





He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata!

What is most important in the world?
It is people, people, people!



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**NGĀI
TUKAIRANGI**
TRUST

CHAIRPERSON'S KŌRERO



Ratahi Cross
Chairperson

**"E tipu e rea mo ngā rā o
tō ao**

**Ko tō ringa ki ngā rākau ā te
Pākehā**

Hei ara mō tō tinana

**Ko tō ngākau ki ngā tāonga
a ō tīpuna Māori**

Hei tikitiki mō tō māhuna

**Ko tō wairua ki tō Atua, Nānā
nei ngā mea katoa"**

(Tā Apirana Ngata)

These words coined by Sir Apirana Ngata many years ago are as appropriate today as they were back then. Those of our people who have taken up the catch cry of this whakatauki and supported their rangatahi through education are now reaping the benefits.

Excellence in education or matauranga by a student is always a kaupapa worth celebrating, but the celebration is all the more sweeter when the student is your own whānau.

Today I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the recipients of our 'Excellence Scholarships' and with our trustees and shareholders cast our memories back to when they first came into being.

The board would like to acknowledge your successes in life and also in becoming fantastic role models for other members of our family to aspire to, the dreams of our founding trustees echoed in those famous words above.

*"Grow up and thrive for the days
destined to you.*

*Your hands to the tools of the
Pakeha to provide physical
sustenance,*

*Your heart to the treasures of your
Māori ancestors as a diadem for
your brow,*

*Your soul to your God, to whom all
things belong."*

(Sir Apirana Ngata)



*Apirana Turupa Ngata leading a haka at the
1940 centennial celebrations, Waitangi.*



Turirangi Te Kani

INTRODUCTION

Hokinga mahara

**“Mate atu he tētēkura,
ara mai he tētē kura.”**

*“When the fern frond dies,
another grows and takes its place.”*

Leadership and our views of what it is, what it should be, and what characteristics we treasure within those who we deem our leaders is a shifting discussion that is heavily influenced by the growing demands of the modern world within which we live. The flourishing of a cultural heart, imbued with community, whānau and hapū stories, challenges and triumphs are what sets our pathway apart from others, who have walked before us. Keeping those stories alive, within our people, as a living legacy of love, affection and remembrance is imperative, almost above all else, for who are we if we are not the descendants of those people who went before us.

For that very reason, after providing several scholarships to tertiary students in a generic fashion, we posed the questions of how we would remember the work done by our trailblazers, how would that happen and who would take responsibility for it? We were struggling to re-instill a sense of language flourishing back into our people, and external impositions posed by a growing infrastructure around our marae and community were distracting us from being who we are.

After lengthy discussions amongst our trustees, we came to the conclusion that a Tertiary Excellence Scholarship, awarded in remembrance of a different koroua/kuia each year would help. An essay would be required to be written about hapū and community leadership, and we would align the expectation of our recipients at least to acknowledging some of those we

cherished since passed.

When our Trust was first amalgamated in the 1980s, the first Chairperson was Turirangi Te Kani. When he passed in 1990, his first cousin Wiparera Te Kani became the next Chairperson. In 2003, when he passed away, the opportunity presented itself to establish a different type of scholarship focused on promoting excellence. In 2004 the concept was supported and in 2005, the first scholarship was offered, the value of which was set at \$5000.

Purpose of the Scholarships

The first inaugural scholarship in 2005 had two purposes. The first was for the trustees to commit to a higher level of excellence that we aspired towards, and a higher standard of leadership that we should expect as a result. One need only look at our koroua and kuia of the past to see that. Secondly, we wanted to ensure that our community, hapū and whānau leaders were provided with a level of acknowledgement for their contribution to our hapū, be it in leadership roles at the marae, in our local kura, in our land trusts, in our whānau land block meetings, or in the Waitangi Tribunal advocating for the return of whenua that belonged to our people. As well as receiving a scholarship for pursuing a pathway in education that is a cut above others, the recipient is reminded to reflect upon the traits of the person the scholarship is acknowledging and remembering what types of leaders we are hoping to develop in the future through our scholarship programme. We thought about concepts that reflected who we wanted our scholarship recipients to be, who they could be, and what some of the

characteristics we thought made a good community leader, traits such as:

1. **Ngākau māhaki**
Empathetic
2. **Ū ki te kaupapa**
Commitment to the cause
3. **Tiaki whenua, tiaki taonga**
Custodian of land, and assets
4. **Matatau ki te reo Māori**
Fluent in te reo
5. **Nō te kāinga, mō te kāinga**
From home, for home
6. **Whāia te tika me te pono**
Trustworthy
7. **Kaiarahi**
Guiding
8. **Ihumanea**
Knowledgeable
9. **Kia māia, kia ū**
Be brave and stay on track
10. **Mō te hapū, mō te iwi hoki**
For the subtribe and tribe

We are honoured to provide this memorial publication to our shareholders at the 2021 AGM. We want to celebrate the achievements of the scholarship recipients, who they have now become and cherish the kuia and koroua in whom the scholarships were named. The scholarships serve as an opportunity for us to take a pause, to remember and to celebrate. We hope this publication is seen as a pleasant surprise not only for the recipients and their whānau who received them; but also for the whānau of whom the scholarships were named.

Internships

We have also included a profile of our interns, who have also had an opportunity to learn new skills at a practical level to ensure we bring about change. We hope you enjoy reading about the background of our wonderful young students.

A scenic view of a harbor at sunset. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and scattered clouds. The water is calm, reflecting the warm colors of the setting sun. In the foreground, several weathered wooden posts stand vertically in the water. In the distance, a few boats are visible on the water, and a low-lying shoreline with trees and buildings can be seen under the bright sky.

WAHANGA TUATAHI

**Tertiary
Excellence
Scholarships**

WIPARERA TE KANI

Tertiary Excellence Scholarship 2005



Awarded to:

Marama Lambert

“Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari kē he toa takitini.”

The first Ngāi Tukairangi excellence scholarship was named after and dedicated to the memory of founding trustee Wiparera Te Kani who passed away in 2003. This scholarship is a way of acknowledging the work that he did as a hapū and tribal leader. Wiparera gave endlessly of his time to our community, marae and to the Hāhi Ratana.

Wiparera was one of seven children, born to Tukairangi Te Kani and Titia Te Kani (nee Honiana). He grew up in Matapihi and went to Matapihi primary, and then went on to Tauranga Boys. When his father Tukairangi passed away in his late thirties, it was his mother Titia who took charge of her family. She was a beautiful kuia, often seen amongst all the fanfare, and events, fulfilling her supportive duties as kuia in those times. When his dad passed, Wiparera and his older brother Puhirake became the breadwinners,

working on the land, the wharf and also on the railways.

Wiparera married Joan Bidios, who became a schoolteacher at Te Kura o Matapihi. When she passed away at a young age, he became a sole father of his twins. He later married Carol Smith, and moved to Otumoetai to live in his later years.

Wiparera was a natural and humble leader like his tupuna Rawiri Puhirake, he always focused on success and taking the people forward. He was our noble statesman, always well dressed and consciously mindful of his role. Wiparera was also the chairperson of the Ngāi Tukairangi Trust, an esteemed elder of our community and friend of many pakeke. He was an orator and an intellect who was often called upon as an iwi or hapū spokesperson. He was regularly on Te Karere, speaking on behalf of his hapū and iwi.

As a past time, he subscribed to the parliamentary debates, and would ensure he was up to speed with all the political movements pertinent at the time. He also worked as the iwi liaison officer at the previous iwi transition authority. He also worked for Ngāi Te Rangi iwi, as

the initial honorary executive officer before it was formally established. He was also on numerous trusts, and committees including being a member of the Turirangi Te Kani Memorial Scholarship committee. He was the claimant for the Ngāi Tukairangi Trust to the Waitangi Tribunal, and he was the joint claimant for the Kiwifruit Marketing Board claim, sighting Māori aspirations for our own rights to market our own fruit overseas.

He wawata tonu tera mā tātou katoa.

Marama Lambert was the recipient of the first Ngāi Tukairangi Excellence scholarship in 2005. Marama is the daughter of Mere Lambert (Te Kani) and Len Lambert, and mokopuna of Turirangi and Hinerau Te Kani. Wiparera was also a first cousin to Marama's grandfather Turirangi Te Kani. She is one of three children who have all worked hard in their chosen careers.

In 2001 Marama graduated with a Bachelor of Optometry, then in 2005 with the support of the Wiparera Te Kani Tertiary Excellence Scholarship, Marama furthered her qualifications with a



Wiparera Te Kani unveiling Rawiri Puhirake Plaque 1964 at Otamataha.

Certificate of Ocular Pharmacology. This qualification enabled Marama to prescribe medications for eye conditions/diseases and greatly increased her knowledge and scope of practice.

Since attaining her diploma Marama has utilised those new skills numerous times and enjoys treating a wide range of ocular pathologies. She has become an expert in fitting complex contact lenses for condition such as keratoconus (a condition which has a higher prevalence in Māori). She has also been actively involved in the Wellington Region Diabetic Screening Programme since 2002 and has seen this grow over the past two decades – recently sharing her expertise with the DHB and talking to nurses at Kenepuru Hospital about the programme.

Many years later Marama is now one of four directors at Barry and Sargent Optometrists, a Wellington independent optometry practice. Marama lives in Titahi Bay, Porirua with her partner and four children and one day hopes to bring them all back home to Matapihi.

TE HAUOTERANGI DICKSON

Tertiary Excellence Scholarship 2010



Awarded to

Meremaihi Aloua

“He aha te kai ō te rangatira? He kōrero, he kōrero, he kōrero.”

The 2010 Ngāi Tukairangi Excellence scholarship was dedicated to Te Hauoterangi (Bill) Rikihana who passed away in August 2007. Te Hauoterangi will be remembered as one of the main backbones of the marae. He was always seen supporting the paepae tapu at Whareroa, Waikari and Hungahungatoroa.

Te Hauoterangi was a natural musician who played musical instruments from a very young age. This love of music attributed to him and whānau members starting up a dance band to raise funds for the marae. Te Hauoterangi also played the banjo right through until his later years.

An accomplished gardener, he utilised his land growing riwai, kūmara, watermelon and sweet corn, all on a large scale to feed the wider whānau.

In his later years he polarised the community to play tennis in marae competition. He was also instrumental in building Tāpuiti and Whakahinga from the ground up. Marae life was his love, and he gave unreservedly of his time to being the committee chairman, having prayers for ailing people and being the key speaker on the paepae. Te Hauoterangi will be remembered as a humble, witty, talented and generous man who gave of his time unreservedly for matters related to whānau, hapū and iwi. Te Hauoterangi was a fluent native speaker of te reo. He was a true gentleman and a testament to the type of man everyone aspires to be.

For only the second time since its inception the Ngāi Tukairangi Trust awarded Meremaihi Aloua with the year's Te Hauoterangi Excellence scholarship. Meremaihi like Te Hauoterangi shares a love for her iwi, hapū and te reo. The trustees were proud to award the scholarship to Meremaihi Aloua to support her attendance at Te Panekiretanga o te Reo, in Napier.

Last year, Meremaihi moved to Tāmaki Makaurau after caring for her grandparents in Te Puna for the past few years prior while managing Te Whare Reo o Te Rangihouhiri Unit, performing and leading Tūtarakauika ki Rangataua kapa haka who represented Tauranga Moana at the Mātaatua Regionals and at the Te Matatini National Kapa Haka competitions for many years.

The excellence scholarship allowed Meremaihi the opportunity to grow and develop from the exclusive programme Te Panekiretanga o Te Reo, under the tutelage of the late Professor Wharehuia Milroy,

Tā Timoti Kāretu, Tā Pou Temara, Pania Papa and Leon Blake.

This has contributed to the many kaupapa that Meremaihi has been a part of, including completing her Masters in Māori Studies with First Class Honours and her thesis written in Māori submitted in 2019.

Meremaihi became a mother last year and currently lectures Te Pōkaitahi Reo (Certificate/ Diploma in Te Reo Māori) through Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangī while also creating online reo programmes for Open Polytechnic.

Meremaihi continues to be a beacon for the revival of te reo throughout the moana and will continue in her pursuit to continue to uplift te reo me ngā tikanga Māori. In the words of her Koro Kihī “ Kia mau ki te reo me nga tikanga. Korero i te reo, me whaia i ngā mātauranga.”

HINERAU HUIA TE KANI

Tertiary Excellence Scholarship 2011



Awarded to

Kia Maia Ellis

**“Ka ngaro, ka ngaro,
ka ea, ka ea. Te toka a
Tirikawa.”**

In 2011 Ngāi Tukairangi Trust was proud to award Kia Maia Ellis with the Hinerau Huia Te Kani Tertiary Excellence Scholarship to support her work to gain a Masters in Māori Studies.

Hinerau Huia Te Kani was a much-loved kuia who was known for her unwavering commitment to our marae and hapū. She was admired for her support for to her husband Turirangi Te Kani enabling him to achieve many great things for Māori. Hinerau was a pillar of strength in her own right and served as an inspiration for many young Māori women in Matapihi and beyond.

Hinerau was an expert at singing mōteatea. She had a firm grounding in this art having been surrounded by experts from her tane Turirangi to her parents Tiuka and Parehuia plus her whāngai mātua Taaho and his wife. Her repertoire was

huge and supported largely by her brother Kihi and cousin Tongakaiwhare Gear.

Hinerau ran the whānau farm with Turirangi, during the day she would milk cows in her overalls and gumboots and at night she would be cleaning at the wharves.

As one of the backbones of Whareroa Marae, Hinerau ensured that the kawa of the marae was preserved. She was also one of the key players in fundraising for the rebuilding of the Whareroa marae along with Ngaroimata Cavill. Her love was for the hapū and whānau. Hinerau passed away in January 1996.

Like Hinerau, Kia Maia is also a wahine toa for her whānau and her mahi. Kia Māia Ellis is a mokopuna of Steve Ellis and Riri Te Whara Te Kani. Riri in particular being a well renowned kuia as a kairāanga (weaver) and instrumental in establishing Hungahungatoroa Marae. Her parents Matiu and Kay are both very proud of her achievements thus far. They look forward to seeing her flourish as she reaches her goals. Kia Maia is now a mother of two, Ohomairangi and Manaia who both attend Te Kura o Matapihi.

Kia Maia is proud to report that the recommendations in her thesis have been implemented for the benefit of Tauranga Moana. Her recommendations were designed to assist with the management of customary fisheries in Tauranga Moana. She continues to work with the Tauranga Moana Iwi Customary Fisheries Trust primarily, on planning, research and administration since 2004.

After graduating with honours on her Masters research, a spark was ignited to continue applying her passion in mātauranga Māori based marine research for the benefit of our future generations. With the belief that our mokopuna will be far better equipped and capable kaitiaki than we have been.

Kia Māia began developing marine based projects working with local kaitiaki and rangatahi for Ngāi Te Rangi Iwi, and in 2018 won the Te Puni Kōkiri Māori Biosecurity Award for her iwi. She has also recently been nominated for a biosecurity award once again with finalists being announced in October 2021.

Since working in the Resource Management Unit at Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Te Rangi for ten years, she has spent three years working in a kaupapa Māori marine research group and has now moved on to complete her doctorate in environmental sciences at the University of Waikato. As an independent researcher she has partnered with the Tauranga Moana Iwi Customary Fisheries Trust once again. For the next three years she will be writing her thesis based on testing mātauranga Māori methods for kaimoana restoration in Tauranga.

“Ngā mihi aroha ki te whānau o Ngāi Tukairangi Trust. The scholarship helped me to keep in mind reconnecting my mahi to my people and ensure that the benefits of it has an outreach back to them.”

TOAHAERE FAULKNER

Tertiary Excellence Scholarship 2014



Awarded to

Adrianne Taungapeau

“Whaia te pae tawhiti kia tata, whakamaua te pae tata kia tina!”

The 2014 Ngāi Tukairangi excellence scholarship was named in honour of Matapihi icon Toa Haere Faulkner and was awarded to Adrianne Taungapeau.

Toa was a self-determined man who was not scared to stand up for his beliefs, particularly when it came to the retainment of Māori land. These personal attributes of his, in addition to the manaakitanga he felt for his people, land and community, led him to pursue politics. In his lifetime, he frequently involved himself in Waitangi Tribunal Claims, he sought justice in as many places that he could, and he stood up for the rights of his own.

Toa revelled in confrontation. He actually respected those that would challenge him and despised authority. He became staunch in

the view that Māori land shouldn't be charged rates and fought some landmark court cases. Again, some of the changes today have supported some of his challenges. Toa loved to challenge the norm, especially the council. He had a clear and staunch view on tino rangatiratanga and in his time was very radical. One might say he was ahead of his time because if we look at the changing times his views are no longer radical.

At AGM's Toa was constantly and consistently challenging trustees. So much so that when he was a trustee on Ngāi Tukairangi Trust he would not hesitate in challenging his own board! While he appeared to be tough and feisty underneath he had a heart of gold. Toa only wanted the best for the whānau and whenua, in particular Matapihi!

Toa will be remembered for his work with Matapihi land block rates, his ability to be both socially and politically involved in his community, and most importantly, for his argumentative yet generous demeanour.

The Toa Faulkner scholarship was fittingly awarded to Adrianne to support her efforts towards completing her PhD in Māori Leadership. Adrianne is the granddaughter of Rongopai Hemi Haika, a previous shareholder who passed them onto his daughter, Adrianne's mother. Their lineage and association with Ngāi Tukairangi Hapū is an intriguing story, which eventually lead her ancestors to reside in Waikari.

Adrianne was raised in small rural communities. Growing up, she was bought up in between the small township communities of

Whangaruru in Te Tai Tokerau, and Whangarei. Here she was raised by her parents, two very important individuals in her life who were able to install the importance of education within their growing offspring. To this day, Adrianne is a living example of that, evident in her studies towards attaining her PhD in Māori Leadership. Adrianne's parents were heavily involved within these communities, essentially helping to create environments that stressed whānaungatanga and manaakitanga.

Adrianne completed her thesis on Māori Leadership within a business context, which also had a strong focus on the leadership of Māori women within the tertiary education sector. Adrianne also has a Masters of Arts (Applied) focused in Social Work from Victoria University of Wellington. Adrianne now works as a Senior Māori Engagement Advisor for the Auckland Council. She has extensive experience in Māori and Community Development theory and practice. Adrianne and Toa are alike, both are individuals who rely on whānaungatanga as a base for a great community, and they also share an interest in Māori development through all aspects of life.

NGAROIMATA CAVILL

Tertiary Excellence Scholarship 2015



Awarded to

Hikitapua Ngata

**“Whaia he iti kahurangi
ki te tuoho koe, me he
maunga teitei.”**

In 2015 Hikitapua Ngata was the proud recipient of the Ngaroimata Cavill Tertiary Excellence Scholarship. This scholarship contributed to his journey towards completing a Bachelor of Engineering Degree (First Class Honours) at the University of Waikato. The Ngaroimata Cavill Excellence Scholarship recognised individuals who studied in a field that deserved special recognition, and also acknowledged the ability for people to demonstrate excellence within their chosen field of knowledge.

The scholarship was created in the memory of kuia Ngaroimata Cavill who passed away in June 2011. Ngaroimata was one of the great kaiwaiata of Whareroa a woman whose nature so elegantly expressed the importance of whānaungatanga and tikanga Māori within our community and hapū.

Ngaroimata was affluently knowledgeable in the history of our Iwi, our hapū, our surroundings, and our traditions as indigenous peoples. These aspects have allowed for her memory to live on, having been expressed in the forms of academic papers, waiata and books such as the Waitangi Tribunal evidence for Ngāi Tukairangi hapū, and Taku Tau Kahurangi: He kohinga waiata tawhito mō Ngāi Te Rangi, Tauranga Moana.

In her lifetime, she impacted our whānau, communities, hapū and Iwi through her leadership, her values, and her ability to share these learnings. In a compelling way, she also ensured that our Marae; Whareroa, Hungahungatoroa, Waikari and Maungatapu were emanating and embodying mana in every way possible. In her actions, she set a high expectation for future emerging community and hapū leaders. In that sense, we hope that with our assistance, provided we have kuia rangatira such as Ngaroimata to look up to, that Hikitapua, along with many others, are one day able to give back to our community as selflessly as she did.

Hikitapua Ngata descends from a long line of academics, beginning as far back as his great great grandfather - Sir Āpirana Ngata. He is the grandson of Ngāi Tukairangi trust shareholder Hikareia Ellis, and the eldest son to Riri Ellis. Riri is an individual whose efforts as an active community member goes far beyond just the borders of our Matapihi village. These efforts have no doubt influenced his drive to do well.

Hikitapua has continued to demonstrate excellence both academically and creatively, evident

through his university achievements, and the launch of his first business – an independently run clothing brand. These attributes of his have so easily led to various accolades within these fields. In 2015 he was granted the award for the overall Rangatahi of the year at the Tauranga Moana Rangatahi Awards.

In 2016 Hikitapua graduated with first class honours in a Bachelor of Engineering (BE) specialising in chemical and biological process through the University of Waikato. After completing his degree, he travelled extensively before returning home to discover that there were very few career opportunities in his chosen field.

An innovative and forward thinker Hikitapua did not let this set him back and instead he pursued work outside of his chosen career. He found a graduate position with a construction company, where he now works as a site manager building \$10 million new builds. He specialises in human resources, and work with teams of people from all walks of life.

Hikitapua use his spare time to work on projects to build his experience and knowledge so that one day he can transition into a role in the technology and innovation space.

“I want to thank our whānau for supporting me during my studies, the excellence scholarship and ongoing support is much appreciated.”

MAHAKI ELLIS

Tertiary Excellence Scholarship 2017



Awarded to

Te Atiwei Ririnui

“Nā o ringa raua hei korero mōna.”

The 2017 Ngāi Tukairangi Excellence scholarship was named after esteemed leader and visionary Mahaki Ellis. Mahaki was a trail blazer, a leader and a man of great courage. He was a multi-faceted leader who had many roles: orchardist, chairman, businessman, leader and orator on the marae. He also chaired Ngāi Tukairangi, Te Awanui Hukapak, Poripori Trust, Kumikumi Trust among many others. He was also a key figure and claimant in the Ngāi Te Rangi Waitangi Tribunal Claims representing Ngāi Tukairangi.

Mahaki was also an energetic and charismatic leader who led by his actions. Having lived overseas for much of his life, he returned with the drive and fortitude to create papakāinga housing around Hungahungatoroa. He was also passionate about protecting the whenua from zoning that would allow it to be developed. “The consequences could be disastrous

for Māori landowners at Matapihi if they do not start now to plan for other economic uses of their lands and to have full ownership and control.”

A key player in both Ngāi Tukairangi and Te Awanui Huka Pak’s success, he created many opportunities for our people. He started Māori kiwifruit delegations into countries like Belgium. Many Māori kiwifruit growers have since travelled the world with Zespri and this can all be attributed to Mahaki. He forged relationships between the marae and corporates, helping the tamariki gain experience in overseas travel as they took their kapahaka to the kiwifruit markets.

For over a decade he was the chair of Te Awanui Hukapak and his vision and leadership set the company towards significant success including TVNZ Māori business of the year. His leadership as Chair created the partnership with Seeka and Japanese partners. He was also a well-known and highly respected key leader at FOMA.

The recipient of the Mahaki Ellis Ngāi Tukairangi Excellence scholarship was awarded to master

weaver Te Atiwei Ririnui. The scholarship supported him to pursue excellence in his Masters of Applied Indigenous Knowledge.

Te Atiwei grew up around Greerton and Welcome Bay. He was educated in te reo Māori, firstly at Tutarawananga kohanga and then at Te Kura o Otepou. His nan Tiramate Moiri from Ngāi Tukairangi and his koro Wharepohue Ririnui from Maungatapu were an important influence on his early life. Te Atiwei had a passion for raranga from a very young age. His early years were spent around Otepou, Opopoti and Hairini marae. Te Atiwei says “I was the haututu kid who was always interested in harakeke. I got this from my koro Witekoihoho Hau, and it grew into a real passion. From the age of eight I learnt how to splice and plait the harakeke.” Te Atiwei’s dad was a hunter, it was the exposure to nature that he says that influenced his passion for natural resources.

In 1998 Te Atiwei’s parents moved up North to Rawhiti. While in secondary school he was taught to weave kete by kaiako Hemoata Henare. This laid down the foundation for his future. Te Atiwei



Mahaki Ellis (left) plants the first tree in front of new papakāinga housing at Hungahungatoroa Marae, Matapihi, 1990.

became a professional weaver, his artwork became sort after and was exhibited in Tauranga moana and exhibitions throughout the motu. In 2016 Te Atiwei began his academic weaving journey at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa in a Masters of Applied indigenous Knowledge. In his first year he was awarded the Dr Diggeress Te Kanawa Award Scholarship for Raranga. He also received recognition through New Zealand Post when a piece of his woven works was featured on a post stamp as part of the 2016 Matariki post stamp series.

Then in 2017 Te Atiwei was honoured to be the recipient of the Mahaki Ellis Ngāi Tukairangi Excellence scholarship. In June 2018 Te Atiwei graduated with his Masters in Applied Indigenous Knowledge through Te Wānanga o Aotearoa. He says he is incredibly grateful for the support from his iwi. Te Atiwei's love for raranga continues to weave its narrative throughout Aotearoa. Te Atiwei says he is dedicated to inspiring his iwi, community and individuals alike through his woven works. "I hope that my contribution will encourage and support people to develop an interest and understanding of Māori art, language, traditions and knowledge with the aim of ensuring that the knowledge and skill of raranga will be sustained for generations to come – ngā taonga tuku iho (valuable inheritance)."

POTAHI GEAR

Tertiary Excellence Scholarship 2018



Awarded to

Tipene Merritt

“Ko te iwi ko ahau, ko ahau ko te iwi.”

In 2018 Tipene Merritt was the recipient of the Potahi Gear Excellence scholarship. This scholarship was named after much loved Matapihi kaumātua Potahi Gear who passed away in 2000. Potahi was a humble gentleman who dedicated his life to his iwi and his whānau. For many years Potahi was one of the main speakers on the marae, he was also the kaumātua for both Te Kura o Matapihi and Te Kohanga Reo.

According to his whānau he was a man that valued everything in life, both great and small. Like Tipene he was a hard worker at home and on the marae. Potahi's love for the marae was evident as he spent most of his free time there doing what needed to be done all without a word of murmur (that's one of his whānau sayings - do all things without murmur). He was a no fuss, very humble man and always played down compliments when given to

him. He was also a very hospitable man who loved the company of all ages and backgrounds.

Paul Potahi Gear was born in Rotorua. Potahi moved to Matapihi where he met and married Eileen. Their marriage was arranged by both families. Potahi worked all his life on the Mount Maunganui wharf as a watersider right to the day of his retirement. Eileen would rise at the crack of dawn with fresh rewana, ready for Potahi to take to work. He was an old school kind of chap who took his wages home in a small folded brown envelope every Wednesday without fail. His full pay packet was handed over to his wife Eileen to pay the bills and buy the groceries.

Potahi's first love was his Lord and Saviour Jesus. He and Eileen gave their hearts to Jesus for over 50+ years. Potahi preached the gospel of Jesus Christ at Waikari with a powerful persuasive voice, hoping that just one person might hear the good news. His family life consisted of cup of teas, stories and jokes around the old dining room table. Potahi enjoyed traditional Māori food such as rotten maize especially when the All Blacks were playing on tv, you would hear the pounding of the maize and the aroma moving through the house. He mentored five generations of Gears to seek the Lord Jesus with all their hearts. To love one another with all their might. To keep the traditions flowing down from one generation to the next.

The Potahi Gear Excellence scholarship was awarded to Tipene Merritt to support him in his pursuit of a Doctorate of Philosophy at Te Herenga Waka/Victoria University. Tipene's thesis is concerned with

mātauranga Māori. Specifically, the problem of mātauranga Māori being subject to misappropriation and misuse. His theory is that all mātauranga Māori resides in a conceptual - “whare” - framework and by recognising this mātauranga Māori becomes less susceptible to misappropriation and misuse. His thesis is titled, *“Te Whare Mātauranga: Can a conceptual framework improve outcomes for Mātauranga Māori?”*

Tipene was raised with his Mother's Ngāti Kauwhata side in the Manawatū. He says “although I mostly enjoyed my schooling I became disinterested in my teenage years and decided to leave high school in what was then known as the sixth form. I find it somewhat ironic that I entered tertiary study in my 30s and since then I have achieved two undergraduate bachelor degrees, a masters and I am now working towards a PhD.”

On his father's side Tipene is part of the Reti whānau. Upon his father's passing Tipene succeeded his father's interests in the Ngāi Tukairangi Trust. Tipene currently lives in Christchurch. Despite the distance Tipene takes every opportunity to return to Tauranga Moana and hopes that his PhD work might be of some tangible benefit to Ngāi Tukairangi. Tipene is currently a kaiārahi Māori research advisor for the University of Canterbury. He hopes to complete his PhD by the end of 2022. Tipene expresses his ongoing thanks to the Trust for their support.

TONGAKAIWHARE GEAR

Tertiary Excellence Scholarship 2019



Awarded to

Juanita Hepi

“Kia mau koe ki ngā kupu o ou tupuna.”

The 2019 Ngāi Tukairangi Excellence scholarship was named in honour of kaiwaiata Tongakaiwhare Gear who passed away in 2001. Tongakaiwhare was a special man who was passionate about waiata and sharing his knowledge with others. He was a one-man recording studio, wananga and teacher.

Tongakaiwhare was also a generous man who loved his iwi and whānau, and was always there to support on the paepae. He worked for most of his life on the railways. Once he retired, he became fully occupied at the marae. His prowess was in whaikorero and singing waiata.

His mokopuna Anaruia Gear says that waiata lessons were so important to her koro. “He set up shop (waiata practice) on the roro of Taapuiti. He used to photocopy the kupu from his exercise book. He would give these out to the attendees to refer to while going

through the rangi of the waiata. Waiata sessions were important to koro. It was his misson.”

Tongakaiwhare would religiously get on his motorbike early Saturday mornings to go down to the Mount. He would take his books, photocopy them and get them ready for the Monday waiata sessions, then he'd swap his exercise books with a 'Best Bet' and go to the club. All around his garage were written charts of waiata. There is still a chart in Tapukino at Waikari. “At hui I used to love to watch as Kihi Ngatai would do the whaikorero and Tongakaiwhare would back him up and lead the waiata, said Anaruia”

Many are thankful for his generosity in providing tapes as well as scripts to teach a wide variety of tauparapara and waiata. Tongakaiwhare's legacy will live on in the waiata classes that continue on today.

The Tongakaiwhare Gear Scholarship of Excellence was awarded to the multi-talented visionary, artist, producer, educator and researcher Juanita Hepi. Juanita like Tongakaiwhare is committed to the overall hauora of the people and the land and embodies the Ngāi Tukairangi strategic vision “manaakitia nga taonga tuku iho, whaia nga wawata, kia tu rangatira nga tangata.”

An uri of Ramari and Hakaraia Te-Heke through her koro Hepi Haika Waaka, Juanita (Ngāi Tukairangi, Ngāpuhi, Ngātiwai, Kāi Tahu, Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Kahungunu, Moriori) is the daughter of Hotorene Tawatawa Hepi and Irihapetia Wikitoria Stone.

Juanita has performed extensively throughout Aotearoa. She toured with the Māori Troilus and Cressida to Shakespeare's Globe in London for which she was nominated for a Chapman Tripp award. She also starred in Himiona Grace's award-winning film The Pā Boys. Having worked with some of our leading Māori creatives including Rawiri Paratene, Rachel House, Hone Kouka and Tanemahuta Gray, Juanita is part of a hapori of storytellers driving change within their communities. She is driven by a worldview that emphasises the mana of whānau, hapū and iwi rangatiratanga.

Juanita directed the 2020 Te Reo Māori touring season Nga Manu Roreka for Taki Rua. She also produced and directed Tūmahana alongside the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and Circo Kali, which was a theatre epic based on the 1849 writings of Matiaha Tiramorehu. She also directed Te Rongomaiwhiti by Hohepa Waitoa which had its debut at the Kia Mau festival in Pōneke in 2021.

With the support of the Tongakaiwhare Gear Scholarship Juanita successfully completed and gained her Masters of Māori and Indigenous Leadership with distinction. Within that time Juanita has presented at numerous online and public forums including; WORD festival, Christchurch; The Ministry of Culture and Heritage's He Waka Urungi sessions and the Wellington and Auckland based Ngā Hua Toi panels.

Not satisfied to sit still, Juanita also holds a Graduate Diploma of Teaching and Learning and a Bachelor of Arts from Toi Whakaari, NZ Drama School. She is a fully

registered teacher who spent seven years teaching across years 0–13. She is the Chair of the Rāpaki Education Committee and sits on a number of Boards. Currently, Juanita is the Programme Manager of Te Mātāpuna Mātātahi Children's University, an outreach programme designed to facilitate and celebrate learning outside of the classroom.

Whether Juanita is representing her people in governance, teaching her three tamariki, or washing dishes at the marae, Juanita is committed to upholding mana motuhake and to deliver on the aspirations of her tupuna. Juanita wears a korowai of whakapapa on her shoulders, the culmination of thousands of years of whakapapa and tasked in this moment with making decisions for the future.

Juanita has a commitment to the overall hauora of our people, which for her is about a return to Indigenous narratives and the reclamation of our stories. "The stories we tell ourselves about ourselves are powerful, and these are deeply connected to our knowledge of mana and whenua, she says."

PIUNA FISHER

Tertiary Excellence Scholarship 2021



Awarded to

Hosea Watson

“Poipoia te kākano, kia pūawai ai.”

This year's excellence scholarship 2021 is named after one of Matapihi's well-known and respected kuia and whakaruruhau Piuna Fisher (nee Rikihana). Piuna's love for her whānau and for her marae Hungahungatoroa, was unconditional and is the attribute that she is most remembered for. Piuna, often referred to simply as Piu by whānau, or Chick by her husband was born in Matapihi in 1926, the ninth of fourteen children of Turiri and Ngawiki Rikihana. She was raised and educated in Matapihi and like her brothers and sisters grew up with te reo Māori as her first language.

From accounts, she was a bit of a looker and was no slouch at schoolwork. Life in those days had its share of character-forming hardships, but there were some rewards – helping out in the whānau vegetable gardens, the occasional trip into town, a whenua surrounded by water abundant in

kaimoana, and a diet occasionally supplemented by kaanga pirau and pukeko.

Early paid work for her included a stint at a big department store in Tauranga before she moved to Mangakino where she worked as a nurse aid in the local hospital. It was in Mangakino that she met and in August 1949 subsequently married her husband, Eric Fisher. Soon after, they moved back to Matapihi and eventually built a home on an acre of swampy ground given to them by Granny Ngawiki at the Tauranga-end of Matapihi Road, known as Te Mania.

Her first house was a three-room black creosoted rectangle with a long-drop, an outside copper boiler, and a well-beaten path to a communal puna wai for drinking water and clothes washing. At one stage Piuna and her husband built and operated a shop from a corner of the property. It was there that they raised six children (Karen, Mike, Susan, Peter, Anthony and Margaret) for a few years until the family moved to Auckland in 1960, at about the time a seventh child David was adopted out as a baby to Motu and Dully.

In Auckland, where her eighth child Glen was born, Piuna was an active member of the Māori Women's Welfare League. However, she was a fish out of water in Auckland and the irresistible tug of whānau saw her return to Matapihi with the tamariki in 1963 or 1964. Piuna's children recall how over those few years, she shared stories about her fondness for kaimoana and with their father they instilled in their children the virtues of hard-work, curiosity, and independence.

While a new house was being built by her husband to replace the black house, Piuna worked hard to help support her family in various ways – she worked part-time at a Tauranga hotel to supplement the family income and she often spent time spearing for flounder off the rocks and foraging for pūhā and watercress.

Piuna's continuing devotion to her whānau and Matapihi was also evident – as shown by her ongoing involvement in the development of the Hungahungatoroa Marae complex (an onerous early responsibility being to walk around Matapihi collecting levies from whānau members); during lighter moments playing cards and drinking Cold Duck with her sisters and wāhine relations; and her more recent input into Waitangi Tribunal submissions.

After many years of marriage, Piuna separated from her husband and later formed a long-standing relationship with Robert Henry or RH. Over the many years that Piuna and RH were together she supported and assisted him in many ways including helping him manage hotels and motels in Tauranga and Matata before they settled down in Matapihi – where she continued to support him, his nearby family, their blue heeler dog, and the Club. During this time, she retained a strong interest and involvement in her own tamariki, their partners, and her growing band of mokopuna.

There is no doubt that she cherished and relished her life, strongly centred as it was around Matapihi, the responsibilities associated with being an astute kuia for our hapū and marae and her

whānau - a unique tapestry and enduring legacy of personal and shared feelings, experiences, and relationships. She passed away in March 2006 aged 79 years of age.

Hosea Ngatiwhainoa Watson is this year's recipient of the Ngāi Tukairangi Piuna Fisher Excellence Scholarship. Hosea shares the same work ethic as Piuna, he is currently studying towards a Masters Degree of Engineering majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Hosea is the grandson of Ngatiwhainoa Williams. His iwi are Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngāti Awa and Te Whakatohea . His mother Emarina Watson (nee Williams) is from Whakatāne and his father Nick is from the United Kingdom. Hosea grew up in Waikuku Beach, a village in North Canterbury. Both his parents work in the wool industry (sheep shearing and wool classing). Hosea was involved in the local surf lifesaving club and boxing club. He was a lifeguard for four years and has been a boxing club member for over a decade, competing and coaching. Hosea has represented New Zealand in boxing multiple times over the years.

After finishing high school Hosea enrolled in engineering at the University of Canterbury where he completed his undergraduate degree in 2020. Hosea's goals are to complete his master's degree next year. After completing this degree, he would like to work in a research and development engineer role possibly in the aerospace sector. It is also his goal to undertake a PhD in mechanical engineering. His future aspiration is to support and encourage Māori into studying STEM subjects, in particular engineering. Hosea is grateful for this scholarship and past education grants from Ngāi Tukairangi.



WAAHANGA TUARUA

Internships

Purpose of the Internships

The Trust decided to establish internships to assist with providing up to three students nearing completion in their courses with an opportunity to undertake a practical project. The first stage of these awards focused on expanding into areas such as science, reo and business and a number of top up grants were provided valued at \$1000 each.

Those top up grants phased out after three years and were replaced by work-based summer internships whereby up to ten weeks of work was offered on a project they proposed to the trustees. These internship opportunities have proven to be invaluable and we have completed a number of projects since including:

- A historical video for the trustees
- A new website
- A kaumatua flat repair project
- A rangatahi summit and leadership programme project
- An unclaimed dividends background assessment project
- A Māori land database project
- A Trustee Act update project
- A seasonal employment opportunity project

We are pleased to profile some of the interns who have worked with us to do great work during their summer breaks.



Mihikeita Ngata 2017, 2020

Over the years I've done a range of different mahi for the Trust, predominantly through the internship programme. My first internship involved working alongside the hauora to conduct a housing survey, another was a Māori land history project, and the most recent, involved engaging whānau and rangatahi to scope a youth governance and leadership programme for beneficiaries.

When I returned home from overseas because of COVID-19, I was fortunate to return home to a job as a COVID-19 coordinator, (given my public health background in tertiary studies).

The mahi has benefited me greatly, the experience in different areas, the connections to whānau and trustees, and the opportunities it gave me to come home often were unrivalled. Each of those roles set me up for my most recent opportunities. This included entering into the Te Tumu Paeroa graduate programme which was solely focused on Māori land administration and management, and also, the Policy Analyst role I currently have at the Ministry of Health. I'm also doing some Postgraduate study in Environmental Management and Policy.

In terms of career goals, there isn't a profession that I particularly aspire to, but I hope to learn as much valuable skills and knowledge in my current and future roles to be able to bring home and benefit our communities. For me, this looks

like figuring out how to best utilise our whenua, relationships, and individual skills to bring people home, repopulate our marae, and overall, to create flourishing and self-sustaining communities.

All of my goals and aspirations have been influenced by my journey through the Trust, and the support they've offered along the way. I am forever grateful for that.



Paula Smith 2017

As an intern with Ngāi Tukairangi Trust I was initially tasked with mahi pertaining to the field of law. That mahi, entailed an array of tasks which overlapped into numerous fields, all of which centred around two main objectives.

- To create and review an updated database outlining land blocks and its owners.
- Research relevant documents i.e., leases and trust orders etc.

With the trusts ever growing progression it became evident that the need to go back to the foundations. This became apparent as the amount of unclaimed dividends continued to rise, leases needing to be reviewed and trust orders needing to be amended. From this internship I gained a greater insight into the mahi that our Trust does. It gave me an understanding into how things operate within the Trust, this was definitely a personal objective for me.

At present, I have put my law

studies on hold as I continue to realign my mindset and rediscover my aspirations. With this in mind, I continue to prioritize everything and at the forefront of those whakaaro is our Te Reo Māori. Hearing the lack of reo spoken and working within kohanga really puts things into perspective. Therefore, at this point in time I will continue to aspire to and prioritise the revitalisation of our reo.



Phoebe Riddell

2017

I first began with Ngāi Tukairangi Trust as an intern in 2017, where I completed a study investigating the ongoing labour shortages within the horticulture industry. I interviewed a number of growers and provided recommendations to the Trust as to how to remain at the forefront of an extremely competitive labour market.

One of recommendations was they employ an HR manager, to manage the growing people needs of the business. I was fortunate enough to receive this position and spent the next two years working as the HR and HS Leader across both regions.

At the end of 2020, I decided to move home to Te Tairāwhiti, to be closer to my partner and whānau to raise our pepi. I'm currently employed as the Employee Experience Manager for Riversun Nursery Ltd. My time at Ngāi Tukairangi Trust laid the foundation for my career in the horticulture industry. My current career aspirations are to see more Māori employed in horticulture and to reduce the seasonal turnover of staff by creating more permanent

career pathways.

I am grateful to Ngāi Tukairangi for the opportunity and experience that has laid down the foundations for my career path.



Ihaia Ngata

2018

In 2018-19, I was part of the internship programme for Ngāi Tukairangi. We worked with Koro Blackie renovating two of the Kaumātua flats by Hungahungatoroa marae. The mahi involved repairing leakage to the properties, removing and replacing the flooring as well as cleaning and painting the interior. We also installed a new kitchen.

I learnt some awesome carpentry skills from working with Koro Blackie as he is an experienced builder. I learnt skills that will be of benefit for me both professionally and also personally.

I am currently undertaking an E-commerce study programme. I am also passionate about permaculture and growing our own fruit and veges, so I will be spending time in Gisborne/ East coast to plant huawhenua, huarakau and also use my carpentry skills to renovate our kainga there. I also still work on my other crafts, such as garment construction and graphic design.

I want to design clothes and make it my full-time occupation. I also want to continue with my interest and passion in permaculture, homegrown kai and health.

I want to thank Ngāi Tukairangi for the opportunity to work on

this project. I learnt plenty and was given a chance to test my capabilities. After the experience and skills acquired through this internship I have a clearer vision and deeper understanding of what I want to take with me into the future.



Grayson Walker

2018

He kai ringa toi tōku mahi i timata taku hikoi i nga ra i tamariki ana ahau i Te Kura o Matapihi i raro i te maru o Stu McDonald me te whānau o Moana moko.

I have worked for Ngāi Tukairangi on two different occasions. Ihaia Ngata and I, first worked with Koro Blackie McDonald renovating two of the kaumatua flats by the Hungahungatoroa marae. This helped me gain some practice skills in carpentry.

The opportunity started off as a internship then grew into something much bigger. It came from an idea to display some contemporary art on the new housing block the Trust had built for seasonal workers. I was fortunate enough to be chosen for this project, as other artists were also applying for this job. I feel incredibly grateful that the hapū accepted me to be a part of this awesome experience.

I hope to do more mahi toi throughout our community. It is my dream to beautify our neighbourhood with more colour and in turn show people my style and approach to art. I have a street art (graffiti) and tattooing background.

My goals and aspirations are to hopefully pursue the arts full time

in a few years and to give back to my community who helped nurture and helped me grow not only as an artist but as a young man.



Max Yeager

2019

I worked for Ngāi Tukairangi Trust in the summer of 2019/2020. The Trust was offering a 10 week internship and I was lucky enough to be selected to fill the spot. During my short time at Ngāi Tukairangi Trust I was tasked with developing a range of digital marketing assets including videos, image library and managing all digital content for the website and social media.

Working for the Trust was very beneficial as it opened many doors and opportunities in the communications space. I also had the amazing opportunity to spend a day in Mangakino observing and learning from a professional film crew who were conducting interviews around New Zealand for a documentary on the Māori economy. Being able to work for an established business like Ngāi Tukairangi gave me the experience I needed to go further with my mahi.

I am now working full time as the communications advisor for The Kaimai Mamaku Restoration Project on behalf of The Department of Conservation. I am also about to launch my own digital marketing company which works with small businesses, iwi/hapū and Māori entities.



Te Nawe Ngatai

2019

I was very fortunate to be offered the Ngāi Tukairangi internship once I finished university. My mahi involved rebranding and building a new website for the trust. This experience allowed me to expand my portfolio and also gave me the opportunity to give back to the Trust.

I also had the opportunity to present my branding proposal to the board. This was incredibly valuable as it gave me the first-hand experience I needed to present to my clients today.

The mahi and connections I made during the internship also allowed me to get my foot in the door for my very first job as a graphic designer. Thanks to the internship I am now a Junior Graphic Designer at Platform Agency where I am growing every day and one day hope to become a Senior Creative.

The Trust have continued to support me and last year I was contracted to produce invitations, programmes and a power-point for their 40th Anniversary, which I designed myself through the agency.

I am grateful for the Trust for the support and experiences that they have given me to support me in my journey.



Mahura Te Kani

2020

Kei te mātaamua o te whare o te whakaaro ko te Atua, mō ōna mānaakitanga kua utaina ki runga i a tātou. Kia whai kororia tōna Ingoa Tapu i ngā wā katoa. Ki ngā tini mate, kapo kau atu ki waho o Karewa, e Koro Kihi mā, oki oki atu rā koutou. Ki a tātou ngā kanohi ora, tēnā rā koutou katoa.

I ngā rā o te waru i whai tūranga mahi au ki Ngāi Tukairangi Trust. I hāngai aku mahi ki tōku huarahi ako ki te Whare Wānanga o Te Upoko o te Ika a Mauī. Nō reira, ko ētahi mahi i tutuki ai au he mahi rangahau i te Trusts Act 2019 me ngā kawenga taumaha ki ngā kaiwhaipānga me a rātou uri. Waihoki, he paku rangahau e pā ana ki te taha pūtea, taha ture hoki ki te mahi ahuhenua mō ngā RSE ki roto o Tauranga Moana.

Ko aku whāinga mō anamata kia mahi ki te huarahi o te ture whenua Māori, Te Rōpū Whakamana i te Tiriti o Waitangi, ka mutu kia whai wāhi atu ki te hāpai i ōku lwi, hapū, whānau me te hāpori whānui. Kei whāi au i ngā tohu e rua, te Tohu Paetahi me te Tohu Ture. Ko aku marau ako mō te Tohu Paetahi ko Te Reo Māori, Māori Resource Management anō hoki.

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