

WHANAKE TE KURA ITAWHITI NUI

30 MĀEHE 2024

EXPLORING AOTEAROA'S CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Regan Potangaroa's research highlights two critical aspects of Aotearoa's cultural landscape. The seismic vulnerabilities of marae and the cultural shifts in Māori fishing practices will be elaborated on in the two chapters Regan has provided for the upcoming Whanake Te Kura publication.

SHIFTS IN MĀORI FISHING PRACTICES

Examination of the cultural shifts in Māori fishing practices amidst technological advancements was carried out. By exploring the reasons behind the decline in traditional fishing activities, insights have been gained into the intersection of technology and customary contexts. This exploration opens opportunities for revitalising Māori fishing traditions while embracing modern tools and techniques. Can technology be part of a cultural experience and if so how, and what does it 'feel' like? Such an approach should not and can not be seen as displacing the traditional values but rather enhancing it, and should necessarily be re rejected out of hand.

SEISMIC VULNERABILITIES OF OUR MARAE

The challenges posed by the building compliance system are evident. Through extensive research and engagement with two communities, tensions and frustrations surrounding the preservation of these significant cultural artifacts have been uncovered. This work underscores the urgent need for holistic approaches to ensure the protection and longevity of Marae structures. But also poses the question as to why Marae were not made a special classification of the Earthquake Building Act in the first place; not so that they would be exempt like farm buildings are but that the collective response and analysis could be spread across all Marae. The chapter offers some of the reasoning why but still leaves the option of its inclusion as a realistic necessity.

A KAUPAPA MĀORI LENS

"How we understand disasters is not disasters. I don't believe we think of them as disasters. We think about them kei te kōrero mai o tātou tūpuna ki a tātou" - Dr Ruakere Hond

Whanake Te Kura Researcher Dr Ruakere Hond shared this whakaaro on 'natural disasters' in his keynote speech at research symposium Te Kura Roa



"As part of Whāinga Tuatoru, I'm committed to advancing these discussions and driving positive change within our communities. I look forward to contributing further to the collective efforts of Whanake Te Kura"
- Regan Potangaroa.

Whāinga

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What types of communication and engagement activities can enable Māori communities to make informed resilience decisions?

TE KURA ROA: Creating our future for mātauranga māori and science

Rauika Māngai hosted Te Kura Roa over two days in March. The kaupapa showcased the wisdom of the past with the aspirations for the future. It highlighted how important tūpuna-driven and mokopuna-led perspectives are in shaping the strategic direction for mātauranga Māori and science. The keynote addresses, panels, and interactive sessions provided valuable insights and perspectives, sparking dynamic discussions and inspiring new ideas. The collaborative and celebratory atmosphere fostered a sense of kotahitanga and purpose. Moving forward from Te Kura Roa, it is evident that there is a collective commitment to further collaboration, celebration, and reimagining the possibilities for the future. The event has set the stage for continued application and research of mātauranga within the RSI sector, emphasising the need for ongoing dialogue, knowledge sharing, and innovative approaches. Regardless of the decisions made by this Government Te Kura Roa is a powerful signpost of an ongoing and impactful movement towards a future where mātauranga Māori is prioritised and progressed. Te Kura Roa served as a powerful catalyst for driving positive change and reimagining the future of mātauranga Māori and science.



Ngā Puanga Pūtaiao Fellow Dr. Acushla Sciascia

Our very own Whanake Te Kura Co-Lead Dee Sciasica has been awarded a Ngā Puanga Pūtaiao Fellowship which is part of the [Expanding the Impact of Vision Mātauranga](#) initiative. These fellowships aim to empower early and mid-career Māori and Pacific researchers in STEM who are future leaders in the RSI space.



The proposed project, "Toitū te marae, toitū te hapori – Building whānau resilience through physical and virtual marae," will shed light on the challenges Indigenous populations face due to extreme weather events and climate change. Her focus is on fostering community wellbeing through a marae-centred approach, empowering whānau to prepare for and adapt to future events. Dee highlights the threat climate change poses to Māori cultural and spiritual wellbeing, stressing the need for inclusive approaches to address existing disparities. She sees her research as an opportunity to support Mana Motuhake and prioritise mokopuna-focused decision-making, offering hope for building resilience in Māori communities. This work holds promise for informing strategies to navigate the complexities of climate change while uplifting and prioritising mātauranga Māori.


Kaupapa Māori day at National Research Symposium

The Kaupapa Māori Day at the Resilience to Nature's Challenges National Research Symposium united kaupapa Māori researchers and practitioners, students and iwi representatives for a one-day wānanga, centered around whanaungatanga. Despite previous challenges in coordinating, including Covid and busy schedules, this gathering marked a significant milestone. We were privileged to welcome numerous rangatahi from various National Research Priorities, who infused the event with their enthusiasm, energy, and fresh perspectives on addressing the day's key challenges. Their presence added vibrancy and innovation to the discussions, fostering a rich exchange of ideas and insights.

A FUTURE IN RESEARCH THROUGH RANGATAHI EYES

How research needs to be as defined by our future focused rangatahi *Dee Sciascia, Rangatahi O'Carroll, Rangatahi Sciascia*

- ➔ **Kaupapa Māori Centric**
Prioritise processes and practices that are reflective of being Māori
- ➔ **Collaboration**
Acknowledging that all members of our hapori have contributions to make and providing time and space for them to do so in their own way and time
- ➔ **Innovative Comms**
Making our rangahau journey's and data easily accessible and interactive through creative and engaging outputs
- ➔ **Mana Motuhake**
Whānau, hapū, iwi centric rangahau that is driven by Māori, with Māori, for Māori and therefore acknowledging that one size or way of doing does not fit all
- ➔ **Whakawhanaungatanga**
Relationships 1st, Research 2nd. Researchers in similar kaupapa to come together on a regular basis to wānanga and support one another.
- ➔ **Funding**
More Future focused kaupapa Māori funding is needed!

 Find out more about the rangahau being carried out within the challenge at [Whanake Te Kura I Tawhitinui](#)