo revitalisation and more broadly, a reclamation towards rangatiratanga in our daily lives.

Our NPM vision is flourishing Māori futures. What does that mean for you?

For me, flourishing Māori futures means that we are thriving collectively as whānau, as Māori, and as Indigenous people at a global level. To thrive, we need to see co-existence with our natural world, we would see social and economic balance, and we'd see aroha connections across our society to ensure that those who are most vulnerable are cared for rather than vilified or dismissed.

Te reo Māori is like a litmus test, it tells us how well we're doing as a society. When we're thriving, we'll see that te reo is used without restraint, not just in homes but in all spaces where Māori exist. Flourishing Māori futures means whānau, hapū or iwi, academic studies are empowered through their language and culture, with systems and policies in place that genuinely support Māori aspirations to come to fruition. It's about creating environments where Māori can be unapologetically Māori, living in ways that are aligned with our goals of mana motuhake. With that said, we do not live in isolation from what's happening outside of Aotearoa. At a global level, through the rise in social media, we are witnessing multiple genocides taking place in real-time. Flourishing Māori futures also requires security and wellness for other Indigenous peoples who are suffering through acts of imperial violence.

Lastly, can you tell us something surprising about you?

Something out of work about me is that I love to garden and enjoy seeing and handcrafts. I didn't learn to garden until I was in my 20s, but it's become something that I thoroughly enjoy, as it helps me to be centred and feel mauri tau.

KANAPU

Hikohiko te uira | Papā te whatitiri | I kanapu ki te rangi | Haruru ana te ao

KANAPU

Connections | Retention | Acceleration | Reverberation

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.

This month Kanapu launched a new online offering as part of Tūhono Rau Tangata: Masterclasses series. We were delighted to host Professor Anne-Marie Jackson on the topic of Applying for Research Funding: Strategies for Success.

As an applicant, an assessor, a mentor and a funder, Anne-Marie compared our pōhiri processes to the processes of funding and through Te Ara Tupu | A framework for Rangahau. Funding took whānau through the initial two steps:

1. Before you arrive at the waharoa: Preparation required
2. Te tikanga o te pōhiri: Application process
3. Te kaupapa: The research/activity
4. Poroporoakimihī mahi: Reporting

At the beginning of the session, participants were polled about their confidence levels in applying for research funding using an adaptation of the ZePA model. It was encouraging to see when polled again at the end, confidence levels had a significant right-shifting orientation! Miharo rawa atu! The recording is available to view [here](#).

Me mihī ka tika ki a Anne-Marie, nā mātou te hapori o Kanapu te whiwhi.

Follow Kanapu [instagram](#), [facebook](#) or [linkedin](#)

NGĀ MANAAKITANGA | OPPORTUNITIES

Tūhono Rau Tangata | Mātanga Talks

RRST 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:

- 6 November** - Karl Wixon
- 4 December** - Jade Kake (*Reo Māori session*)
- 12 February 2025** - Wini Geddes
- 5 March 2025** - Dr. Awanui Te Huiia (*Reo Māori session*)

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 RRST-related mahi, whether that mahi is for whānau, hapū or iwi, academic studies or professional work. Here's what's in store:

29 January 2025: Creating Te Ao Māori Frameworks with Kiwa Hammond and Whare Kupaunga-Keefe

30 April 2025: Where Is Your Data? with Vanessa Clark

2 July 2025: He Kura Nō Te Ao Atua with AATEA with Whare Kupaunga-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/>

APRU | ROOTS AND BRIDGES INDIGENOUS CONNECTIONS SEMINAR SERIES

This seminar series gives academics and students from APRU (Association of Pacific Rim Universities) and other guest universities the opportunity to share works-in-progress, exchange ideas and strategies, and explore relevant topics related to Indigenous Peoples and communities from the Asia-Pacific region.

Seminar 8: 28/29 November | Prof. Kam Kaur, The University of Adelaide
Prof. Welyne Jeffrey, University Malaysia

For more information and to register, go to:
<https://www.apru.org/event/apru-indigenous-knowledge-seminar-series-2024/>

WERO - Working to end racial oppression international conference

Call for Abstracts: Abstracts are invited for either panel sessions or individual sessions that contribute to an anti-racist or decolonising agenda.

Where: The Pā, Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato | The University of Waikato
When: February 9 - 12, 2025

For more information email: rtu.roy@waikato.ac.nz or moana.waitoki@waikato.ac.nz

IIRC2024 International Indigenous Research Conference

12-15 November 2024
Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand

IIRC Programme Finalised

The final programme for the IIRC will have up-dates happening up until the final week. Please check the programme in the days leading up to the conference so you don't miss out on hearing from speakers.

<https://www.iirc.ac.nz/programme/>

IIRC Masterclass

The pre-conference Indigenous Data Sovereignty Masterclass is now fully subscribed. A Masterclass Workbook resource will be made available online for IIRC.

<https://www.iirc.ac.nz/masterclass/>

IIRC Marketplace

A selection of market stallholders will be displaying custom handcrafted local Indigenous crafts, jewellery and clothing available for purchase.

- Tuli Pasifiks: <https://www.instagram.com/tulipasifiks/>
- Nichola - Designs From Aotearoa: <https://www.nichola.co.nz/>
- Shelley Best: Contemporary & traditional Māori Weaver Toi Mahi Rangara
- It Takes a Village: <https://www.ittakesavillage.co.nz/>

Kokonga Toi Ora - Creative meeting and making space

This IIRC, Kokonga Toi Ora is making creative space for attendees to informally gather and connect through our creative practice. Each day, rīngatōi (Māori creatives) will be in the space weaving and making. Conference attendees are encouraged to bring their beading, weaving, drumming, quilting, singing, guitars and whatever other creative practice supports your state of ora. There is no timetable or workshop sign-up. Attendees bring their creative practice and are welcome to come and go, or to stay for some creative time out. Nau mai haere mai!

Kokonga Toi Ora will also offer mimimi (Māori bodywork massage) on a half hour paid booking system to support ora by releasing pressure points and realigning and rebalancing the body - bookings taken on the day.

IIRC 2024: 12-15 November, 2024
<https://www.iirc.ac.nz>

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NPM 2024 Whakaaweawe Grant Awards

NPM Whakaaweawe Impact and Transformation Grants support Māori researchers at NPM's 21 partner entities to promote research uptake and impact.

Associate Professor Katharina Ruckstuhl
Toi te Hāpapa | Restoration of the Pēhuatani River - a documentary journey

Recording of waiata and taonga puoro

Cara Meredith
Māori Perinatal Mental health
Graphic design costs and publishing costs

Dr Ngahua Mita
Tairāwhiti Waka, Tairāwhiti Tāngata: Exploring Tairāwhiti Voyaging Philosophies
Resource booklet and brochure production

Dr Hine Funaki-Cole
He tūmū herenga waka: Māori mothers navigating the never-ending beginnings of whakapapa.
Booklet production and gallery hire

Professor Maria Bargh
Reflecting on 50 years of the Waitangi Tribunal
Supporting te i-c editing of Tribunal 50th Anniversary book

Dr Ngahua Harrison
Ngā Pōhito | Te Kupaunga o Toi te Huatūhi (The Neptunians in the ocean of Toi te Huatūhi)
Creation of video recording and exhibition photographs

Dr Billie Jo Pomare Rameka
Wānanga Rau, Taumata Rau, Pukenga Rau
Booklet publication

Dr Hotukura Wharehoka
Ko wai tō inoipa? Healing from language trauma by renaming and reclaiming ourselves using te reo Māori.
Production of e-Book

Dr Karen Brewer
Pukapuka Hanganga Reo Matatini: Ngā Kōrero o Te Atanga a Mahaki Iwi.
Children's book publication

MĀORI RESEARCHERS HITTING THE HEADLINES

RNZ
18 October
Māori, Pacific and Asian Psychologists more likely to experience barriers – report
Dr Waikaremoana Waitoki calls for the psychology sector to address the barriers affecting Māori in psychology.
<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/te-manu-korihī/529808/maori-pacific-and-asian-psychologists-more-likely-to-experience-racism-report>

E-Tangata
6 October
'An attack on science and good medical practice'
Leading Māori scientists challenge the government's attacks on science and the use of ethnicity in targeting health inequities.
<https://e-tangata.co.nz/comment-and-analysis/an-attack-on-science-and-good-medical-practice/>

Scoop News
7 October
Māori and Indigenous scholars gather at University of Auckland
Over 120 Māori and Indigenous doctoral candidates are gathering in Auckland in November to connect and showcase their research.
<https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/ED2410/S00011/maori-and-indigenous-scholars-gather-at-university-of-auckland.htm>

Waatea News
11 October
Academic urges council reform for papakāinga
Professor Deirdre Brown urges rural councils to loosen regulations preventing papakāinga developments.
<https://waateanews.com/2024/10/11/dr-brown-urges-council-reform-for-papakāinga/>

Waatea News
15 October
Dr George Laking | Medical Oncologist at Te Pūringi o Te Ora
Professor George Laking on the importance of Māori's minds in the wake of the Ottago floods
<https://waateanews.com/2024/10/11/dr-george-laking-medical-oncologist-at-te-puringi-o-te-ora/>

Waatea News
15 October
Government still lacks identity one year in
Professor Lara O'Leary discusses the challenges of the unprecedented power arrangement of the coalition government.
<https://waateanews.com/2024/10/15/government-still-lacks-identity-one-year-in/>

Waatea News
18 October
Te One Kākara symposium starts in Taranaki
A hui-wānanga organised by Professor Leonie Pihaka brings together Taranaki kai-rangahau at Ōwae Marae in Waitara.
<https://waateanews.com/2024/10/18/te-one-kakara-symposium-starts-in-taranaki/>

Waatea News
21 October
Māori economy struggles, iwi housing shines
Professor Matt Rusurowe on the Māori economy and the impact of a decrease in government contracts as well as positive news with iwi housing.
<https://waateanews.com/2024/10/21/maori-economy-struggles-iwi-housing-shines/>

Kāti rā ngā kōrero mō tēnei wā,

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