

# He Pūkenga Wai

## Whanganui River Symposium 2024

He pukenga wai, he nohoanga tāngata, he nohoanga tāngata, he putanga kōrero  
Where there is a body of water, people settle, where people settle, histories unfold

### **Te Mana o te Awa, Te Mana o te Iwi | Monday 5th August 2024**

He Pūkenga Wai this year celebrates the tenth anniversary of the signing of Ruruku Whakatupua, the Whanganui River Deed of Settlement. The signing took place at Ranana on 5 August 2014 by hapū and iwi of Te Awa Tupua under a singular mantle – Te Mana o te Awa, te Mana o te Iwi.

Ruruku Whakatupua. is the culmination of a century and half long effort to have the inextricable relationship between Te Mana o Te Awa and Te Mana o te Iwi upheld through kawa, the extant law system of the hapū and iwi of Te Awa Tupua.

This day is themed "Te Mana o te Iwi" and is for the hapū and iwi of Te Awa Tupua and those Iwi who have supported our journey. It begins with ruruku at Te Whakaniwha, Putiki slipway at 6.30am, followed by parakuihi and registrations at the Whanganui Memorial Hall.

The day includes inspirational keynote speakers who have championed constitutional change consistent with the system deconstruction and rebuilding heralded by Ruruku Whakatupua.

The afternoon will focus on building our collective ability to undertake localised projects, adapted to our distinct environments exemplified by different initiatives across the Awa catchment.

Throughout the day, an audio visual of the voices of our kuia will be played to reflect the strength and conviction we continue to hold in our kawa, our law system.

Join us for dinner at the conclusion of the day to celebrate.

## PROGRAMME

6.30am Ruruku, Te Whakaniwha, Putiki slipway  
[https://earth.google.com/earth/d/15la5OdYmGzbN\\_4r7TXOysAhM2Fe6Nt53?usp=sharing](https://earth.google.com/earth/d/15la5OdYmGzbN_4r7TXOysAhM2Fe6Nt53?usp=sharing)

7.00am Parakuihi - Breakfast, Whanganui War Memorial Hall  
[https://earth.google.com/earth/d/15la5OdYmGzbN\\_4r7TXOysAhM2Fe6Nt53?usp=sharing](https://earth.google.com/earth/d/15la5OdYmGzbN_4r7TXOysAhM2Fe6Nt53?usp=sharing)

9.00am **He Kupu Wāhinga - Opening Address, Main Hall**

***Sheena Maru (Whanganui)***, Chair Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui

### **Turanga Tuawahine - Keynote Speakers**

***Makareta Takahia Tawaroa (Whanganui)*** a kuia raised on the Awa Sister will share her lived experience of fighting for the emancipation of our river, lands and people.

***Ani Mikaere (Ngāti Raukawa)*** discusses the current challenges to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and will share her thoughts on what is required to overcome them.

10.15am Wā whakatā - Short break

10.45am ***Liana Poutu (Te Āti Awa)*** provides insights into the early work on the Awa and negotiations for Taranaki Maunga, highlighting what is needed to realise the potential of these arrangements.

***Kirsti Luke (Tūhoe)*** describes the need to focus on the future and provides commentary on what is required to stay the course and achieve real transformational change.

11.30am Kai nui - Lunch

12.45pm **Whakauruora, Main Hall**

**Te Morehu Whenua** will share the work they have done to build an educational curriculum that reclaims Whanganui River tūpuna fishing knowledge and practices.

1.30pm & 2.15pm **Break-out sessions** (participants can choose two of three sessions held concurrently)

**Te Pūwaha, (Main Hall)**

Presentation from Te Pūwaha on the revitalisation work at the Whanganui Port and the leadership of of the project by hapū under Te Awa Tupua.

**Ngā Hau e Wha & Kimmy Ranginui (Concert Chamber)**

A community-based nursery shares the challenges and opportunities of their work, supported by Kimmy Ranginui who has developed a wealth of knowledge in the collection and life cycle of sees within the Awa environs.

**Mouri Tūroa (Davis Lecture Theatre)**

Gordon Cribb shares the work that has been achieved over the last 3 years restoring of riparian margins and wetlands, identifying the challenges they have overcome in this work.

5.00pm **Dinner - Hākari Whakanui i te ngahuru tau o Ruruku Whakatupua**  
Join us for our formal dinner to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Ruruku Whakatupua



## Ngā kai kōrero o te rā - Speaker Profiles



### **Sheena Maru - Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui Chair Te Āti Haunui ā Pāparangi, Ngāti Rangi, Ngāti Uenuku, Ngāti Hikairo**

Sheena has always been dedicated to her whānau, river and community having held a range of governance and project management roles over the years for iwi and community organisations. She is passionate about community wellbeing and development has been critical in developing pathways for Rangatahi and Rangatakapū of the Awa.

Sheena has been Chair of Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui since 2021 and has recently been renominated to sit a further term by Te Rūnanga o Te Awa Tupua.



### **Sister Makareta Tawaroa Ngā Paerangi, Ngāti Tuera, Ngāti Hinearo, Whanganui**

Born and raised on the banks of the Awa, Sister Makareta has been instrumental in liberating the views of our people in respect of indigenous rights and what is required to decolonise from the imposition of colonial laws and systems. Sister is an influential sister of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

Sister Makareta will share a lived experience of fighting for emancipation and what it means in terms of our Awa.



### **Ani Mikaere Ngāti Raukawa - Ngāti Pareraukawa, Ngāti Huia, Ngāti Porou**

In her role as Pou Whakatupu Mātauranga at Te Wānanga o Raukawa, Ani is responsible for leading and promoting activity which nurtures and grows the mātauranga continuum—the constantly evolving body of knowledge that has been produced by successive generations of Māori theorists and practitioners. Ani is respected for her honest and articulate commentary on the history of colonisation, its impacts, and the efforts required to overcome this.

## Ngā kai kōrero o te rā - Speaker Profiles



### **Liana Poutu**

**Te Atiawa, Taranaki, Whanganui, Maniapoto**

Liana has spent her career fighting for the rights of our people in various roles including being mentored by the late Martin Dawson, who was the lawyer for the Whanganui River Māori Trust Board in the early 90's. Liana holds a number of governance roles across the Taranaki region and has participated in significant negotiations with the Crown the most recent for Taranaki Maunga. Liana will share strategies to realise the potential of these arrangements.



### **Kirsti Luke**

**Ngāti Awa, Ngā Puhī**

Kirsti is the Chief Executive of the Tuhoe Iwi Authority and was a member of the Tuhoe Treaty claims negotiations team who settled with the Crown in 2014. Kirsti has been actively involved in the post design of the tribe's recovery and revitalisation approach. She works to raise the confidence of families, strengthen community leaders and their opportunities, disrupt dysfunctional government behaviours and collaborate with local, regional and national partners. She is particularly interested to grow the tomorrow attitudes needed to achieve a new climate future.



# Ngā kai kōrero o te rā - Speaker Profiles



## Te Morehu Whenua

A tamariki and rangatahi environmental rōpū, established under the auspices of hapū associated with Rānana Marae.

The group conducts environmental revitalisation and restoration projects, on species that inhabit the Whanganui River and tributaries, native trees and plants, as well as customary forms of hīnaki and kupenga making.

- population counting and measuring of kākahi, kōura and ngaore;
- learning customary tuna fishing, using tari;
- fashioning hīnaki and pohā; revitalising pātaka kai; and
- planning restoration work for Moutoa Island, with a focus on the impact of climate change and preventative measures.



## Te Pūwaha

Te Pūwaha is being led through the collaboration of hapū at place within the Whanganui estuarine area, enacting the innate values of Tupua Te Kawa. This includes mandated hapū representation by Ngā Paerangi, Tamareheroto, Ngāti Tupoho me Ngāti Tumango, Ngāti Hineoneone, Ngāti Pāmoana, and Patutokotoko. Ngā Poutama Nui a Awa is also rightfully represented, however each member is cognisant of working mō te awa, me ona karanga hapū katoa.



## Ngā Hau e Wha Maara Kai Charitable Trust

Aimed to provide the community of Taumarunui with the means and knowledge to develop maara helping whānau be self-sufficient.

Over time the nursery has grown to support the health of the Taiao introducing native plant species into their work at the nursery. They have been invited to share their experience of establishing and maintaining a community led nursery.

## Ngā kai kōrero o te rā - Speaker Profiles



### **Kimmy Ranginui**

#### **Ngāti Hine o te Rā, Ngā Paerangi and Ngā Poutama**

Kimmy is our seed specialist, committed to revitalising the fauna and flora of Te Awa Tupua.

In 2018 Kimmy travelled the Millennium Seed Bank in Wakehurst, England to attend a course on Seed Conservation Techniques and understand what is required to preserve our seed stock for the future. Since that time Kimmy has actively harvested over 700,000 seeds to contribute to the restoration of Te Awa Tupua.

Kimmy will be available at the breakout session to answer any questions about the process of seed collection, storage and germination.



### **Gordon Cribb**

#### **Ngāti Hinerua, Ngāti Uenuku**

Gordon, our Mouri Tūroa Programme Manager will provide an update on the work being done across the catchment through Mouri Tūroa to help improve the health and wellbeing of Te Awa Tupua.

Gordon will present on the range of activity that has been occurring through Mouri Tūroa, the challenges, and the progress being made in this work.

