

Titiro whakamuri, kōkiri whakamua: Reflecting back to chart our future

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W H A K A U A E

Research for Māori Health and Development



Acknowledgements

(and some common Māori words!)

Iwi – tribe

Hapū – subtribe

Whānau – family

Whakapapa – genealogy, genealogical connection

Marae – gathering places, where traditional ceremonies and tribal business occur



Ko Wai
Au? - Who
Am I?



Ko Wai Au? - Who Am I?



My Tribes

North Island

Ngāti Ranginui,
Ngai te Rangi
Ngāti Pukenga

Ngati Mutunga (Taranaki)

South Island

Te Ati Awa o te Waka ā Māui



Ngāti Hauiti



Overview of Today's Presentation

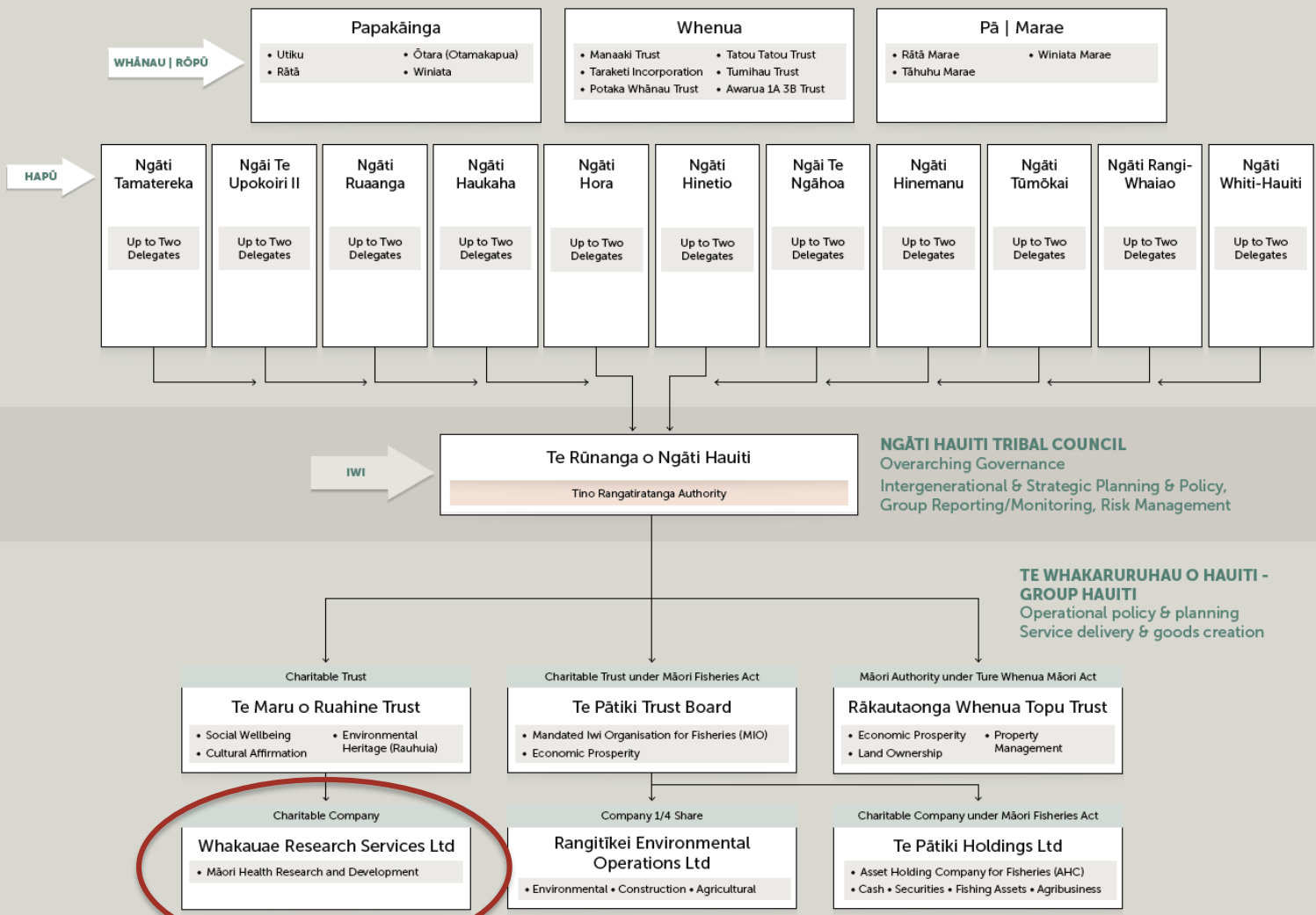
- Introduction to Whakauae Research Services
- Critical Success Factors
- Impact of the current Science Sector reforms
- Take home messages

Origins

- Established in 2005
- “Housed” within Te Maru o Ruahine Trust (TMoRT), the tribe’s contracting and service arm
- Purpose was to
 - develop the research capacity of Ngāti Hauiti *and*
 - undertake high quality Māori-centred health research to inform, and contribute to, improved outcomes for Māori

Whakauae Research Services (WRS) Today

- Charitable company, owned by Ngāti Hauiti
- Board of Directors: an Executive Director, 3 iwi members, 1 “independent”
- Accountability documents including a Constitution and Relationship Agreement
- Quarterly reporting of our business and financials
- Annual General Meeting/ Hui a Tau



Tribal Structure

WRS - Then and Now

- 2005
 - one contract (approx. \$120,000k)
 - two staff
- 2025
 - multiple contracts
 - 17 staff, 5 in Business and admin, the remainder in research
 - turnover of \$2.6M (31 Dec 2025)

Secrets of Success

- Organisational Values
- Tikanga a Whakauae
- Flexibility, adaptability, responsiveness
- Strong partnerships
- A team that
 - is committed to kaupapa Māori research
 - buys into the vision of Whakauae

Values

WHENUA - The Whakauae a Tamatea
and Ruahine Ranges

RŌPŪ - Whakauae research unit

IWI - Whānau, hapū and iwi

AWA - Te awa o Rangitīkei

WHANAUNGATANGA - Te Ao Māori
Local and intertribal relationships

TE AO - Global and
international relationships



W H A K A U A E

Research for Māori Health and Development



Overarching Principles

Ngā Tikanga Principle/ Research Ethic	Te Whakamaramatanga Explanation
Rangatiratanga	WRS affirms the right to determine our own aspirations as Māori and the pathway for achieving those aspirations
Hauora Tangata	WRS embraces a holistic understanding of what constitutes good health for all, and acknowledges the dimensions of the physical body, spirituality, of knowledge and understanding, and the well-being of the entire whānau, as the key principles of well-being
Manaaki Tangata	In all our interactions we uphold the highest standards of care and respect for each other and the people with whom we interact.
Mātauranga	We acknowledge that knowledge, (academic knowledge and mātauranga Māori) is a key enabler of Māori growth and development.
Ngākau Tapatahi Aurere	Through professionalism, integrity, diligence, genuine passion and a commitment to excellence, we will inspire transformative change for our people.

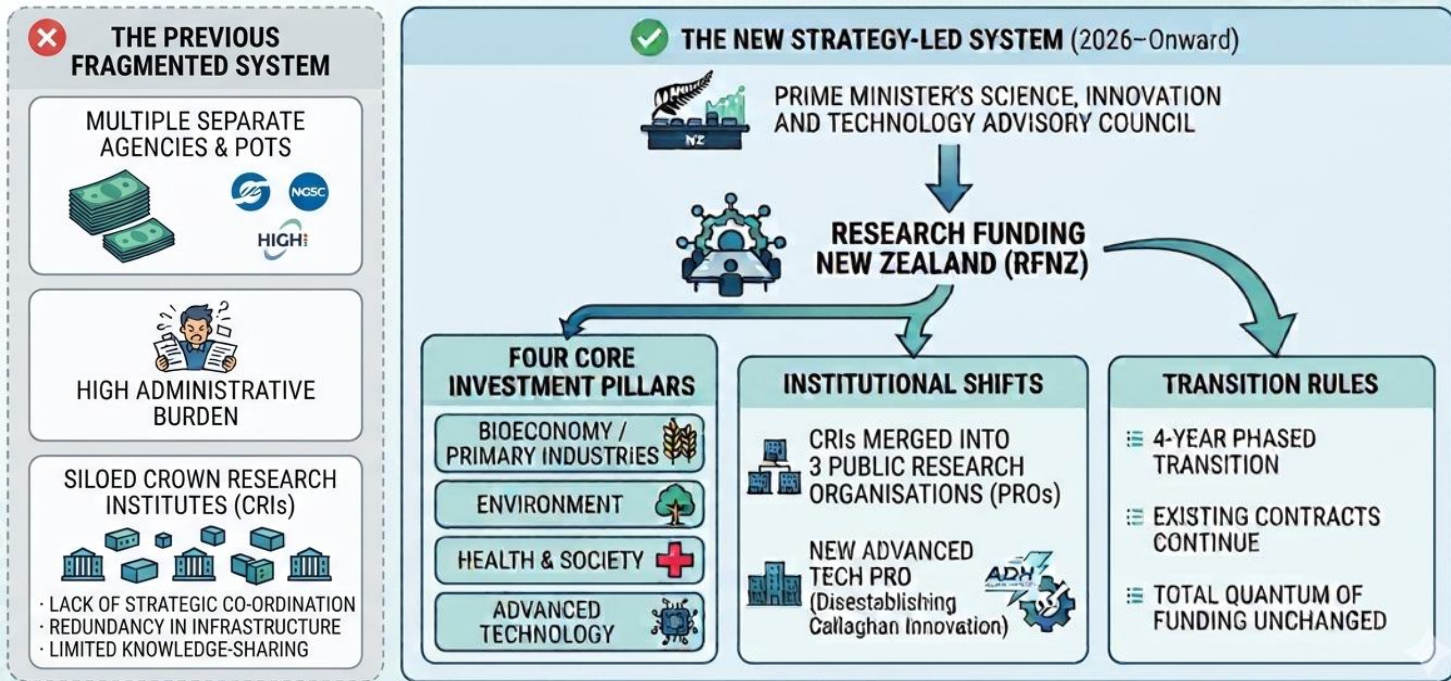
Secrets of Success

- Flexibility, adaptability, responsiveness
- Strong partnerships
- Our team



Changes to the Science Funding System

NEW ZEALAND SCIENCE FUNDING SYSTEM: STRUCTURAL CHANGES (2026–Onward)



Changes to the Science Funding System

- Opportunities?
 - Increased emphasis on translation and impact
- Challenges
 - Disestablishment of our key funder
 - Reduction in Career Development Awards funding
 - Disinvestment in social sciences and research that draws on mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge)
 - Rapid upskilling and steep learning
 - Uncertainty and anxiety

How do we navigate this future?

- By adapting, evolving, responding
 - Translation Uptake and Impact (TUI)
 - An Indigenous Model of Systems Change
 - Indigenous Data Sovereignty

Responding to our context

- Translation, Uptake and Impact (TUI)



Allport T., Johnson T., Bennett-Huxtable, M., (2023). Traversing Indigenous communication landscapes: Translation, uptake and impact of Māori research. *Ethical Space: The International Journal of Communication Ethics*. Vol 20, No 2/3 2023.

Allport, T., Johnson, T., Morgan, T., Tane, J., Lindsay-Latimer, C., & Boulton, A. (2025). Reclaiming the threads: Re-Narrating Māori stories in new spaces. *Journal of Global Indigeneity*, 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.54760/001c.142134>

Responding to our context

- Indigenous Systems Change: Te Ruru



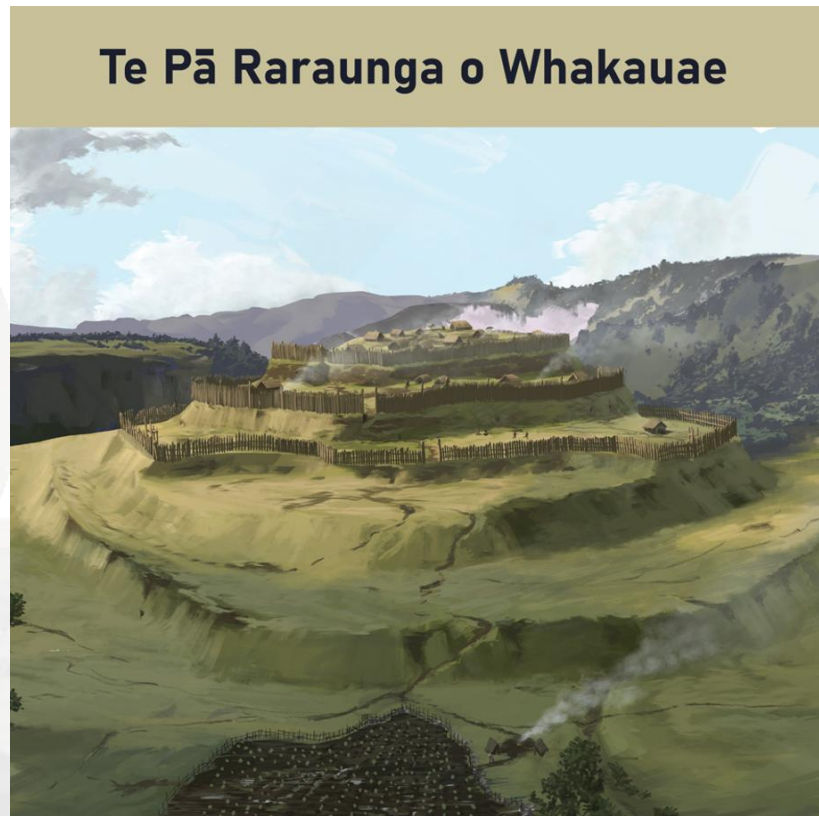
Allport, T., Johnson, T., Morgan, T., Tane, J., Lindsay-Latimer, C., & Boulton, A. (2025). Reclaiming the threads: Re-Narrating Māori stories in new spaces. *Journal of Global Indigeneity*, 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.54760/001c.142134>

Johnson, T., Allport, T., Boulton, A. (2024). Te Ruru: Co-creating an Indigenous systems change framework. *Journal of Awareness-Based Systems Change*, 4(1), 49-75. <https://doi.org/10.47061/jasc.v4i1.7006>

Responding to our context

- Indigenous Data Sovereignty: the Te Pā Raraunga Framework

Boulton, A., Hamley, H., Karaka, D. (2026). Te Pā Raraunga: The Development of a Data Governance Model for Ngāti Hauiti. *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Māori Data Sovereignty: Research, Practice and Policy Special Issue*. Vol 56, Issue 3.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/snz2.70052>



Take home messages (only two!)

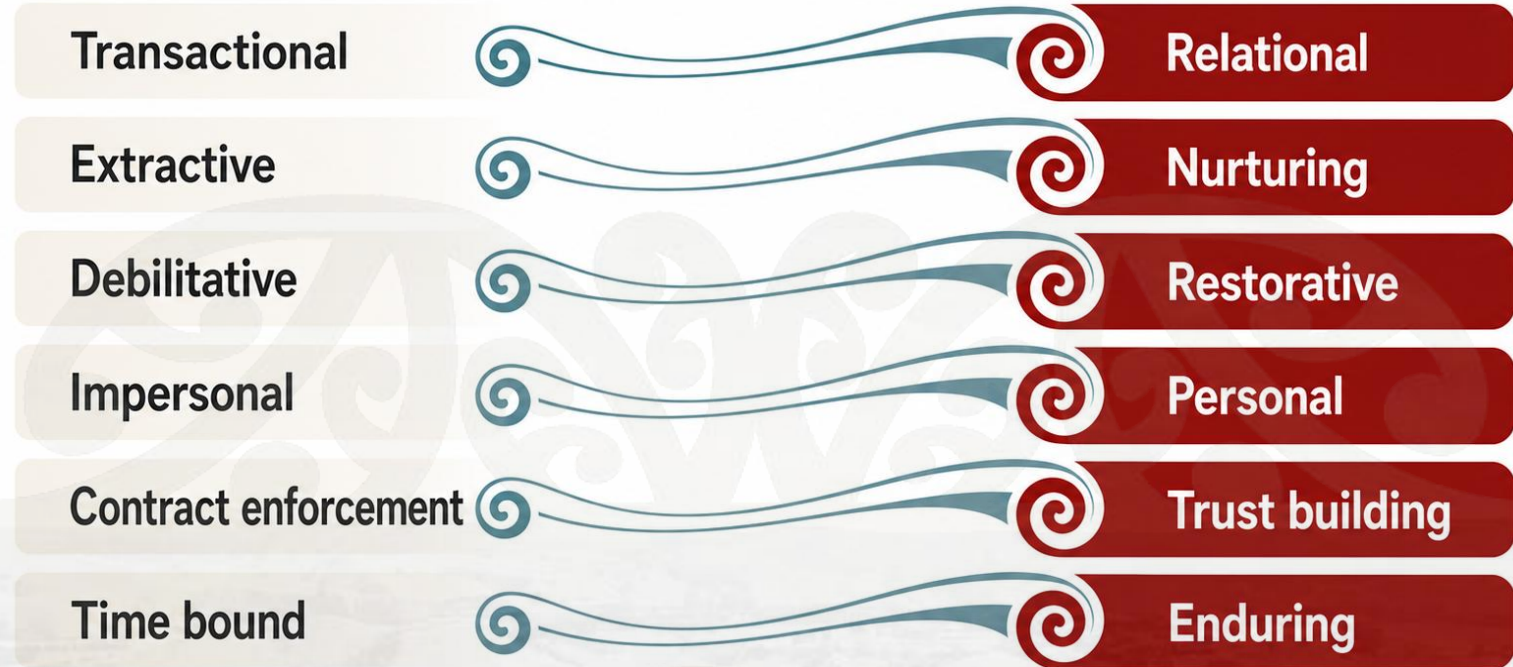
- People and relationships are what matter most
- Enduring relationships have the power to make great research/great science even greater!

He Wero – A Challenge

- How do you support policies and practices which lead to enduring relationships?



The research we want to see





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