



e-pouini

NPM

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KOHITATEA I JANUARY 2026

Kua tau te waewae o Ruhī kai whenua.

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

CONTENTS

Te Pūrongo Nō Ngā Pou Matarua

Kaupapa Matua: Treasury of Māori Walata

Rangahau: Shining a Light on Noke Waiū

Kanapu: 2026 Events

Ngā Manaakitanga | Opportunities

News | Events

TE PŪRONGO NŌ NGĀ POU MATARUA

CO-DIRECTORS UPDATE

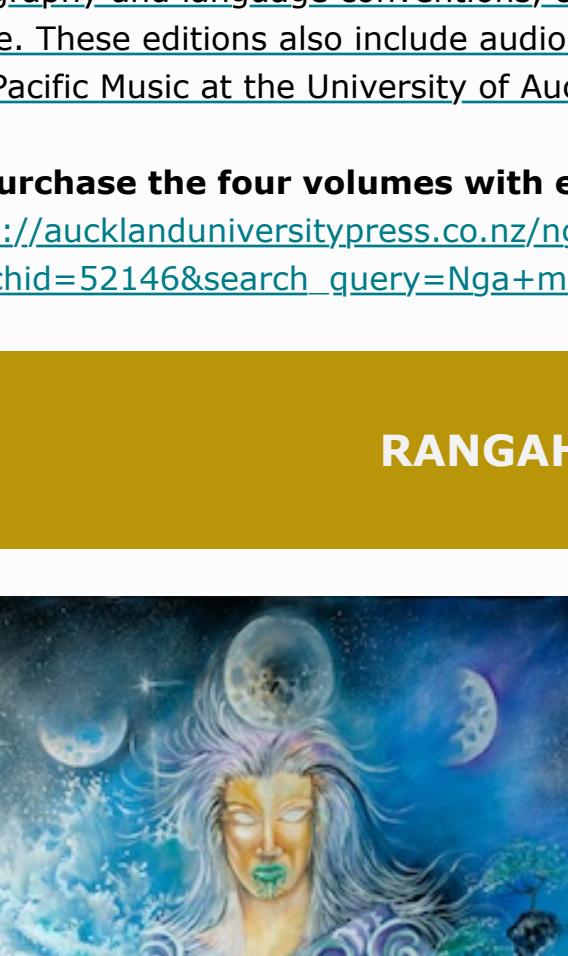
As we head into another busy year, we are grateful for our whānau at NPM and Kanapu who approach everything they do with purpose, care and commitment to our shared vision of flourishing Māori futures. In this e-pouini, we farewell those who have made an enduring contribution to NPM – including our longest 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 (*Anisocheta 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 Ruinuku (esteemed 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 Tuhi Kukutai
- Professor Melinda Webber

KAUPAPA MATUA



Treasury of Māori Walata Re-Released

A treasury of Māori walata, *Ngā Mōteatea The Songs*, Vols. 1-4 by Te Apirana Ngata has been re-released. Translated by Pei Te Hurinui Jones (Vols. 1-3) and Te Hinemi Hoko Head (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 Toi Te Reo and WPCIE, we've felt the enduring love of te iwi Māori and all New Zealanders for these landmark volumes," he says.

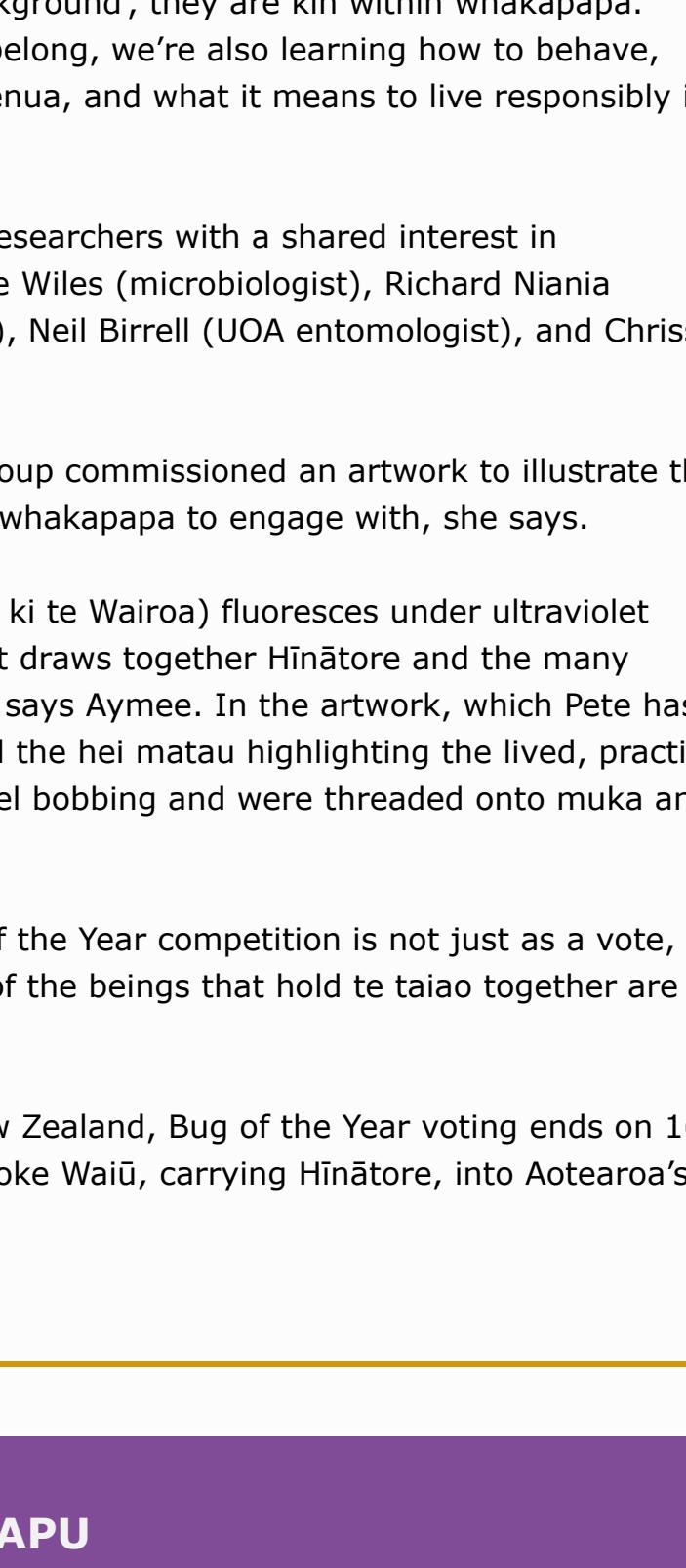
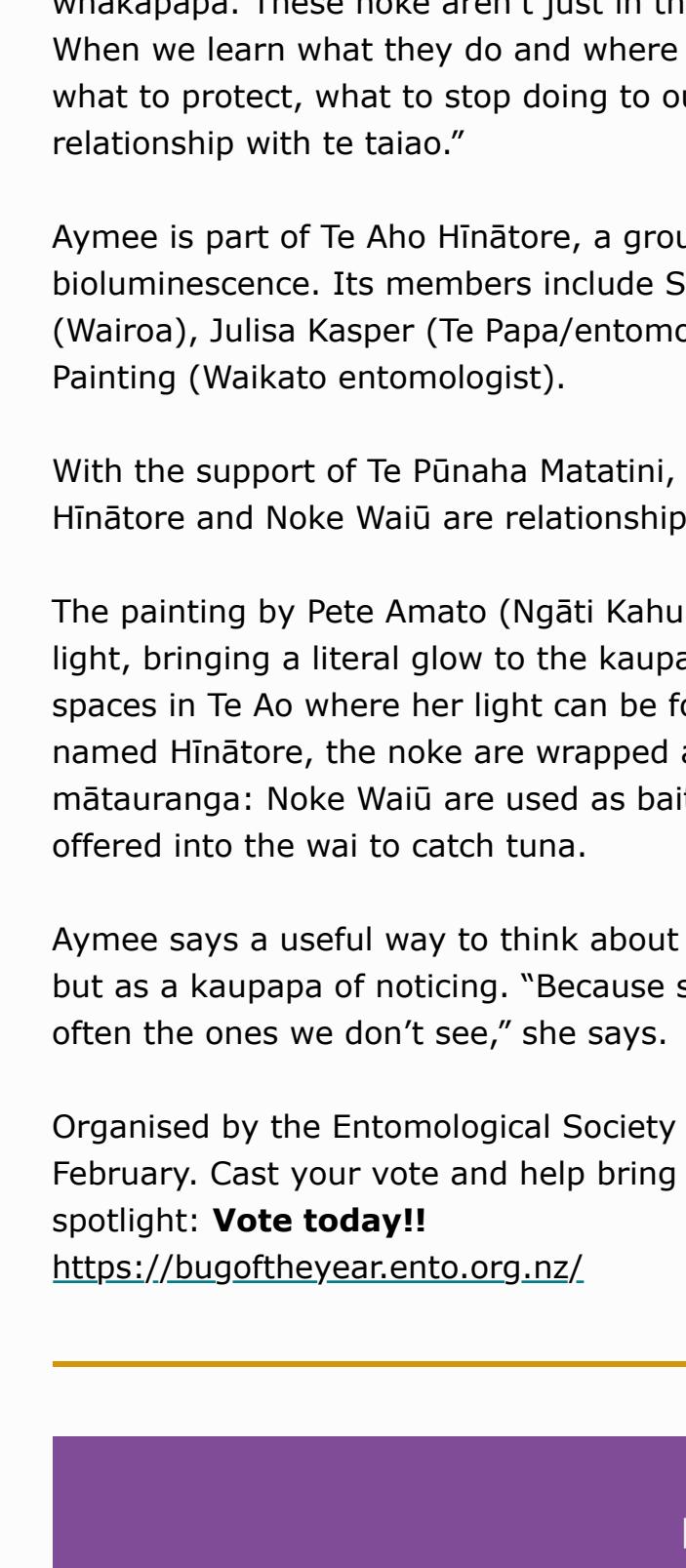
Over a period of forty years Te Apirana recorded hundreds of songs and chants from iwi throughout the motu, and the collection became the four volumes of *Ngā Mōteatea*. "This national treasure is the largest and most comprehensive collection of Māori songs and a unique contribution to New Zealand poetry. 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 walata from the Archive 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=5214&search_query=Ngā+Mōteatea

RANGAHAU | RESEARCH



Left: Artist Pete Amato (Ngāti Kahungunu ki te Wairua) was commissioned to create to iot that embodies Hinatore.

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 (*Anisocheta 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 Wairua, Ngāti Rakaiapaaka) 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 (Hinatore), 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 pārākau describe Hinatore as the "soft glow", known as phosphorescence and luminescence that guides, transforms and illuminates. "Tāne-nui-a-rangi, placed Hinatore from Te Whanau Mārama, as a guide into Te Ao Marama. Hinatore 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 the world functioning from a cellular level. "They're healthy soil, healthy food, healthy 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 to te Iaiao."

Aymee is part of Te Aho Hinatore, a group of researchers with a shared interest in bioluminescence. Its members include Siouxsie Wiles (microbiologist), Richard Niana (Wairua), Julia Kasper (Te Papa entomologist), Neil Birrell (UOA entomologist), and Chrissie Painting (Wakato entomologist).

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

The painting by Pete Amato (Ngāti Kahungunu ki te Wairua) fluoresces under ultraviolet light, bringing a literal glow to the kaupapa. "It draws together Hinatore and the many spaces in Te Ao where their light can be found," says Aymee. In the artwork, which Pete has named Hinatore, 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 thrown into the water to catch them.

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 kōtai 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 Hinatore, into Aotearoa's spotlight: [Vote today!!](https://bugoftheyear.ento.org.nz/)

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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: pūtāiao (science), auaha (innovation) and hangarau (technology).

Freshwater scientist Dr Erina Watene (Wakato-Tainui, Ngāti Manopoto, Ngāti Te Rangi) is the first of five kākahu in the pūtāiao series on Thursday 12 February from 12 noon to 1pm. Her topic is 'Wai - It Matters: Mātauranga Māori, Policy, Commerce and Science'.

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HUI, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS

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

Tātai Hangarau | Tech Series during TechWeek26: Steven Renata (18 May), Tania Wolfgang (19 May), Elle Archer (20 May), Moka Apiti (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 Taupelet (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 Waitaki 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 RSIT 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.māori.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 Wairua) are stepping down as Co-Editors of *AlterNative*. Their tenure will be succeeded by 2026 by Dr Carwyn Jones and Professor Michelle Thompson-Fawcett, whose extensive and unwavering commitment have been integral to the development of *AlterNative* into the world's leading international (Q1) journal for Indigenous scholarship. We offer a huge māhi and heartfelt thanks to both Tracey and Carwyn for their extraordinary contribution and stewardship.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Associate Professor Meagan Hall (Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāti Te Rangi, Ngāti Rauhī, Ngāti Apakura) and Dr Emaelani Case (Kanaka Maoli) as the new Co-Editors.

From left to right: Tracey McIntosh, Carwyn Jones, Meagan Hall and Emaelani Case.

MAI JOURNAL

HIGHLIGHTS

We also warmly welcome Mai Journal co-editor, Professor Dr Oleg Klymenko, whose extensive and unwavering commitment have been integral to the development of *Mai* into the world's leading international (Q1) journal for Indigenous scholarship. We offer a huge māhi and heartfelt thanks to both Tracey and Carwyn for their extraordinary contribution and stewardship.

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