



J R MCKENZIE TRUST
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Strategy gets traction and results



Top (L-R) Manaia King (J R McKenzie & IFIP), Lourdes Inga (CE, IFIP), Genevieve Timmons (Philanthropy Australia), Mark Randazzo (EDGE Funders Alliance, USA) and Tony Paine (CE, PNZ) **Bottom** Shane Te Ruki (Te Wānanga o Raukawa) Dorothy Moli (Vanuatu) **Centre** (L-R) Veshayne Patuwai (Auckland), Lisa Abregu Arroyo (Peru), Mariaelena Huambachano (USA), Melissa Nelson (USA) **Right** John McCarthy (Manager, Tindall Foundation)

In 2003, a review of the J R McKenzie Trust's philanthropic practices after 63 years, realised only 3% of its funding went to Māori.

Alarmed, the board established Te Kāwai Toro, to increase the volume and effectiveness of the Trust's contribution as a philanthropic organisation to Māori communities and proactive Māori development.

A decade later, J R McKenzie Trust has increased its level of funding to Māori to 43%, and in 2014 were humbled to receive the International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) Award. An award created to encourage donors to fund indigenous communities worldwide.

While *Te Kāwai Toro* strive to meet their strategic goals, by their own admission, building strategic relationships with other philanthropic funders to address the low rate of philanthropic allocation to New Zealand's indigenous communities, has not been a natural occurrence within the philanthropic sector.

"The '*Philanthropic Funding to Māori*' report, 2012, provided us with some distressing data," said Marama Tākao, Māori Development Advisor, J R McKenzie Trust.

Adding "of the 1,285 philanthropic funders surveyed, only 22 acknowledged they had a strategy in place to fund Māori, a dismal 1.71%."

So when the opportunity arose for *Te Kāwai Toro* to host an international event, and perhaps address these concerns, it was enthusiastically organised in conjunction with Te Wānanga o Raukawa and Philanthropy New Zealand.

The inaugural IFIP Pacific Regional Hui held early May was extremely well attended, with a third of registrations being international. According to feedback, the Hui delivered over and above expectations. "The Hui Planning committee were thrilled and honoured to see the leading philanthropic and Government funders from NZ and around the world in attendance" said Tākao.

Editorial provided by J R McKenzie Trust



Top Manuhiri at the Pōwhiri, Te Wānanga o Raukawa
Bottom (L-R back) Charisma Rangipunga & Eru Tarena (Christchurch), Neil Attapattu (Hastings), Rongo Kirkwood (Waikato), Shannon Toriki & Jordann Ares (Hawaii), and Steve Merito (Christchurch)

The Hui theme *Remembering Our Past, Reclaiming Our Future* also focused on Resilience, Climate Change and Indigenous Practices for Sustainability. The cleverly crafted programme included a broad array of presentations from academics and practitioners.

“The decision to host the IFIP Hui in Ōtaki, as opposed to a regular conference centre, has proven to be the absolute right decision,” said Rachael Selby, Event Manager.

The easy to walk to field trips including exemplars of indigenous education - He Iti Nā Mōtai Kōhanga Reo and Te Kura Kaupapa-a-iwi o Whakatupuranga Rua Mano. Along with a unique intimacy made possible by the engagement of locals, Selby said the “realness of the Hui was particularly appreciated by our international manuhiri (visitors)”.

For Te Kāwai Toro, the quest to gather more information on philanthropy to Māori, despite the current lack of definitive data posing a challenging task will continue.

Photos: Norm Heke

Attendee Feedback

- “Loved the whole thing. Loved the fact it was held in Ōtaki and we also got to learn about the amazing educational and language work by Māori people in that location.”
- “Loved staying in the on campus accommodation and received an extremely warm welcome on arrival (Sunday evening).”
- “Excellent, engaging speakers throughout.”
- “The whole event was fantastic! Some great challenges to community and funders alike were posed.”
- “TWoR is a great example that ‘traditional knowledge’ is alive, is not static and will continue to evolve as it creates solutions to the issues.”
- “Excellent closing note speaker Ani Mikaere providing powerful messages for funders and indigenous peoples.”
- “Affirming own mahi, felt like I was part of a movement.”
- “Massive thanks to Te Wānanga o Raukawa for being such generous and gracious hosts and for the relaxing opportunity to learn and understand.”
- “Made me re-think my practices.”
- “One of the most hopeful and inspiring conferences I have ever attended (been to many in the last 30 years).”
- “Powerful Woor-Dungin presentation.”
- “Challenging ideas and brave statements about the role of Philanthropy.”

Always opportunities to learn how to do it better:

- “Spending time to understand issues and aspirations for indigenous peoples and more time to talk with each other.”
- “More philanthropic funders should have been there – why weren’t there more??”
- “Not enough emphasis on the difference between indigenous grantmaking and mainstream – what different tools required.”
- “Should have been 3 days.”
- “The Philanthropy NZ Summit should be held in Ōtaki.”