



KOHITĀTEA | JANUARY 2026

Kua tau te waewae o Ruhi kai whenua.

The foot of Ruhi (a summer star) now rests upon the earth

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TE PŪRONGO NŌ NGĀ POU MATARUA
CO-DIRECTORS UPDATE

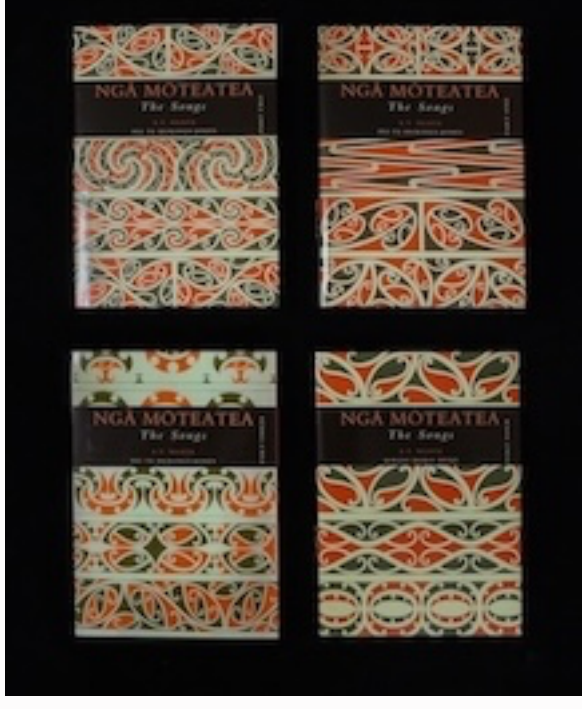
As we head into another busy year, we are grateful for our whānau at NPM and Kanapu who approach everything they do with purpose and commitment to our shared vision of flourishing Māori futures. In this e-pānui, we farewell those who have made an enduring contribution to NPM – including our longest serving *AlterNative* Co-Editor Professor Tracey McIntosh – and welcome in new team members. We also reflect on the re-release of Ngā Mōteatea, the extraordinary four-volume collection of Māori songs and chants, and get up close and personal with a giant glowing earthworm and 2026 Bug of the Year contender, Noke Waiū (*Anisochaeta gigantea*).

2026 is shaping up to be a year that brings new partnerships, new scholars, and new rangahau that responds to the priorities of our communities. As always, we acknowledge our Rūhūku (eterned patrons), our 21 Te Tira takimano partners, our researchers and student scholars, and all who walk with us shaping futures with integrity and care.

Pou Matarua | Co-Director

- Professor Tahu Kukutai
- Professor Melinda Webber

KAUPAPA MATUA



Treasury
of Māori
Waiaata
Re-Released

A treasury of Māori waiaata, *Ngā Mōteatea The Songs, Vols. 1–4* by Te Āpirana Ngata has been re-released. Translated by Pei Te Hurinui Jones (Vols. 1–3) and Ta Hīrini Moko Mead (Vol. 4), *Ngā Mōteatea* was re-released in November 2025. According to Auckland University Press Director Sam Elworthy, the response to the re-release of these taonga has been overwhelming. “At events like Toitū Te Roa and WIPCEI, we’ve felt the enduring love of te iwi Māori and all New Zealanders for these landmark volumes,” he says.

Over a period of forty years Te Āpirana recorded hundreds of songs and chants from iwi throughout the motu, and the collection became the four volumes of *Ngā Mōteatea*. “This national treasure is the largest and most comprehensive collection of Māori songs and a unique contribution to New Zealand poetry. It is a deep resource for continuing research and scholarship in many fields, offering prime texts for the teaching of Māori language, literature and iwi history, and it serves as inspiration for contemporary composition and performance,” says Sam.

In 2005, these landmark editions were completely redesigned and republished in association with the Polynesian Society, preserving the integrity of the original work while updating typography and language conventions, correcting errors, and adding macros for modern usage. These editions also include audio CDs of selected waiaata from the Archives of Māori and Pacific Music at the University of Auckland, bringing the voices of the Ancestors to life.

To purchase the four volumes with exclusive discount for \$240:

https://aucklanduniversitypress.co.nz/nga-moteatea-the-songs-complete-set/?searchid=52146&search_query=Nga+moteatea

RANGAHAU | RESEARCH



Left: Artist Pete Amato (Ngāti Kahungunu ki te Wairoa) was commissioned to create tol that embodies Hinātore.

Right: Noke Waiū is a giant terrestrial invertebrate, reaching up to 1.4 metres.

SHINING A LIGHT ON NOKE WAIŪ

The Bug of the Year 2026 competition is underway and it’s putting a spotlight on one of our most extraordinary invertebrates, the North Auckland worm, Noke Waiū (*Anisochaeta gigantea*). Noke Waiū is Aotearoa’s longest terrestrial invertebrate, reaching up to 1.4 metres and PhD microbiology candidate Aymee Lewis wants people to know more about this startling creature, with the hope of gaining their vote.

According to Aymee (Ngāti Kahungunu ki te Wairoa, Ngāti Rakaipaaka) Noke Waiū lives where most of us rarely look – within the whenua. “It’s alive, structured, breathing, full of organisms and interactions and noke are part of that living infrastructure, shaping the soil environment,” she says.

Apart from its startling size, Noke Waiū also carries bioluminescence (Hinātore), a striking fluid that glows with yellow-orange light that oozes from its pores when startled. Aymee has been exploring bioluminescence in Te Ao Māori as part of her PhD and says pūrākau describe Hinātore as the “soft glow”, known as phosphorescence and luminescence that guides, transforms, and illuminates. “Tāne-nui-a-rangi, placed Hinātore from Te Whānau Mārama, as a guide into Te Ao Mārama. Hinātore glow is a reminder that transformation often begins in places that are unseen, layered, and easy to overlook,” says Aymee.

Understanding these unseen creatures matters because they’re doing the quiet work that keeps ecosystems functioning from cycling nutrients, building healthy soils, and holding food webs together. “But it’s not just an ecological story,” says Aymee. “It’s a story about whakapapa. These noke aren’t just in the ‘background’, they are kin within whakapapa. When we learn what they do and where they belong, we’re also learning how to behave, what to protect, what to stop doing to our whenua, and what it means to live responsibly in relationship with te taiao.”

Aymee is part of Te Aho Hinātore, a group of researchers with a shared interest in bioluminescence. Its members include Siouxsie Wiles (microbiologist), Richard Niania (Wairoa), Julia Kasper (Te Papa/entomologist), Neil Birrell (UoA entomologist), and Chrissie Painting (Waikato entomologist).

With the support of Te Pūnaha Matatini, the group commissioned an artwork to illustrate that Hinātore and Noke Waiū are relationships and whakapapa to engage with, she says.

The painting by Pete Amato (Ngāti Kahungunu ki te Wairoa) fluoresces under ultraviolet light, bringing a literal glow to the kaupapa. “It draws together Hinātore and the many spaces in Te Ao where her light can be found,” says Aymee. In the artwork, which Pete has named Hinātore, the noke are wrapped around the hei matau highlighting the lived, practical mātauranga: Noke Waiū are used as bait for eel bobbing and were threaded onto muka and offered into the wai to catch tuna.

Aymee says a useful way to think about Bug of the Year competition is not just as a vote, but as a kaupapa of noticing. “Because some of the beings that hold te taiao together are often the ones we don’t see,” she says.

Organised by the Entomological Society of New Zealand, Bug of the Year voting ends on 16 February. Cast your vote and help bring this Noke Waiū, carrying Hinātore, into Aotearoa’s spotlight: **Vote today!** <https://bugoftheyear.ento.org.nz/>

KANAPU



Funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), Kanapu is a NPM initiative to support Māori talent and leadership across te ao Māori in research, science and innovation spaces.

Kanapu is launching an online series of one-hour talks with Māori leaders, experts and specialists across three themes: pūtaiao (science), auaha (innovation) and hangarau (technology).

Freshwater scientist Dr Erina Watene (Waikato-Tainui, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāi Te Rangī) is the first of five kaideero in the pūtaiao series on Thursday 12 February from 12 noon to 1pm. Her topic is ‘Wai – It Matters: Mātauranga Māori, Policy, Commerce and Science’.



2026 KANAPU EVENTS

Tātai Pūtaiao | Science Series with Dr Erina Watene (12 February), Jane Kitson (26 February), Rereata Makia (5 March), Nick Roskruege (16 April) and Pauline Harris (30 April).

Tātai Hangarau | Tech Series during TechWeek26: Steven Renata (18 May), Tania Wolfram (19 May), Elle Archer (20 May), Moka Apti (21 May) and Dan Walker (22 May).

Tātai Auaha | Innovation Series with Antony Royal (June 11), Maria Ngawati (25 June), Kemp Reweti (2 July) and Rachel Taulelei (July 23).

Check out the [Kanapu Support](#) webpage for speaker bios and to register.

HUI HIHIRI

Kanapu is excited to announce the programme for our fourth annual wānanga – [Hui Hihiri 2026](#) – live streaming on Wednesday March 18 2026 from 8.45am to 3.30pm.

Hui Hihiri 2026 will be a hybrid event with a small group of early career Māori researchers and their mentors joining us in-person at Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato while the event will be live streamed for all to participate from around the motu.

Hui Hihiri 2026 is for all Māori – rangatahi, whānau and hapū leaders, urban kaupapa catalysts, early career to seasoned RSTI professionals – who is passionate about how we can thrive utilising kaupapa Māori-driven research, science, innovation and technology.

For more information about Hui Hihiri see: <https://kanapu.maori.nz/>

NPM JOURNALS

New Co-Editors Appointed to *AlterNative*

After many years of dedicated service, Professor Tracey McIntosh (Ngāti Tūhoe) and Dr Carwyn Jones (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa) are stepping down as Co-Editors of *AlterNative*. Tracey has served since 2009, and Carwyn since 2019. Their leadership and unwavering commitment have been central to shaping *AlterNative* into the world’s leading international (Q1) journal for Indigenous scholarship. We offer a huge mihi and heartfelt thanks to both Tracey and Carwyn for their extraordinary contribution and stewardship.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Associate Professor Meegan Hall (Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāi Te Rangī, Ngāti Towharetoa, Ngāti Apakura) and Dr Emalani Case (Kanaka Maoli) as the new Co-Editors.



From left to right: Tracey McIntosh, Carwyn Jones, Meegan Hall and Emalani Case.

MAI JOURNAL

NPM would like to acknowledge the important contribution of Dr Vincent Olsen-Reeder who served three years as MAI Journal co-editor. We will miss his collegiality, knowledge and te nō Māori expertise and look forward to following his future endeavours and social media posts.

We also warmly welcome Dr Annie Te Ome (Te Āhaua, Ngāti Mutunga) (UoV) who will join MAI as its new Co-Editor, alongside Professor Te Kawehau Hoskins (UoA). We know they will make a dynamic duo, continuing the MAI tradition of being a leading multidisciplinary open access journal for Māori and Pacific scholarship in Aotearoa.

If you wish to help with peer review or submit to MAI please see the website www.journal.mai.ac.nz or email editors@journal.mai.ac.nz

HUI, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS,
EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS

IIRC 2026: Save the date!

We are excited to host the International Indigenous Research Conference at Waipapa Taumata Rau this year on 16-20 November, 2026.

Keep reading the E-Pānui for updates on when to submit abstracts and early-bird ticket sales.

When: 16-20 November, 2026

Where: Waipapa Taumata Rau, Tāmaki Makaurau.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TŪ MEKE!!

Australasian Cities Research Network
Medal 2025 – Award Citation for
Professor Michelle Thompson-Fawcett

Congratulations to NPM senior researcher Professor Michelle Thompson-Fawcett who has been awarded the Australasian Cities Research Network Medal. The award, announced in December 2025, recognises Michelle as a leading figure in Indigenous planning and urban research whose work has profoundly shaped scholarship and practice in Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally.”



Kāti rā ngā kōrero mō tānei wā,

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