



I TE TIMATANGA AT THE SOURCE

NGĀ AHO
Indigenous Design Conference
Whakapara Marae,
Te Tai Tokerau, Aotearoa.
26–29 February, 2016
www.timatanga2016.com

I Te Timatanga was a multidisciplinary indigenous design conference, for any indigenous person who helps to shape the public realm, where we discussed and shared stories, learnings and successes of our creative indigenous communities.

Many design and development projects in the built landscape present complex problems or situations that involve or affect diverse parties. The I Te Timatanga conference (wānanga) was developed with the objective of moving beyond standard Western-practice-based conference models, to an effective, connective, tikanga-based knowledge-sharing and learning event. Philosophically based in Te Ao Māori and practically grounded in the cultural and ecological landscape of Aotearoa, wānanga are an opportunity to create respectful and meaningful working relationships across sectors and cultures.

I Te Timatanga was a successful pilot four-day wānanga that elevated the Ngā Aho (Māori Design Professionals) Hui-ā-Tau wānanga (inaugurated 2007) to a new international audience. The event and post-event tour, established important international relationships in the indigenous design fields, shared skills and knowledge and built a foundation of positive shared experiences from which to grow the field of indigenous design practice.

The wānanga was an opportunity for members from across Aotearoa to connect with each other, share their experiences, discuss projects and challenges in cultural, educational, professional and political sectors which are pertinent to Māori design. The schedule included hiko to significant sites with the hosting marae hapū, as an opportunity to learn about the significant cultural history of the area. Hui attendees interacting with the haukainga in this way, were able to learn in an immediate and experiential manner from people with ahi kā mātauranga.

Foundational relationships were established between tangata whenua and multicultural manuhiri; experienced and fledgling practitioners; professionals and community. It is well recognised in contemporary urban design practice that communities want to be, and already are, involved in the design of their spaces, places, and services.

New knowledge is created by connecting at the deeper level of what is core to people, across worldviews, across disciplines, and across experiences. The Ngā Aho Hui-a-Tau wānanga have value in particular for the large contingent of attending tertiary students and also early career practitioners, who may struggle to integrate Māori cultural experience in their institutional study or early career roles. Through these events, professional cultural capacity is grown, with students and early career practitioners having an opportunity to form networks with more experienced Māori design professionals, build an understanding of how their work might assist with Māori community development and experience real world cross-sectoral collaboration.

These gatherings (previously an Aotearoa audience only) are a key 'tool' for Ngā Aho, in building cultural awareness within the design community and connecting professional practice to community needs.



HIGHLIGHTS

- The conference held in the wānanga/noho marae style proved to be very popular with both local and overseas attendees. The connective design of the marae, combined with the remote location proved highly conducive to a productive hui.
- The location of the wānanga in Whakapara, Te Tai Tokerau also proved itself to be beneficial in that site visits to Waitangi, Paihia, Whangaruru, etc., were easily accessible. This provided manuhiri with a culturally and environmentally mauri-enhancing context, which augmented the speakers' programme.
- The Ngā Aho 'Kāhui Whetū' were established at this inaugural international event, celebrating the considerable contribution, leadership, and excellence of four senior Māori design practitioners: Jacob Scott, Carin Wilson, Ross Hemera and Alan Titchener.

"Their commitment to advancing kaupapa Māori design, to toi mahi, to the enhancement of Māori outcomes through engagement and design, backed up by their all-round taniwha-nacity is celebrated by us all tonight..."
Phil Wihongi - Te Tau a Nuku - Landscape Architect.

"...I just wanted to touch base about how humbled I was to receive the taonga pounamu at the Ngā Aho hui in February. It was a considerable honour and am very proud to have received such a prestigious acknowledgement. For me it means so much to be recognised by our wider whānau of Māori design professionals. And I have to say that one of the significant aspects to the award is the mana an esteem that it brings to the Ngā Aho as a network and as an organisation. So this is just a short note to say how important such recognition is and the important role that Ngā Aho has taken on." Ross Hemera, Artist/Designer

I TE TIMATANGA AT A GLANCE

ATTENDEES: TOTAL: 78 STUDENTS: 19 PROFESSIONALS: 59

DESIGN FIELDS REPRESENTED:

Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Planning, Community Health, Urban Planning, Design, Art, Policy, Environmental Planning, Engineering; Project Management, PHD Research, Policy Analysis.

INTERNATIONALS:

Seven overseas manuhiri were in attendance; all presented at the Conference.

Gunditjmara, Australia; Tlicho First Nation, Canada; Nisga'a, Canada; Samoa; Tokelau; Nigeria; Apsaalooke - Crow, United States; Ojibway - Peguis First Nation, Manitoba, Canada; Mayan, El Salvador.

IWI MĀORI:

I Te Timatanga was hosted at the Ngāpuhi marae of Whakapara Marae, Te Tai Tokerau. Ten Ngāpuhi were represented and in attendance at the conference/wānanga, with the large majority of this number on the conference organizing komiti and/or speaking at the conference/wānanga - as appropriate to hosting tikanga.

Other iwi/hapū in attendance included: Ngāti Kahungunu; Ngāti Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Pahauwera, Ngāti Whātua; Ngāti Tūwharetoa; Ngāi Tahu; Waitaha; Te Whānau a Apanui; Te Atiawa; Tainui; Ngāti Raukawa; Ngāti Porou; Ngāi Tuhoe
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MESSAGES

*"Are we designing something that the local community has the skill & equipment to build?
How do we make sure that we design the project to include them?
What are the competition doing – how do we awhi the local (steer away from the competition)?
Are there any tasks which don't require a licensed building practitioner?
Are we setting up our trade packages so that local communities can compete?
How can we design so that specific local people can shine?"*

SAMANTHA MCGAVOCK - NGĀI TAHU

*"Quality of life on our planet has been adversely affected by ongoing siloed production of places / tolls / living.
The future is working across disciplines, understanding that life is connected.... Māori have been dragged into urbanity. What is the indigenous basis? We need to look to indigenous ancient knowledge."*

REBECCA KIDDLE - NGĀTI POROU, NGĀPUHI

"Community gardens have been linked to social change. They create a sense of belonging. Gardening may help with people's identity and connection to place, and having this helps them to interact with others."

TUI ARONA - NGĀPUHI

*"There is a layer, an image of who we are supposed to be, that has been placed on us."
"There is an energy in creating... it is a physical thing... you can see something impossible, but you can see it happening... There is a way that we should be creating, that we should be creating, that is healthy, that is natural for our people."*

DAVID THOMAS - PEGUIS FIRST NATION

*"Practicality balanced with spirituality... Living with the condition of the earth."
"Marking our world, our homes and our dress, with designs that say who are are as people."*

DANIEL GLENN - APSAALOOKE - CROW

"Our cultures are sustainability... Sustainability is 40,000 years old in this country [Australia]."

RUEBEN BERG - GUNDITJMARA

"Be guided by our own values... Demand good design... Offer something more."

OURI SCOTT - TLICHO FIRST NATION

*"Indigenous peoples' struggles are "against the government of individualization."
"It takes more than just one or two people to work on this, everyone has a role to play."*

PATRICK STEWART - NISGA'A

"Our tikanga is what changed the space... we are interested in proactive ways to start to re-enact our Māoriness inside the institutions."

ELISAPETA HETA - NGĀTI WAI, WAIKATO, SAMOA, TOKELAU

"This has been an awakening of our Māoriness"

NICHOLAS DALTON - TE ARAWA, NGĀI TŪHOE

*"We mirror what we see in the stars, we mirror this back into our cities"
"The blood we carry in our bodies is borrowed. We carry the blood down through to the next generations."
"We must remember that blood has been shed in these places we build cities."*

TOKIE LAOTAN-BROWN - NIGERIA

" My motivation for being involved with the Arts is to make change."

RANGI KIPA – TE ĀTIAWA, TARANAKI, NGĀTI TAMA KI TE TAUIHU, NGĀTI MANIAPOTO

I Te Timatanga 2016, organizing komiti:

Rau Hoskins
Diane Menzies
Haley Hooper
Jade Kake
Paul Addison
Tyson Schmidt
Craig Pauling
Phil Wihongi
Te Ari Prendergast
Samantha McGavock
Haare Williams
Chelita Ogier
Desna Whaanga-Schollum

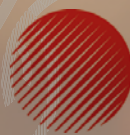
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