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Background

The Maori and Psychology Research Unit (MPRU) was established in August of 1997. The unit is designed to provide a catalyst and support network for enhancing research concerning the psychological needs, aspirations, and priorities of Maori people. The MPRU is well situated to draw together skilled and experienced interdisciplinary research groups by networking and establishing working relationships with staff and students within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the University, and the wider community.

An important role played by the MPRU is in providing invaluable practical experience to both Maori and non-Maori students through involvement in Maori focussed research, planning and management, and professional development activities. Through winning grants and awards, the Unit helps to provide options for students to further their academic development and scholarly pursuits, and to supplement their income.

The MPRU runs an advisory service to assist researchers in writing research proposals that will result in research products useful to Maori development. A particular focus is on constructing procedures that are culturally appropriate and practical for use with Maori. Increasingly, review committees require that the ethical standard of research be measured against Treaty of Waitangi principles and provisions. The MPRU provides advice on how to achieve these standards.

The MPRU facilitates contact with others experienced in conducting Maori focussed research, potential participants in communities of interest, and end-users, to illicit feedback and comment on the usefulness, practicality, validity and support for research ideas and methods to be employed. This contributes to a more robust research endeavour.

A recruitment and training service for the employment of research assistants ensures an available source of people to assist with research projects.
Goals

- To provide a support structure which encourages Maori focussed research in psychology.

- To serve as a scholarly resource to support Maori focussed research projects and to promote new research initiatives among staff, undergraduate and graduate psychology students.

- To seek out new sources of research funding, respond to requests for proposals and tenders relevant to Maori issues, and to obtain continued external funding for Maori focussed psychological research.

- To facilitate the professional development of Maori researchers and to continue to develop future leaders in Maori focussed research and psychology.

- To provide a foundation for the teaching of psychology by enhancing availability and access to Maori focussed research experience and products.

- To promote the use of Maori focussed research products into the Department of Psychology’s curriculum.

- To facilitate internal and external lectures and research seminars to support the development of new projects and disseminate the work of scholars in the Unit.

- To host visiting researchers and scholars

- To encourage collaborative research in Maori focussed projects across disciplines
**MPRU Researchers**

**Emeritus Professor**  Prof James Ritchie  
**Director**  Assoc Prof Linda Waimarie Nikora  
**Research Officer**  Mohi Rua

**Principal Investigators**
- Assoc Prof Linda Waimarie Nikora  
- Assoc Prof Darrin Hodgetts  
- Mohi Rua  
- Bridgette Masters  
- Dr Michelle Levy  
- Dr Neville Robertson  
- Dr Ottile Stolte  
- Prof Kerry Chamberlain (Massey University, Albany)  
- Prof Alan Radley (Loughborough University, England)  
- Dr Eci Nabalarua (University of South Pacific, Fiji)

**Associates**
- Prof Ngahuia Te Awekotuku (Centre for Maori & Pacific Development Research)  
- Rolinda Karapu (Admin Mgr, Centre for Maori & Pacific Development Research)  
- Waikaremoana Waitoki (PhD)
Dr Pauline Guerin (University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia)
Shaun Awatere (Landcare Research, Hamilton)
Dr Pauline Norris (University of Otago)
Assoc Prof Kevin Dew (University of Otago)
Prof Jonathan Gabe (Royal Holloway, University of London)
Helen Madden (Massey University, Albany)

Research Team Members

Diana Johnson (MA), Jerrie Hill (Dissertation), Des Ellis (MA), Shiloh Groot (PhD), Karyn McRae (MA), Teah Carlson (Summer Studentship), Lynley Uerata (Summer Studentship), Lolohea Tongi (Summer Studentship), Hemaima Wihongi (Summer Studentship), Catherine Lane (Summer Studentship), Tatiana Hohepa (Summer studentship), Keriata Patterson (Research Associate)

Visitors to MPRU

Dr Liz Jones, Deputy Head of School and Dr Stefano Occhipinti (Lecturer), School of Psychology and Griffith Psychologic al Health Research Centre, Mt Gravatt Campus Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia (23 July, 2008)
Highlights

Since its establishment in 1997, the MPRU has successfully competed for and won external research funds in excess of $4.5 million. A success rate of over 50% for external funds contested points to the high calibre of proposals written, the increasing public profile of the MPRU, and the recognition by funding agencies of those areas of staff/student interest and expertise.

- **Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Funding and Health Research Council Funding:** The Maori & Psychology Research Unit lead by Assoc Prof Darrin Hodgetts and Assoc Prof Linda Waimarie Nikora, was part of a multi-sited research team awarded Marsden funding to investigate ‘A pill for every ill’: The domestic life of medications in consumer society ($600k) and a Health Research Council fund to research “Medications in everyday life: Understandings and social practices” ($1m). The principal investigator leading both projects is Prof Kerry Chamberlain of Massey University’s School of Psychology (Albany) and the team includes Dr Pauline Norris and Assoc Prof Kevin Dew of Otago University, Prof Jonathan Gabe of Royal Holloway, University of London, Prof Alan Radley, Loughborough University (UK) and Ms Helen Madden (Massey University, Albany). The Marsden project will run from 1 February 2009 to 30 January 2012 and the HRC funded project began 1 July 2008 with expected completion date of 1 July 2011.

- **Winner of Montana Book Award:** Mau Moko: The World of Maori Tattoo (Te Awekotuku, Nikora, Rua & Karapu, 2007) won a nomination in the *Lifestyle & Contemporary Culture* category of the prestigious 2008 Montana New Zealand Book Awards. The event was attended by Mohi Rua and Rolinda Karapu along with Geoff Walker, Publishing Director for Penguin Group. The primary authors Ngahuia Te Awekotuku and Linda Waimarie Nikora were part of New Zealand’s delegation to the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts, Pago Pago, American Samoa and were unable to attend the awards.
• **International Conferences:** A number of MPRU researchers attended conferences around the world including the 2nd International Conference on Community Psychology (Assoc Prof Darrin Hodgetts, Dr Ottilie Stolte, Dr Michelle Levy, Ms Shiloh Groot, Ms Dianne Johnson; 2-4 June, Lisboa, Portugal); Psychology and Indigenous Australians: Teaching, Practice and Theory (Assoc Prof Linda Waimarie Nikora, Dr Michelle Levy; Adelaide, South Australia).

• **Domestic Conferences:** Twelve students and staff of the MPRU attended the New Zealand Psychological Society Conference held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Christchurch (29th – 31st August, 2008). This is the fifth consecutive year we have attended this conference and look forward to many more. We would like to thank Te Aka Matua (FASS Maori Support) through the Pro VC Maori Office (Waikato University) and the Waikato Student Union for their funding support.

• **Maori Focussed Research Symposium Series 2008:** The research series was a joint venture between MPRU and the Centre for Maori & Pacific Research with funding support from the Pro VC Maori Office. The series encouraged staff to step back from their daily teaching and research routines and to share their research pursuits and interests with similarly interested staff across disciplines. It comprised six, two hour sessions over the A Semester with contributions by Prof Linda Tuhiaui Smith (PVC Maori), Assoc Prof Jarrod Harr (Waikato Management School), Dr Te Taka Keegan (School of Computing & Mathematical Sciences), Prof Ngahuia Te Awekotuku and a research team from MPRU (AProf Linda Waimarie Nikora, AProf Darrin Hodgetts and Shiloh Groot).

• **Student Scholarships:** MPRU was successful in winning externally funded scholarships to support several summer studentships and two Masters Students. The total combined amount awarded was approximately $85k.
  o Teah Carlson (Nga Pae Summer Internship; HRC Summer studentship; HRC Masters scholarship)
  o Lynley Uerata (Nga Pae Summer Internship; HRC Summer studentship; HRC Masters Scholarship)
  o Hemaima Wihongi (Nga Pae Summer Internship; BRCCS Summer studentship)
- Catherine Lane (Nga Pae Summer Internship)
- Tatiana Hohepa (Nga Pae Summer Internship)
- Lolohea Tongi (HRC Summer studentship; HRC Pacific Masters Scholarship)

- **Research Outputs for 2008**: MPRU was able to produce 1 book, 15 peer reviewed articles, 22 conference presentations, 1 conference proceedings, 1 Masters thesis and 4 commissioned reports.

**NZ Psychological Society Annual Conference, Christchurch, 2008.**

L-R: Lynley Uerata, Tatiana Hohepa, Tamati Amuketi, Hemaima Wihongi, Lolohea Tongi (back), Catherine Lane (front), Rose Rerehau, Karyn McRae, Hannah Banks, Shiloh Groot, Yvonne Te Pohe.

Absent: Robert Loto, Mohi Rua, Dr Michelle Levy, Moana Waitoki, Dr Neville Robertson
Contracts & Grants

New Projects

*Title:* Medications in Everyday Life: Understandings and social practice
*Investigators:* Prof Kerry Chamberlain (Massey University, Albany), Assoc Prof Darrin Hodgetts, Dr Pauline Norris (University of Otago), Assoc Prof Kevin Dew (University of Otago), Dr Linda Waimarie Nikora, Prof Jonathan Gabe (Royal Holloway, University of London), Prof Alan Radley (University of Loughborough) & Ms Helen Madden (Massey University, Albany)
*Grant agency:* Health Research Council

*Title:* ‘A pill for every ill’: The domestic life of medications in consumer society
*Investigators:* Prof Kerry Chamberlain (Massey University, Albany), Assoc Prof Darrin Hodgetts, Dr Pauline Norris (University of Otago), Assoc Prof Kevin Dew (University of Otago), Dr Linda Waimarie Nikora, Prof Jonathan Gabe (Royal Holloway, University of London), Prof Alan Radley (University of Loughborough) & Ms Helen Madden (Massey University, Albany)
*Grant agency:* The Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Fund

Projects in progress

*Title:* Health & Homelessness: Social reintegration in Aotearoa
*Investigators:* Assoc Prof Darrin Hodgetts, Dr Linda Waimarie Nikora, Prof Kerry Chamberlain, Dr Eci Nabalarua & Prof Alan Radley.
*Grant Agency:* Marsden Fund, Royal Society of New Zealand

*Title:* Increased uptake of energy conservation in households and communities
*Investigators:* Mohi Rua & Dr Linda Waimarie Nikora
*Grant agency:* Foundation for Research, Science and Technology.

*Title:* Hei arahi atu: Transforming cultural concepts for the millennium
*Investigators:* Dr Linda Waimarie Nikora & Prof Ngahuia Te Awekotuku
Title: Strangers in Town: The health & social needs of Ngati Haua young people.
Investigators: Dr Linda Waimarie Nikora & Mohi Rua
Grant agency: Foundation for Research, Science and Technology.
Descriptor: To establish the nature of the health and social service needs of Ngati Haua young people moving into and out of rural areas.

Projects Completed

Title: The Meanings in Ethnic Labels
Investigators: Dr Linda Waimarie Nikora, Assoc Prof Darrin Hodgetts, Dr Neville Robertson, Mohi Rua with Saburo Omura

Title: Defining Pakeha Culture
Investigators: Dr Linda Waimarie Nikora, Assoc Prof Darrin Hodgetts, Dr Neville Robertson, Mohi Rua with Saburo Omura

New Proposals

Title: The Kiwi Youth Programme: Following young people into work and life.
Investigators: Dr Elsie Ho, Prof Dick Bedford, Assoc Prof Darrin Hodgetts, Mr Mohi Rua, Assoc Prof Linda Waimarie Nikora & Ms Jenine Cooper.
Grant agency: Foundation for Research, Science and Technology.

Student Supervision

Homelessness Project: Shiloh Groot (PhD), Diana Johnson (MA), Jerrie Hill (Dissertation), Des Ellis (MA), Anna Scanlan (MA), Sally Meuller (MA)

Medications Project: Teah Carlson (Summer Studentship), Lynley Uerata (Summer Studentship), Lolohea Tongi (Summer Studentship)
**Maori Cultural Concepts Project:** Hemaima Wihongi (Summer Studentship), Catherine Lane (Summer Studentship), Tatiana Hohepa (Summer Studentship)

**Sustainability Project:** Mohi Rua (PhD)

**Death, Grief & Dying:** Karyn McRae (MA)

**Others:** Bridgette Masters (PhD), Waikaremoana Waitoki (PhD), Dave Snell (PhD), Wei Li (PhD),
Research Outputs

Peer Reviewed Articles


**Book**


**Conference Proceedings**

Conference Presentations


**Invited Presentations**


**Reports**


**Theses**

Towards 2009

- Better supporting Maori and Pacific students through an individual case management approach
- Consolidating our research agenda to be better positioned to win longer-term programme grants.
- Expanding our collaborations across the University and other research institutions
- Closer working relationships through joint projects and activities with the Centre for Maori and Pacific Development Research
- Presenting and disseminating research findings at national and international conferences