



## Te Kākano Research Network Newsletter

November 2022

*Tēnā koutou katoa Te Kākano whānau*

*It has been a while since the last time we connected. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the kaupapa of Te Kākano Research Network over the past year. In this newsletter, we'd also like to share with you some developments and progress of Te Kākano Research Network.*

### **Remembering Mason Ngawhika**



It is with great sadness we inform you that Mason Ngawhika, one of Te Kākano's dedicated members, passed away on 7 November 2022. Mason was part of our AUT whānau. He had been battling cancer. We were all in shock when we heard the news.

Our sincere condolences to Mason's whānau on behalf of Te Kākano Research Network. Mason was kind, thoughtful and eager to help friends, colleagues, and the community, always giving us his valuable time freely. He was a strong advocate for Māori identity and well-being. He walked all worlds well and brought those often-separate worlds closer, and being down-to-earth, pragmatic and just good guy.

He has made significant contributions in shaping our research programme in Te Kākano, centre of research excellence for wellbeing through physical activity and sport at AUT. Mason offered incredible value to our leadership team. A man of mana and Tika. He helped us understand the significance of environment-person interaction, made us think outside the box, and challenged our assumptions. Often, he brought us back to what matters the most for our communities. Our hearts go out to his whānau. We farewell Mason. He will be greatly missed.



**Our mission:**

**To enhance mana,  
connectedness and  
health through  
physical activity and  
sport.**

## Te Kākano Research Network Knowledge Mobilisation Grant 2022

### CALL FOR APPLICATION

Te Kākano Research Network is offering a research grant valued at \$5000 to support research collaboration and knowledge translation that aligns with TK themes (see Website below). This grant supports research relating to physical and mental wellbeing as a result of physical activities. If you are interested in applying for this grant, please email your application (in a word document) to [chien.ting@aut.ac.nz](mailto:chien.ting@aut.ac.nz) by 14 December .

In your application, please include the following information:

1. Who you are (50 words)
2. Lay summary (150 word limit), include the project objectives that align with Te Kākano themes, an overview of the approach and potential benefits or outcomes that could arise as a result of supporting this application.
3. Full application (1000-1500 words)  
This should include, but not limited to, the following sections:
  - Introduction
  - Background and objectives of the project, including relevant literature review (why and what)
  - The approach of the project (how)
  - Potential benefit
  - How you would spend the money (budget plan)
4. A short CV
5. A letter of support from a colleague who can attest to your abilities to conduct research and your attributes. Please ask the referee to email their reference directly to [tekakano@aut.ac.nz](mailto:tekakano@aut.ac.nz), **separate** from your application, by 14 December.

If you have any questions, please contact Chien at [chien.ting@aut.ac.nz](mailto:chien.ting@aut.ac.nz)

### Research Fellow

We are pleased to announce that we have employed a Research Fellow for Te Kākano Research Network. Her name is Chien and she completed her PhD in 2021. Her PhD was related to Indigenous language revitalisation and language policy analysis. She thrives on cross-disciplinary research and her organisational and analytical skills are invaluable in supporting Te Kākano kaupapa. No doubt, you will get to meet her soon. Here is her pepeha.

*Tēnā koutou katoa  
Ko Haina te whakapaparanga mai  
(engari)  
Ko Ping-Tung te whenua tupu  
Ko Moana-nui-a-Kiwa toku moana  
Nō Taiwan au  
Kei Tāmaki-makau-rau au e noho ana  
He kairangahau au i tēnei kaupapa  
Ko Chien ahau  
Tēnā tātou katoa*



Chien recently had three articles accepted for publication:

- *“I feel the government is making an effort”*: hegemonic power in Indigenous language revitalisation. *NZ Journal of Asian Studies* (2023).

- Analysing Taiwan’s Indigenous language revitalisation policies: a critical discourse studies approach. *NZ Studies in Applied Linguistics* (Dec 2022).
- What we need to know about conducting language revitalisation work- a literature review from sociolinguistic perspectives. *Rangahau Aranga* (2023).

## Research funding

As a research network, we recently released ‘*Te Kākano Research Network Knowledge Mobilisation Grant 2022*’. The purpose of this grant was to support research students and early career academics to further their research in areas relating to the 5 themes of Te Kākano research programme (see below). We strongly encouraged collaboration and co-design with the end-users and had a focus on kaupapa relating to the betterment of Māori and Pacific outcomes. In the process, we received some high-quality applications. The final decision was made on 11 November. Here are the awardees and their research.



Deb Heke: Deb’s study looks at attributes of physically active wāhine. It uses Korikori Kōrero to explore the way wāhine pukenga (experts) engage in those spaces as a way to (re)connect to activity, environment, and atua.



Sharon Oslen: This project will use a co-design approach to develop the mate wareware (dementia) mobile app to include information about healthy lifestyle activities that can reduce the risk of mate wareware (dementia).



Robb Hogg: Robb’s study will explore and compare the perceived and measured performance of 10 Waka Ama paddlers through a kaupapa Māori lens.

## Future events

Initially, we had planned to bring everyone together in an online forum at the end of this year, to reconnect and share our stories. However, as the end of year is fast approaching, we thought it would be better to postpone the ‘whānau reunion hui’ to early next year. Next year, we will organise online and kanohi-ki-te-kanohi events to update progress, share thoughts, and kōrero about future directions. So, get your diary ready for these exciting events and kōrero (TBC).

## Website

We are excited about our upcoming website launch and we’d love to have you join us at the launch event sometime early next year (TBC). The website will provide better access to Te Kākano Research Network themes, activities and collaborators. Here is a reminder of the five **TK research themes**:

**Kaupapa punaha - Systems** Enable a robust and system-wide analysis of physical activity, sport, and wellbeing outcomes in NZ.

**Kaupapa hapori - People** Undertake research that will lead to meaningful change in socio-cultural environments to enable people to participate fully in physical activity and sport.

**Kaupapa taioa - Places** Enhance the connection between people and the places that matter to them for physical activity and sport.

**Kaupapa hangarau - Technology** Accelerate the development and broaden the application of innovative sport tools and technologies to enhance research precision, sport performance, and clinical practice.

**Kaupapa tikanga rangahau - Methodology** Underpin Te Kākano research with culturally relevant and culturally located research practices and tools for physical activity and sport.

**The themes do not necessarily exist in isolation; they can intertwine and overlap.**

### **AUT's financial recovery plan**

Many of you would have heard about AUT's announcement of the financial recovery plan which seeks to address the financial challenges the university faces as a consequence of the disruptions caused by COVID19 and the subsequent decline in student enrolments. This proposed financial recovery plan has signalled a reduction in staffing across the university. We would like to assure you that this change will not limit or reduce the vision, mission, and kaupapa of Te Kākano Research Network. It is going to be 'business as usual' for Te Kākano Research Network next year.

*Thank you for your continuing engagement with us to support our mission that aims to enhance mana, connectedness and health of NZers through physical activity and sport. Please contact us if you have any questions or suggestions by emailing [tekakano@aut.ac.nz](mailto:tekakano@aut.ac.nz)*

*We wish you a nice and warm holiday season and look forward to catching up next year.*

*Te Kākano Research Network core team*

*Erica, Chien, Robb, Lesley, Lisa, Isaac*