

NGĀ TOHU O TE AO

RECLAIMING MARAMATAKA KNOWLEDGE TO INFORM TRANSFORMATIVE PRACTICE IN MARINE MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT

WAO TŪPUNA | RECLAIMING ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE OF MARAMATAKA

These information cards are part of a series of publications tracking the progress of the Ngā Tohu o te Ao research programme. Collectively, they are intended to present evolving theory and practice in reclaiming traditional knowledge of maramataka, in order to inform transformative practice in marine monitoring and management.

The cards specifically focus on Wao Tūpuna, the reclamation of ancestral knowledge, one of the three fundamental elements of the Wao Atua Framework. Each card elaborates on one of the three key aspects of Wao Tūpuna, focusing on the revitalisation of ancestral cultural knowledge: Whenua—creating culturally appropriate spaces; Tipu—exploration of Māori language; and Hua—sharing reclaimed knowledge.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

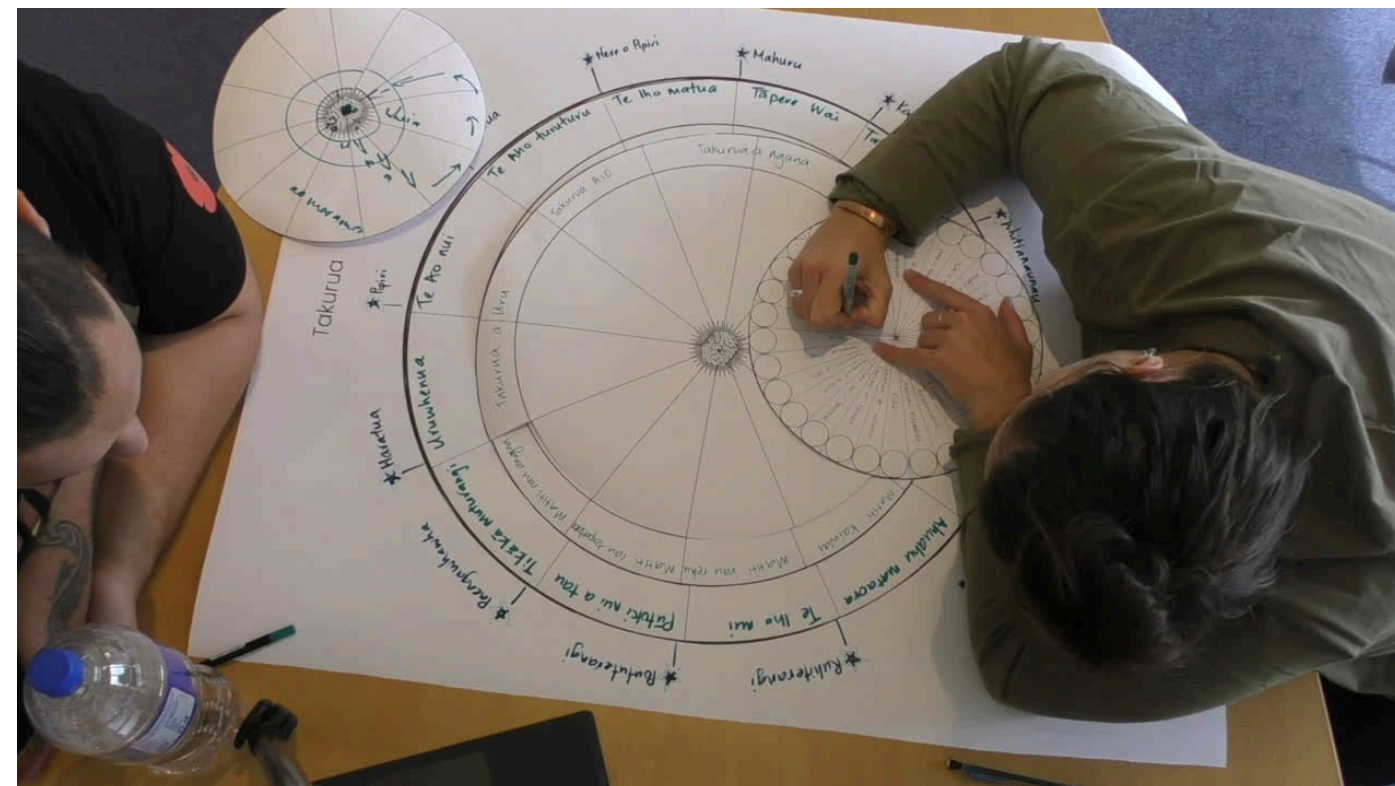
Ngā Tohu Research Collective—Ngā Pāpaka, Tauranga; Pākirikiri Wānanga, Tokomaru Bay; Ngātaki Collective, Ngātaki.
Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge

TIPU

KIA MATOMATO TE TIPU
STRONG, FLOURISHING GROWTH

Tipu involved deep exploration of language, particularly focusing on linguistic features relevant to maramataka. Supported and guided by project advisors and mātanga reo, this exploration delved into the inner meanings of kupu, examining their structure, inner coding and relationships to the broader maramataka system. Tipu also introduced maramataka dials; these simple tools helped to facilitate exploration of maramataka knowledge.

- Rapu Kupu—Reclaiming Language: Rapu kupu involved searching for the language used to describe the foundational components of maramataka and uncovering tribal names for key time markers, such as Tamanuiterā (sun), whetu (stars), Marama (moon phases) and kaupeka (water processes).
- Wetewete Kupu—Exploring Structure and Function. Wetewete kupu focused on detailed exploration of recovered maramataka language components. It involved examining the core meanings of kupu, deconstructing them into their base elements and exploring each individual component as descriptors of environmental processes. The next phase involved reconstructing the kupu, piecing together each part to develop deeper understanding of the kupu and the environmental processes they describe.
- Ranga Kupu—Weaving Together Understanding - Ranga kupu focused on weaving together the newfound understanding of language—not just considering individual words, but purposefully exploring how the kupu entwine to communicate a whole system of knowledge and understanding. Exploring kōrero tuku iho (ancestral knowledge), whakapapa (genealogy) and pūrākau (traditional stories) enabled deeper insights into the connectedness of taiao.



TAUIRA

Maramataka dials served as a simple tool to support the rediscovery of maramataka language. They facilitated the gradual layering of knowledge, allowing researchers to draw connections between the different components, thereby forming an understanding of the broader system's mechanics, interrelationships and interactions. Over time, as each reclaimed word or name was explored, these simple interactive tools helped deepen and broaden understanding of maramataka.