



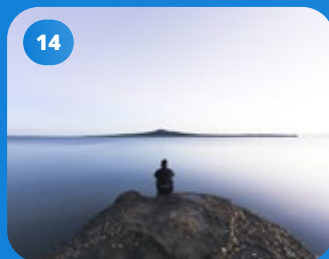
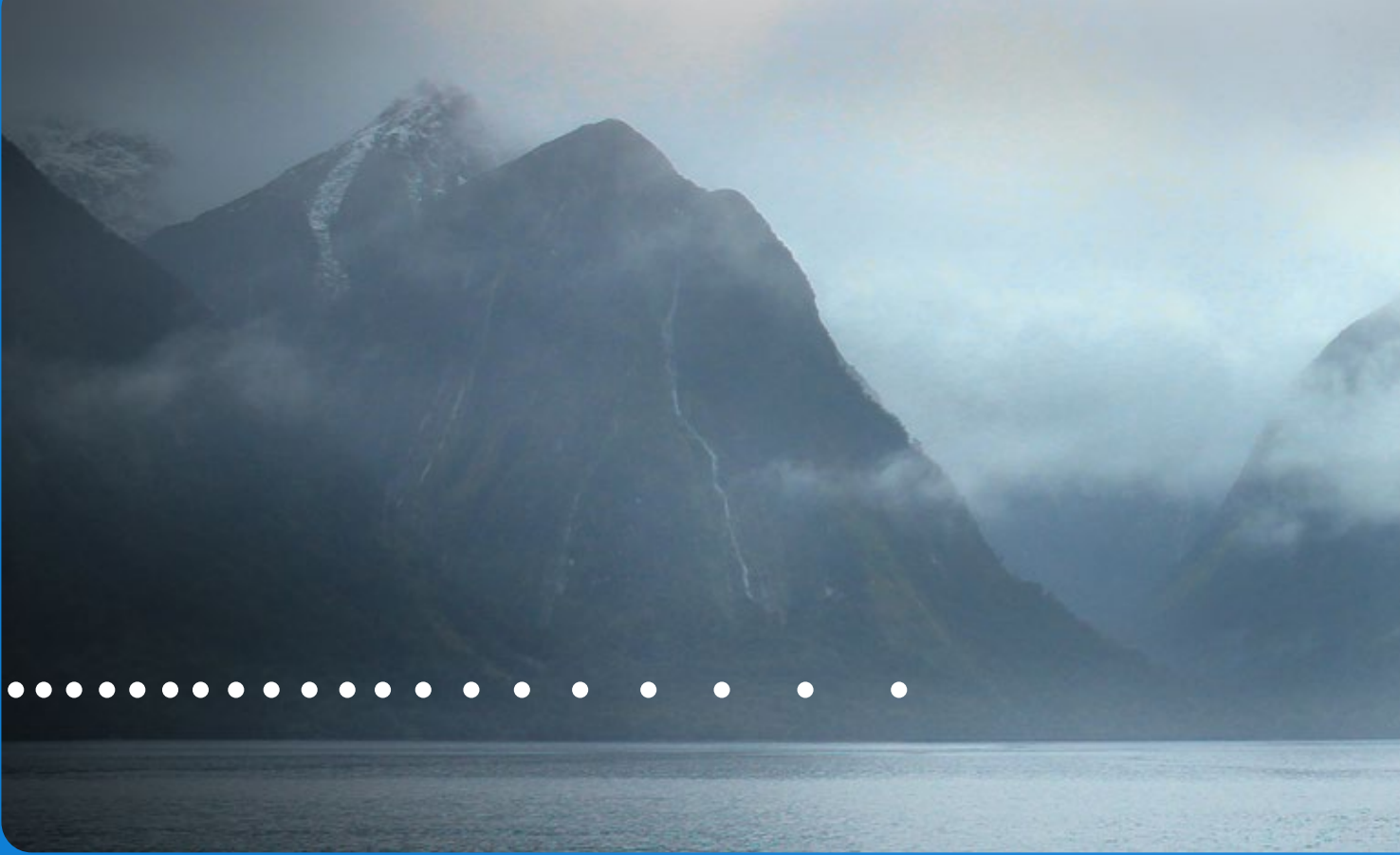
unesco

New Zealand
National Commission

Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL
COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

ANNUAL REVIEW 2021





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He kōrero nā te Heamana | Message from the Chair

Following a year of immense uncertainty and change, 2021 has been a year where we have settled into working in new and adaptable ways, guided by our refined mission to deepen connections between the people of Aotearoa and UNESCO globally through the sharing of ideas and building capability for a sustainable, healthy and more peaceful future.

The pandemic served as reminder of our global connectedness and the importance of courageous leadership, collective action, and seeking sustainable solutions informed by diverse cultural perspectives and community priorities.

It was also a reminder of the importance of international organisations such as UNESCO which is taking an active role in sharing knowledge and resources, combating mis/disinformation, enabling multilateral solutions, and contributing to an atmosphere of global solidarity.

For these reasons, we have fine-tuned our priority areas and our mission to ensure we provide Aotearoa New Zealand with the best of UNESCO and showcase the best of Aotearoa New Zealand to UNESCO.

In 2021 we have launched two new websites that do just that, that connect New Zealanders to UNESCO, and show the world not only what work we are doing, but how this work contributes to UNESCO's mandate and our mission. We have completely overhauled our website, with a modern new look and refreshed information, it is truly world-class.

We have also created a brand-new website www.tetiniatangaroa.org.nz in celebration of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, which showcases how Aotearoa ocean science is addressing the significant challenges that our oceans are currently facing. It captures the diversity of Aotearoa ocean science and showcases how scientists, Māori and other ocean knowledge holders are protecting and enhancing our marine environments.

The 41st UNESCO General Conference provided another opportunity to strengthen connections between Aotearoa and UNESCO. While we were unable to join the Conference (which took place in Paris) in person, we used digital and virtual platforms to ensure inclusive conversations were able to continue. Our Paris-based colleagues provided in person representation at the Conference including New Zealand's Ambassador to UNESCO, Nikki Reid, who delivered our plenary to 193 Member States and 12 Associate Members.



A key message that we wanted to convey in the speech was the importance of drawing upon indigenous knowledge in all aspects of UNESCO's work. We encouraged UNESCO to leverage the collective expertise of indigenous knowledge across the globe, to enhance the quality and sustainability of its work, to achieve better outcomes for generations to come.

Of course, we cannot encourage UNESCO to do so, without ourselves leading by example.

This year on World Ocean's Day we officially launched the Decade of Ocean Science in Aotearoa New Zealand. The event, which was held at Parliament, brought together our talented ocean science community and showcased a number of projects taking place in the ocean science space in New Zealand, as well as launching www.tetiniatangaroa.org.nz. At the heart of the launch was a demonstration of how the weaving together of indigenous knowledge with western science has enhanced Aotearoa's international contribution in the ocean science space.

Next year, the UN Decade of Indigenous Languages begins. We are incredibly excited to not only celebrate this Decade in Aotearoa but to share with the world the important role that indigenous languages play in shaping and growing Aotearoa and to contribute our expertise to international thinking and action.

As we look ahead to 2022 and beyond we know we are building on a strong foundation and that there is still much more to do to realise our ambitions for the National Commission and that of UNESCO. An external evaluation of our work highlighted the increased importance we are giving to strategy - creating and implementing a targeted and coherent programme of work - and the ways we are taking a collaborative, connected and intersectoral approach.

At the same time the findings challenged us to increase awareness of the role and work of the National Commission and identify new ways to support and amplify the work of New Zealanders - iwi, youth leaders, communities, organisations, and individuals - who are also working to ensure a more sustainable, healthy and peaceful world.

ROBYN BAKER ONZM

Te Pae Tawhiti | Vision

**Toitū te māramatanga,
Toitū te ora,
Toitū te whenua.**

Our vision speaks to the notion of a connected world underpinned with knowledge, kaitiakitanga and sustainability, and the enduring permanence of our land.

Te Pae Tata | Mission

**Kia renarena te taura here i Ngāi Aotearoa me ngā
whānau o UNESCO huri i te ao, mā te tiri whakaaro me
te waihanga raukaha, e toitū ai, e ora ai, e taurikura ai
tō tātou anamata haere ake nei.**

Deepening connections between the people of Aotearoa New Zealand and UNESCO globally through the sharing of ideas and building capability for a sustainable, healthy and more peaceful future.

Te Mana Whakahaere | Mandate

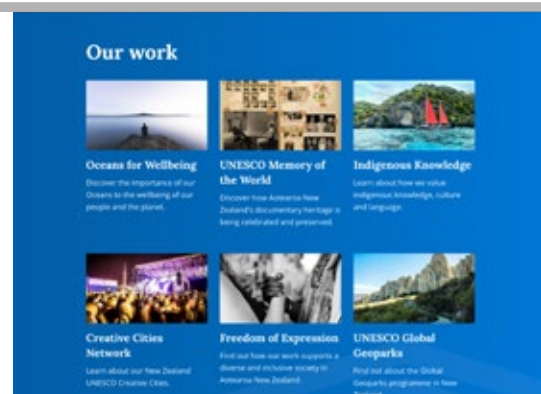
The National Commission ensures the permanent presence of UNESCO in New Zealand. As a country founded on the Treaty of Waitangi and as a foundation member of UNESCO the Commission represents and promotes New Zealand's interests while contributing to the development of UNESCO strategic priorities and programmes. The National Commission contributes to the building of peace, equitable and sustainable development, and intercultural dialogue, paying particular attention to the needs and interests of the Pacific region.

Ngā Tino Tutukinga 2021 | 2021 Highlights

Our New Website

We've given the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO website a make-over. A fresh, modern design and layout captures what makes our National Commission unique globally and showcases the many and varied facets of our work. The website includes a knowledge hub where visitors can find out more about the inspiring initiatives, events and projects we have funded, as well as tapping into international research and knowledge.

Visit: <https://unesco.org.nz/>



Putting Aotearoa New Zealand on the International Ocean Science Map



In 2021 we launched www.tetiniatangaroa.org.nz — our new website showcasing Aotearoa New Zealand's contribution to the UN Ocean Science Decade. It sets out the objectives of the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) and includes an online portal where you can search ocean science and research projects currently underway. It also showcases how indigenous knowledge (mātauranga Māori and Pacific knowledge) is increasingly contributing to ocean science-related work in Aotearoa.

Visit: www.tetiniatangaroa.org.nz



We welcomed Whanganui to Aotearoa New Zealand's Creative Cities Network

Aotearoa New Zealand now has four UNESCO Creative Cities with Whanganui successfully added as a UNESCO Creative City of Design in 2021. The Creative Cities Network is made up of 246 cities worldwide and covers seven creative fields. Whanganui joins our other UNESCO Creative Cities - Auckland City of Music, Wellington City of Film, and Dunedin City of Literature.

[Read more on page 14](#)

Our 2021 Youth Leaders were inspired — and inspiring



We could have never anticipated that COVID 19 would have such an impact on the work of our Youth Leaders over the past two years. But whether helping launch the UN Decade of Ocean Science, promoting Te Wiki o te Reo Māori on social media, judging the Race Unity Speech Awards, or showcasing their mahi at the New Zealand Festival for the Future, the group remained motivated and positive, engaging many more people with our mandate and programmes.

[Read more on page 28](#)

We launched the UN Decade of Ocean Science in Aotearoa New Zealand



The official Aotearoa launch of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) took place on World Oceans Day (8 June) in Wellington. The Decade provides an opportunity to strengthen the management of our oceans and coasts for the benefit of humanity. The launch celebrated work currently underway in Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific in the ocean science space.

[Read more on page 09](#)

The 41st UNESCO General Conference

At the 41st UNESCO General Conference in Paris, New Zealand's Ambassador to UNESCO Nikki Reid delivered New Zealand's plenary speech to delegates from UNESCO's 193 Member States and 12 Associate Member States. The speech focused on a number of topics including the importance that we place, here in Aotearoa, on weaving knowledge systems (such as mātauranga Māori and mainstream science) together.



[Read more on page 32](#)

Our Priorities

Our work is driven by our five priority areas (previously referred to as target areas) all of which have been identified as best enabling our mission to *“Deepen connections between the people of Aotearoa New Zealand and UNESCO globally through the sharing of ideas and building capability for a sustainable, healthy and more peaceful future”*.

Our priorities include the four following areas, as well as our UNESCO programmes

[Read about our Programmes on page 14](#)

Ko ngā Moana hei Oranga mō
Papatūānuku me ōna Uri |
Oceans for the Wellbeing of
People and the Planet

Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)

Supporting and driving recognition of the importance of the UN Decade of Ocean Science within Aotearoa was one of our key focus areas in 2021.

Our approach to the Decade is unique as it draws from the knowledges, practices, values and world views of the indigenous peoples of Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific. Weaving these knowledge systems together is important and has generated a distinctive approach to how we undertake research and collaborate. This multidisciplinary approach is particularly important given the Decades' focus on unlocking innovative ocean science solutions.





Ocean Decade Launch



On 8 June we celebrated UN World Oceans Day by launching the UN Decade of Ocean Science in Aotearoa New Zealand. The launch was attended by around 100 guests from the ocean science community, government agencies, universities, and CRIs. The Minister Hon Jan Tinetti hosted the launch event in her capacity as Associate Minister of Education responsible for the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO and gave opening remarks.

A panel of speakers including youth made short presentations on significant ocean science projects and issues facing the oceans. The event successfully celebrated the outstanding efforts of New Zealand scientists in the ocean space and raised awareness of and encouraged engagement with the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

Te Tini a Tangaroa

We developed our new website Te Tini a Tangaroa as an online search tool to connect New Zealanders and international audiences with the breadth and depth of New Zealand ocean science currently underway and to showcase the importance of indigenous knowledge. It brings together on one platform the outstanding efforts of New Zealand scientists in the ocean space and supports engagement with the UN Decade of Ocean Science. Te Tini a Tangaroa currently features 55 ocean science projects spanning from the Pacific through New Zealand and the Southern Ocean to Antarctica.

Visit: www.tetiniatangaroa.org.nz



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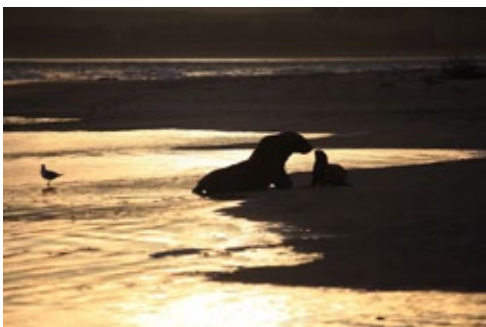
National Decade Committee formed



In May 2021, the New Zealand Reference Group on the Decade of Ocean Science was reconstituted as the Aotearoa New Zealand National Decade Committee for the UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

The Aotearoa New Zealand National Decade Committee encourages and supports domestic activities, acts as a link between national and international activities and engages stakeholders with the work of the Decade. The Committee commits to placing mātauranga Māori at the centre of the approach it takes to the work and activities under the Decade building strong partnerships.

The Committee is one of 24 national committees that are now registered with the UN Decade; another 14 are in the process of seeking official registration.



Ngā Mātauranga me ngā Reo Taketake | Indigenous Knowledge and Language

Our work in this area is underpinned by an understanding that indigenous knowledges, languages and practises including mātauranga Māori are a taonga and should be valued. We recognise the importance of te reo Māori for Aotearoa New Zealand society and the shared cultural and historical relationship with the people of the Pacific.

Video Promotes Importance of Indigenous Languages

Ahead of the Decade of Indigenous Languages formally launching in 2022, the National Commission recorded a discussion on indigenous language learning retention in the home and schools. The discussion chaired by Commissioner Tagaloatele Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop also included youth leader and primary school teacher Nick Mailau and then AUT Lecturer Dr Salainaoloa Wilson on language retention and learning at home and school.

<https://youtu.be/aSb3Q0V2GBo>





Highlighting Importance of Indigenous Knowledge at UNESCO General Conference



Culture Commissioner Dr Dan Hikuroa presented as part of *Ancestral Voyaging Knowledge and the UN Decade of Ocean Science – Past, Present and Future Knowledge Capacity in the Pacific* at the General Conference. This side event was organised by the Local and Indigenous Knowledge (LINKS) Programme at UNESCO Paris to showcase indigenous knowledge, in particular ocean voyaging and the contribution it could make to the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

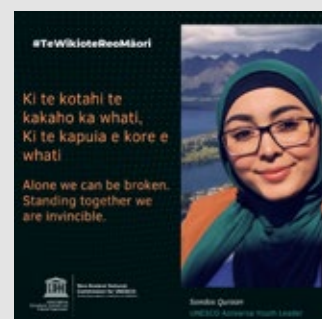
Dr Hikuroa spoke about indigenous knowledge and the approach the National Commission is taking in supporting the Decade. This comprised of an overview of our website Te Tini a Tangaroa, the formation of the Aotearoa New Zealand National Decade Committee and the mātauranga Māori projects featured on Te Tini a Tangaroa.

Te Wiki o Te reo Māori Whakataukī

We celebrated Te Wiki o Te reo Māori by sharing a number of Whakataukī chosen by our UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders.

These Whakataukī are included on our Knowledge Hub.

Visit: <https://unesco.org.nz/>



Te Manawhiri Whakaputa Kōrero Tūtika | Freedom of Responsible Expression

The Freedom of Responsible Expression priority area of the National Commission's workstream is driven by a vision of enhancing an appreciation of diversity and an increased understanding of human rights to support a more inclusive society for all.

In 2021, we supported a variety of minor and major grants to support this priority area.

Race Unity Speech Awards

Communications and Information Commissioner Vanisa Dhiru and Special Advisor Youth, Shahin Najak attended the 2021 Race Unity Awards Ceremony and Hui, which took place in Auckland in May 2021.

Youth Leader Sabrina Manū attended the regional heats in Auckland and the theme Kia Kotahi Te Hoe — Paddle as One, resonated strongly with her.



"As a Pasifika person, I am a descendant of navigators and orators. Our knowledge and practices have been passed from generation to generation through word of mouth. I saw an admirable reflection of this amongst the participating speakers. In addition to the 'Paddle as One' theme, I was reminded of the importance and beauty of sharing, advising, and expressing through speech as my ancestors once did when navigating oceans and illustrating stories."



Polynesian Panthers — Educate to Liberate



The National Commission supported the Polynesian Panthers with a major grant for their project "Educate to Liberate" which developed and delivered a series of programmes about the history of the Dawn Raids to schools and universities to commemorate their 50th anniversary. Youth leader Sabrina Manū attended the public programme to commemorate the Polynesian Panthers and noted that seeking justice means to be in a constant state of learning and unlearning - from elder to younger and younger to elder, and from the history of her people to their visions for the future.

Manukau Football Club — Equity Through Sport

We provided the Manukau Football Club with a grant to promote self-determination and equity through sport. The project began with empathy interviews about experiences of racism and has developed online reporting tools and mechanisms for sports and advocacy groups to use to address racism. Communications and Information Commissioner Vanisa Dhiru attended the season launch.

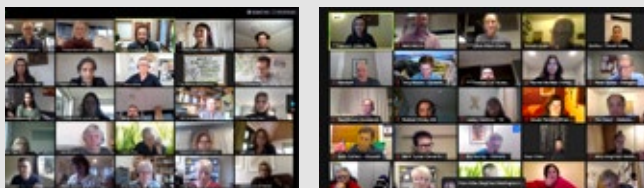


Te Whakamana Hapori e Toitū ai te Anamata | Empowering Communities for Sustainable Futures

This priority area builds on our previous work under the banner of Global Citizenship Education. We have an important role as a catalyst for New Zealanders to engage in intergenerational lifelong learning and to be innovative and responsible global citizens, within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This commitment was the driving force behind the decision to fund and/or participate in the following initiatives:

Aotearoa New Zealand Sustainable Development Goal Summit Series

The Aotearoa New Zealand SDG Summit series 2020-21 brought together a wide range of people from all sectors to develop and commit to positive action and accountability to help reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The National Commission supported virtual events in the lead up to the Summit, which, although planned to be in person, had to be held online due to COVID-19 alert levels. Hosted by the University of Canterbury and Lincoln University, and opened by Minister Nanaia Mahuta, the Summit featured a range of speakers and topics including the role of collaboration in system change, intergenerational conversations on revisioning education and Te Tiriti-based climate assemblies.



The entire series of 2021 Aotearoa Virtual SDG Summits was recorded, and are now available for viewing:

<https://www.sdgsummits.nz/2daysummit2021>



UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development

In May 2021, Education Commissioner, Professor Carol Mutch and Aotearoa UNESCO Youth Leader Blair Kapa-Peters gave a captivating virtual presentation at the UNESCO World Conference for Sustainable Development.

Their presentation, entitled 'An Indigenous Perspective on Sustainable Development Education', introduced a global audience to an indigenous view of sustainable development education and global citizenship through examples of learnings in Aotearoa New Zealand.

"We were able to showcase te ao Māori, Te Tiriti partnership and what we have to offer to global education for a sustainable future," said Carol.

There was strong engagement from the global audience with the presentation in which Blair explained the indigenous concepts that underpinned the session. Examples from resources, programmes and stories, within Aotearoa New Zealand, were used to show how our young people are engaging in actions that will lead to increased understanding of and progress towards a just and sustainable future.

Together for Peace (T4P)



In March 2021 we joined other Pacific region National Commissions in participating in the Together for Peace (T4P) Regional Dialogue hosted by UNESCO Bangkok. The goal of the meeting was to enable UNESCO to develop a focused approach to future initiatives that tackle peace-building through education. Together for Peace encourages Member States to develop and strengthen a culture of justice and equity, collaboration and community engagement, effective governance and sustainability. This is a fundamental sentiment that drives our work.

Our Programmes

Tāone Auaha | Creative Cities

The **UNESCO Creative Cities Network** is made up of 246 cities across 90 countries. These cities have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development. The network covers seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music. The National Commission is proud to work with New Zealand's UNESCO Creative Cities.

Welcome to our newest Creative City — Whanganui UNESCO Creative City of Design



Aotearoa New Zealand now has four UNESCO Creative Cities after Whanganui was named a UNESCO Creative City of Design in November 2021.

The National Commission worked closely with the Whanganui bid team during the planning and development of their application.

A key focus of the city's bid was the importance of the Whanganui Awa (River) to the people and design of Whanganui. The awa is seen as a sacred ancestor by local Māori, and the prominence of the Māori worldview is reflected in legislation that gives the Whanganui Awa legal personhood. Its importance is also reflected in the design and orientation of Whanganui City around the awa.

The Whanganui UNESCO Creative City of Design status creates opportunities for international cooperation and knowledge exchange, and collaboration between Whanganui's design industry and other Creative Cities.



Auckland UNESCO Creative City of Music



Heavily impacted by COVID-19 in 2021, Auckland UNESCO Creative City of Music was nonetheless able to lay the foundations for future projects that support the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

2021 highlights included the *Songlines* music heritage trail. Lyrics from well-known Tāmaki Makaurau songs were placed on pavement decals (each linked to streaming audio via QR codes) creating a trail of music for the public. Posters in Takapuna town centre provided information on the artists involved and a converted container carried an exhibition of local live music photography.

Other initiatives created or progressed include:

- Equaliser, a contestable grants scheme pairs female music makers with female directors and addressing gender inequality in both sectors in the process, and





- a partnership with telecommunications company Chorus Auckland is giving local artists an opportunity to paint telco cabinets with music-themed designs.

The City of Music celebrated NZ Music Month with a pop-up shop featuring live performances, music documentaries in Aotea Square, a guided tour of the central city's music history and Piano Stairs on the Aotea Centre steps allowing the public to play music.

Auckland also won the award for Best Global Music Office at the 2nd Annual Music Cities Awards.

Wellington UNESCO Creative City of Film

In 2021 Wellington UNESCO Creative City of Film continued its work, removing barriers to attending film events, amplifying diverse voices, and providing film culture and learning opportunities.



The City of Film built on its partnership with Māoriland Trust providing unique and inspirational screen culture experiences, particularly for underserved and under-represented communities. A free bus service from Wellington City to Ōtaki provided a sustainable transport option and allowed more people to have an indigenous film culture experience at the Māoriland Film Festival.



In partnership with creative screen tech firm VAKA, the IGNITION 101 workshop, business bootcamp and mentoring programme supported Māori and Pasifika screen creatives who want to be their own boss. The three-week long workshops are designed to provide real-world experience and business opportunities.

Other learning opportunities included:

- filmmaker talks for rangatahi, students and aspiring filmmakers with the directors/producers of Patu!, Coming Home in the Dark and Rūrangi which helped highlight indigenous and diverse world views
- a creative leadership programme for young filmmakers providing insights into the role of a producer, and opportunities to learn about team work, conflict management and motivating others
- an intern programme on a major film shooting in Wellington.

Dunedin UNESCO Creative City of Literature

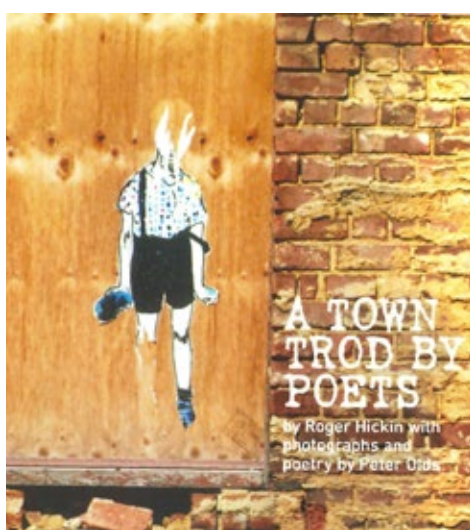
Partnerships with school communities and international collaborations with the 41 other Cities of Literature were the focus for Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature in 2021.

Dunedin was featured in the annual Literary Tram that travels around Ulyanovsk UNESCO Creative City of Literature (Russia) at night. Selected poems by Carolyn McCurdie, David Howard and Iona Winter were translated and read by local celebrities.

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Peter Olds' poems, together with local photographs appeared in the Manchester UNESCO Creative City of Literature (UK) online exhibition Exploring Cities through Poetry, in celebration of World Poetry Day. Copies of *A Town Trod by Poets*, Cold Hub Press (2020), featuring Peter's work, were donated to the new Manchester Poetry Library's permanent collection.



Other highlights included:

- In partnership with the National Library's Read Share Grow initiative, Liz Breslin's City of Literature Primary Possibilities enlivened many South Dunedin classrooms to create a unique school poem about their place in the world. Later in 2021 theartdept's Painted Poems turned excerpts from these poems into paintings.



- The SuperGrans Readaloud programme saw local authors Kathryn van Beek and Emma Wood visit six kindergartens in the South Dunedin region and poet Jenny Powell deliver a series of workshops incorporating oral language, reading and writing to new entrant classes across South Dunedin.

Taiao Ahurei Huriao | Global Geoparks



UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. At present, there are 169 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 44 countries. New Zealand currently has one Aspiring Global Geopark — Waitaki Whitestone.



UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme



The assessment visit and a final decision on Waitaki Whitestone Aspiring Global Geopark's bid to join the Global Geopark Network has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however Waitaki continue to engage in the Network and develop their Aspiring Geopark.

Interruptions to international and domestic tourism in 2021 provided the Waitaki Geopark Trust Board with an opportunity to revise its Strategic Plan. While the benefits of domestic are still accruing, a revised Plan (released in September) has pivoted to a greater focus on:

- seeking the most suitable level of protection for Waitaki's geological treasures
- supporting Te Rūnanga o Moeraki to protect their cultural landscapes, and
- educating locals and visitors and providing ways for people to engage meaningfully with local indigenous knowledge, people and histories.

The Trust will champion the telling of stories through signage, targeted all-age education programmes, and community events.

Waitaki district Councillor and Ahuriri Community Board member Ross McRobie was appointed Chair of the Waitaki Geopark Trust Board in September, replacing outgoing Chair Helen Jansen. Sadly, Mr McRobie passed away in December after a short illness.

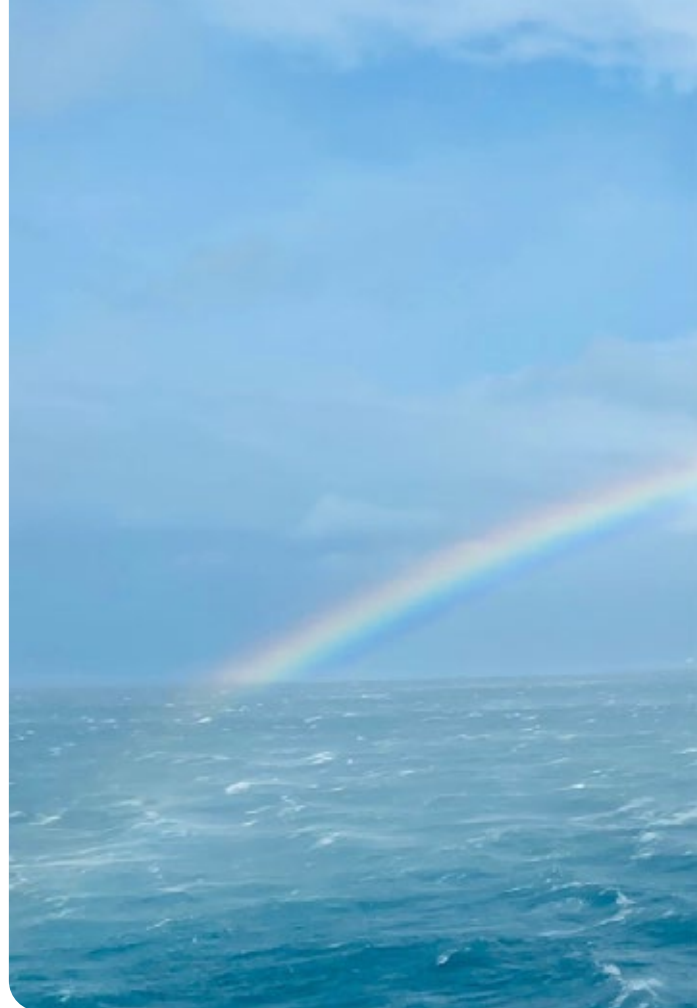
[see page 34](#)



In early 2021, a ceremony at the National Library of New Zealand celebrated the 2020 addition of five new inscriptions on to the prestigious **UNESCO Aotearoa New Zealand Memory of the World Register**. The Register recognises items of recorded heritage which have national significance. It brings their cultural and historic value to people's attention, complementing the work done by libraries, archives and museums in preserving this valuable heritage.

The five inscriptions were:

1. Crown Purchase Deeds hosted by Archives New Zealand
2. Robin Hyde literary and personal papers hosted by the Alexander Turnbull Library and the University of Auckland
3. Olaf Petersen Collection hosted by the Auckland War Memorial Museum
4. Colin and Anne McCahon papers hosted by the Hocken Collections, and
5. Suzanne Aubert's Manuscript of Māori Conversation hosted by the Sisters of Compassion.



In 2021 a new collection from Christchurch poet and social worker Ursula Bethell was added to the Register. Ursula Bethell (1874-1945) is recognised as a pivotal figure in New Zealand literature.

Initially published under the pseudonym Evelyn Hayes, Bethell returned to New Zealand in 1924 with her lifelong companion Effie Pollen. They settled at Rise Cottage on the Cashmere Hills, the focus of her first collection, *From a garden in the Antipodes*, published in 1929. Her correspondents included Charles Brasch, D'Arcy Cresswell, Ngaio Marsh, Allen Curnow, Denis Glover and Monte Holcroft. The collection of personal and literary papers and artworks is held in the University of Canterbury's Macmillan Brown Library.

An inscription event will be held when COVID-19 travel and event restrictions permit.

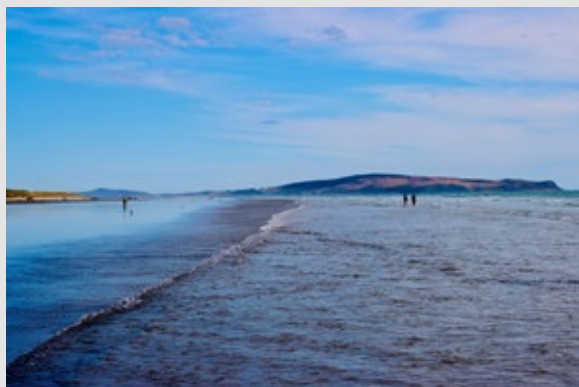
Ngā kaupapa i tautokona e mātou | Projects we Supported

The National Commission funds projects, events, programmes and initiatives with a strong connection to our mission to: Deepen connections between the people of Aotearoa New Zealand and UNESCO globally through the sharing of ideas and building capability for a sustainable, healthy and more peaceful future.

Major Grants in 2021

In 2021 the National Commission awarded major grants of between \$20,000 and \$40,000 to three projects that will help shape a more sustainable future here in Aotearoa, in the Pacific and globally.

Each project promotes ideas sharing and knowledge building in an area aligned to our strategic priorities and programmes, including oceans, indigenous knowledge and youth leadership.



Organisation

Ngāti Kuri Trust Board Incorporated

The project

Establish a network of indigenous youth across Aotearoa to explore and strengthen approaches to how we protect, restore and revitalise our oceans.

Summary

4th Generation are a group of young leaders of Ngāti Kuri descent. With funding from the National Commission and support from the Ngāti Kuri Trust Board, 4th Generation will host a gathering of indigenous, environmentally focused youth on Ngāti Kuri ancestral lands. Activities will include visits to special sites, knowledge exchange sessions with young marine scientists, indigenous leaders and knowledge holders, and development training for waka practitioners and navigators. Project groups will then collaborate on an action plan to protect, restore and revitalise oceans in Aotearoa.

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Organisation

Diplosphere

Project

Rangatahi and Our Place in the World — A national conference on international relations featuring the voices of Māori and youth

Summary

This national conference will provide a platform for new ideas and public debate on topics such as climate change, security, foreign policy, and business and trade in the Asia Pacific region. Organisers aim to excite and empower rangatahi discussion and nurture the development of new contributors to the national discussion on these issues. Plenary sessions and panel discussions with new independent thinkers will feature youth and Māori voices. A post-conference publication will increase awareness of Māori and youth perspectives on New Zealand foreign policy and security matters.

Organisation

UNESCO Chair in Dance and Social Inclusion, University of Auckland

Project

The Dancing Ocean — A South Pacific education hub for researching, exploring and sharing cross-indigenous educational approaches to creativity and performance.

Summary

The Dancing Ocean project will develop relationships between creative educators in the South Pacific region, with a focus on indigenous dancers and indigenous dance cultures. Creating a South Pacific hub will promote collaboration on dance art and educational practises across Melanesian, Polynesian and Aboriginal communities. Brought together under the banner of the UNESCO Chair, this project partners with Vou (Nadi, Fiji), the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies (Port Moresby, PNG), National Aboriginal and Islander Skills Development Association - NAISDA (Darkinjung land, Australia) and Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland Ngā Akoranga Kanikani Dance Studies Programme.



Major Grants 2020 outcomes

In 2020 five major grants were issued to projects planned for 2021. While three projects have been completed, some were delayed due to ongoing COVID-19 travel and event restrictions.

Organisation

The Auckland Arts Festival (AAF) Trust



Project

AAF2021 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Polynesian Panthers commemoration and celebration.



GB Trust: Whenua Ūkaipō Exhibit

Summary

The National Commission supported an event as part of Auckland Festival to recognise, celebrate and tell the stories of the work over 50 years of the Polynesian Panthers Party (PPP). PPP's purpose is to increase understanding and awareness of racism, promote social justice and dialogue. Festival activities included a Dawn Raids-Educate to Liberate exhibition, an in-depth public talk with Pauline Smith and Polynesian Panthers, and free public readings of Oscar Kightley's play Dawn Raids. AAF developed a new curriculum based facilitated programme called Exploration of Identity & Moments.

Organisation

Polynesian Panther 50th Anniversary Committee

Project

Polynesian Panther 50th Anniversary



Summary

A grant was issued to develop and deliver a series of educational programmes. The knowledge of Polynesian Panther Party (PPP) members was gathered and shared as part of the important and significant history and fabric of Pacific peoples' experience in New Zealand. This will be presented to students at schools and universities.

Organisation

GB Trust

Project

Whenua Ūkaipō



Summary

Funding was provided to support a United Nation's 75th Anniversary event, Whenua Ūkaipō. This exhibition of 17 commissioned visual artworks and a public programme brought a te ao Māori, indigenous and multicultural worldview to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Individual artworks and statements highlighted the SDGs and kaupapa, and the public programming generated and encouraged conversations and dialogue on the exhibition theme. The exhibition was held in central Wellington and attended by 1500 visitors, including 200 students who attended as part of school visits.



Minor Grants in 2021

In 2021 the National Commission supported 14 initiatives across Aotearoa through minor grants. Each was aligned to our mission and strategic priorities and all provided opportunities for New Zealanders to engage with UNESCO's work. Here are some of the initiatives we supported.

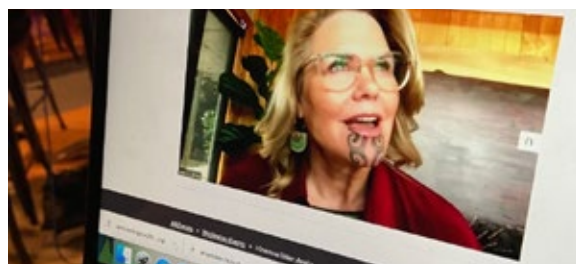


Verb Wellington

From humble beginnings as a one-night event in 2014, Verb Wellington has grown into a multi-day festival that brings communities together in celebration of stories and storytellers.



Rebecca McMillan Photography



The National Commission sponsored two panel discussions at the 2021 festival, both exploring themes aligned to our priority area of Indigenous Knowledge and Language.

At the 'Atua Wāhine' event on 6 November, academic researcher Dr Ngahuia Murphy and author Ataria Sharman spoke with writer Whiti Hereaka about the ways Māori and other indigenous wāhine explore and connect with Atua Wāhine, the feminine divine.

And at the 'Aroha' event on 7 November, author Dr Hinemoa Elder discussed her bestselling book *Aroha: Māori wisdom for a contented life lived in harmony with our planet*.

Seaweed 2021



The United Nations has proclaimed 2021-2030 as the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Aotearoa New Zealand's first Seaweed within the Decade took place in March. The National Commission supported the free-to-air webinar series Ngā Kōrero: exploring ocean kaitiakitanga in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The six webinars are moderated by Alison Ballance, former producer of Radio New Zealand's weekly science and environment programme 'Our Changing World'. She brings her passion for interviewing passionate people and sharing their knowledge and stories, as well as her background as a zoologist, wildlife filmmaker and writer. Guest speakers share their marine knowledge, highlighting topics such as marine protected areas at work across the country, the interconnectedness of our lives on land with life in the sea or marine megafauna to name a few.

Middle East and Islamic Studies Aotearoa (MEISA) network

The National Commission supported the launch of the Middle East and Islamic Studies Aotearoa (MEISA) network in May. The network connects academic researchers and graduate students from universities across Aotearoa New Zealand with universities around the world, including the Middle East. It aims to improve dialogue and connections between communities and countries and create opportunities for joint research and publication on all facets of the Middle East - as well as the wider Islamic world - from an Aotearoa New Zealand perspective.

International Jazz Day, 2021



The National Commission supported Whanganui Jazz for UNESCO's celebration marking the 10th anniversary of International Jazz Day on 30 April. Created by international musician and UNESCO goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock, International Jazz Day acknowledges the important role music plays in combatting discrimination and encouraging dialogue between communities and countries. This year's celebration of jazz was hosted by the Whanganui Jazz Club and included a gala concert and workshops for established jazz musicians, including Rodger Fox, and students.

School of Government, Victoria University of Wellington

The National Commission provided funding for the development, publishing and distribution of Sustainable Development Goals school lesson plans. The set of New Zealand-specific teaching materials explore each SDG from an individual, local, national and global perspective. The lessons books are available to schools across New Zealand.

Universal Roman Orthography workshop



The National Commission provided funding for a Universal Roman Orthography for Indentured Hindustani Languages workshop held in Auckland. The purpose of the May workshop was to create a Fiji Hindi script that will allow information to be conveyed to the community in their own language (Fiji Hindi). The script will help the community better understand, for example, what to do during COVID-19, and the importance of getting vaccinated. Workshop activities also enhanced intergenerational communication and storytelling.

A mix of youth and elders, a mix of genders, representatives from the different religious groups (Christian, Hindu, Muslim), and a mix of people from the different geographical locations in Fiji ensured the workshop was a great success.

Ngā piringa huriao | International Connections:

Bringing Aotearoa to the world and the world to Aotearoa



As we entered the second year of the pandemic we continued on with our 'new reality' of virtual meetings and conferences taking the place of face-to-face meetings with our international counterparts.

Virtually - we presented, listened, provided feedback, learned and showcased our knowledge on the international stage, ensuring Aotearoa New Zealand had a voice globally and has access to the best that UNESCO had to offer in 2021.

New Aotearoa New Zealand Ambassador to UNESCO

The new Aotearoa New Zealand Permanent Delegate (Ambassador) to UNESCO, Ms Nikki Reid, presented her credentials to the UNESCO Director General in March. The presentation of credentials provides an opportunity to discuss areas of interest from a New Zealand perspective and to hear about the Director General's priorities. Issues covered included: media information literacy, including the Christchurch Call and the distribution of information; indigenous languages and ocean science.

Working with our colleagues in Paris

In May 2021 Chair Robyn Baker together with Ambassador Nikki Reid and Saara Marchadour from the NZ Embassy Paris called on UNESCO (virtually) to discuss the General Conference and the National Commission's broader priorities. Among the valuable conversations that took place we spoke with:

- Nigel Crawhall (Chief of Section, LINKS Programme) in relation to the Oceans Decade and the role we could play in supporting increased indigenous knowledge in the work of the Decade and more broadly increased input from indigenous people into decision-making.
- Imgarda Kasinskaite (Programme Specialist, Section for Universal Access to Information, The Communication and Information Sector) focusing on the upcoming Decade of Indigenous Languages.
- The International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to discuss the priorities of the Decade and the need to create a united platform for Member States to address the challenges facing the ocean.



Working with our Pacific neighbours

In July we attended the fourth (virtual) Consultation of Pacific National Commissions, led by the UNESCO Apia Office. In addition to National Commissions the meeting was also attended by officials from the National Commission Field office in Paris. The consultation was held to gather Pacific input to the development of UNESCO's Draft Medium-term Strategic Plan, which was adopted at the 41st General Conference in late 2021.

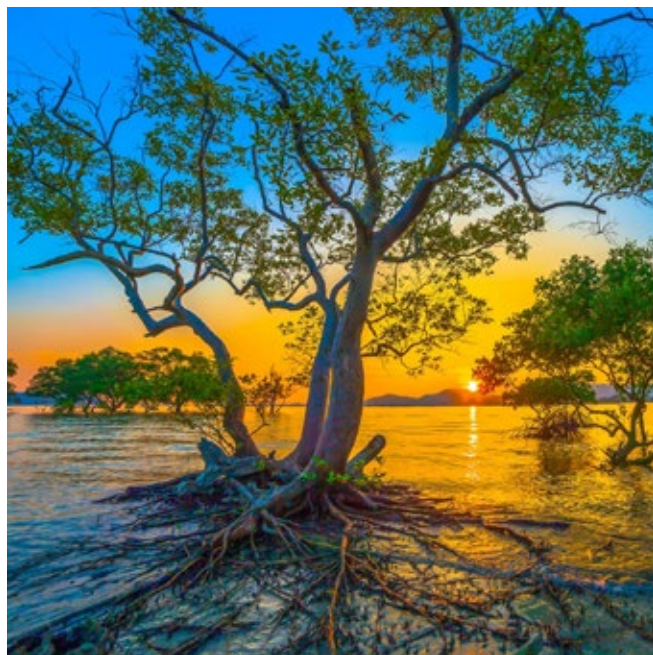
In October we took part (virtually) in the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Dialogues Series on Disaster Risk Reduction. A highlight was a discussion of our work, including our Looking Beyond Disaster Toolkit.



In late 2021 we met with The Pacific Community and the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science to discuss collaborating with the Pacific in the 2022 Virtual Ocean Labs.

Celebrating International and World Days

Celebrating UN International Days and UNESCO World days provides us with an opportunity to showcase the many different facets of work that UNESCO embodies. In 2021 we continued to utilise our social platforms to showcase those days that directly impact us in Aotearoa New Zealand, and to highlight how we contribute to the essence of those days through the initiatives we fund and the work we are undertaking in our priority areas.



Ō Mātou Kaikōmihana | Our Commissioners

The National Commission Chair and five Commissioners guide and oversee our strategy and work programme. Each is a specialist in at least one area of UNESCO's mandate, and provides expert advice on the work. We asked each Commissioner to share their thoughts on working with the Commission and the importance of collaboration to achieving UNESCO's mandate and mission.



Dr Daniel Hikuroa,
Culture Commissioner

What ultimately motivates and inspires me as Culture Commissioner is the vision - peace through dialogue. In undertaking our role as a commission, I'm inspired by how our efforts can catalyse into action and activity.

As Research Director at Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga (New Zealand Māori Centre of Research Excellence) I worked largely within and for Māori communities. I'm currently working in the Māori Studies Department (Auckland University) and also serve on a few Māori and whakapapa based boards and advisories. That personal and professional experience combined means I am comfortable thinking and talking about things from both a scientific perspective and from a Māori perspective. I am a Māori voice that can reflect a diversity of the Māori voices and opinions I have heard out there.

I want to make UNESCO's mandate and mission more widely known among hapu Māori and Māori communities. And in reverse, I want to ensure that Māori views, knowledge and aspirations inform and contribute to the work of the Commission. And I can see that happening with, for example, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable

Development. Indigenous knowledge is playing a considerable role in how we're doing things, how we've set up our national committee and in the practical manifestation of our new website Te Tini a Tangaroa.

Being a part of a team of people with similar motivations and values is inspiring. But that they all have different skillsets to mine is also important. There is a magic that happens when we bring together our collective thinking, ideas, solutions and wisdom to realise UNESCO's vision. And it's not that we have to agree on everything; in fact, variety and having variable opinions on things is part of the richness. It's the way we bring that diversity and variation on ideas to the table that is the important and rewarding part.



Vanisa Dhiru MNZM,
Communication and
Information Commissioner

My motivation as Communication and Information Commissioner is being able to bring UNESCO and its work to Aotearoa and to showcase the unique and inspirational work we are doing here in Aotearoa — in line with UNESCO's mission and mandate - to UNESCO, and its global whānau.

It is a privilege to be able to meet and work with such a diverse group of people. We all have a lot that we can bring to the table, and a multitude of lenses that we can shine on the work we do.

We are strengthened as a group by the different skills that we contribute. I can contribute the skills I have gained from my career within the community sector (including my time as Chief Executive of VolunteeringNZ and Executive Director of the 20/20 Trust) in particular, community networks and knowledge of digital equity.

A highlight for me this year was seeing Whanganui become a UNESCO City of Design, through providing support for their application.

It's rewarding to know that we can help the people of Aotearoa see the power and importance of being connected to UNESCO globally. As individuals we can bring UNESCO to parts of Aotearoa but as a group, we reach much larger and diverse audiences.



**Emeritus Professor Tagaloatele
Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop CNZM,
Social and Human
Sciences Commissioner**

What stands out to me and motivates me in my role as Social Sciences Commissioner is UNESCO's integrated approach. UNESCO asks the questions consistently that other agencies don't seem to ask. It brings challenging questions to the forefront. What other organisation has an International Philosophy Day?

Working within the Education sector in my role as Auckland University of Technology's inaugural Professor of Pacific Studies, I often work alone or with my students. What I enjoy about working together with the other commissioners is a really good, healthy debate. We don't always agree but we all enjoy and benefit from having a good cross-sectional, informed debate. It pushes you to think a lot more deeply and widely on the issues. It makes life interesting and enables development. It has refined my thinking and added depth.

The world today is totally different, it has made us all need to be more on the ball in terms of clear and straightforward thinking. As a National Commission, and in particular as a group of Commissioners, we are becoming smarter at working and getting things done in this new and constantly changing world. Rather than circling around issues we are working cohesively on providing solutions and advancing UNESCO's mandate.



**Dr Geoff Hicks,
Science Commissioner**

All of my fellow Commissioners bring an exceptional depth and range of national and international connections to the table. Because we support each other, we can tap into those connections and that brings a richness to what we can achieve. For example, for 20 years I have been on the World Cultural Council which awards the Albert Einstein World Award of Science. There are around 160 people globally on that one committee. Also, as Emeritus Research Associate with Landcare I have access to scientists, research, libraries and agencies connected to land care research.

I've spent more than 40 years working in biological research, science management and funding. As Science Commissioner I am comfortable working and communicating with Government, Ministers and related agencies, and can help ensure decisions we make around funding are fair, reasonable and supported by good information.

Before joining the Commission in 2016 I had worked with the Department of Conservation and at Te Papa. At Te Papa I had been working on a series of natural environment exhibitions that provided a great opportunity to advance understanding, interpretation and communication about what science is and what it can do for you. And that's very important – being able to help the public understand the big issues of the day (like climate change) and to understand and engage with UNESCO's work on those issues.



**Professor Carol Mutch,
Education Commissioner**

My motivation and inspiration as Education Commissioner echoes my first career as a teacher. The concept of social justice and making a difference drives everything I do. It's what motivated me to go on to do more qualifications to look at how the education system works: how does it advantage some and not others, and how can we make sure that the people on the margins get a chance to shine?

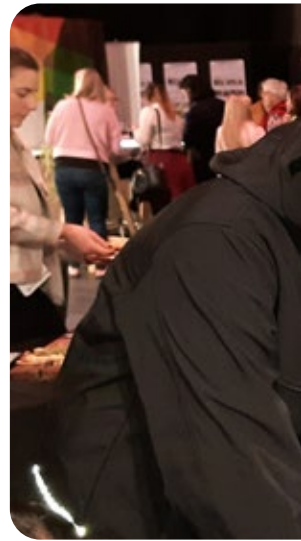
For the last 10 years I've been looking at the role that schools play in extraordinary times. During COVID-19 our schools have really stepped up; aside from managing safe classroom settings, many have been preparing food parcels, feeding the community, and checking on families' wellbeing. Schools are about so much more than just teaching and learning - they are part of the social fabric of a community. So, as Commissioner I bring not just a policy, curriculum and achievement perspective to my role, but another lens that looks at how schooling and education can contribute to a cohesive society.

UNESCO's mandate is a fairer, more just and more peaceful world. If we're teaching our young people to be empathetic, responsive and critical thinkers, they'll hopefully go on to play a part in the lives of their families, communities, our nation and out in the wider world.

Each Commissioner has a passion that drives them, and when we sit around the table together, we bring our own unique perspectives and expertise. I'm there to advocate for the education sector, but my perspective becomes so much richer from listening to others, whether it's Dan's cultural perspective, Peggy's social sciences perspective, Vanisa's communications view, or Geoff's science lens. What a privilege to sit around a table where people bring their experience and expertise but, more importantly, the sum of what we bring is greater than the parts.

Manukura Mātātahi | UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders

While once again the pandemic meant that our UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders were unable to participate in face-to-face international activities, our Youth Leaders were still able to share their skills and knowledge at a number of local events and initiatives, as well as contributing to a number of global initiatives via virtual platforms.



Festival for the Future



In July, our UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders joined future-focused people from around New Zealand (and a global virtual audience) at Festival for the Future in Wellington.

Festival for the Future is New Zealand's largest social innovation summit. It is a fusion of inspiring speakers, workshops, entertainment and includes a festival marketplace activation space for social innovation.

The National Commission was involved in the Festival in a variety of ways including as a bronze sponsor; providing three youth scholarships to the Festival; a booth in the marketplace run by our UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders; and hosting a workshop to improve awareness of the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

For the UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders, the Festival provided inspiration, new connections, and an opportunity to showcase their mahi as Youth Leaders.

"Being able to share the importance of kaitiakitanga at Festival for the Future this year was definitely a highlight for me,"

"It was so encouraging to see, hear and meet so many people not only from Aotearoa New Zealand but people from all over the world taking a stance against climate injustice & promoting the use of indigenous knowledge/science to help create sustainable futures," said UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leader Blair Kapa-Peters.

Supporting the Decade of Ocean Science



From having the audience on the edge of their seat at the Decade of Ocean Science launch, to providing a youth perspective on the Decade Committee to sharing words of wisdom during Seaweeek, our youth leaders have taken a frontline role in helping to promote the Decade of Ocean Science in 2021.

In June Anne-Sophie Pagé presented an extraordinary spoken word centred on her passion for the Albatross, which captured the hearts of every member of the audience at the Decade of Ocean Science launch.

Deputy Chair Ethan Jerome-Leota represented youth on the Ocean Decade Committee providing a value perspective.



Supporting our grants



Sabina Mānu attended The Dawn Raids – Educate to Liberate exhibition opening night in February in Auckland. Documenting the courageous activities of the Polynesian Panthers and their fight for social justice, The Dawn Raids – Educate to Liberate highlights and acknowledges the groups place in the social and cultural history of Aotearoa.

"I was very appreciative of the opportunity to be included in an event that recognises a historical moment in both my family and community's lives," said Sabrina.

The exhibition was part of the Polynesian Panther's 50th anniversary celebrations, which we had supported with a grant.

Chair, Shahin Najak attended the Race Unity Hui and Speech Awards. The Race Unity Hui brought together youth from all over Aotearoa to listen to one another, share their views and build a common vision for the future of race relations in Aotearoa. Shahin mc'ed the Hui with a representative from the Children's Commission.

"The day held many tough conversations, but the youth present handled it beautifully and showcased strong leadership in dealing with race and injustice within New Zealand," said Shahin.

Farewell and Thank you

As 2021 came to an end, so did the tenure of six of our youth leaders: Anne-Sophie Pagé, Brodie Cross, Blair Kapa-Peters, Naheed Saeid, Bella Simpson and Shahin Najak. It has been an honour to work alongside these outstanding young people over the past two years. Each youth leader has brought a unique and valuable perspective to the table, which in turn has strengthened our work at the Commission.

Anne-Sophie Pagé

We appreciate Anne-Sophie's contributions at the 1.5 degrees live event in Christchurch, to the Ocean reference group, at the virtual Ocean Summit, and at the UN Decade for Ocean Science launch event at parliament.

"I have really valued the speaking opportunities and having a seat at the table with the opportunity to voice ideas on the work the commission is involved with."



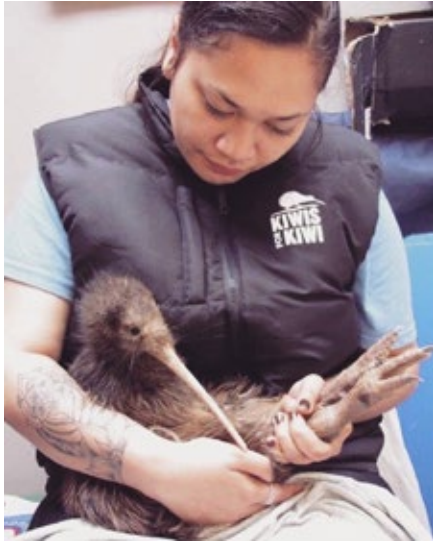
Brodie Cross

We appreciate Brodie's contribution to the youth leader video, at the Environmental Protection Agency's Te Herenga Hui, his work on the SDG's, and his perspectives on Te Reo Māori and disability issues.

"I enjoyed the community engagement aspects of the role and being able to showcase to the Commission the reality of working with someone with a disability."

continued on next page

Blair Kapa-Peters



We appreciate Blair's contributions at Festival for the Future, to our youth leader video, in presenting on the Ocean Science Decade through the lens of indigenous knowledge, and at the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development.

"Meeting all the youth leaders was my biggest highlight. So many awesome people with great minds and positive aspirations for themselves, their families and their communities".

Naheed Saeid



We appreciate Naheed's contributions at Festival for the Future, and other key National Commission events, and the unique perspective she provided to the Commissions' work.

"A highlight of my time was getting to work with, quite literally, the leaders of our future. It has been amazing and incredibly humbling getting to know and work alongside some amazing people, all with such varied passions but a common goal of wanting to make the world an infinitely better place".

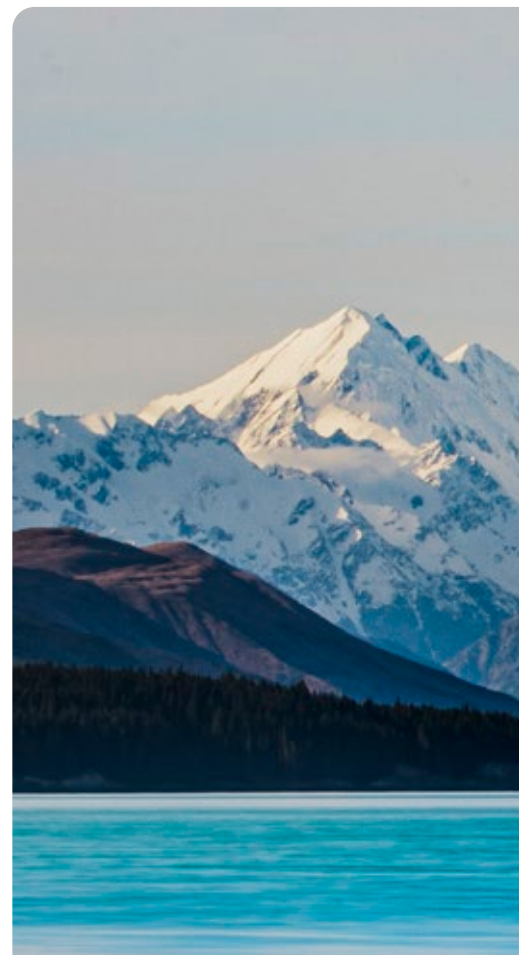
Bella Simpson



We appreciate Bella's contribution at Festival for the Future, and the many other events she attended, as well as her perspectives on the LGBTQIA+ issues.

Bella enjoyed her time at UNICEF's Rangatahi Wānanga in Rotorua, a youth gathering aimed to empower rangatahi voices, increase their advocacy skills, and enhance their abilities to express their views.

"I was immersed in a world of Te Reo and knowledge that was completely different to anything I had experienced in the past. It was a real honour to be there."



Our heartfelt thanks



The National Commission sincerely thanks outgoing Chair, Shahin Najak who joined us in 2019 and has been a valuable, insightful and dedicated Special Advisor Youth.

Shahin has represented New Zealand youth in forums such as the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) #KindnessMatters Launch in New Delhi in 2019. She also co-mc'd the National Race Unity Hui in 2021 and was New Zealand's representative at the 12th UNESCO Youth Forum.

She is thoughtful, inclusive and strategic in the contributions she has made internationally and domestically.

During the 2019 Youth Diversity Forum in Christchurch, Shahin led the Declaration Committee – a team of youth participants harvesting the key messages from the forum that later contributed to New Zealand's position at the 11th UNESCO Youth Forum and discussions at the 40th UNESCO General Conference.

She has balanced these responsibilities while completing a conjoint Bachelor of Science and Commerce at Auckland University, other professional roles such as interning with the NZ China Council and supporting her community through efforts such as a youth led vaccine drive in Tamaki Makaurau.

Thank you for your invaluable contribution Shahin.



Te Hui Taumata a UNESCO | 41st UNESCO General Conference



The 41st UNESCO General Conference was held in Paris in November 2021. In spite of the continued COVID-19 pandemic, the Conference was held in presentia at UNESCO Headquarters, which meant many smaller Member States – including many in the Pacific – were unable to participate fully. Unable to travel to Paris, the National Commission supported New Zealand's participation from Wellington, preparing briefings, observing the proceedings online, and meeting virtually with Pacific delegates and our Paris-based colleagues.

The delegation of two Paris-based representatives, Permanent Delegate Nikki Reid and Deputy Permanent Delegate Saara Marchadour, covered numerous sessions of the Conference.

New Zealand's plenary statement was delivered to the General Conference on the third day, reinforcing the importance of multilateralism in these challenging times and the importance that we place, here in Aotearoa, on weaving knowledge systems (such as mātauranga Māori and mainstream science) together.



"The integration of indigenous knowledge into our work ensures that a diversity of thought guides and informs UNESCO activities and programmes. The world is rich with ways of understanding. New Zealand encourages UNESCO to leverage the collective expertise of indigenous knowledge across the globe, which will enhance the quality and sustainability of its work, to achieve better outcomes for generations to come."

Member States adopted two landmark Recommendations at the Conference – the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and the Recommendation on Open Science. Both were adopted by consensus after significant debate.

The Cook Islands was elected to the UNESCO Executive Board for a four-year term, the first Member State from the Pacific to successfully stand since 2015. Their membership will ensure the Pacific is visible in decisions by UNESCO.

Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO

Due to COVID-19 delays, two annual Interregional Meetings of National Commissions took place in 2021. The first, the 7th Interregional Meeting was due to be held in Lugano, Switzerland in 2020 but was deferred to February 2021 and held virtually. We were pleased to be in attendance to express our views on the below meeting objectives.

- to contribute to the ongoing elaboration process of the next Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 and the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022-2025 of UNESCO.
- to exchange on the role of the National Commissions for UNESCO.
- to share experiences on actions undertaken or initiatives planned by the National Commissions, as well as projects that are part of the response to COVID-19, the enhancement of the 2030 Agenda, or the challenges and opportunities of digitalisation.

The 8th interregional meeting of National Commissions took place in hybrid form in November ahead of the 41st General Conference. As we were not in attendance in Paris, we attended this meeting virtually. The proceedings included discussions on responses to the pandemic, the important role of multilateralism and the many ways the National Commission of member states can support the work of UNESCO internationally as well as within their respective countries.

He Maimai Aroha | Condolences



Inge Woolf, Co-founder QSO Holocaust Centre of New Zealand

The National Commission acknowledges the sad passing of Inge Woolf in 2021. Born in Austria in 1934, Inge was a child survivor of the Holocaust. She and her family arrived in New Zealand in 1957, rebuilding their lives after the horrors of World War Two.

Inge was passionate about educating New Zealand students on the lessons of the Holocaust and determined that its lessons should not be forgotten. Outspoken on issues of hatred, intolerance and antisemitism she was a human rights champion of open dialogue and diversity.

In 2007 Inge co-founded the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand, an organisation that “inspires and empowers action against antisemitism, discrimination, and apathy, by remembering, educating, and bearing witness to the Holocaust”.

A recipient of the Queen’s Service Order for Community Service, she was as recently as 2019 nominated in New Zealand’s Women of Influence Awards.

The National Commission Secretariat benefitted from Inge’s support, intelligence, kindness and wisdom in so many ways, and she will be sorely missed.



Polikalepo Kefu, Human rights activist

The National Commission acknowledges the sad passing of Tongan human rights activist Polikalepo (Poli) Kefu.

The Secretariat collaborated with Poli during the 2011 Christchurch Looking Beyond Disaster UNESCO Youth Forum, which brought together youth from across Asia and the Pacific who had experienced natural disasters.

Poli was an inspirational advocate who worked tirelessly on a wide range of human rights issues, and gender equality and LGBTQI rights in particular. He served as chairman of the Pacific Protection Gender Inclusion Network, and as Communications Officer for the Tonga Red Cross Society.

The Secretariat will fondly remember Poli’s ability to light up a room, and his generosity in sharing his knowledge and wisdom.



Ross McRobie, Chair, Waitaki Whitestone Aspiring Global Geopark

The National Commission acknowledges the sad passing of Ross McRobie, Chair of the Waitaki Whitestone Aspiring Global Geopark Trust.

A Waitaki District Councillor since 2019, Ross McRobie was elected as Chair of the Waitaki Geopark Trust Board in September 2021. Sadly, he passed away in December after a short illness. Ross was a staunch champion of Waitaki’s bid to become a UNESCO Global Geopark network member, and a passionate ambassador for the whole region.

The New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO

Chair:

Robyn Baker ONZM

Communication and Information:

Vanisa Dhiru MNZM

Culture:

Dr Daniel Hikuroa

Natural Sciences:

Dr Geoff Hicks

Education:

Professor Carol Mutch

Social and Human Sciences:

Emeritus Professor Tagaloatele Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop CNZM

Special Advisor Youth:

Shahin Najak

Secretariat — Ministry of Education

Secretary General:

Vicki Soanes

Senior Advisor:

Zuleika Chang

Advisor:

Silke Bieda

Communications Advisor:

Gabi Tankersley

Senior Support Officer:

Charlene Platen

UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders

Shahin Najak (Chair)

Ethan Jerome-Leota (Deputy-Chair)

Anne-Sophie Pagé

Bella Simpson

Blair Kapa-Peters

Brodie Cross

Naheed Saeid

Raiyan Azmi

Sabrina Manū

Sondos Quraan

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Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO