

MASSEY UNIVERSITY

*TE MATA O TE TAU*

**ACADEMY FOR  
MĀORI RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP**

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT VICE-CHANCELLOR (MĀORI)

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## **BACKGROUND**

As part of the Māori@Massey Strategy an Academic Excellence Platform was proposed as a vehicle for advancing Māori academic achievement. While a number of mechanisms such as active learning support will be important to hasten Māori academic achievement, three particular approaches were identified in the *Strategy*:

- accelerated academic course progression
- Māori academic leadership
- Māori scholarship and the creation of new knowledge.

In order to address the third approach, Māori scholarship and the creation of new knowledge an Academy for Māori Research and Scholarship has been established, dedicated to Māori academic and scholastic advancement.

The establishment of the Academy recognises:

- the existence of a critical mass of senior Māori scholars at Massey University
- the need for a formal forum within the University for interdisciplinary academic collaboration
- the activities already under way in the schools, departments and institutes that make up Massey University
- Māori aspirations for excellence in research and other aspects of scholarship.

## **ESTABLISHMENT**

To coincide with the appearance of Matariki, the Academy was launched on the Palmerston North campus on 11 June 2003 and was established on the Wellington campus on 5 August 2003. The official name of the Academy, Te Mata o te Tau, relates to the appearance of the constellation of stars known as Matariki, the promise of a fruitful year, and the advancement of knowledge. A reference is contained in Professor Tairahia Black's doctoral thesis:

‘Matariki atua, ka eke mai i te rangi e roa, e whangai iho ki te mata o te tau, e roa e, hei tuku i ngā wānanga i ngā kai ki te ao mārama.’

After gaining approval from the University Academic Board, the Academy was formally established as a ‘Paper Centre’ within Massey University on 29 July 2003.

## **AIMS**

The *broad aims* of the Academy are

- the advancement of Māori scholarship
- the provision of a forum for Māori scholars to collaborate across academic disciplines and subject areas
- the promotion of high quality research that will contribute to new knowledge and positive Māori development
- the provision of leadership for Māori academics at Massey University.

*In particular* the Academy will:

- meet regularly to share ideas, discuss common academic interests and peer review original work
- host regular lectures by fellows of the Academy (at least one per year at the Albany and Wellington campuses)
- invite distinguished scholars, including indigenous scholars to deliver prestigious lectures to the Academy, University and Māori communities
- arrange seminars on topical matters that are relevant to Māori development
- initiate interdisciplinary research that will lead to Māori advancement
- encourage publication by Māori academics in reputable academic journals and books
- promote academic excellence through scholarships and other awards
- maintain links with other academic bodies, especially Māori and indigenous organisations.

## **RATIONALE**

Although the Academy comprises scholars from a range of academic disciplines, it is unified by the common approach taken by its members to teaching and research. The approach is characterised by:

- a commitment to Māori academic advancement
- reference to Māori bodies of knowledge (mātauranga Māori)
- research paradigms that draw on Māori knowledge and conventional empirical methodologies.

The Academy is distinguished by its location at the interface of two major intellectual traditions – science and indigenous knowledge. Unlike whare wānanga, which are committed to scholarship within a mātauranga Māori framework, the Academy lies on a continuum between science (at one pole) and mātauranga Māori (at the other). Interest is sometimes closer to one or other poles but to a greater or lesser extent the dynamics between the two systems characterises the Academy’s mission.

## **AFFILIATIONS**

The Academy will seek affiliations with other academic and research bodies, both within Massey University and beyond. Importantly, the fostering of relationships with Māori academics at other Universities and Wānanga will provide the basis for a network of Māori scholars that might in time wish to establish a formal collective entity. Similarly links with Māori postgraduate associations or faculties within professional organisations such as law and medicine will extend the range of scholastic endeavours.

Other associations will also be beneficial. The Royal Society of New Zealand, the New Zealand Academy of Humanities, indigenous academic communities and international research centres would add breadth and depth to the Academy and extend opportunities for further learning and research.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The Academy is composed of two main categories of membership:

- (a) *Fellows* of the Academy, to be known as *Ngā Pūkenga*
- (b) *Associates* of the Academy, to be known as *Ngā Ākonga*.

### ***Ngā Pūkenga***

The Foundation Fellows of the Academy, all Māori academics holding doctorate degrees from a New Zealand University, were on the staff at Massey University in 2003 or were full Professors at Massey University.

### ***Foundation Fellows 2003***

Dr Jill Bevan-Brown PhD  
Professor Tairahia Black PhD  
Professor Chris Cunningham PhD  
Professor Arohia Durie PhD  
Professor Mason Durie DLitt  
Dr Maureen Holdaway PhD  
Professor Robert Jahnke  
Dr Danny Keenan PhD  
Dr Te Kani Kingi PhD  
Dr Cindy Kiro PhD  
Dr Farah Palmer PhD  
Dr Stephanie Palmer PhD  
Dr Leland Ruwhiu PhD  
Dr Monty Soutar PhD

### ***Additional Fellows***

Additional Fellows may be elected to the Academy. Normally criteria for eligibility include a completed doctorate, an approach to academic endeavours that is consistent with the rationale for the Academy, and nomination by two current Fellows.

### ***Additional Fellows 2003:***

Dr Fiona Te Momo  
Dr Guy Scott

In addition to Ngā Pūkenga, Honorary Fellows may also be elected to the Academy. Honorary Fellows, known as *Ngā Pūkenga Taiea*, will be admitted on the basis of exceptional scholastic contributions to indigenous knowledge, and usually in recognition of an academic contribution to the Academy. They will be nominated by two fellows and elected by the Fellows.

### ***Ngā Akonga***

All Māori academic staff at Massey University as well as Māori masterate and doctorate students are entitled to be associates of the Academy. Ngā Akonga are free to attend all lectures, seminars and prestigious lectures arranged by the Academy and may be invited to participate in research that has been initiated by the Academy.

## **RESIDENT SCHOLARS**

In order to promote scholarship and to provide opportunities for the development of scholarship, the Academy will host Māori Scholars. Scholars will be drawn from suitably qualified academics and will be encouraged to share their own views, knowledge and publications with Māori academics, especially those who are preparing for doctorates. While there will be no set list of duties, the scholars will be expected to conduct at least two seminars during an academic year and to participate in the full schedule of Academy activities.

## **OFFICERS OF THE ACADEMY**

A presiding officer, Puna Tātai Hono and two deputies on the Wellington and Albany campuses, Tātai Hono, are elected by the Fellows. The Presiding Officer chairs Academy meetings and is responsible for all Academy activities. The Tātai Hono maintain records, arrange meetings, ensure that administrative support is available to the Academy and deputise for the Puna Tātai Hono as required.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Academy is an officially constituted 'Paper Centre' within Massey University. A formal agreement sets out the terms of its accountability to the Vice-Chancellor through the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori) who is the Presiding Officer. A report on the Academy's activities is presented to the Massey University Council each year.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

The Academy publishes a calendar of events prior to the commencement of each academic year. The lectures are 'named' to recognise either particular occasions or places (e.g. the Matariki lecture, the Whanganui-ā-Tara lecture, the Turitea lecture, the Otehā lecture, the Hokowhitu lecture). Addresses by distinguished scholars will be announced in advance provided sufficient information is available.

## **OFFICERS**

Puna Tātai Hono	Professor Mason Durie
Tātai Hono (Albany)	Dr Fiona Te Momo
Tātai Hono (Wellington)	Professor Chris Cunningham

Mason Durie  
Te Mata o te Tau  
4 February 2004