

AUT

TE WĀNANGA ARONUI
O TĀMAKI MAKAU RAU

Ngā Hua a Tāne-te-Wānanga



Tūrei, 25 o Ākuhata, 2026

Te Pou Theatre
2 Mount Lebanon Lane



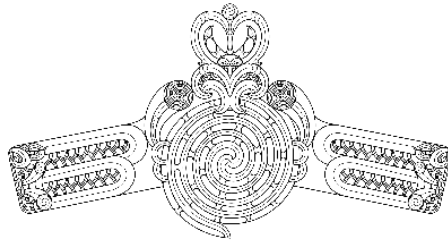
TE IPUKAREA



TE KAWERAU Ā MAKI



TE RANGA TUKUTUKU
AUT MĀORI RESEARCH
NETWORK



**Nau mai, haere mai, tahuti mai
tautoko mai ki tēnei huihuinga o ngā kairangahau Māori ki AUT!**

This Māori Research Symposium brings together the AUT Māori research whānau from experienced and seasoned researchers to new and emerging researchers and not to forget our postgraduate students who are on their academic journey as well. Collectively they will share their research weaving together the fibres of indigenous research methodologies, interdisciplinary research and innovative thinking creating an intricate whariki (fine mat) and showing how Māori research can be impactful and make a significant contribution to Aotearoa-New Zealand. We ask you to join us and make this a celebration of Māori research at AUT.

Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, kia ora ai te iwi
With your basket and my basket everyone will flourish/benefit/thrive, (all will be well)





The tahu, Tāne-te-wānanga was designed by an AUT graduate and Architectural Designer, Matangireia Yates-Francis, and is a symbolic representation of Tāne through a central figure. The interwoven takarangi spirals reflects knowledge, enlightenment, and the connection between celestial and earthly realms. The flanking raparapa forms suggests the sheltering presence of a wharenui, embodying a space of protection for wānanga

He Mihi



E hari ana te ngākau ki te tautoko i tēnei kaupapa whakatairanga i ā tātou kaupapa rangahau. Mā ēnei mahi rangahau a ō tātou kaimahi, ā tātou pia, e kaha ake ai tō tātou hononga ki ō tātou hapori me ō tātou ahurea. Ko te aho whakahirahira o ēnei rangahau, he whakarangatira i te mana o te ao Māori, otirā te mātauranga Māori, ka mutu he huarahi tēnei e āhei ai tātou te āta tipu, te āta whakawhanake. Nō reira, tēnei ka mihi ki a tātou me tā tātou whakakotahi mai ki raro i te maru o tēnei kaupapa wānanga.

I am delighted to support this initiative in showcasing our research. The research our staff and students undertake helps to grow our understanding of our communities and our culture. Most importantly, this research brings to the fore the value of te ao Māori (the Māori world), mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) and a kaupapa (topic) that provides opportunities for all to grow and develop. I look forward to us all coming together as a whānau to share and support one another through this symposium.

Professor Mark Orams, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research

Tuia ki te rangi e tū iho nei

Tuia ki te papa e takoto ake nei Tuia anō hoki rā tō tātou reo Māori, tō tātou reo tuku iho

Tōku reo tōku ohoho

Tōku reo tōku māpihi maurea

Tōku reo tōku whakakai mārihi e!



Inā hoki te kōrero, he toi whakairo he mana tangata. Nō reira kei ngā reo huhua o Te Wao-tapu-nui-a-Tāne, kei ngā mana tangata nō ngā iwi, nō ngā hapū o te motu whānui, puta noa i a Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa, koutou rā kei ngā huia kaimanawa o te reo, huihuia mai rā haere tātou ki te wānanga nui o a Te Ipukarea, ko Ngā Hua a Tāne-te-wānanga. He kaupapa hoki rā te iho matua o taumata o ngā mahi hāpai a Te Ipukarea i te manatū o tō tātou reo ki te keoeotanga o tōna taumata.

I konei ka tika hoki kia whakamihia ngā iwi e tiakina mai ana te manawa mauri tapu o ngā whenua e tū atu nei ngā papa ako o Te Wānanga Aronui o Tāmaki Makau Rau. Timata atu rā ki Te Kei o Te Waka o Tainui, Te Whare Ariki o Te Ariki nui Kuini Nga Wai Hono i Te Pō, e noho ake rā i te ahurewa tapu o ōna mātua tūpuna. Tēnei te whakamānawa ake nei. Ka tae ki runga o Wai Horotiu, ko Maunga Kiekie ki runga, ko Waitematā ki raro. Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, te iwi manaaki e pupuru mai nei i te ahikāroa o te whenua, tēnā rā koutou. Whakawhiti atu rā ki runga o Akoranga, ki te mana o te iwi o Ngāti Pāoa, hui katoa ko Te Kawerau ā Maki, ko Ngāti Rongo o Mahurangi, ko Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara, tēnā koutou kei ngā mana tiaki o te wai o te whenua.

It is my immense honour to welcome you to Ngā Hua a Tāne-te-wānanga, hosted by Te Ihorei o Te Ipukarea, Professor Tania Ka'ai. Ngā Hua a Tāne-te-wānanga brings together new, emerging and experienced researchers together under the mantle of prominent Māori leaders and scholars of Te Reo Māori. Ngā Hua a Tāne-te-wānanga showcases, and will ultimately unleash, the immense potential of the next generation of Te Reo Māori researchers, scholars and academics.

I wish to once again acknowledge our distinguished contributors to this important symposium and to thank Te Ipukarea for their ongoing contribution to the promulgation of new and emerging insights driven by research and scholarship in, and about Te Reo Māori research.

Te kupu kōrero kia mau, te kete wānanga kia ū,

Professor Meihana Durie, Te Toi Aronui

(Rangitāne, Ngāti Kauwhata, Ngāti Raukawa Te Au ki Te Tonga, Ngāti Porou, Rongowhakaata, Ngāi Tahu)



Tania Ka'ai
Ngāti Porou, Ngāi Tahu

On behalf of Te Ipukarea Institute for Indigenous Knowledge, I welcome you to Ngā Hua a Tāne-te-wānanga.

Since 2023, Ngā Hua a Tāne-te-wānanga has been held during AUT's Research Week which brings together AUT Māori researchers, postgraduate students and community. It is a forum which highlights how Māori research is impactful and makes a significant contribution to our communities.

Since the first symposium in 2023, Ngā Hua a Tāne has achieved many firsts. In 2024, the Symposium was live streamed. Another first was in 2025 where all presentations were delivered entirely in te reo Māori with live translations provided by Hēmi Kelly and Hana Mereraiha White. The intention was to normalise te reo Māori within an academic setting. The keynote speakers were Tā Dr Timoti Kāretu, Dr Hana O'Regan & Emeritus Professor Poia Rewi. Presentations from Māori academics and researchers explored Indigenous methodologies, language revitalisation & kaupapa Māori research across a range of disciplines.

This year the Symposium will be held on Tuesday, 25 August 2026. While it sits outside of the AUT Research Week, the Symposium is still part of AUT's Research Week. The overarching theme for Research Week is **Applying research & technology for good**. The theme for Ngā Hua a Tāne-te-wānanga this year celebrates the first ever Kīngitanga Day at AUT. Inspired by the words of Te Arikiniui,

*Tino rangatiratangatia tō reo,
Mana motuhaketia te taiao,
Tino rangatiratangatia tō hauora,
Mana motuhaketia tō pā harakehe,*

...we will explore the themes of reo (the Māori language),
taiao (the environment),
hauora (health and wellbeing); and
pā harakeke (the generations)

(5 Sept 2025)



TE IPUKAREA



Acknowledgements

The organising committee would like to thank the following people for their support of Ngā Hua a Tāne-te-wānanga, AUT's Māori Research Symposium

Te Warena Taua, Josie Wall, & Tame Taratu, Te Kawerau ā Maki

Professor Mark Orams (DVC: Research), & Professor Meihana Durie (Te Toi Aronui), AUT Senior Leadership Team

Associate Professor Rachael Ka'ai, Te Haua Taua, & Precorqtion Wetere, Te Ranga Tukutuku & Professor Tania Ka'ai, Te Ipukarea Institute for Indigenous Knowledge

To all the participants, and the team behind the scenes, ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

Te Ipukarea Institute for Indigenous Knowledge



Te Ipukarea was established in 2008. Our research focus is on four pillars:

- ☛ **Te Whare o Rongomaaurikura, The Centre for Language Revitalisation** includes a theme of normalising te reo Māori in Aotearoa, New Zealand.
- ☛ **Taonga Tuku Iho** includes traditional Māori knowledge which also includes oral tradition and the arts.
- ☛ **Tino Rangatiratanga** is a phrase from Te Tiriti o Waitangi and refers to Māori self-determination.
- ☛ **Te Moana Nui** situates our research within 'our sea of islands' and of course our origins as Māori.

Te Ipukarea has been involved in the development of digital projects since its inception. We have produced a range of digital resources / assets which cover all four pou and are available through our YouTube Channel, see <https://www.youtube.com/@Telpukarea>.

Aside from its research focus, Te Ipukarea also has an academic arm which includes postgraduate supervision (Masters and Doctorates) and teaching DIGD507 Mahitahi | Collaborative Practices, a core paper in Te Ara Auaha, Faculty of Design and Creative Practices. In 2026, there are close to 2,000 students spread across the academic semesters. We are leaders in developing policy for the university. For example, Te Ipukarea led out the policy for writing theses in te reo Māori, with one of its staff members being the first to write his PhD in te reo Māori. We have also led out the policy for students writing their assignments in te reo Māori and we are currently developing guidelines for assessing in te reo Māori by subject.

Te Ranga Tukutuku



The word ranga means group, like rūpū or ope, but here it also plays on raranga, which means to weave. Tukutuku is our traditional art of panel weaving, inspired by the way a spider weaves its web. Together, Te Ranga Tukutuku speaks to a group weaving connections—reflecting the network of Māori researchers working together to advance research that benefits Māori and the communities we serve. It also represents the network as a whānau, and the woven tapestry of meaningful research projects. This collective of Māori researchers is grounded in whakaaro Māori (a Māori mindset) and guided by tikanga Māori — Māori philosophies, language, culture, histories, rongoā (healing), hauora (health), genealogies, and traditions from our ancestral homeland of Hawaiki in the Pacific. These connections link us to our past, present, and future, guiding our work and building on the legacy of scholars before us.

Te Ranga Tukutuku provides a strong platform for expanding whakaaro Māori across many disciplines, including health, business, law, digital technologies, sport science, education, art and design, media, STE[A]M, and social sciences. It honours and elevates Māori research, increasing the visibility of Māori researchers and their contributions to AUT and the wider body of Māori research. Collectively, this work benefits our local communities, Aotearoa, and beyond.

The Whakaruruhau or Governance Group includes representatives from the professoriate, early career academics, professional staff, and a community representative.

Te Kawerau ā Maki



Te Kawerau ā Maki is a West-Auckland based iwi whose ancestral and customary interests encompasses the lands of Hikurangi (West Auckland), Te Ipu Kura ā Maki (Auckland Isthmus), Te Whenua roa ō Kahu (North Shore-Whangaparaoa), Mahurangi, Pakiri, southern Kaipara, and the Gulf Islands of Kawau, Hauturu ō Toi (Little Barrier Island) and Tiriti Matangi. We are the northern most iwi of the Tainui waka.

We take our tribal name from the eponymous ancestor Maki who settled the northern parts of the Auckland region in the early 17th century. The name refers to an event involving Maki and his hapū at Maramatāwhana and Tīneki to the north of Muriwai.

Tawhiakiterangi (Te Kawerau ā Maki) was a son of Maki and along with his wife Marukiterangi are the founding ancestors of the iwi.

Te Kawerau ā Maki are represented by Te Kawerau Iwi Settlement Trust which is the post-settlement governance entity established to represent the iwi and to administer the Treaty settlement assets.

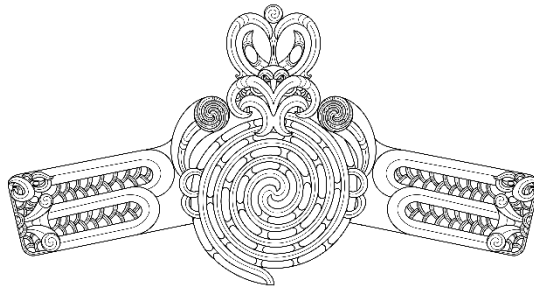
The Te Kawerau Iwi Investment Trust is the economic and commercial arm of the iwi and manages and grows the assets and pūtea for the benefit of the tribe.

The Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust is the social and environmental arm of the iwi and engages with environmental management and the development of education, employment, housing, health, and cultural projects and programmes.

We are pleased to host the 2026 Ngā Hua a Tāne Symposium in partnership with Te Ipukarea, within our heartland at in Te Kōpua, Henderson.

We hope that you feel grounded here on this whenua enjoy a deeper understanding of Te Kawerau ā Maki.

For more information, see [Preserving Heritage, Building the Future | Te Kawerau ā Maki](#)



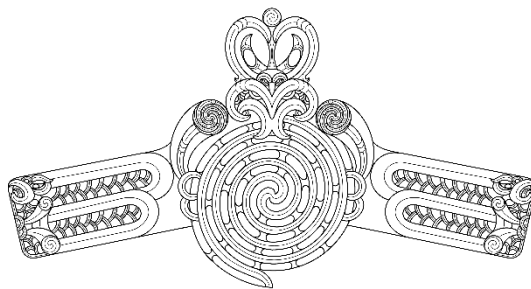
Ngā Hua a Tāne-te-wānanga Health & Safety Notice

'Ka ora pea au i a koe, ka ora koe i ahau.'

This whakataukī (proverb) translates to 'perhaps I will survive because of you, and you will survive because of me'. As we come together for this important kaupapa (initiative), we kindly ask all attendees to take extra precautions during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and Aotearoa/New Zealand's Flu & RSV season, to help protect our hāpori (community). To help keep each other safe, including our kaumātua (elderly), whaikaha (disabled), tangata hapū (pregnant people), and tamariki (children), we welcome and encourage the use of the following:

- **Rapid antigen tests (RATs)** prior to attending
- **N95, KN95, KF94, or FFP2 masks** well-fitted and worn properly
- **Hand sanitiser** which will be available at the venue

Let's all do our part to create a safer environment for everyone. Tēnā koutou.



Ngā Hua a Tāne-te-wānanga Programme

Wā	Kaupapa
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7.30am	Bus departs AUT City Campus, outside WU Building, for Te Pou Theatre
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Master of Ceremonies: Te Kawerau ā Maki

8.30am	Karakia Whakatūwhera Mihi whakatau Pānui Tame Taratu (GM: Te Motu o Hiaroa & Te Kawerau ā Maki Trustee) Josie Wall (Kaiārahi Mātauranga, Te Kawerau ā Maki)
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9.00am	Keynote speaker: Te Warena Taua MNZM, Te Pou Herenga Kaupapa: Taamaki nui tonu – Te Kei o te Waka Tainui
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9.40am	Panel 1: Te Kawerau-ā-Maki – Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust Kaupapa: Sharing their research aspirations for the iwi Speakers: Representatives from Mātauranga, Taiao and Community Teams
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10.15am	Paramanawa
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THEME: REO

10.40am	Kaupapa: Bluey in te reo Māori? Localisation for language revitalisation Speaker: Rachael Ka'ai-Mahuta / Dean Mahuta
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THEME: TAIAO

11.10am **Kaupapa:** Ngā Taonga Tuku Iho – The restoration of pīngao / pīkao to save the traditional art of tukutuku

Speakers:

Tania Ka'ai, Gloria Taituha, Adrienne Spratt, Toiroa Williams, Hannah Buckley

THEME: HAUORA

11.40am **Kaupapa:** Areare Taringa Mai! Rangatahi Voices Transforming Healthcare

Speaker:

Te Wai Barbarich-Unasa

THEME: PĀ HARAKEKE

12.10pm **Kaupapa:** Transitioning tamariki Māori in te reo from Kura Māori to mainstream schools

Speaker:

Tui Barbarich-Tawera

12.40pm **Kai o te poupoutanga o te rā**

1.30pm **Panel 2:** Postgraduate students

Kaupapa: Sharing their research

Speakers:

Glenda Taituha-Toka, Leesah Murray, Bryce Turner, Ngaturu Paparahi - *Doctorates*

Lucy Adair & Precorqton Wetere - *Masters*

2.30pm **Panel 3:** Celebrating Te Ariki Nui through Toi

Speakers:

Gloria Taituha, Ngaturu Paparahi & Adrienne Spratt

3.00pm **Closing remarks & karakia**

Master of Ceremonies:

Tame Taratu (GM: Te Motu o Hiaroa & Te Kawerau-ā-Maki Trustee)

Josie Wall (Kaiārahi Mātauranga)

Paramanawa

3.30pm **Optional activity: 1-hr**
Active whakapapa experience – walk the whenua and listen using headphones to the pūrākau about Parekura & Panuku

3.45pm Bus departs Te Pou Theatre for AUT

Venue Information

Te Pou Theatre



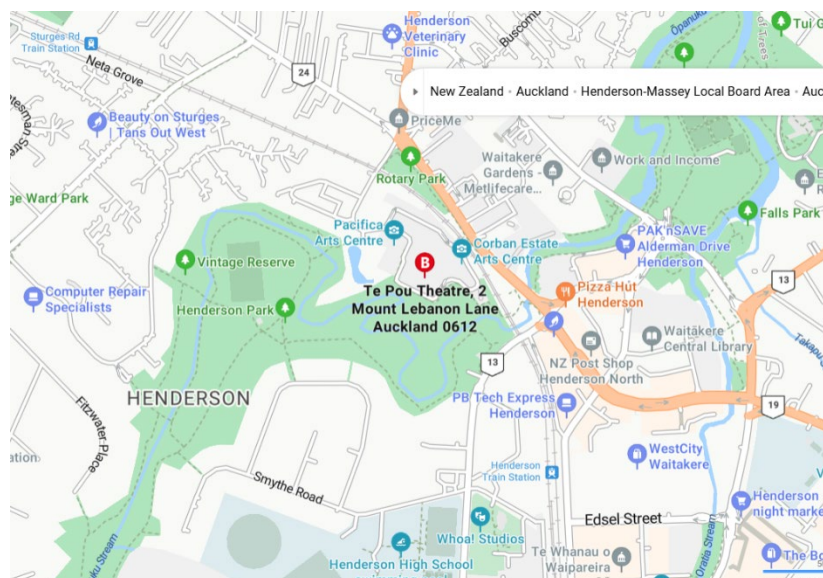
Based in the heart of the Corban Estate, Te Pou Theatre is a kaupapa Māori performing arts company and venue that support local, national and international contemporary and community performing arts. The purpose and vision of Te Pou is:

We exist to make a necessary difference;
Indigenising the world through kaupapa Māori performing arts

*Kia Māori te tū
Kia Māori te toi
Kia eke ki taumata kē.
Hawaiki Hou, Karanga mai rā!*

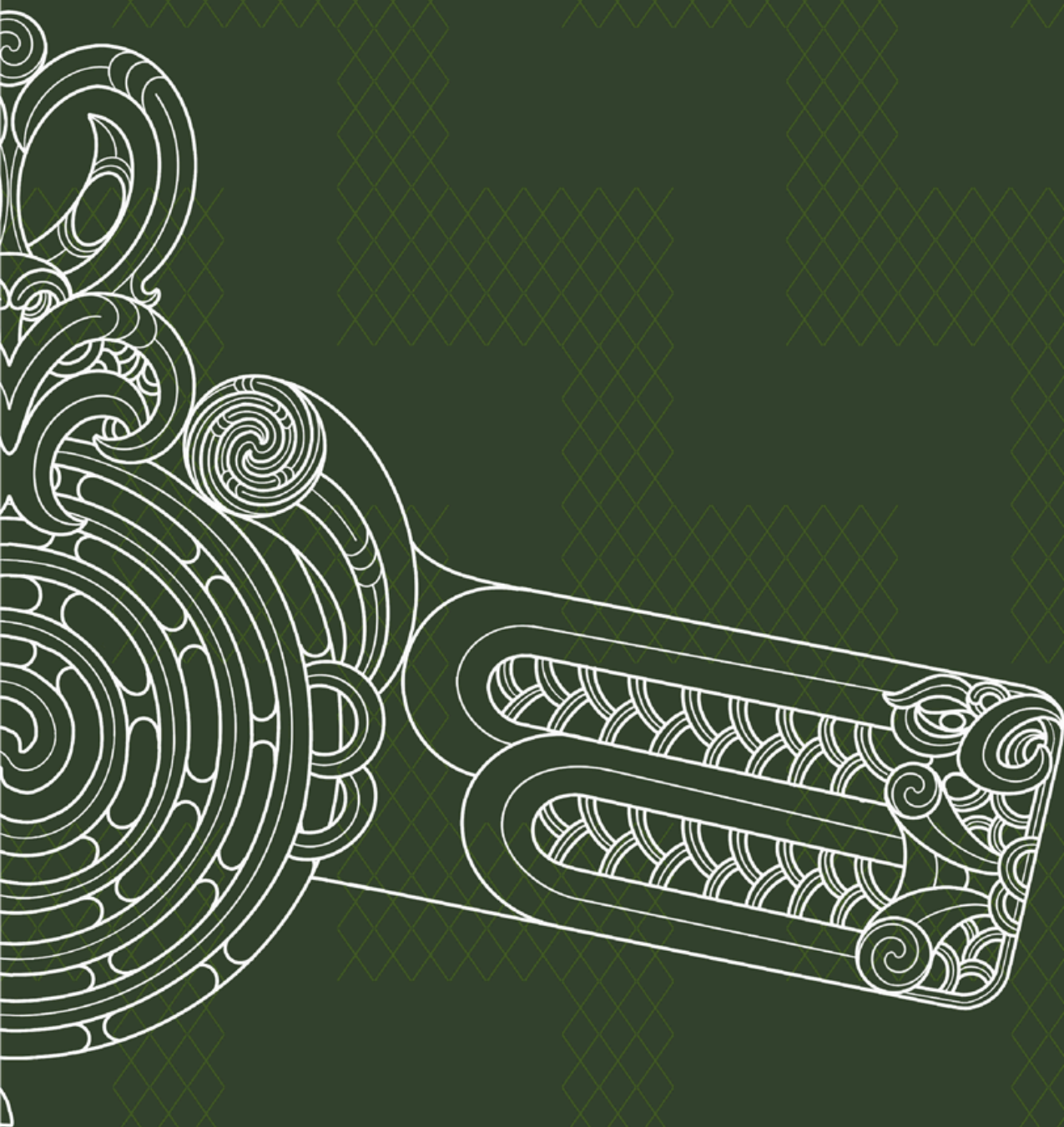
Te Pou Theatre are guided by the values of:

- ☪ Manaakitanga
- ☪ Auahatanga
- ☪ Whakawhanaunga
- ☪ Kia tika
- ☪ Kia Māmā
- ☪ Tohungatanga
- ☪ Āhurutanga
- ☪ Tautuutu
- ☪ Whakawhanake



Address:

2 Mount Lebanon Lane
Auckland



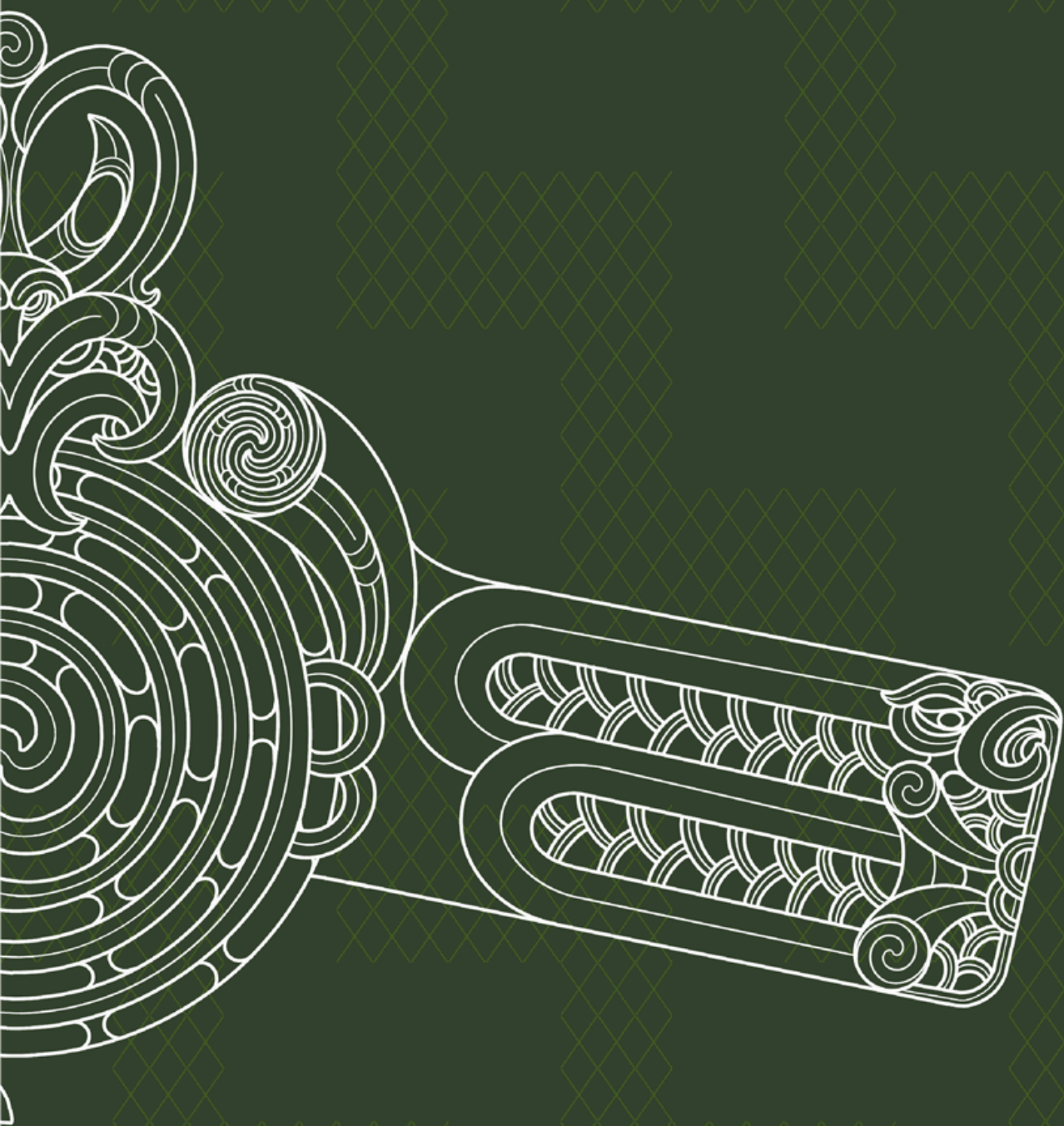
Keynote Presenter



Te Wārena Taua MNZM

Te Kawerau ā Maki

A rangatira, historian and Executive Chair of Te Kawerau ā Maki. Taught tikanga, whakapapa and traditional knowledge by his grandfather and Waikato elders, he spent more than a decade at Auckland Museum specialising in Māori ethnography and tribal histories. He was Lead Negotiator for the Te Kawerau ā Maki Treaty settlement, a lead claimant for Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, and was appointed MNZM in 2004 for services to Māori and conservation. An AUT graduate in Māori studies through Te Ara Poutama, he also serves as Te Pou Herenga – Community Member on Te Whakaruruhau, Te Ranga Tukutuku's Governance Group.



Presenters

Panel 1: Te Kawerau ā Maki - Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust

Representatives from Mātauranga, Taiao & Community Teams

THEME: REO



Rachael Ka'ai-Mahuta
Ngāti Porou, Ngāi Tahu

Rachael is an Associate Professor in Te Ipukarea Institute for Indigenous Knowledge and Associate Director of Te Whare o Rongomaurikura. Rachael is the Director, of Te Ranga Tukutuku, an AUT Māori Research Network and a principal investigator at Te Pūnaha Matatini, a Centre of Research Excellence hosted by the University of Auckland. Her area of research expertise is in language revitalisation, with a focus on raising Māori speaking children, comparative Te Moana Nui research and traditional Māori knowledge expressed through the Māori performing arts and digital technologies. Rachael's background is in te reo Māori, Māori culture and traditions and Indigenous Politics. Rachael is a graduate of Te Panekiretanga o te Reo Māori and holds a Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori Certificate of Competency in Interpreting and Translating the Māori Language.



Dean Mahuta
Waikato

Dean is an Associate Professor in Te Ipukarea Institute for Indigenous Knowledge and Associate Director of the Institute. Dean is a graduate of Te Panekiretanga o te Reo Māori and holds a Certificate of Competency in Interpreting and Translating the Māori Language from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori. His areas of research include traditional Māori knowledge, the revitalisation of te reo Māori, Waikato history, Māori digital media and the representation of Māori customs, language and lore in video games.

Abstract:

Scripted content (for television and streaming platforms) provides an opportunity to model the language of everyday communication to children and adolescents. This is important for a language that is still recovering and where the majority of speakers do not have easy access to real-life exemplars. Furthermore, reo Māori representation is often associated with formal situations, for example, the classroom or the marae. Scripted content for whānau that models everyday language, particularly the language of the home, of friendships, of humour, of attraction, of love, of loss, and of emotions, is scarce. For Māori-speaking children who don't have te reo Māori in the home (e.g. they are enrolled in immersion education but no one in their household speaks te reo Māori to them) and for parents raising their children in te reo Māori in the home but who never had the language of the home modelled for themselves, television shows with families talking about everyday things, with a focus on how parents talk to their children and how siblings talk to each other, would be a valuable source of language modelling. This extends to the adolescent age group and conversations that cover friendships, romantic relationships, humour, sexuality, and emotions. Ideally, there would be Māori-led original content created for this purpose that also included cultural norms and references. However, in the short term, there is an obvious solution to the lack of scripted content aimed at whānau, that is, dubbing or localisation.

THEME: TAIAO



Tania Ka'ai
Ngāti Porou, Ngāi Tahu

Professor Tania Ka'ai is the primary-lead on Ngā Taonga Tuku Iho and founding Director of Te Ipukarea Institute for Indigenous Knowledge. Her research focuses on empowering Indigenous communities through language, culture and knowledge systems and is committed to community-centred research that strengthens Indigenous voice and supports transformative outcomes for future generations
<https://academics.aut.ac.nz/tania.kaai>



Hannah Buckley
Ngāti Pākehā

Dr Hannah Buckley is the co-lead on Ngā Taonga Tuku Iho and an ecologist interested in the causes and consequences of variation in biological diversity. I work on how a better understanding of biological diversity can be used to enhance the functioning of human-modified ecosystems, such as sand dunes, tussock grasslands and agricultural landscapes <https://academics.aut.ac.nz/hannah.buckley>



Toiroa Williams
Te Whakatōhea, Ngāi Tai, Te Whānau Apanui

Dr Toiroa Williams is a researcher on Ngā Taonga Tuku Iho and a Senior Lecturer in Te Ipukarea Institute for Indigenous Knowledge. Dr Williams is committed to advancing culture, identity and collective wellbeing while ensuring his academic research remain grounded in the communities from which it emerges. He dedicated to sharing indigenous narratives that educate future generations and reconnect communities and whānau with their culture, language, and histories.



Adrienne Spratt
Ngāti Pākehā

Adrienne Spratt is a granddaughter, daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, kairaranga, kaiwhatu and lifelong creator. For more than 25 years, she has practised and taught ngā mahi a te whare pora, creating works that honour both traditional knowledge and contemporary expression. Through raranga and whatu, she connects to whakapapa, whenua, and community, viewing weaving as a lifelong journey of learning and discovery. Her philosophy is that knowledge carries its greatest value when it is shared.



Gloria Taituha
Ngāti Maniapoto

Dr Gloria Taituha is a 'cultural practitioner from Ngāti Maniapoto. Her work reflects connection to whenua, whakapapa, and traditional Māori weaving practices. Through weaving Dr Taituha explores cultural storytelling, identity, and the preservation of mātauranga passed through generations. Her aim is to create symbols of identity that honour both tradition and contemporary expression and Gloria's practice is underpinned by the methodology of collaboration of mind, soul and body.

Abstract:

Coastal dunes are dynamic environments where ecology, culture, and community wellbeing are connected. For Māori and Pacific peoples, these areas support biodiversity, climate resilience, cultural practice, and intergenerational knowledge. This presentation focuses on pīngao (*Ficinia spiralis*), a taonga sand-binding plant essential for forming and stabilising Aotearoa's coastal dunes. Pīngao creates habitat for native species, including birds, invertebrates, culturally significant species such as toheroa, and strengthening coastal resilience in the face of climate change. Pīngao is also central to *tukutuku*, traditional Māori lattice work, alongside kākaho and kiekie, reflecting the deep connections between cultural heritage and ecological systems. Our transdisciplinary project aims to weave together Indigenous knowledge and practices with ecological science to support the conservation and enduring cultural importance of this taonga species.

THEME: HAUORA



Te Wai Barbarich-Unasa
Waikato, Ngāti Paoa, Ngāti Maniapoto

Dr Te Wai Barbarich-Unasa is a Senior Lecturer in Māori Health at Auckland University of Technology and a Kaupapa Māori researcher. He uri ia nō Waikato, Ngāti Paoa me Ngāti Maniapoto. Her research focuses on rangatahi Māori hauora, healthcare engagement, cultural responsiveness, and improving health and social outcomes for whānau Māori. Her PhD, *Areare Taringa Mai! – Let Me Be Heard*, reflects her wider commitment

to research that privileges rangatahi and whānau voices and generates practical change. Te Wai is particularly interested in strengthening culturally responsive health practice and contributing to more equitable and relational health systems

Abstract:

Rangatiratanga in hauora begins when rangatahi are heard, respected, and able to influence the healthcare they receive. This presentation shares key findings and outputs from Areare Taringa Mai! – Let Me Be Heard, a PhD study exploring the experiences of rangatahi Māori when engaging with health services in Aotearoa.

Grounded in Kaupapa Māori research, the study created space for rangatahi to describe what supported - or hindered - their engagement with healthcare professionals and services. Their experiences highlighted the importance of being genuinely welcomed, having their concerns taken seriously, encountering respectful attitudes, and feeling confident and culturally safe. Rangatahi also identified the value of whanaungatanga, clear communication, confidentiality, and healthcare professionals who take time to understand them as whole people.

These insights informed the co-creation of practical, rangatahi-informed guidance for healthcare professionals. The presentation will demonstrate how listening to rangatahi can move healthcare beyond consultation towards meaningful participation and shared decision-making. In doing so, Areare Taringa Mai! contributes to Tino rangatiratanga tā hauora by recognising rangatahi as knowledge holders and supporting health services to become more relational, responsive, and accountable to the generations they serve.



Tui Barbarich-Tawera

Waikato, Ngāti Paoa, Ngāti Maniapoto

Tui Barbarich-Tawera is the Research Engagement Manager Māori within Te Kāhui Poipoi Rangahau, AUT's Research Office. She holds a Bachelor of Education and a Postgraduate Diploma in Māori and Indigenous Studies. Her research explores the experiences of ākonga Māori transitioning from kura Māori to mainstream schooling (her master's thesis is currently under examination). Drawing on her background as a primary school teacher in both mainstream and bilingual Māori education, Tui's research interests centre on Kaupapa Māori and education, with a particular focus on addressing educational inequities for ākonga Māori. Alongside her professional and research roles, she contributes to Māori communities through governance across iwi, marae, health and social service organisations, and kura Māori. Her work is guided by a commitment to research that is grounded in the aspirations of whānau and communities and contributes to meaningful change for Māori.

Abstract:

For ākonga Māori, transitioning from Māori-medium education into English-medium schooling can have lasting academic, social, linguistic, and cultural impacts. While increasing numbers of ākonga make this transition, little research has explored how they and their whānau experience the journey or what supports positive outcomes. This research explores the experiences of ākonga Māori and their whānau as they navigate the decision to transition and the realities that follow. The findings highlight the importance of cultural identity, belonging, language, relationships, and whānau support in shaping transition experiences, while also revealing the opportunities and challenges that arise as learners move between educational settings. Drawing on the findings of this research, this presentation will share insights into the experiences of ākonga Māori and their whānau, contributing to a deeper understanding of educational transitions and offering insights that may inform more culturally responsive approaches to supporting ākonga Māori across educational settings.

Panel 2: Postgraduate students



Leesah Murray
*Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti
Tūwharetoa
PhD*

Leesah holds a Master of Business Administration (with Distinction), a Bachelor of Environmental Management, and is currently enrolled as a PhD student.

Leesah is the Chief Executive Officer of Houkura – Independent Māori Statutory Board, where she works alongside Auckland Council to advance cultural, environmental, social, and economic outcomes for Māori.

Leesah's experience also includes roles such as General Manager, Executive Director, Head of Executive Operations. These roles have covered tertiary education, iwi commercial and local government. From a governance perspective, Leesah was the Co-Chair of her marae for 10 years, an Independent Director for Te Waka - Waikato Economic Development Agency and as a Future Director with Southbase Construction.



Ngaturu Paparahi
*Ngāti Maniapoto
PhD*

Ngaturu Paparahi is a dedicated Māori cultural practitioner and researcher belonging to Ngāti Kinohaku, a principal hapū of the Ngāti Maniapoto. Her work focuses profoundly on the preservation, protection, and revitalisation of traditional weaving arts, holding specialised knowledge in whāriki and the intricate patterns that connect the people to whenua, whakapapa and te ao Māori.



Glenda Taituha-Toka
*Waikato-Maniapoto, Ngāti
Rāhiri, Ngāti Kuiā
PhD*

Glenda is the General Manager for Heritage & Identity at Waikato-Tainui and leads out the tribal distributions' framework and cultural heritage portfolios for the iwi. Glenda's current work includes supporting the design and implementation of a tribal Social Investment Fund which focuses on health and financial independence tactics for tribal households. She also holds governance and advisory roles in philanthropy, impact investment Māori land blocks and education institutions.



Bryce Turner
*Waikato, Ngāti Maniapoto
PhD*

Bryce Turner is the Whanake Economic Development Manager for Waikato-Tainui, leading kaupapa across economic development, tribal enterprise, housing and tribal social procurement to support the economic aspirations and prosperity of whaanau and the wider iwi. He is also a tribal enterprise owner and Director of Puutea Wealth Ltd, providing strategy, cultural and tribal enterprise advisory services. His governance experience includes serving as Chair of Te Marae o Rereteewhioi Trust, where he contributes to the long-term development, resilience and sustainability of the marae for current and future generations. Across his professional, academic, enterprise and governance roles, Bryce's work is grounded in whakapapa, mana motuhake and creating pathways for whaanau and tribal enterprises to prosper while remaining connected to their identity, culture and iwi aspirations.

Ko Tainui waka ko au, ko au ko Tainui waka.



Lucy Adair
Waikato-Tainui
Masters

Lucy Adair is a Registered Nurse with more than 20 years of nursing experience across Aotearoa and Australia, working in both primary and secondary care across a range of clinical specialties. She has completed postgraduate studies in Primary Health Care and currently works as a Clinical Care Coordinator in primary care, supporting people with complex health needs. Lucy has a particular interest in Māori health and women's health and is currently undertaking a Master of Health Science in Advanced Nursing Practice. Her proposed research explores how culturally grounded approaches can improve primary care for wāhine Māori during ruahinetanga (the menopausal transition), with the aim of promoting equitable, culturally safe and mana-enhancing care.



Precorqton Wetere
Waikato, Ngāti Maniapoto
Masters

Precorqton Wetere is an emerging Māori researcher and educator at Auckland University of Technology (AUT), with a background in Māori and Indigenous business and marketing. She is currently completing her Master of Business, where her research explores the role of pūrākau in Māori brand engagement through a kaupapa Māori case study of Kōnei. Alongside her rangahau, Precorqton is the Operations Coordinator for Te Ranga Tukutuku Māori Research Network, where she supports kaupapa that strengthen Māori research capability, connection and whanaungatanga across AUT. Her wider mahi spans teaching, tauira mentoring and Indigenous research, with particular interests in kaupapa Māori approaches to business, marketing and organisational practice.

At the heart of her mahi is a commitment to rangahau grounded in whakapapa, whanaungatanga and the aspirations of hāpori Māori.

Panel 3: Celebrating Te Ariki nui through Toi



Gloria Taituha
Ngāti Maniapoto

Dr Gloria Taituha is a 'cultural practitioner from Ngāti Maniapoto. Her work reflects connection to whenua, whakapapa, and traditional Māori weaving practices. Through weaving Dr Taituha explores cultural storytelling, identity, and the preservation of mātauranga passed through generations. Her aim is to create symbols of identity that honour both tradition and contemporary expression and Gloria's practice is underpinned by the methodology of collaboration of mind, soul and body.



Ngaturu Paparahi
Ngāti Maniapoto

Ngaturu Paparahi is a dedicated Māori cultural practitioner and researcher belonging to Ngāti Kinohaku, a principal hapū of the Ngāti Maniapoto. Her work focuses profoundly on the preservation, protection, and revitalisation of traditional weaving arts, holding specialised knowledge in whāriki and the intricate patterns that connect the people to whenua, whakapapa and te ao Māori.



Adrienne Spratt

Ngāti Pākehā

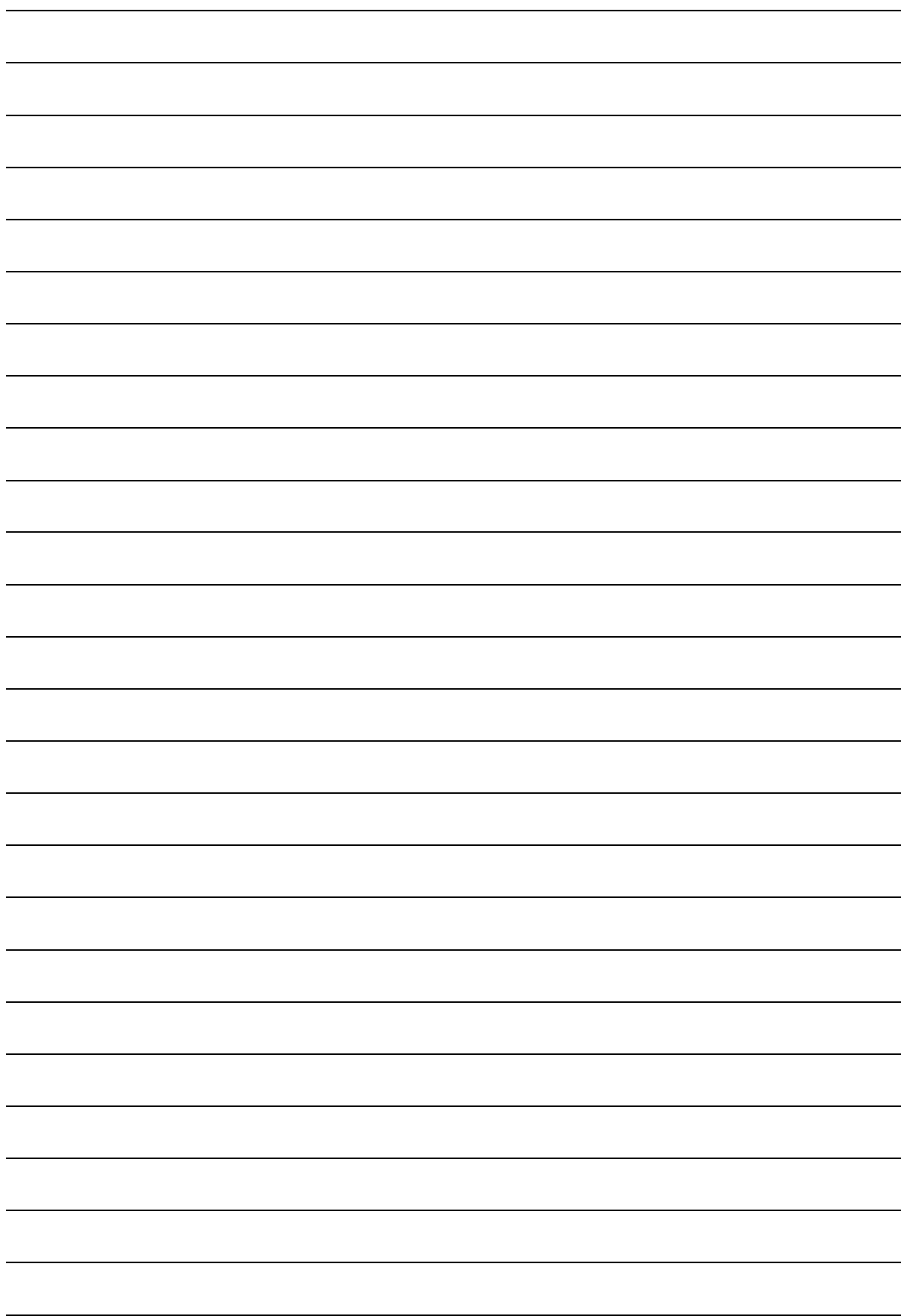
Adrienne Spratt is a granddaughter, daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, kairaranga, kaiwhatu and lifelong creator. For more than 25 years, she has practised and taught ngā mahi a te whare pora, creating works that honour both traditional knowledge and contemporary expression. Through raranga and whatu, she connects to whakapapa, whenua, and community, viewing weaving as a lifelong journey of learning and discovery. Her philosophy is that knowledge carries its greatest value when it is shared.

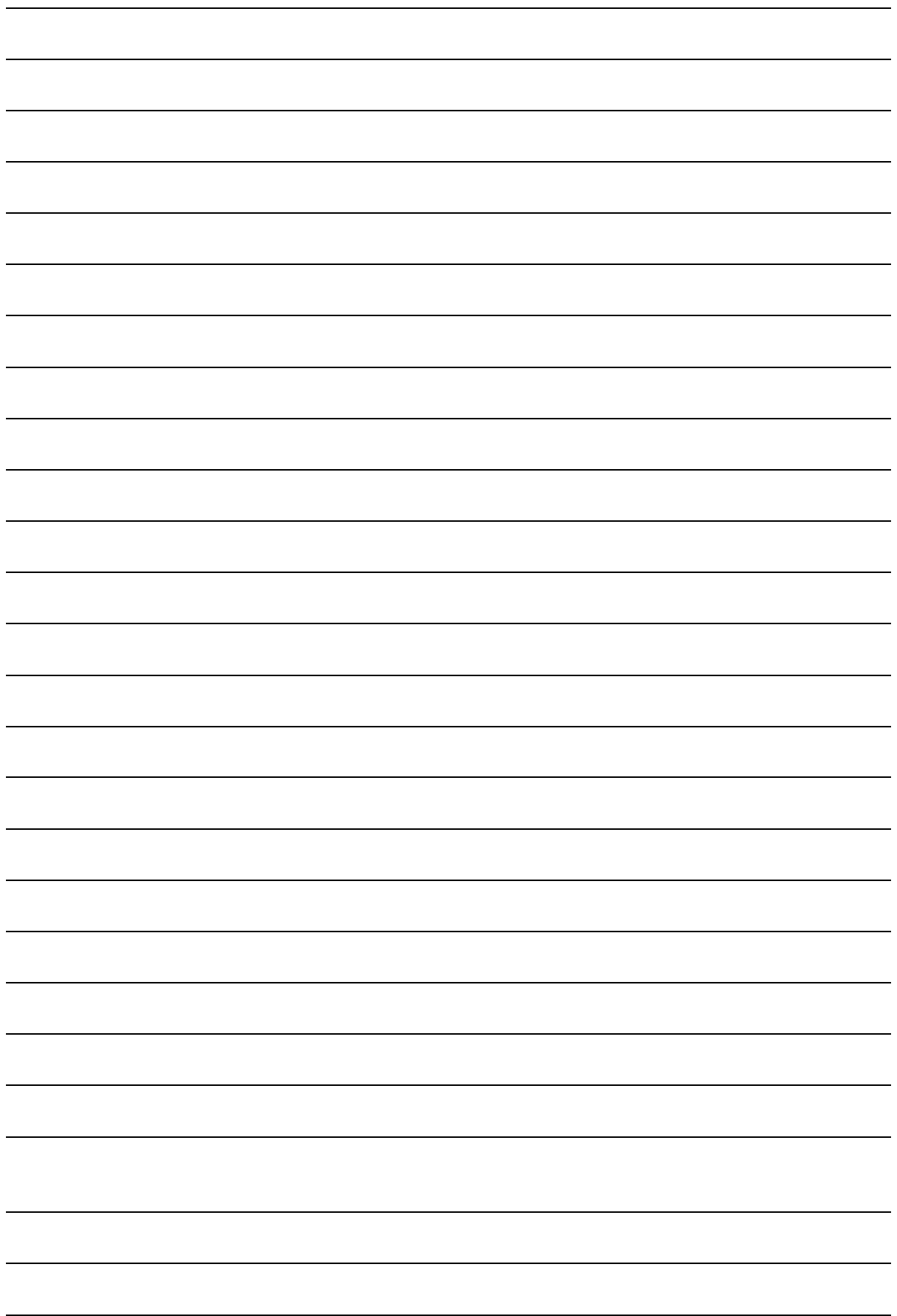
Abstract:

Despite the impact of colonisation, fibre arts such as raranga, whatu, and tukutuku, have endured as a form of quiet resistance, with women playing a central role in the preservation and transmission of knowledge across generations. The art form of Toi garners together expressions of cultural survival and adaptation; they are acts of cultural resistance and remembrance from the past. They carry the voices of the tupuna, of the weavers, preserving whakapapa, and continue to shape identity across generations and geographies, despite the acts of colonisation and genocide (Spratt, 2026).

This presentation will provide insight into two woven pieces; a korowai and a whāriki. They were requested by elders from iwi to commemorate two Ariki; namely Te Ariki nui Kūini Ngā Wai hono i te pō and her father, the late Te Ariki nui Kīngi Tūheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero VII. The presentation will unfold the story of the tono and the making including the design, the harvesting and preparation of the relevant fibres.

[illegible]





AUT

TE WĀNANGA ARONUI
O TĀMAKI MAKAU RAU



TE IPUKAREA



TE KAWERAU Ā MAKI



TE RANGA TUKUTUKU
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