



Kaikōrero & workshop facilitators



Melanie Mark-Shadbolt

Ngāti Kahungunu, Rangitāne, Ngāti Porou,
Te Arawa, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Tūwharetoa,
Whakatōhea, Te Atiawa

Uira 1: Pūtaiao
Keynote Speaker: Science

Accelerating Kaitiakitanga: Māori Leadership Across Changing Environmental Systems

As biodiversity loss, biosecurity risks and climate disruption intensify, Māori leadership across research, science, innovation and technology is increasingly focused on transforming systems for the future.

Indigenous environmental sociologist Melanie Mark-Shadbolt reframes kaitiakitanga as leadership, highlighting how mātauranga Māori and Indigenous decision-making are shaping innovative responses to environmental change.



Dr. Mahonri Owen

Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Tūwharetoa

Uira 2: Auaha
Keynote Speaker: Innovation

High-Tech Innovation: Culture-Centred Design Principles

Mātauranga Māori offers powerful design principles grounded in mātauranga and interconnection.

Dr Mahonri Owen is an academic and researcher at the School of Engineering at the University of Waikato. He explores how these principles inform his work developing next-generation biomedical technology that adapts to people, environments and changing life contexts.



Hine-Kaunuku (Morgana) Watson

Te Atiawa, Taranaki,
Te Ati Haunui-a-Pāpārangī, Ngāpuhi

Uira 3: Hangarau
Keynote Speaker: Technology

Māori Futurism and Interactive Media: Our Indigenous Advantage in Tech Spaces

Interactive media creator and founder of Taranaki-based 4Phase Aotearoa, Hine-Kaunuku Watson draws on Māori game development to examine how Māori futurism and interactive media embed mātauranga Māori into media design.

Using speculative fiction, pūrākau, game worlds and mechanics as examples, she shows how Māori-led interactive media creates ethical technologies and experiences that support relationships to taiao, identity, knowledge transmission and Indigenous prioritisation in tech.



Hikohiko | Panel discussion

Kia Hora Te Marino: Navigating Change as Māori Leaders
in Research, Science, Innovation and Technology



Professor Kura Paul-Burke

Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Whakahemo, Ngāti Mākino,
Ngāti Pūkeko, Irish

Pūtaiao | Science

Marine ecologist Kura Paul-Burke has extensive experience blending Western science with mātauranga Māori to help coastal hapū and iwi communities to restore, monitor and manage marine taonga.

Her methodologies and techniques are being adopted in other regions, normalising mātauranga Māori in marine science, empowering iwi and delivering tangible environmental, cultural and social gains.



James Whetū

Waikato, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Raukawa

Auaha | Innovation

With a background in resource management policy and planning, Whetū Consultancy Group director James Whetū has significant experience in integrating and incorporating Māori values, perspectives and knowledge into resource management practices.

He has been involved in the engagement of communities and stakeholders as well as the implementation of collaborative and co-management processes in sustainable management for local authorities.



Professor Te Taka Keegan

Waikato-Maniapoto, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Whakaue

Hangarau | Technology

Te Taka Keegan is celebrated as the first Māori Professor of Computer Science at the University of Waikato and a visionary in Indigenous-focused technology.

His journey blends deep cultural insight with world-class technical expertise - from early work translating major computing systems into te reo Māori to developing AI-driven language tools that support Māori language revitalisation and empower iwi.