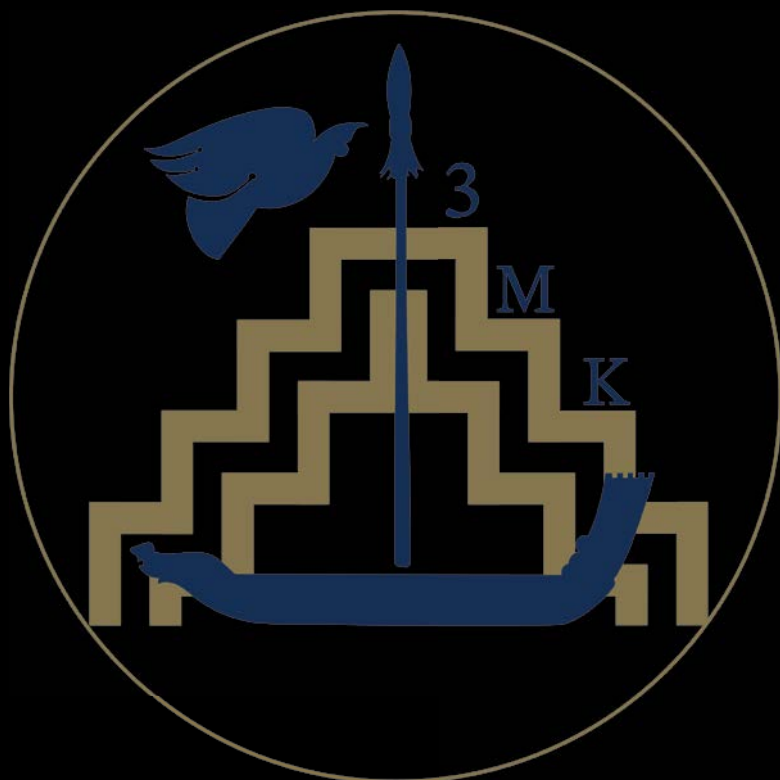




THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

Tukuna Kia Rere 3MK

30 September 2026



Nau Mai, Haere Mai Ki Tukuna Kia Rere 3MK 2026

On behalf of Te Ahupaepae o te Ihorangi Māori I am so excited to present this competition once again for friends, whānau and colleagues alike to celebrate an incredible selection of rangahau currently being conducted here at Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato.

Tukuna Kia Rere 3MK is open to all Māori Masters students, PhD candidates and Higher Degree Research tauira at Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato.

The rules of this competition will challenge our Ngā Kairangahau to explain their research project to you, our audience, in just three minutes, using one slide to accompany their kōrero.

And while yes, Tukuna Kia Rere 3MK is a competition with awesome prizes to be won, it is so much more than that. It is a celebration of Mātauranga Māori where innovation meets inspiration, Māori excellence thrives, and research takes flight!

The winners from each respective judging category, Tohu Kairangi (PhD) and Tohu Paerua (Masters), will receive a \$500 Prezzy Card and become the new Kaitiaki of a beautifully crafted taonga until we name their successor for the following year.

The runner-up from each respective judging category will receive a \$250 Prezzy Card.

Our judging criteria for our major prizes cover these 4 main components:

- **Construction** - Structure and timeliness
- **Content** - Command, originality, and conciseness
- **Communication** - Voice, visual and presence
- **Comprehension** - The why, rationale, significance and impact of their research

This year we will also be awarding 'Te Manu Taupori' (The People's Choice Award) which gives you, the audience, the chance to cast your own vote for your favourite presentation.

During the intermission, you will have the opportunity to vote digitally for 'Te Manu Taupori' by scanning the QR code provided.

Our 'Te Manu Taupori' winner will also receive a \$500 Prezzy Card!

So welcome once again to Tukuna Kia Rere 3MK 2026! I promise that this afternoon together will be a stimulating and riveting event where we will get to witness the amazing vastness of what Mātauranga Māori has to inspire, empower and continually teach us all.

Now sit back, relax and enjoy the kōrero koutou mā.

Pai mārire!



Reina Daji

Ngā Puhī, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Tūwharetoa
Kaiwhakahaere Hōtaka - Te Toi o Matariki
& MAI ki Waikato

Te Ahupaepae o te Ihorangi Māori

Ngā Whakaritenga

Mihi Whakatau

Hira Pulham

Mihimihi

Ngā Kaupapa Kauwhau

Wā Whakatā

Kōrero Whakahirahira - Kanapu

Ahere Hapi-Harrison & Emma Lafaele

Ngā Kaupapa Kauwhau

Paramanawa

During this time please use the QR code provided to cast a digital vote for Te Manu Taupori

Ngā Tohu Taonga

Te Toa Tuarua - Tohu Paerua

Te Toa Tuarua - Tohu Kairangi

Te Manu Taupori

Te Toa - Tohu Paerua

Te Toa - Tohu Kairangi

Mihimihi

Whakakapi

Hira Pulham

Ngā Whakaahuatanga



Te Tohu Kairangi



Te Tohu Paerua

Ngā Kaiwhakataki Kōrero

Hira Terangipumamao Pulham

Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Whātua

Higher Degrees Research Advisor

Te Mata Kairangi | School of Graduate Research

Hira is a Higher Research Degrees Advisor at the University of Waikato, where he supports doctoral students as they navigate the highs, lows and everything in between of their research journey.

With a background in mathematics and a passion for education, Hira enjoys helping others achieve their goals and creating spaces where people feel welcomed, supported and connected. Outside of his mahi, you'll likely find him in the boxing gym, out for a run, or at the Hilly.

Never one to shy away from a good challenge, Hira is swapping the world of doctoral studies for the microphone and is looking forward to not sending emails, a bit of humour and bringing the energy for the 3MK event!



Ngā Pouwhakawā



Emeritus Professor Poia Rewi

Ngāti Manawa, Tūhoe,
Te Arawa

Pouhere Kanapu

Married to his favourite wife who says every day that Poia is God's personal gift to her and that she is so lucky to have such a beautiful tāne. In addition to mokos, he likes food and music. Spent 30 years in the tertiary sector, 5 years in the public sector working towards building capability and capacity of Māori to advance their potential and effect changes where our mokopuna can blossom. Now heads Kanapu, a programme developed and led by Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, to attract and grow Māori talent in the research, science, innovation and technology sector.



Professor Te Taka Keegan

Waikato-Maniapoto, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Whakaue

Professor - Department of Software Engineering and Co-Director of AI Institute Maori

Professor Te Taka Keegan is a leading voice at the intersection of Technology, Innovation, and Te Reo Māori. Through his pioneering work, Te Taka has helped bring Te Reo Māori into the digital world, contributing to projects including Microsoft Windows and Office in Māori, Google Search and Google Translate in Māori, Moodle, SwiftKey, and the Māori Macroniser.

Recognised for both his research and teaching excellence, Te Taka brings a unique combination of academic excellence, technical innovation, and a passion for advancing Indigenous knowledge systems, making him exceptionally well placed to celebrate and champion our emerging Māori researchers as a judge of Tukuna Kia Rere 3MK this year.



Associate Professor Deborah Heke

Ngāpuhi, Te Arawa

Director - Ngā Wai a Te Tūi Māori and Indigenous Research Centre at MIT-Unitec

Deborah's expertise spans Māori health, exercise physiology, psychology, and Mana Wahine scholarship, with a research focus on the relationships between wāhine Māori, movement, te taiao, and wellbeing. She is Rautaki Te Kupenga o MAI / National Lead, for Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga's Māori and Indigenous doctoral network and is recognised for her leadership in advancing Indigenous research, mentoring emerging Māori and Indigenous scholars, and creating spaces for Indigenous excellence in academia. Her current work explores wāhine/kōhine pathways for connection, healing, and wellbeing.

Ngā Kairangahau



Jojo Rangihaeata Te Tohu Kairangi | PhD

Nga Rauru, Ngati Konohi, Ngati Porou, Ngati Ruanui, Ngati Toarangatira

Te Pua Wānanga ki te Ao | Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies

Hoatu to kauhau taniwha ki uta!
Digital guardianship as a framework for protecting and transmitting Ngati Konohi knowledge

Jojo is a senior educational leader, and internationally recognised Kapa Haka performer and Te Matatini judge committed to advancing Māori excellence across schooling, tertiary education, and iwi-led innovation. Grounded in Ngāti Konohi identity, she champions culturally embedded pedagogies shown to strengthen Māori learner success.

Her doctoral research contributes to Indigenous digital futures by developing an iwi-led digital guardianship framework that responds to gaps in current data systems and risks of data colonialism.

As a wahine Māori, she leads transformative change grounded in Kaupapa Māori theory, advancing iwi aspirations and protecting mātauranga Māori in rapidly evolving digital environments



Marian Ruri Te Tohu Kairangi | PhD

Waikato, Raukawa, Tuuhoe

Te Pua Wānanga ki te Ao | Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies

Te Korekore, Te Pō, Te Ao Mārama:
A Māori cosmological process for intergenerational financial transformation

Marian (Mazz) Ruri grew up on Tūrangawaewae Marae under the Kīngitanga, which either explains why she thinks big or why she can't do anything small. She's currently doing a PhD trying to convince the University of Waikato that Te Korekore, Te Pō, Te Ao Mārama is basically the original manifestation framework, and that Western self-help just turned up 3000 years late wearing flash yoga tarau.

She's got an MBA, runs two businesses, and somehow still finds time to argue with her neuroscience co-supervisor about whether the brain is the boss or just really good at taking notes. Ask her about EEG machines, karakia, or why she's convinced your limiting beliefs are basically a software bug and not a personality trait.

She has not yet quit the PhD, despite several attempts to do so but somehow managing to talk herself out of it. Currently accepting bets on whether she makes it to confirmation before Christmas.



Charles Watene Te Tohu Paerua | Masters

Ngāi Te Rangi, Waikato

Te Aka Mātuatua | School of Science

The Behavioural Effects of the Lunar Cycle on Nocturnal Species

From the cream of the country, a former honeybee researcher that's allergic to bees. A lad planning on working with the moon. What more is there to know?



RoimataoteAroha Jacob Te Tohu Kairangi | PhD

Ngaati Hauaa, Ngaati Hikairo

Te Ngira | Institute for Population Studies

Ngaa tuu nekenekhanganga a te Maaori i te rautau tekau maa iwa: Conceptualising Maaori spatial mobility of the 19th century

RoimataoteAroha Jacob is a Ngaati Hauaa and Ngaati Hikairo PhD student based in Te Ngira Institute for Population Research.

Her PhD entitled: Ngaa tuu nekenekhanganga o te rautau tekau maa iwa: Conceptualising Maaori mobility of the nineteenth century converges her passion of te reo Maaori and Maaori history together by utilising te reo Maaori archival sources to investigate Maaori movement of the nineteenth century.



Starsha Bird **Te Tohu Kairangi | PhD**

Ngāruahine, Ngāti Maniapoto

Te Aka Mātuatua | School of Science

Exploring diverse environmental DNA substrates for whole-ecosystem biomonitoring

Starsha Bird is a third-year PhD candidate from Te Aka Mātuatua – School of Science. Bringing together te ao Māori and scientific perspectives, her research aims to strengthen Aotearoa New Zealand's biomonitoring toolbox. Motivated by the need to better protect our taonga species, Starsha explores emerging environmental DNA methods to build a more complete picture of ecosystem biodiversity.



Chae Simpson **Te Tohu Kairangi | PhD**

Rongomaiwahine, Waikato

Te Raupapa | Waikato Management School

Codesigning Kaupapa Māori care pathways for Wāhine Māori with Symptomatic Breast Cancer

Chae Simpson (Rongomaiwāhine, Waikato) is a Māori health strategist, Indigenous researcher and systems designer with more than 15 years' experience leading change across Māori health, cancer care, primary care, government, research and community settings. She is the founder of He Puāwai, a Māori-led approach to Indigenous system design. Chae's PhD is focused on co-designing kaupapa Māori care pathways for wāhine Māori with symptomatic breast cancer. Her wider work develops Indigenous-led approaches to health system design, governance, implementation and responsible AI. Chae lives in Kirikiriroa and is a proud mama of four and nana to Luka and Ngaio.



Karen Turanga **Te Tohu Kairangi | PhD**

Ngai Tahu, Ngāti Tūmataunga

Te Kura Whatu Oho Mauri | School of Psychology
and Social Sciences

**The Use of Direct-to-Consumer DNA for
Māori cultural and identity reclamation:
policies and issues at the intersection of
identity, genetics and iwi authority**

A health and social scientist passionate about
human behaviour, belonging, and how identity
influences social change.



Xavia Connolly **Te Tohu Paerua | Masters**

Ngā Rauru, Ngāti Tuwharetoa, Ngāti Whatua,
Te Ati Haunui-A-Paparangi, Te Uri-o Hau,
Whakatōhea

Te Kura Whatu Oho Mauri | School of Psychology
and Social Sciences

**Cultural Supervision as a Mechanism
for Culturally Responsive Psychological
Practice**

He māmā, he hoa wahine, he kaiako, he tauira, he
mokopuna o Te Awa Tupua me Te Kāhui Maunga...
Ko Xavia tōna ingoa! Xavia's rangahau explores
psychologists' experiences of engaging in cultural/
Kaupapa Māori supervision, examining what
they find helpful, meaningful, and challenging
in their pursuit of culturally responsive practice.
She is particularly interested in understanding
how cultural/Kaupapa Māori supervision impacts
psychological practice and outcomes for tangata
whaiora and whānau and aims to outline how
this might help bridge the gap between bicultural
knowledge and application.



Moengaroa Edmonds **Te Tohu Kairangi | PhD**

Te Whānau-a-Apanui, Ngāti Awa, Tūhoe,
Te Whakatōhea, Ngāti Porou, Ngāpuhi

Te Pua Wānanga ki te Ao | Faculty of Māori and
Indigenous Studies

A Critical Examination of the effectiveness of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Treaty of Waitangi Training Programmes in Health Services

Director/Trustee/Tiriti o Waitangi and Treaty of
Waitangi Educator. Te Whānau-a-Apanui, Ngāti
Awa, Tūhoe, Te Whakatōhea, Ngāti Porou, Ngā Puhi.

My background is public service, tutoring,
mentoring, teaching and Tiriti o Waitangi and
Treaty of Waitangi educator. A law alumnus with
a bachelor's and master's degree in law, I recently
completed my PhD in Māori and Indigenous
Studies, titled:

A critical examination of the effectiveness of Te
Tiriti o Waitangi and Treaty of Waitangi training
programmes in health services.

Paramanawa

During this time while our Ngā Pou Whakawā are deliberating on their decision for our winners, please use the QR code provided to cast a digital vote for your favourite presentation. Please see Reina Daji if you wish to make a manual vote.



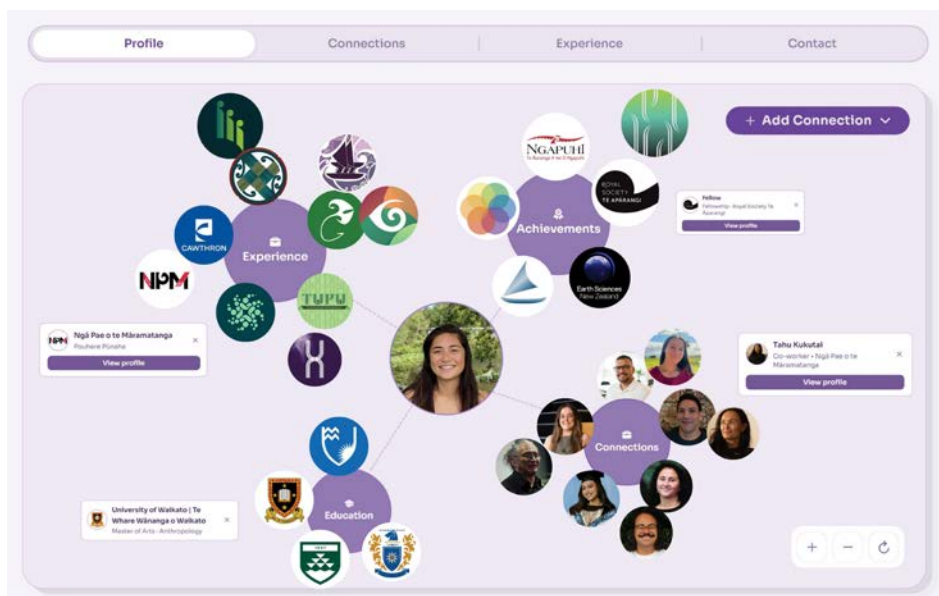


KANAPU CONNECT

Kanapu

Kanapu is designed by Māori, for Māori to ignite Māori talent and leadership across te ao Māori in research (rangahau), science (pūtaiao) and innovation (auaha) spaces; on marae, within hapū and iwi mahi, and throughout our hapori in the cities.

Kanapu is designed and led by Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence, and funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. Kanapu is hosted at Te Ngira, Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato and we are proud to partner with AATEA Solutions.





Ahere Hapi-Harrison

Te Arawa, Ngāpuhi, Muriwhenua

Pou Tūāmahi | Project Lead for Kanapu Connect

Ahere is passionate about making the Research, Science, Innovation and Technology (RSIT) sector feel a little less like "Huh, what even is that?" and a lot more like "Wow, I didn't realise there were so many opportunities out there!" Through Kanapu Connect, she works to improve system navigation for Māori in RSIT spaces by creating pathways for connection, visibility and collaboration across the sector.

Now that Kanapu Connect has launched, one of the most rewarding parts of the journey has been getting out and sharing it with others. From filming promotional videos and presenting at events, to helping people create accounts and build their profile webs, Ahere enjoys seeing the platform come to life through the connections people make. After a year and a half of building it, watching others engage, connect and grow their networks has made all the hard work worthwhile.

"It's pretty special seeing people discover opportunities, find their place in the sector, and connect with one another through Kanapu Connect."



Dr. Sarah-Jane Tiakiwai

Te Rarawa ki Hokianga, Waikato ki Ngāti Haua, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Pikiao

Te Ihorangi Māori | Te Whare Wananga o Waikato

One of the challenges of undertaking research at the higher degree, Masters and Doctoral levels is being able to describe your Kaupapa succinctly and in plain (non-academic) language. Tukuna Kia Rere 3MK provides such a platform, enabling our kairangahau to share their diverse research interests with all of us albeit in a competitive format.

This year we are privileged to have an amazing judging panel some of whom have been through the Tukuna Kia Rere experience. They understand the nerves of presenting as well as the challenges of how to distil not months but sometimes years of data gathering, reading, theorising and analysing into a short few minutes, presented with just one slide as a visual aid.

We are also privileged to have our kairangahau put themselves forward to showcase the diverse research interests and priorities of our whānau and hāpori Māori. It is not only exciting but speaks to the ever-present urgency to continue growing our capacity and capability across all areas of our lives as Māori to enable us to flourish as Māori.

Ki ngā korokoro tū

Tukuna ngā kaupapa kōrero kia rongu, kia rere!





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KO TE TANGATA
FOR THE PEOPLE

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