



Toi Taiao Whakatairanga

KAURI DIEBACK, MYRTLE RUST, AND PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ART



Through forming strategic partnerships, collaborations and artist commissions, Toi Taiao Whakatairanga (TTW) has engaged through a transdisciplinary approach aimed to positively influence public behaviour and attitudes around kauri dieback and myrtle rust.

We commissioned 10 Māori artists to create public arts projects through a range of formats. This included documentaries, exhibitions, art installations, public workshops, iwi wānanga, public billboards, public events, a graphic novel and the creation of new tikanga Māori. Their work has been presented in public art galleries, community halls, marae, schools, online and through conferences and publications.

AT A GLANCE

Toi Taiao Whakatairanga was a research project looking at how public arts practice can cultivate and grow public awareness of, and positive engagement with, kauri dieback and myrtle rust through mātauranga Māori

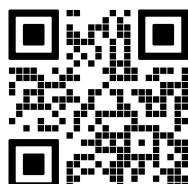
RESEARCH

The research incorporated a reflective mātauranga Māori approach. We blended auhatanga (creativity), artistic research/creative practice-led research, toi Māori, kaupapa Māori and tikanga, qualitative and action research through three yearly cycles of projects with arts commissions and the waka hourua approach (double-hulled waka between Māori and Western approaches). Our team combined Western science perspectives with mātauranga Māori science and knowledge perspectives to inform our project development and research enquiry.

The research team has been Māori-led and was a collaboration between Māori and Pākehā researchers, curators, social scientists and plant scientists.



[Research & Resources](#)



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NGĀ RĀKAU TAKETAKE
Saving Our Iconic Trees
from Kauri Dieback & Myrtle Rust

OUTCOMES / IMPACTS

Commissioned arts projects:

- *Te Mara o te Wairākau* by Angela Kilford (public art workshops displaying stages of myrtle rust).
- *Mate Tipu Mate Rākau* by Fiona Apanui-Kupenga and Te Amokura Productions (documentary of iwi Tohunga Taiao on the impacts of myrtle rust on forests in the Raukumara forests).
- *Te Mauri tū te Mauri ora* by Kelly Kahukiwa and Dan Nathan (documentary on wānanga and sound workshops educating iwi/hapū and the public around kauri dieback and myrtle rust).
- *Kaimanāki o te Ngahere* by Tanya Ruka (karakia and tikanga for myrtle rust, exhibited video artwork).
- *Myrtle Rust* by Aroha Novak (graphic novel and exhibited artwork).
- *Te Tukumate - The Pathogen* by Dan Nathan (exhibited video artwork).
- *Shared Moments / Ngā Ropu a Te Wao Nui ā Tiriwa* by Charlotte Graham (iwi/hapū and public wānanga and art workshops with scientists, exhibited artwork).
- *Mauri Ora; Kauri Standing Proud, Leaves Falling* by Emily Karaka with Tyrone Ohia / extended whānau (artworks on public billboards across Auckland CBD).
- *Pā Taurimu / Fish Weir, Waiapu* by Natalie Robertson and Graeme Atkins (iwi/hapū wānanga, exhibited artwork).
- *Saving our Myrtles* by Fiona Apanui-Kupenga, Te Whānau-ā-Tuwhakairiora and Te Amokura Productions (documentary on how iwi are engaging with and developing solutions to myrtle rust in the Raukumara forests).

Impacts have included:

- Extensive engagement with rōpū and members of iwi/hapū, including but not limited to Te Roroa, Te Rarawa, Ngāti Wai, Ngāti Porou, Te Whānau ā Apanui, Waikato, Te Kawerau ā Maki, Ngāti Poua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira / Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga / Te Arawa, Taranaki, Waitaha and Ngai Tahu.
- Engagement with thousands of members of the public, including via billboards in Auckland CBD and Te Uru Contemporary Art Gallery.
- Engagement and influence with policy makers including the Minister of Conservation, DOC and Ministry for Primary Industries.
- Engagement with the horticulture and nursery industry through the creation of a myrtle rust karakia.
- Extensive dissemination of documentaries, (nationally and internationally) including *Mate Tipu*, *Mate Rākau*. *Mauri Tū Mauri Ora* screened at Māoriland Film Festival 2024, and Ōtaki and Red Nation International Film Festival, Los Angeles 2023.
- Increased engagement and understanding reported via qualitative research methods.
- Reported empowerment of Māori, iwi/hapū members, via qualitative research methods in relation to understanding and working with tools for dealing with kauri dieback and myrtle rust.
- Legacy projects to support iwi in their engagements with myrtle rust and kauri dieback for generations to come.

IMPLICATIONS & POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS

TTW's outcomes has wide ranging potential application and implications including:

- Methods for science communication, including in relation to forest pathogens for the public and Māori and iwi/hapū.
- New tikanga – karakia for myrtle rust.
- Educational tools and resources for communities, Māori and schools.
- Legacy projects for iwi/hapū and te taiao organisations for future generations.
- Information for policy makers – including key ministry decision makers.
- A research model for Te Tiriti engagement through science, arts, communities and Māori contexts.

FIND OUT MORE



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