



E te whānau whānui o Ngāti Rārua me Te Ātiawa ki Motueka, tēnā koutou katoa.



WOW factor: Manu Uha takes the stage

The work of Ngati Rarua descendant Olivia Hall was showcased on the world stage this month at a glittering Louis Vuitton America's Cup event in San Francisco. The event was attended by 700 invited guests, including representatives of Vogue, Elle, GQ, the Daily Telegraph and other top international magazines and newspapers.

The dress, titled Manu Uha (the essence and prestige of wahine), was one of six World of Wearable Arts prize winners chosen to reflect the spirit of the America's Cup contest and to represent each of the countries competing this year. Manu Uha,

portraying a stylised, contemporary view of traditional Maori dress, was chosen to represent New Zealand's team, Emirates Team New Zealand.

Olivia's creation first took honours in 2010, when it won WOW's Air New Zealand South Pacific Category.

"At the time I wanted to design something that reflected the strength and beauty of our Maori women ancestors, and that accurately reflects traditional Maori values, but to make it from unorthodox materials. Having grown up on an orchard I'd had a lot to do with the packing materials used for fruit, and so I decided to create my design out of package strapping."

Olivia spent many evenings weaving the dress from strands of black and white package strapping, using various curling techniques to highlight the textures of the materials. Along with a lot of natural creativity and artistic talent, Olivia was able to bring to the project the skills she'd learned some years ago as a student at Toi Houkura, a Maori arts and design school.

Olivia lives in Nelson with her husband and their four sons. She is a former NRAIT

Trustee and is the Marketing Manager for Kono Beverages.

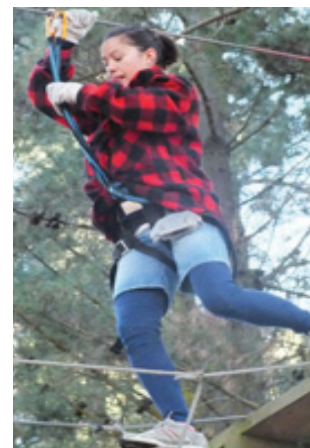


Olivia Hall

ALUMNI

High flyers

A chance to test their skills and nerve on a high-wire obstacle course through the tree tops of Adrenalin Forest was just one of several highlights at a reunion event held recently in Christchurch for Wakatu and NRAIT scholarship alumni and students.



For NRAIT, the event was an opportunity to reconnect with our alumni and identify ways we can provide further value and support for them in the future. Of the 19 alumni who attended, 12 whakapapa back to NRAIT. We see these students as excellent role models for our young people and great assets for NRAIT in our drive to provide more support for our rangatahi.

A memorable and moving feature of the event was a tour around Christchurch's red zone and the opportunity to witness the blessing of the Cathedral site, along with meetings with some of the local business owners, a number of whom had been through our Tai Wananga. The two-day event also took in a rugby game and a discussion session with



Wakatu and NRAIT alumni in Cathedral Square



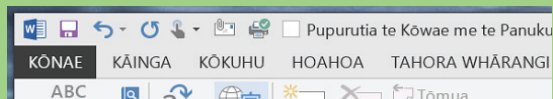
Ngai Tahu's social and cultural programme manager.

We look forward to picking up

on the many ideas the group put forward to add further value and attract more applicants to NRAIT's scholarship and grants programme.

Check this out

Microsoft Windows 8 has been released in Te Reo Maori. If you've got a Windows 8 computer, tablet or phone, all you need to do is change the language settings to turn your device into an interactive Te Reo learning tool. Find out more at blogs.msdn.com





MEMBER NOTICES

Upcoming Events



20th Anniversary, NRAIT Te Awhina Marae. A lot of exciting announcements to come. Visit our website for updates.

Don't miss this very special day of celebration with events and entertainment for all ages. Special guest speakers, forum sessions, performances, music, competitions, prizes to be won, and a celebratory dinner. We will help with transport to and from the event and guests can stay on the marae. Watch this space for further updates.

Te Whanake Update

This week we've had focus groups with whanau in Wellington, Nelson and Marlborough to seek owners' input into our programmes. Many thanks to everyone who participated.

iPad Winner

Congratulations to Marama Takao from Wellington who was the winner of our iPad draw offered to everyone who sent back their email address to us. We are still really eager to get your email addresses so rally the whanau and send your email addresses to ekepanuku@nrait.co.nz



Ivan Tava and Marama Takao

Te Maatu

Ropata Taylor, of Ngati Rarua and Te Atiawa descent, reflects on NRAIT's legacy.



Te Maatu, 'the big wood', was the heart of our Motueka ancestors' land. It was both a garden and a forest – a luxuriant podocarp forest dominated by rimu and southern rata, and rich with matai, titoki, rimu, totara and abundant bird life. Beneath the canopy were nikau palm, mamaku treefern, fuschia and many other fruit-bearing and edible plants.

Our ancestors cultivated gardens around the trees, in a form of companion planting. This was our traditional way of gardening, where we didn't eradicate all other species and create a monoculture. Instead, we had a strong biodiversity approach, and our crops coexisted with these giant trees.

These gardens produced huge volumes of potatoes, including Maori potatoes and both early and recently introduced European varieties, along with kumara, kamokamo and other crops. These were brought into Nelson by our ancestors and traded at Auckland Point

and further afield, feeding the waves of incoming European settlers. Their arrival and the rapid pace of settlement was a great opportunity for us economically and commercially. By the 1850s, a third of the sailing ships registered at the Port of Nelson were owned by our ancestors, working Te Tai o Aotere, Raukawa Moana and as far afield as Australia, trading the goods we were producing.

Aside from a few incidents, relations with the settlers were generally positive, and our families and communities were thriving. In addition to recognising the benefits from trade, our ancestors supported the arrival of the settlers in our territory because they believed in Wakefield's egalitarian promise whereby we would live alongside each other to our mutual benefit. But one thing was sacrosanct: when we met with Wakefield's in 1841 we made it very clear that Te Maatu was fundamentally important to us, and that it would be ring-fenced and not included in any negotiations.



Ropata Taylor

But the settlers' appetite for land was insatiable and they coveted ours. Their growing infrastructure – coupled with disputes over boundaries and land purchases – saw them start to swallow what we had left. Then in 1853, Governor Grey took 371 hectares of our most productive land, the heart of Te Maatu, and gave it to the Anglican Church's Whakarewa School, without offering compensation.

Ropata is a Trustee of NRAIT, Chair of its Audit Committee, and Deputy Chair of Koru Investments. He is also General Manager Manaaki and HR for Wakatu Incorporation, Chair of Te Awhina Marae, and a Trustee of the Nelson Regional Economic Development Agency.

Spotlight - Quake tips

By now most of us know we need to have an earthquake kit at home with enough water and food to keep the family going for three days, and a getaway kit at work. Along with strong shoes, warm clothes, torch and batteries, and a first aid kit, here are a few other important items you might not have thought of:

- Essential medication
- Cash – in case you can't access your bank account
- Reading glasses or lenses
- Wrench – in case you need to turn off gas or water valves
- Toilet paper and strong trash bags
- Pet supplies – food, medicines, dog lead, cat carrier
- Phone charger – and be sure to have important numbers on hand: family, colleagues and your building manager.

Make sure everyone knows where the kit is and where to assemble. Make sure your home or business has a fire extinguisher. And most of all, remember: drop, cover and hold. Check out <http://www.getthru.govt.nz> for more information.