

Māori Caucus Biennial Wānanga

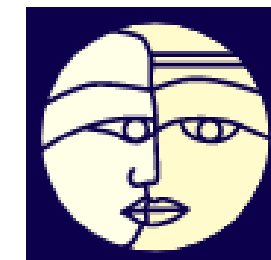
WHAKAPIKI WAIRUA | WHAKATAU WAIRUA
RECHARGE | HEALING THE HEALER



11TH – 12TH NOVEMBER 2025



COPTHORNE HOTEL & RESORT BAY OF ISLANDS
1 TAU HENARE DRIVE, PAIHIA



Te Ao Māramatanga
New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses Inc

Day One Programme Schedule

Tuesday, 11th November 2025

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0900	Whakatau	1300	Keynote Speaker Pipi Barton
0930	Opening Address	1400	Optional: Purea Tui Taurua
0945	Morning Tea	1500	Afternoon Tea
1000	Te Kuaha o te Ao Wairua: <i>Opening the Spiritual Doorway</i> Tui Taurua	1530	Day One Close
1100	Te Kauae Runga, Te Kauae Raro Tohe Ashby	1800	Whetu Kanapa Dinner
1200	Lunch	2130	Star Gazing Rikki Solomon

Day Two Programme Schedule

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Wednesday, 12th November 2025

0730	Parakuihi/Māori Caucus Hui	1200	Lunch
0845	Karakia & House Keeping	1300	Closing Remarks & Karakia
0900	Strength in Whānau The Daniels whānau of Pipiwai	1400	Optional: Healing our History Waitangi Treaty Grounds Tour
1000	Māramataka Rikki Solomon		
1045	Morning Tea		
1100	Wawao Tio Sewell, Moe Milne, Ron Baker, Iona Edmonds		

Keynote Speakers



Tui Taurua | Ngāpuhi-nui-tonu

Ko Tui Taurua tōku ingoa. I come before you as a Māori wahine, a survivor of the psychiatric system, and the creator of Rapua Te Hinengaro Tangata Toa and its wairua extension Te Kuaha o te Ao Wairua.

For me, this kaupapa is not theory, it is lived. It was born from forty-eight years of experience, from being hospitalised, silenced, and yet guided always by the voices of wairua. Those voices led me to build a model grounded in our own mātauranga, not the Western frame that once defined me.

In this presentation, I will take you through Te Kuaha o te Ao Wairua, a framework carried by twelve pou and twelve whetū that bridge the human and spiritual worlds. Through poetry, pūrākau, and lived story, I share how wairua became my teacher, how healing emerged through whakapapa, and how tino rangatiratanga is restored when we listen again to the voices of our tūpuna.

This is an invitation to walk beside me to feel, to remember, and to open the doorway into the spiritual world that has always held us.



Tohe Ashby | Ngāti Hine

Hohou Te Rongoā is made up of 4 Whare Oranga based in the Mid-Northern area of Te Tai Tokerau. Their aim is to normalise Rongoā Māori as primary healthcare, focusing on prevention, treatment and ongoing support underpinned by te ao Māori me ona tikanga.

Their services which include mahi wairua through to mirimiri and more are well utilised and integrated into individual, whānau, hapu and community based health. They are part of the Tai Tokerau Rongoā Māori collective that ensures the safe delivery and receipt of Rongoā Māori products and services.

Keynote Speakers



Lani Daniels | Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine, Pipiwai

Te Arani Moana (Lani) Daniels is a proud Māori nurse and internationally recognised athlete from Ngāpuhi and Ngāti Hine, hailing from Pipiwai in Te Tai Tokerau. She works within Acute Inpatient Mental Health Services in Northland, where her care, compassion, and commitment to whānau wellbeing reflect the heart of kaupapa Māori nursing.

Alongside her clinical mahi, Lani has achieved global success in sport — becoming a two-division IBF World Champion in 2023. Despite international recognition, she remains firmly grounded in her community, using her platform to uplift others and promote holistic wellbeing that encompasses tinana, hinengaro, wairua, and whānau.

Lani embodies the strength and grace of a new generation of Māori nurses — weaving professional skill, discipline, and aroha into every aspect of her life and leadership.



Agnes Daniels | Ngāpuhi, Pipiwai

Agnes Daniels is a highly respected Māori mental health nurse and former Manager of Te Rōpū Kimiora, Northland's Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Addictions Service. Over several decades, she has served the people of Te Tai Tokerau with deep compassion, professional excellence, and cultural integrity.

Her leadership has guided countless kaimahi and whānau through times of healing and growth, setting a benchmark for kaupapa Māori practice within the mainstream mental health system. Now retired, Agnes continues to be the pou of her whānau — the quiet strength that anchors them to their roots in Pipiwai.

Her legacy is not only in the service she built but in the values she lives by — aroha, mana, and whanaungatanga — values that have nurtured generations of nurses, including her daughters, and continue to inspire others across Aotearoa.

Keynote Speakers



Caroline Daniels | Ngāpuhi, Pīpiwai

Caroline Daniels is a respected Māori mental health nurse and leader whose career reflects a lifelong commitment to improving outcomes for whānau. She currently serves as District Manager for Emerge Aotearoa, where she oversees a range of mental health and addiction services grounded in kaupapa Māori values.

With extensive clinical experience across Waikato DHB and Te Whatu Ora Te Tai Tokerau, Caroline is known for her relational approach — leading with integrity, empathy, and a steadfast belief in the transformative power of whānau and community. Her practice blends clinical excellence with cultural safety, ensuring that healing extends beyond the individual to the collective.

Caroline's leadership stands as an example of Māori excellence in action: practical, grounded, and deeply connected to the wairua of her work.



Pipi Barton | Ngāti Hikairo ki Kāwhia

Dr Pipi Barton is a Senior Academic Staff Member and Kaiako (lecturer) at NorthTec in Te Tai Tokerau, where she teaches in the recently established Puawānanga Tapuhi Māori o te Kotiu (Bachelor of Nursing Māori).

With a background in mental health nursing and education, Pipi brings years of experience in both clinical and academic settings. Before entering nursing education, she worked in a variety of roles including, Community Mental Health Nurse and Nurse Educator with Waikato DHB, a Clinical Nurse Specialist/Pou Pukenga at Hauora Waikato Māori Mental Health Services, and a Community Mental Health Nurse for Te Roopu Whitiōra Māori Mental Health Team at Northland DHB.

Pipi is deeply committed to Māori health, Māori nursing, and the advancement of indigenous perspectives of health in nursing education and practice. Pipi recently completed her PhD investigating strategies for increasing the recruitment of Māori into nursing.

Keynote Speakers



Moe Milne | Ngāti Hine

Moe Milne is a respected Māori leader, educator, and advocate for mental health and wellbeing.

Recognised in 2017 as an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Māori and health, Moe has dedicated her life to advancing Māori health, language, and cultural development. A fluent speaker of te reo Māori, she is deeply committed to preserving Māori values and ensuring Māori are treated with respect and dignity across all systems of care.

With a background in nursing and Māori health research, Moe has contributed to national strategies, ethics frameworks, and innovative tools supporting Māori mental health and addiction services. Her leadership has influenced policy, education, and practice both nationally and internationally. As a kuia, educator, mediator, and advisor, Moe continues to inspire through her wisdom, advocacy, and lifelong service to her people.



Iona Edmonds | Ngāti Whātua

I have been nursing for a few years, mental health & addictions being my happy place.

I have worked within school nursing, kaupapa māori mental health, adult alcohol and addictions services, tauiwi mental health services, quality management and auditing, youth addictions & mental health, violence intervention, public health covid contact tracing & most recently in mental health & addictions with an Iwi provider in Te Tai Tokerau. I have worked across nursing education in working with māori models of care, strategic planning, international mental health nursing collaboration, liaised with lead nurses

As I reflect on my career I worry for the future of our whanau, I am repeating conversations I had decades ago, how do we keep history alive & relevant?

How do we recharge our korero, recharge our passions, when the delete button is moments away every working hour?

Whetu Kanapa the shining bright stars of our history, as and in Māori nursing & Māori mental health, Whetu Kanapa eliminate that delete button.

Keynote Speakers



**Ron Baker | Ngāti Kahungunu,
Ngāti Porou**

Ronald Baker is a pioneering leader in Māori mental health, recognised in 2023 as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to Māori wellbeing. With nearly four decades of experience, he has been instrumental in developing culturally grounded and responsive approaches to mental health care. Beginning his career as a psychiatric nurse at Carrington Hospital in 1978, Ronald went on to establish the Whaiora Māori Cultural Unit—Aotearoa's first Māori mental health unit—and later founded the marae-based Manawanui Māori Mental Health Unit, which continues to serve Māori whānau today.

A recipient of both the Winston Churchill and ANZAC Fellowships, Ronald has researched Indigenous healing practices across Canada, the United States, and Australia. His leadership and expertise have shaped national mental health strategies, strengthened Māori capability within the health workforce, and guided generations of practitioners through cultural training and mentorship. Currently Kaumātua and Trainer for Te Rau Ora's Centre of Māori Suicide Prevention and Kaumātua for the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, Ronald continues to champion Māori wellbeing through his clinical excellence, cultural integrity, and enduring service to his people.



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**Rikki Solomon | Ngāti Kahungunu,
Ngāti Kahu-ki-Whangaroa**

Rikki was raised in Te Hauke, mentored by his grandparents, especially his koroua, learning to garden, farm, and work the land through hands-on experience and daily life alongside them.

He is part of the Arohnui team at Turuki Healthcare, where he integrates Māramataka Māori into health and wellbeing, aligning daily activities with lunar and environmental cycles to enhance hauora and reconnect whānau with ancestral ways of living. Rikki is also a Mataora with Mahi-a-Atua and has over 30 years of experience in funeral care.

Rikki also plays taonga pūoro, the traditional musical instruments of our tīpuna, as a way to connect with the breath of our ancestors and the natural world. Each instrument carries its own wairua and story, whether the call of the pūtōrino, the gentle whisper of the kōauau, or the grounding rhythm of the hue.

Playing these instruments is more than music; it is a practice of healing, storytelling, and reconnection with te taiao and whakapapa. Rikki will share these taonga with you today.

Ngā Whetu Purapura, the children of uru, the whetū, were placed into the heavens to illuminate the korowai or Ranginui for Papatūānuku to see. The evening we will tell the pūrākau of the whetū that are shining in the heavens above.

Keynote Speakers



Tio Sewell | Ngāti Maru, Ngāi Te Rangi

Tio Sewell stands among Aotearoa's most respected Māori mental health nursing leaders. With more than three decades of service, he has championed Māori wellbeing across clinical, community, and executive spaces — from his early days as a psychiatric nurse to senior leadership roles with Waikato DHB and Te Rau Ora.

A proud Fellow of Te Ao Māramatanga and recipient of the prestigious Ngā Whetū Kanapa Award, Tio's contribution has illuminated pathways for Māori nurses and kaimahi, advancing equity and whānau-centred practice nationwide.

Through his leadership of Waka Hourua and Te Au: Māori Suicide Prevention Centre, Tio has strengthened national responses to Māori suicide prevention, embedding tikanga, whanaungatanga, and manaakitanga into every aspect of care. His work on Tuia Te Ao Mārama, the Māori Caucus oral history project, ensures the voices of our nursing pioneers continue to guide future generations.

Calm in presence, courageous in purpose, and unwavering in commitment, Tio embodies the light of Ngā Whetū Kanapa — a true beacon for Māori mental health nursing.

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