

# Ngā Motu Whakahī

## Raising our Islands

Building a thriving body of Māori and Pacific research students and research-active academic staff in the Faculty of Science.

THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE will be launching a pilot programme Ngā Motu Whakahī – Raising our Islands in 2022, a holistic and long-term initiative to nurture our future Māori and Pacific research leaders through targeted tuākana-teina cohort building.

Led by the Faculty’s Kaiārahi, Jason Tutara, Associate Dean Pacific Sina Greenwood, and Associate Dean Research, Jan Lindsay, the programme aims to learn from the existing successful Tuākana Science Programme, which primarily focuses on teaching, to develop a new mentoring programme in the research space.

Aligning with the University’s Strategic Plan to embrace values of equity and inclusion, Ngā Motu Whakahī will be an important vessel to grow the number of Māori and Pacific research students and research-active academic staff in the Faculty.

Using a navigation metaphor, the programme will be a journey between and across the following three ‘islands’, with waves connecting them:

**Poipoia te kākano** Through workshops and research projects, the first level will enable pre-university level Māori and Pacific participants (and their schools and families) to grow a strong foundation for a future in science.

**Tairangatia** Aimed at current Māori and Pacific students in the Faculty, the second level will build and foster a cohort of confident, connected and thriving students interested in research, through research scholarships and internships for undergraduates.

**Pūtaiao Herenga Waka** The third level will enable postgraduate research students and early career academics to flourish by providing them with clear pathways through academia and beyond, extending their journey to new horizons, whilst acknowledging community and family connections.

**Te Painga Ngaru** (The ripple effect) – The waves connecting our islands are symbolic of the actions we take to ensure that all students and research-active staff feel included and can thrive in their environment. This work is fluid, like waves, and the intention is that its effects will ripple throughout the Faculty and beyond towards transformative cultural change.



### Patricia Clark

Ngāpuhi

Paewai Rangahau/Research Fellow – Ngā Motu Whakahī Programme

*“In my role I am working alongside a Pacific colleague to scope the implementation of the Ngā Motu Whakahī Programme.*

*“As part of the role, I enjoy engaging with our Māori and Pacific students and researchers within the Faculty of Science and seeing all the positive transformational work they are doing within the academic space.*

*“Personally, it’s been really rewarding to see so many students I used to tutor in the Tuākana programme now undertaking postgraduate research that incorporates mātauranga Māori.*

*“It’s really fulfilling to be involved in an initiative that will increase Māori and Pacific representation at all levels within the faculty and increase the recognition of knowledge systems outside of Western Science.”*

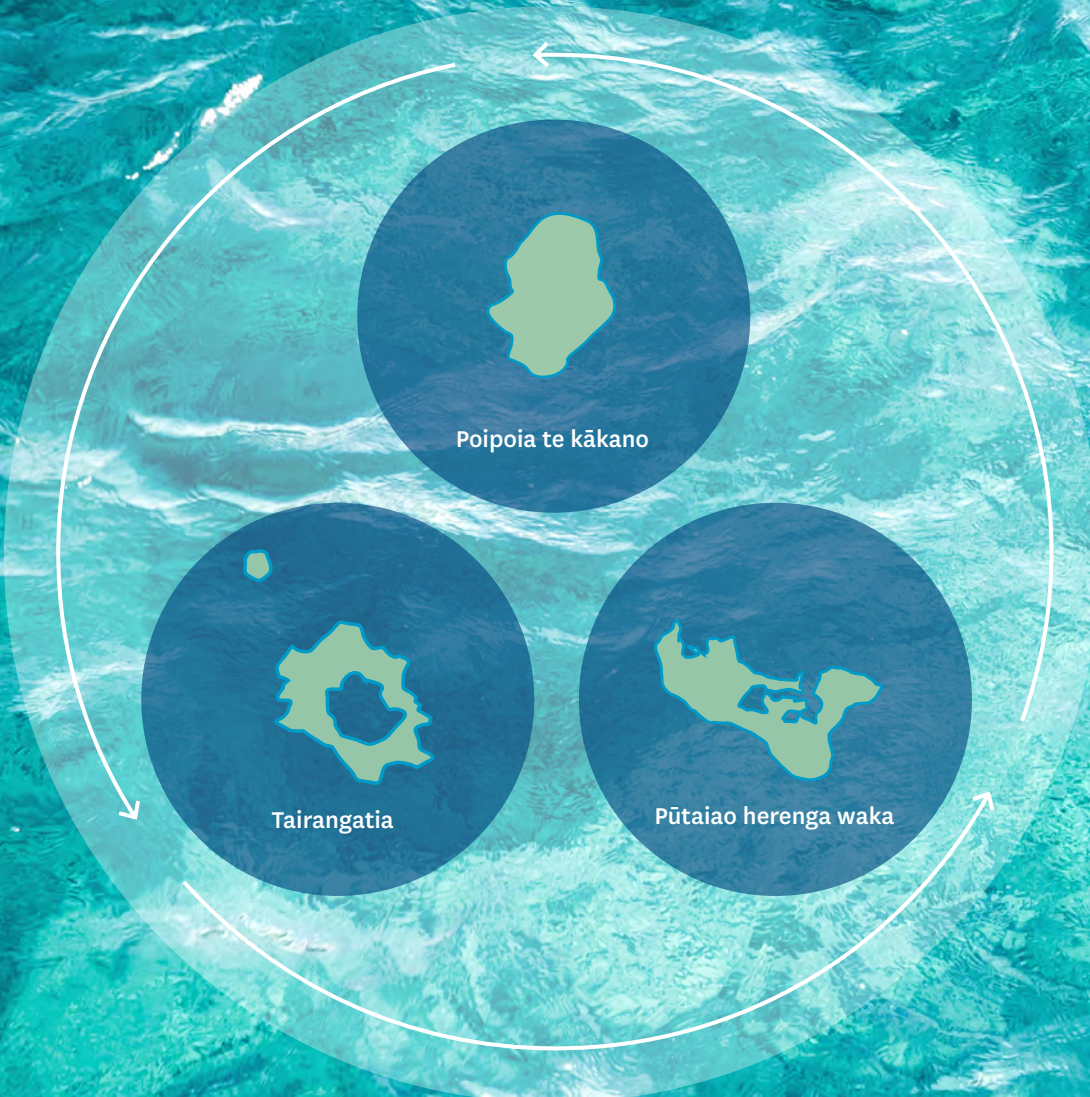


Diagram based on concept by Sonia Fonua.



### Hineatua Parkinson

Ngāti Patuwai,  
Ngāti Hine, Whakatōhea

Kai Whakaako Mātai Hinengaro/  
Kaupapa Māori Researcher

Member of Te Rōpū Hiko (Harnessing the Spark of Live), Taura Here Pūtaiao (Māori Staff in Science) and Māori and Pacific Psychology Collective

*“My whānau, hapū and Iwi ground me and connect me to Te Ao Māori.*

*“Within my role as Kai Whakaako Mātai Hinengaro in the School of Psychology I bring Mātauranga Māori into my teaching and research.*

*“A key part of my work is enacting manaakitanga by nurturing and maintaining caring reciprocal relationships with staff, students and community.*

*“When people feel valued and safe they will reach out for help. Many staff have embraced aspects of Mātauranga Māori into their teaching and research. Many students have found and strengthened their connection to Te Ao Māori through learning.*

*“I am passionate about Rongoā Māori and the intersection with Psychology. There is scope for healing and wellness utilizing a harmonious approach.*

*“Another part of my role is Co-ordinating the Tuākana Programme within Psychology. I have an amazing team that hold to the core values of the programme; Tuākana-Teina (experienced students sharing their knowledge and expertise with less experienced students), manaakitanga and haumarū (creating a safe environment). It is challenging and rewarding supporting Indigenous students to flourish in academia. Nurturing the next generation of leaders is important and it begins with connection and relationship.”*