

Te Aratini & Making Everything Achievable

Indigenous Trade Delegation to the US

— with the —

Pequot Nation

Final Report

Summary of the delegates' collective thanks and feedback

23-30 August 2023



**Nāu te rourou nāku te rourou
ka ora ai te iwi**

*With your food basket and mine,
our people shall prosper.*



Mashantucket Pequot
Tribal Nation



It was a great honour to have the opportunity to connect as Indigenous Communities to the Pequot Nation on your land. As individuals, our Delegation came from Iwi (Tribes) from across Aotearoa/Te Waipounamu, and together, we came to collectively honour your land, your ancestors and your community.

We firstly sought friendship, we secondly shared our culture and learnings and thirdly we opened opportunities for trade to enable opportunities for shared prosperity between our peoples.

Contained within this document is a summary of the delegates' biography, their feedback and reflections from the wonderful experience with your peoples, and their offers and asks as part of the next steps from here. We also wish to formally invite your Tribal members to bring a delegation to Aotearoa ideally in Feb 2024.

Kaye-Maree Dunn
Delegation Co-ordinator
Te Aratini and MEA Director



Contents

Introducing the 2023 Indigenous Delegation	6
Kaye-Maree Dunn	7
Nikora Ngaropo	8
Dr Hinemoa Elder	9
Walter Wells	10
Hone Sadler	11
Tia Ashby	12
Amber Pomaikalani Leon Guerrero	13
Amosa Ponga-Fou	14
Awhina Murupaenga	15
Esera Tanoa'i	16
Sharon Brindley	17
Wyndi Tagi	18
Jamie Lee Raumati	19
Riki Manarangi	20
Shay Wright	21
Renata Hakiwai	22
Chante Botica-Hakiwai	23
Natalie Smith	24
Amber Taylor	25
Lucy Tukua	26
Key Feedback from the Pequot Nation Experience	28
What did you like most about the haerenga?	29
Proposed experiences we would like to host in Aotearoa	31
Contact Information of the Delegates	34



Introducing
the —

2023

**Indigenous
Delegation**

Kaye-Maree Dunn

Kaiwhakahaere

Managing Director of [*Making Everything Achievable*](#)



Managing Director Kaye-Maree Dunn, along with brother Mita, created MEA in 2010. Described by various media as a 'wahine Māori tech entrepreneur' who has made her mark in the Digitech industry, she says she loves what she does within MEA and aspires to 'use our influence for social and collective impact and to help transform the lives of others.' She is also the Managing Director of Ahau NZ Limited and Indigital Blockchain Limited and is currently on the North Hokianga Development Trust, Āhau Tātai Hono Trust and is a Sir Edmond Hillary Fellow and a Senior Atlantic Fellow through the University of Melbourne.

Specialising in relationship building, strategy, facilitation and human centred design, Kaye-Maree wants to ensure individuals have the right tools and support to govern their organisations with confidence and competence. She has worked in the realm of Māori and Community development for over 21 years with a career spanning Child, Youth, and Family, The Department of Labour, The Māori Land Court, and NZ Māori Tourism and Community Housing. Previously she has served on the Board of The Interim Māori Spectrum Commission, NZ Tech, Te Paepae Arahi, a Māori mental health provider in Lower Hutt, Hui E Community, The Para Kore Trust and was one of the Wellington Representatives on the New Zealand Māori Council. She has recently been involved in SME and Social Enterprise Development, Governance Training, E-Commerce Development, and Whānau Ora Planning, particularly with hard-to-reach families.

“*MEA offer to the Pequot Nation our friendship, our networks and a commitment to help support ongoing delegations and exchanges into the future.*

We will continue to support any of the ventures and your Tribe where ever we can be helpful.



Nikora Ngaropo

Founder of [NNMD](#)

How would you like to partner with the Pequot Nation?

“

I would like to see their schools.

What would you like to offer to the Pequot Nation?

“

I have skills in curriculum development, STEM and specifically in the tech and digital spaces. I would like to offer my expertise in this area to the tribe.

Nikora is a Māori entrepreneur and Founder of NNMD a Māori tech company working in Education, Design & Animation.

Recognised in 2018 for their education initiative Young Animators (YA) NNMD was a finalist in the NZ Hi-tech Awards for 2018. Young Animators is one of 12 providers designing, developing, and implementing Kia Takatū a Matihiko – The Digital Readiness programme across 44,000 teachers for the Ministry of Education.

Through Toro Studios, Nikora launched Toro Academy which links education to industry. Closing the gap between training and workforce Internships in 3D animation.

Dr Hinemoa Elder [↗](#)

Ngāti Kuri, Te Rarawa, Te Aupōuri, Ngāpuhi



Hinemoa is a fierce advocate for te reo Māori. She attributes her success to 'hard work, determination, and being able to draw from her Māori heritage, synthesising meaning from an indigenous perspective'. Most proud of her service to the community acknowledging reward in 'making a difference' she is passionate about her work and the people she works with. Motivated by her mother being diagnosed with breast cancer, Hinemoa enrolled at the University of Auckland in medicine and in 1999 after graduating with an MBChB, she went on to specialise in child and adolescent psychiatry.

She worked as a youth forensic psychiatrist from 2007 until 2011 and completed her post-graduate certificate in forensic psychology. Her PhD focused on the development of tikanga approaches for Māori tamariki (children) who experienced traumatic brain injury (TBI) inclusive of whānau and professionals that work with them. In 2014, Hinemoa was awarded the prestigious Health Research Council of New Zealand Eru Pomare Post Doctoral Fellowship enabling her to extend the work of her doctorate. One of only a handful of child and adolescent psychiatrists specialising in TBI affecting tamariki and taiohi (youth), Hinemoa is a Fellow of the Royal Australia and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists and on the Māori Advisory Committee of the Centre for Brain Research. Internationally she participated in a neurological research think tank at the University of Deusto, Spain (2015), which aimed to strengthen international collaborative research partnerships. Highly regarded by those she has helped as well as her peers, Hinemoa has maintained a private practice where she specialises in neuropsychiatric assessment and treatment for tamariki, taiohi and their whānau who have experienced Traumatic Brain Injury.

How would you like to partner with the Pequot Nation?

“*To be involved with developing mechanisms for indigenous arts to be more visible in the Foxwoods businesses.*”

What would you like to offer to the Pequot Nation?

“*Creative writing workshops, indigenous youth forensic discussions, indigenous health worker support.*”



Walter Wells [✉](#)

[Ngāti Kuri Trust Board](#)

How would you like to partner with the Pequot Nation?

“*Exchange of cultural practices e.g. tarai waka, taiao, rongoa, wai tai wai maori. Build a relationship through cultural exchange in the first instance and explore potential trade/investment opportunities from there, indigenous Research practices and knowledge exchange*, exploring Indigenous-led Philanthropy and Iwi Maori collectives supply of goods and services. Would need to be collectives to service scale.*”

Ko Kurahaupō te waka
Ko Pohurihanga te tangata
Ko Kohuroa te maunga
Ko Parengarenga te wahapū
Ko Te Hāpua te papakāinga
Ko Te Hiku o Te Ika te Marae
Ko Te Reo Mihi te Whare Tupuna
Ko Māhoe me Patukirikiri ōku hapū
Ko Ngāti Kuri te iwi e mihi atu nei
Ko Walter Wells ahau

He waka hourua, he waka eke noa

E mihi ana ki ngā mate kua wheturangitia haere hoki atu ki hawaiki nui hawaiki roa hawaiki pamamao. Huri noa ki a tatou te kanohi ora, e mihi ana.

A company director for Taura Kaha Limited specialising in professional advice and services to the government, community, and private sectors. Extensive background in Māori Development having worked for Te Tira Ahu Iwi (former Māori Affairs), Māori Trustee, Ministry of Education and Te Puni Kōkiri with 10 years in senior leadership and management positions. An experienced Trustee and Director with interests in Iwi Governance and Asset Companies, Business Promotions and Advocacy, Regional Sports Organisations, Community Trusts and Ministerial appointments. My professional work experience provides widespread networks.

* [Ngāti Kuri Te Ara Whānui Research Centre and Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center](#)

Hone Sadler

[Te Hau Ora O Ngāpuhi](#)

Renowned Ngāpuhi elder Hōne Pereki Sadler (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Moerewa) was born in 1950 and grew up at the feet of his elders in the Tautoro Valley in Northland. He spoke only Māori until he went to school. He was educated at Northland College, Kaikohe, and then worked as a shearer and in forestry before training as a secondary school teacher. He has taught at Northland Polytechnic, where he taught Māori language before becoming HoD Māori Studies and then HoD Arts, and is now a senior lecturer at the University of Auckland, teaching Māori language, oral literature and Mātauranga Māori. He has a Masters of Mātauranga Māori from the Wananga o Raukawa (writing his thesis on 'Wahine Rangatira o Ngāpuhi, Te Tu o te Wāhine i roto o Ngāpuhi') and has also written on Māori knowledge, treaty claims and ancient funeral lore. Sadler is a celebrated Māori orator, passionate about reviving the Māori language, which he believes must start in the home. He is well-known for his work in treaty claims and is turning his account of the origins, history and culture of the Ngāpuhi people, presented in support of the Ngāpuhi treaty claim, into a book, *Ko Tautoro, Te pito o Tōku Ao: A Ngāpuhi Narrative* (Auckland University Press, August 2014). He has been a member of Te Ara Wananga, which provides advice on the nature of Māori content in Te Ara / Encyclopedia of New Zealand, and a member of the Board of the James Heneare Centre.



How would you like to partner with the Pequot Nation?

“*Continue to have a connection to each other so that there will continue to be the flow to and from each other to maintain and grow our capacity.*”

What would you like to offer to the Pequot Nation?

“*The invitation is open to attend our next Ngāpuhi Festival either in 2024 or 2025 which will be confirmed as soon as possible.*”



Tia Ashby [✉](#)

CEO of [Te Hau Ora O Ngāpuhi](#)

How would you like to partner with the Pequot Nation?

“

Opportunities in the Pharmaceutical space.

What would you like to offer to the Pequot Nation?

“

Ngāpuhi to host Pequot Nations.

Tia Ashby is the CEO of Te Hau Ora O Ngāpuhi, an iwi Māori health provider based in the Northland region of New Zealand. As CEO, she is responsible for the overall management and strategic direction of the organization. She has been involved in the health sector for over 25 years and has a strong commitment to improving the health and well-being of Māori and Pasifika communities. Tia is an accomplished professional with a diverse background in health, business management, defence, governance and the health informatics space. She holds an Executive MBA Hons, a Bachelor of Health Science Registered Nurse, and a Diploma in Military Medicine. Tia's impressive accolades include being a decorated veteran and patron for the 'Ashby Class 2023' Defence Health School in Burnham. Passionate about improving outcomes for disadvantaged population groups, Tia is a humble, proactive and a problem solver, that has delivered on several successful projects on various levels. She led the Ngāpuhi Covid-19 Strategy & Response and the delivery of the Kaimanaaki project for Te Kahu o Taonui (12 iwi collective in Te Tai Tokerau) for 90 Kaimanaaki (community champions) in Te Tai Tokerau to address pandemic-related community needs.

Amber Pomaikalani Leon Guerrero

Chief Student Success Officer of DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach Public Charter School

Amber Pomaikalani Leon Guerrero is a coach, learner, dreamer, innovator, and a leader in Hawaii's education, homeless, mental health & human services community.

Amber joined DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach Public Charter School as the Chief Student Success Officer in 2019, Hawaii's newest public charter school that envisioned a school to empower homegrown leaders of our island community that is rooted in identity and leadership development in the 'Ewa moku'. DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach Public Charter School is focused on serving the most vulnerable and disadvantaged Native Hawaiian youth in the leeward coastal community. While welcoming and serving all walks of life from 45 different neighbourhood schools across the leeward district. Prior to joining the DreamHouse, Amber served 6 years at The Institute of Human Services (IHS) as their Children's Program Manager where she was instrumental in rebuilding IHS' Family and Children's Program, developing community partnerships to fulfil the needs of the houseless families and children, increased volunteers and internship opportunities, and advocated for houseless children to ensure equitable resources and support systems be in place that strengthened Hawaii's childcare and education system. Amber began her career as a special education support coach working for Long Beach Unified School District and as an after-school program director for the YMCA. After leaving Long Beach, she returned home to assist in some of Hawaii's initiatives, including the Child Homeless Action Network, Parent Leadership Training Institute, Early Childhood Action Strategy, and the development of Kahauiki Village. Amber's expertise is in Child and Adolescent Development, mental health, and public health. She is a Nexus Equity Fellow and PLTI Alumni of 2015. Amber was raised on the beautiful Island of Guam and is a proud alumnus of Guam's Public Education. Her hobbies are hiking, dream boarding, travelling, reading self-care books and photography.



How would you like to partner with the Pequot Nation?

“*Connect with educational and political leaders who want to build charter schools and the Pequot Nation Youth Tribal Council.*”

What would you like to offer to the Pequot Nation?

“*Connecting educators with our school team at DreamHouse regarding re-imagining what education could be, project and place based learning, and exchange student or teacher exchange programs.*”



Amosa Ponga-Fou

Founder and CEO of [Māori Warrior Media](#)

What would you like to offer to the Pequot Nation?

“

Multimedia, Photography, videography, social media campaign, content strategy, content creation, animation, game development, vfx, Maori language and culture. Maori haka workshops, digital transformation workshops, hybrid learning models, online customised learning programs. Exchange experiences and cultural programs.

Māori Warrior Media, an internet publishing and broadcasting entity, was established in 2017 to trace the narratives of indigenous and sustainable development across Aotearoa, New Zealand. Rooted in the rich Māori tradition, we have embraced the advancements of the digital age, creating a unique fusion that propels indigenous Māori and Pacific cultures into the forefront of the media, digital media, and creative media Sectors. Founder and CEO, Amos Ponga, navigates the cultural and strategic course of Māori Warrior Media while concurrently directing other entities that amplify our core impact.

At the age of 34, Amos has become an influential advocate for the Whanganui people of the Uenuku, Tamahaki, Tamakana regions. His entrepreneurial journey extends beyond Māori Warrior Media Limited. He is also the founder and board member of the Io Charitable Trust and Io Foundation. These organisations are driven by a profound commitment to contribute positively to the Sustainable Development Goals of the world. Amos's vision weaves a harmonious blend of digital literacy and native traditions. He is dedicated to integrating a novel educational platform across South Auckland and rural regions, designed to empower youth with technological proficiency anchored in the timeless wisdom of their native heritage. Advocating for data sovereignty and self-sustainability, Amos is leading the charge to innovate the landscapes of land, people, and culture. As we traverse through the evolving age of technology, his leadership is guiding us to retain the knowledge and traditions of our ancestors from the Pacific Māori culture. This balanced approach ensures that as we journey into the future, we carry forward the legacy of our past.

In a world that is increasingly globalized yet often disconnected, Māori Warrior Media stands as a beacon, illuminating the path of sustainable development, cultural preservation, and technological progress.

Awhina Murupaenga

Founder and Creative Director of [Whatu Creative Ltd.](#)



Ko Awhina Murupaenga ahau.

He uri no ngā iwi o Te Hiku o te Ika ā Māui- ko Ngāti Kuri, Te Rarawa, Ngāti Kahu me Ngāpuhi ngā iwi.

He māmā, he ringatoi, he kaiako, he kaipakihi Māori ahau.

Awhina is a mother to 2 daughters, an artist, a teacher, and the Founder and Creative Director of Whatu Creative Ltd.

Whatu Creative is a Māori-owned and operated business based in Aotearoa, NZ promoting Māori arts to the world. They introduced their first product, the "Tukutuku Toi Kit," during the first lockdown when Covid happened. The kit is an innovative and contemporary take on the traditional craft kit that teaches the traditional Māori art form of Tukutuku.

How would you like to partner with the Pequot Nation?

“**Weave people: welcome MPTN to Aotearoa, weaving arts: co-create art kits that re-indiginise our arts, Export: TTK into US.**



Esera Tanoa'i

Co-Founder of [Poporazzi Productions](#)

What would you like to offer to the Pequot Nation?

“*Poporazzi would love the opportunity to run film workshops with the Pequot Youth to help them tell their stories, document their past and present, and develop new ideas and stories for the screen. We would aim to help them to submit their short films to the Canadian Film Festival ImagiNATIVE, the biggest indigenous film festival in the world. We would also love to invite interested members of the Pequot Nation to attend our Pasifika Youth Short Film ALOFA Awards held in Auckland, New Zealand in August 2024.*”

Esera is the Co-Founder of Poporazzi Productions, a content creation company that tells Pacific stories. Poporazzi established the first Pasifika Youth Short Film Competition in Aotearoa. Esera is an actor, producer and director. He is also a Samoan language advocate and Men's mental health advocate. Esera is the Co-Founder of Samoan 4 Beginners and Founder of Boys 2 MenToa.

Together with his wife Tupe, Esera has two daughters and is a proud girl-Dad.

Sharon Brindley

Founder of [Jala Jala Treats](#)

Sharon is a proud Yamatji/Noongar woman, founder of Jala Jala Treats, a Mother, Grandmother, mentor, public speaker and an award-winning entrepreneur.

Sharon is an ardent advocate for increasing the presence of First Nations-owned businesses within the Native Food sector, the current number sits below 1%. She instils confidence in others and leads by example, she is always searching for opportunities to collaborate and educate as a means of empowering people with her knowledge of food and her story.



How would you like to partner with the Pequot Nation?

“

To be able to manufacture my products in USA. To work on collaboration products. Understand their native food space and share mine. Combining our medicines to create powerful superfoods together.

Long-term, to create a world-first Global 100% Indigenous Chain store together, to support First Nations around the world. Which would empower so many First Nations Peoples and show the world just how strong we are as a global Indigenous community.



Wyndi Tagi

CEO and Co-founder of [WE Mana](#)

What would you like to offer to the Pequot Nation?

“
Come to the Pacific for our annual Summit. Next one probably in Fiji next year. If they have any clients wanting xero training or business coaching, we can help. If they interested in outsourcing, consider using our company in the Pacific.

Wyndi Tagi is many things – CEO and Co-founder of WE Mana (with her husband Eli); Business Coach; Co-Chair for Manukau Institute of Technology Rūnanga, and Board Member for The Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum (ANZLF) Indigenous Women’s Business Network; mother to five sons – and grandmother to two baby girls – and wāhine toa on a mission to enhance the mana of Māori and Pacific people.

Proudly Ati-Hau-Nui-A-Paparangi on one side and Greek & European on the other, everything Wyndi does is to further that mission. Be it using her background in business, finance and banking to coach small businesses, rolling out financial literacy programmes to those who need it the most, contributing her thoughts in multiple governance roles, setting up outsourcing work in Samoa, or trying to help WE’s clients understand that they can have financial success while staying true to family-centric cultural values.

As a cancer survivor who knows what it’s like to be a single mum, to be part of a blended family and to start a business with a newborn baby, Wyndi believes that understanding people’s ‘why’ and whole life situation is the first step in helping them to run a better – and more profitable – business. Strategic visionary and planner, growth advisor, business coach, mentor and facilitator, Wyndi’s happiest place is helping people run purpose-driven businesses that positively impact communities. She truly believes every business owner can be who they want, do what they love, be present for their family and still thrive financially.

Jamie Lee Raumati [✉](#)

**CEO & Founder, [Stay Connected Ltd](#)
Owner of [Bag a Bean Ltd](#) and [Lived Memories Ltd](#)
Tuwharetoa, Tainui, Te Rarawa, Ngai Te Rangi,
Ngati Te Ata me Russia**

Jamie Lee has a background across multiple disciplines including Social Science, Business and Māori Indigenous Development. She has served in the Royal New Zealand Navy as a Communications Operator and Navy ships Diver.

Ten years of service to the Department of Corrections helping to establish the first Wāhine Māori and Pasifika Unit – Mirimiri Te Aroha. Jamie Lee now spends her time with her companies Stay Connected, Bag a Bean and Lived Memories. Jamie Lee is highly passionate about supporting Māori and Pasifika whānau into business.



How would you like to partner with the Pequot Nation?

“*The offering of Business Development Programmes - especially focussing on indigenous women - also online hui once a month to maintain relationships.*”



How would you like to partner with the Pequot Nation?

“
Partner with Pequot as one of the inaugural US partners for Lonelyseat.co.nz to help them move products and people around more sustainably.

Riki Manarangi

CEO and Founder of [Lonelyseat.co.nz](https://lonelyseat.co.nz)

Te Arawa me Tainui ngā waka

Te Arawa me Ngāti Raukawa ngā iwi

Ngāti Whakaue me Ngāti Pikiao me Ngāti Wehi Wehi ngā hapu

He whakapapa āno tōku ki Rarotonga, ki Mangaia hoki.

Manarangi me Bennett me Hakaraia ngā whānau

Tēnā koutou katoa

Riki is a University of Waikato graduate holding both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Law as well as Strategic Management with first-class honours, is an enrolled Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court and IAP2 as well as PRINCE2 certified.

Riki is the Founder of Aotearoa NZ's first peer-to-peer delivery platform [Lonelyseat.co.nz](https://lonelyseat.co.nz) which connects kiwis wanting to send stuff, with kiwis heading that way. Riki was a Director of Good Buggers Advisory which supports businesses to develop a clear pathway forward in finding more innovative ways of thinking and staff, better access to financing, improved visibility and marketing, business continuity planning, risk mitigation, legal compliance, and more.

Active at a strategic level over the past 15 years, Riki has been in various Governance roles for a number of organisations and is a Member of the Institute of Directors. Riki was formerly the Deputy Chair of the Waikato Chamber of Commerce and is currently the the Chair for the New Zealand Shareholders Association (Waikato), a Board Member for the Māori Partnership Entity (Te Rangitūkupu) for APEC21, a Trustee of Single Parent Services Waikato and the National Chair of Birthright New Zealand.

Shay Wright [✉](#)

*Te Rarawa, Ngāruahine, Ngāti Ruanui
Director of Growth Cycle, Te Whare Hukahuka
& OurOra*

Shay gets behind transformational ideas and entrepreneurial innovations that can be world-class. He searches for ways to bring healing into hearts, into our relationships and our systems. He listens and learns from a range of thought leaders. He enables Māori organisation leaders, young people and our communities. He holds firm to the values of his ancestors. He is doing what he can to make New Zealand a place where talent wants to live... and a place where all of them can prosper.

His passions: innovation, entrepreneurship, healing, indigenous growth, education and youth development.

He is a generalist, with a broad skill set rather than deep expertise. Others consider him strong in commercialisation; facilitation; strategy for social impact, for business growth and Government; Māori development; writing; design; education, speaking, and social entrepreneurship.

He has experience from the top, working on high-level system change and strategy, down through management, operations and administration – and doing so working at a cross-cultural level.



How would you like to partner with the Pequot Nation?

“*Developing a cultural review of businesses – with the framework created by members of our Māori delegation and the Pequot people. An online meeting with their Retail manager about stocking product in their three stores in Foxwoods. Meeting with their data analytics team to determine sales velocity of different types of products so we can put together a basket of Māori products for retail.*”



Renata Hakiwai

Managing Director of [HTK Group Ltd](#)
Ngāti Kahungunu, Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Porou,
Waikato-Tainui, Tūwharetoa

How would you like to partner
with the Pequot Nation?

“

*Tribal and business
joint ventures, vc
fund development, an
invitation to Pequot
nation to consider
observer status of the
trade relationship*

What would you like to offer to
the Pequot Nation?

“

*We can share
knowledge on policy,
economic development,
language and cultural
revitalisation, alongside
side more technical
aspects such as
change management,
organisational reviews
through a cultural
context etc.
Co-investment
opportunities into NZ.*

Renata is the Managing Director of HTK Group Ltd, an organisation established in 2015 to meet the growing demand for a Māori and indigenous business advisory organisation that is purpose-driven. Renata has more than ten years of experience in senior executive and leadership positions alongside being a successful investor and dual exit entrepreneur. Renata sits on several Boards in a range of organisations which include crown, commercial, iwi, post-settlement entities, not-for-profit, and startup entities. Renata has extensive experience and a diverse range of skills working across iwi, public and the startup and commercial sector, and has a major passion for Māori economic development with a focus on Māori business (particularly Māori and Indigenous SMEs), social innovation and enterprise, workforce development and employment, STEM and the Future of work. Renata has deep connections with the communities in which he serves and sees himself as an enabler of people, an accelerator for Māori and indigenous, and a servant of his people.

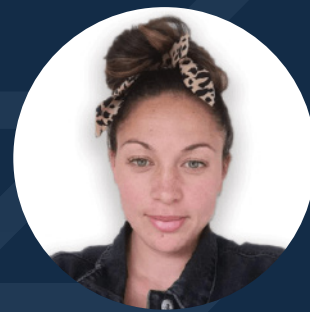
Chante Botica-Hakiwai

*Programme Lead of [HTK Group Ltd](#)
Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Toa, Te Ati Hau Nui a Paparangi,
Ngāpuhi*

Chante is an energetic, creative, and innovative person, with a solid understanding and experience within the education sector.

Chante is a motivated leader with strong organisational and prioritisation abilities. This comes from coupling and utilising the skillset of motherhood with full-time teaching as well as having oversight of our whānau business.

Chante is a trained and experienced teacher and holds a Bachelor of Learning and Teaching from the University of Canterbury, alongside a Certificate in Business Administration from the Auckland University of Technology, and a Level 1 Te Reo Māori Attestation through Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.



How would you like to partner with the Pequot Nation?

“

Relationship-building



Natalie Smith [✉](#)

Director of [Quadrants Solutions](#)

How would you like to partner with the Pequot Nation?

“

The ask from QSol would also depend on the specific needs of the Pequot Nation (if any).

What would you like to offer to the Pequot Nation?

“

QSol could offer CPD programmes specifically designed for Administrators, Event & Project managers and Secretariats.

I te taha o taku mama Ko Huianui te maunga

Ko te wairoa houpupu honengenge matangi rau te awa

Ko te Kihitu te marae

Ko te Rauhine te whare

Ko Natalie Smith toku ingoa

Tihei Kahungunu

Natalie Smith, the vibrant force behind Quadrants Solutions, is a dynamic catalyst for entrepreneurial success. With expertise in event enhancement, strategic business development, and growth-focused mentoring, she ignites transformative change. Armed with superpowers of responsibility, restoration, positivity, and innovation, Natalie brings an unwavering dedication to every endeavour. Her commitment to client satisfaction and ability to infuse events with excitement make her invaluable. Beyond business, Natalie's diverse interests, from drag racing to global exploration, showcase her passion for embracing adventure. As the driving force behind Quadrants Solutions, Natalie propels growth and fosters success with boundless energy and unwavering integrity.

Amber Taylor

CEO of [ARA Journeys](#)

Ngāti Whātua, Te Rarawa, Ngapuhi, Ngāti Mutunga,
Te Āti Awa

Amber Taylor is a successful entrepreneur, tech innovator, and a strong supporter of cultural diversity in the technology sector. She is the co-founder and CEO of ARA Journeys, a revolutionary SaaS company that blends AI and immersive technologies with te taiao and te ao Māori. ARA's platforms have won numerous awards for their commitment to fostering connection, education, and exploration. Amber is a passionate advocate for diversity in tech and offers mentorship to organisations like Women in Tech and NZ Business Mentors. She is an experienced board director and founding member of the NZ Female Tech Founders network. Amber combined her technical expertise and her Māori heritage to develop ARA Journeys. Her unwavering vision and determination are revolutionizing the tech industry by promoting inclusivity and cultural appreciation.



What would you like to offer to the Pequot Nation?

“*Preserving their traditional language and knowledge for future generations. Creating an immersive experience designed to guide families from the resort to the museum and other places of cultural significance. Building an augmented or virtual reality game designed to encourage children and young adults to engage with the exhibits in a fun and interactive way. Providing digital technology and gaming workshops to teach communities how to create their own augmented reality experiences.*”



Lucy Tukua [✉](#)

*Board member of Home - Hauraki,
Director of Auckland Light Rail Ltd, Mott MacDonald*

How would you like to partner
with the Pequot Nation?

“
*An opportunity to
discover and partner on
indigenous to indigenous
(vs PPPs) commercial
opportunities for
investment on large
infrastructure projects in
Tāmaki Makaurau.*

What would you like to offer to
the Pequot Nation?

“
*I can support the hosting
of a Pequot Nation
delegation through a
Māori tourism business
Aotearoa Experience
Ltd both here and in Fiji
and deeply experienced
in hosting first nations
and being hosted by first
nations.*

Lucy has been serving her people since being raised on her marae on the shores of Tikapa Moana (Hauraki Gulf) and at Te Puaha (the mouth of the Waikato River). Her involvement in tribal matters both governance and operations, local government, Māori and regenerative outcomes continue to drive her passion for Māori. With the complexities of the tribal fabric of Tāmaki Makarau (Auckland), she was instrumental in establishing the first Regional Tribal forum in 2006 and continues to support the nineteen Tāmaki Iwi in various capacities and as a conduit between local and central government, developers etc.

Lucy held an instrumental role in establishing Aotearoa's first Marine Spatial Plan for the Hauraki Gulf and continues to be exceptionally active in the taiao (environmental) protection arena. She is a board member on the Hauraki Māori Trust Board (12 Iwi of Hauraki), a director on Auckland Light Rail Ltd (NZ's largest transport infrastructure project), and a trustee on whānau and land trusts. She is an alumni of the Ambassadors for Māori Opportunity (AMO), a leadership program gifted by LaDonna Harris who established Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO) in 1993).

As a shareholder and Kaihautū Whakarito (Technical Director Regenerative Outcomes) for a global engineering, project management and development organisation Mott MacDonald since Feb 2022, she has recently been appointed to the Aotearoa Executive, and excited to be able to explore the potential of indigenous and regenerative partnerships supporting and deepening cultural aspirations. Lucy holds no academic qualifications and still maintains her private consultancy NativebyNature.

She is a mum of four and grandmother to her four mokopuna.





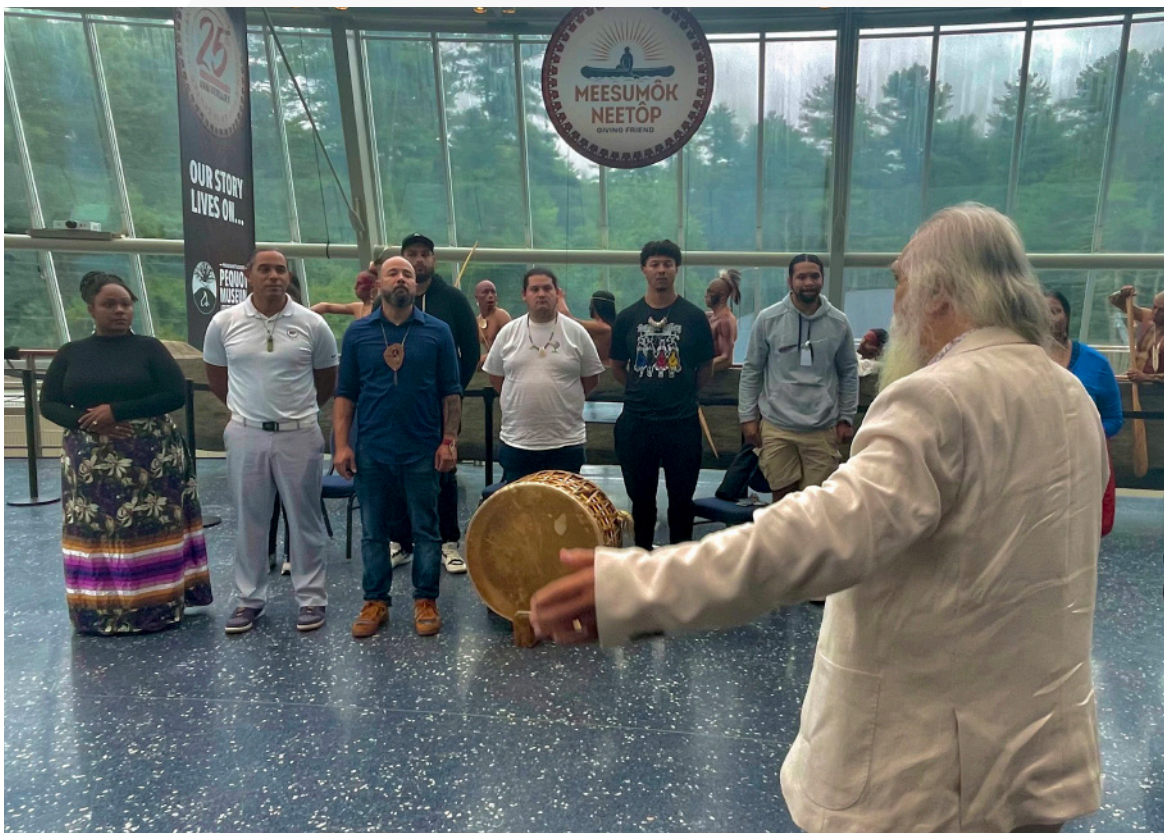
Key Feedback

from the ———
Pequot Nation Experience

What did you like most about the haerenga?

Pequot Nation Photo Album

- Meeting the Aotearoa delegation, Board members, executive and staff. For them to see, feel and hear first-hand their trials and tribulations but also their future aspirations. It was great to see the Pequot host the many tribes at their annual Pow Wow. A grand coming together, to witness and participate in the opening ceremony, prayers and tobacco offerings.
- Connecting with our whānau in another country to compare parallels and differences.
- Cultural exchange: Pow Wow Grand Entry was super special! The Museum and Research Centre activated many of my passions into reality. Hononga in our rūpū in MPTN and now back home is invaluable.
- Able to reflect after each experience and hear everyone else takeaways. Just the journey itself was impactful.
- Making connections with the members of the ropu and also connecting with the members of the Pequot nation and their elders. It is definitely a space for participants to share and create value for both parties of Pequot and Maori
- Pequot Nation's economic development success is based on building Pequot whanau, hapu first and Pequot Nation's economic development second
- Being inspired by their stories, their journeys, their offerings, their leadership and exceptional talents of the members of the delegations. The new connections and friendships are invaluable.
- Tuarua, the absolute privilege to meet the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation (MPTN), the invitation into their world, their culture, their whenua, their vision, their leadership, and their manaakitanga. Each day participants had the opportunity to engage with the MPTN offered its own unique experience from the moment we stepped inside the museum and saw the presence of waka, heard the beating of the drum and the emotional connection, the spiritual welcome to breaking bread, to the one on one round table korero and topped off by the personal tour and insights into their history, their mamae but importantly their clear about their direction, that community comes first and the commercial giant is simply a means to an end. They also like that they are agnostic about their commercial activities.
- Tuawha, the absolute appreciation of the home people, members of the Council and senior executives' engagement in the symposium. Their commitment to sit throughout the session. To engage in questions and exchange contacts post presentations. They showed great respect to us in their presence. Equally, I learned a bit more from their delegation through the insight into what each does. Also a great self-reflection exercise.
- Participants can learn much from what they are doing economically to support what they are leading socially. Participants think that they have much to share and offer around what we are doing environmentally and culturally to add value to what they do currently and in particular as they consider diversification.
- Whakawhanaunga, learning about other indigenous nations.



Proposed experiences we would like to host in Aotearoa

- All of the participants would love to be involved in next year's Pequot whānau.
- Business deals and co-investment. Would like to bring them to our rohe and showcase host them into some of our developments alongside potential resort development
- Timing will be important as to what will be on offer, e.g. Koroneihana or the regatta; Te Matatini and other kaupapa various Iwi around the country may have on their diaries. My involvement will be dependent on timing, duration and availability but essentially yes particularly if we have a s
- Seasoned tour operator who would have those relationships across the motu and various experiences.
- We can host them at Waitangi and share the history of Te Tiriti and have a cultural experience proper wero, waiata and walk through the museum etc. other experiences for them Rotorua, Queenstown to connect with their whanaunga and learn about the area where their people were left.
- I'd like to collaborate with our delegation to create an exhibition in response to our haerenga. I'd love to host at Hoani Waititi or Roma Marae depending on the schedule.
- I'd like to be part of the team hosting but open to any role that might be needed. I think this depends on where we are situated. If it's Auckland Bastion Point and connections into Ngati Whatua Waiheke Island, Vineyards Industries maori are connected into Rotorua Polynesian Spa Te Puia – cultural and toi maori
- Happy to stick to my knitting and organise the event from start to finish. Experience recommendations our customary fishing, hunting and cooking
- We would need to work through the logistics of what that could look like given the geographic challenges. But it would be a low key experience of people and places e.g. tarai waka and kopapa waka, 4th Gen, sites of cultural significance, our oceans, Wai 262 elements, the connection between cultural practice, research and policy.
- I would love to bring some First Nations from Australia to experience the beauty of a global Indigenous companion. By forming long lasting relationships, Together we are stronger!
- I would like to help look after the Pequot whaanau as we experienced their manaaki it would be cool to give back in that space too. Whatever that will look like.
- Perhaps tack on the Pacific after Aotearoa
- Welcoming them, accompanying them throughout Te Tai Tokerau, working on linking with a range of iwi providers in Te Tai Tokerau to meet and develop relationships.
- Hosting rich native experiences on the Whanganui river. Hosting guests in the country







Contact Information

of the ———
Delegates

NAME	TITLE	ORGANISATION	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NO.
Shay Wright	Director	Growth Cycle, Te Whare Hukahuka, & OurOra	shay@growthcycle.co.nz	64275231560
Amber Taylor	CEO	ARA Journeys	amber@arajourneys.com	642108899585
Jamie Lee Raumati	CEO & Founder	Stay Connected Ltd.	jamielee@stayconnected.nz	642108645250
Walter Wells	Deputy Chair	Ngāti Kuri Trust Board	walter@taurakaha.com	64272263882
Sharon Brindley	Founder	Jala Jala Treats	sharon@jalajalatreats.com.au	61415458420
Nikora Ngaropo	Founder	NNMD	nikora@nnmd.co	64279723060
Amosa Ponga Fou	Founder and CEO	Māori Warrior Media	amosponga@gmail.com	642041870678
Esera Tanoa'i	Co-Founder	Poporazzi Productions	poporazzi productions@gmail.com	642102582241
Amber Pomaikalani Leon Guerrero	Chief Student Success Officer	DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach Public Charter School	amberlg@dreamhouseewabeach.org	64279723060, 18084691614
Hone Sadler	Chair	Te Hau Ora O Ngāpuhi	hone.sadler@gmail.com , hone.sadler@xtra.co.nz	0272704915
Tia Ashby	CEO	Te Hau Ora O Ngāpuhi	tia.ashby@ngapuhi.org	0212312573
Natalie Smith	Director	Quadrants Solutions	natalie@qsol.co.nz	64212972152

NAME	TITLE	ORGANISATION	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NO.
Riki Manarangi	Founder and CEO	lonelyseat.co.nz	riki@lonelyseat.co.nz	64212523041
Awhina Murupaenga	Founder and Creative Director	Whatu Creative Ltd.	awhina@whatucreative.com	0211066896
Wyndi Tagi	CEO and Co-founder	WE Mana	wyndi.tagi@wemana.co.nz	64212585318
Renata Hakiwai	Managing Director	HTK Group Ltd.	r.hakiwai@htkltd.co.nz	021942093
Chante Botica-Hakiwai	Programme Lead	HTK Group Ltd.	chante@htkltd.co.nz	
Hinemoa Elder	Kaiwhakahaere	Ngāti Kuri, Te Rarawa, Te Aupōuri, Ngāpuhi	hinemoa@xtra.co.nz	
Lucy Tukua	Board member, Director	Hauraki Māori Trust Board, Auckland Light Rail Ltd.	whitiora01@gmail.com	021431519
Kaye-Maree Dunn	Managing Director	Making Everything Achievable	kaiwhakahaere@mea.nz	642102924328



Te Aratini & Making Everything Achievable
Indigenous Trade Delegation to the US

— with the —

Pequot Nation

