

Oranga

Mātauranga Māori based solutions for kauri dieback and myrtle rust.

Key People

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BioHeritage National Science Challenge, Te Tira Whakamātaki



Matua Hēmi, Kevin and Tohe performing a karakia for Tāne Mahuta in Waipoua Forest. Pictured: Hemi Waiwai (Ngāti Hinekura, Te Whānau Pani, Ngāti Ruapani, Ngāi Tūhoe), Kevin Prime (Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Whatua, Tainui), Tohe Ashby (Ngāti Te Tarawa, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Kawa, Ngāti Rahiri and Ngāpuhi). Image thanks to Aroha Mead.

Background

Oranga is a suite of kaupapa Māori projects that aim to restore the collective health of trees, forests, and people, by connecting to and resourcing Māori communities and their environmental knowledge holders to explore solutions embedded in mātauranga Māori.

Our projects are grounded in indigenous knowledge and practices and will collectively show how mātauranga-led research can contribute to addressing contemporary biosecurity issues, specifically kauri dieback and myrtle rust, while integrating the aspirations of Māori and their communities, and strengthening and sustaining valuable knowledge structures.

Highlights:

As the programme approaches its final months our team is focused on the remaining objectives, including:

- the completion and opening of the wānanga facility and extending the rongoā approach across kaurilands in an effort to maximise kauri-ora impacts and positive outcomes
- operation of a sonic station (equipment used to play soundscapes of healthy kauri to unhealthy kauri) at a third site of kauri mate, with resourcing for local hapū to lead efforts to mitigate the harm of kauri mate on kauri in Te Au Warawara, and ongoing field testing by the Kauri Rangers of Te Au Warawara forest in Pawarenga
- delivery of a position paper on seed conservation, as well as a seed strategy that includes commentary on Aotearoa New Zealand's seed conservation capability, appropriate seed protocols, and seed conservation case studies
- hosting a joint seed wānanga with the botanical gardens in late 2023,
- finalising our impact framework and sharing the kaumatua-developed guidelines for researchers engaging with Māori
- the sharing of our research impacts and outcomes with communities both nationally and internationally including at the Native American Indigenous Studies Association conference in Toronto, the International Congress on Biological Invasions in Christchurch, and the International Congress on Plant Pathology in France.

“It's right that we use our ancestral house as the framework to drive our kaupapa and measure impact, because this framework has withstood the winds of time. It's still here after thousands of years. It's sheltered our people, their dreams and aspirations, their philosophies and values, and it's brought together people of various nations and worldviews. Our whare is where we go to find solutions and determine the path forward.”

Hēmi Waiwai

Ngāti Hinekura, Te Whānau Pani, Ngāti Ruapani, Ngāi Tūhoe