

Ako Aotearoa Southern Regional Forum

22 March 2024 | Dunedin



Tūhono: Connecting Traditions and
Futures in Tertiary Learning

Nā āheitanga ā-mātauranga,
ko angitū ā-ākonga
Building educational capability
for learner success

Ako
AOTEAROA

Welcome

Tihei mauri ora!

Haere mai te manuhiri, haere mai

Haere mai te manuhiri, haere mai

Nō runga te manuhiri, nō raro te manuhiri

Nō te tī, nō te tā, hei hā!

Haere mai rā ki runga o Ōtākou, ki raro rā hoki i te maru o Aoraki

Haere mai rā ki tēnei hui whakawhitiwhiti mātauranga ā Ako Aotearoa

Tangihia hoki rā ngā mate o te wā

Tihei mauri mate, tihei mauri ora!

On behalf of Ako Aotearoa, we are delighted to welcome you to the 2024 Southern Regional Forum. After our successful round of Regional Forums in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch last year, we are excited to kick-off this year's round in Ōtepoti, Dunedin.

The purpose of the 2023 Forums was to reconnect people across the tertiary sector after long periods of lockdowns and isolation due to Covid-19. We were delighted to hear how attendees appreciated this opportunity to reconnect and explore promising possibilities and new ideas together to support regional and local activities. We hope to inspire the same reconnection and collaboration in our 2024 Forums.

The 2024 theme - Tūhono: Connecting Traditions and Futures in Tertiary Learning – was developed from three key areas which are at the heart of Ako Aotearoa's mahi:

- **Cultivating excellent tertiary teaching** through teaching methodologies, pedagogical approaches and assessment strategies that are innovative and inclusive. This results in a vibrant learning environment that uses cutting edge technology suitable for today's learners.
- **Making links between teaching and learner success (Ōritetanga)** by placing success of learners at the heart. We must consider their cultural, emotional, and academic needs to give them a sense of belonging and empowerment.
- **Embracing Te Tiriti o Waitangi** by embedding Māori perspectives, language and values in curricula and campus activities. This means that tradition and innovation are balanced, and collaboration with Māori communities means that indigenous knowledge is incorporated.

Thank you once again for joining us today. We hope you find inspiration, learn something new, and make meaningful connections throughout the day.

Nāku noa, nā,



Helen Lomax
Tumuaki | Director



Jennifer Leahy
Southern Hub Sector
Services Manager

Programme

Note: This programme is subject to change

Time	Action
8.45	Networking Tea/Coffee
9.00	Dr Joe Te Rito , Ako Aotearoa Mihi Whakatau with karakia and waiata
9.10	Tai Samaeli (MC) , ACE Aotearoa Housekeeping, Programme Outline and Whakawhanaungatanga
9.20	Jennifer Leahy , Ako Aotearoa Introductions to Helen Lomax and Ako Aotearoa Staff
9.30	Helen Lomax , Ako Aotearoa; Derek McCormack , Ako Aotearoa Board Co-Chair Overview and update on Ako Aotearoa NCTTE priorities for 2023–2026
10.10	Janine Kapa , Pounuku Tiriti, Academic Lead, Te Pūkenga Tū mai te Tiriti – Upholding the Treaty in Tertiary Education
10.30	Kōrero/Talanoa at tables This is a dedicated and deliberate space founded on Māori and Pacific pedagogy. These sessions are designed to reflect deeply on key learning, identify professional development needs, ask questions, share insights, and encourage action planning both in our work and communities.
10.40	Morning Tea – Te Paramanawa o te Ata
10.55	Neihana Matiu , Te Wānanga o Aotearoa He takapau mātauranga, he whānau huarewa – Tertiary education underpinned by Māori culture and values
11.15	Kōrero/Talanoa at tables
11.25	Janet de Wagt , Community Educator and Artist Making a mark together
11.40	ACE in the South Panel – Chaired by Jennifer Leahy, Ako Aotearoa <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mark Doyle, Literacy Aotearoa Dunedin• Emma McLean, Central Otago REAP• Heidi Renata, INNOV8HQ• Mary Geary, Invercargill/Dunedin Workers' Educational Association

Time	Action
12.00	Richard Fogarty , The Tarn Group; Michael Grawe , Pathways Awarua Bracken – An online learning management system made in Dunedin
12.20	Annette van Lamoen , Ako Aotearoa Cultivating excellence: How Tapatoru is breaking new ground
12.35	Lunch – Tina
1.15	Info on follow-up sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Claire Goode, Otago Polytechnic – The Keys to Teaching Excellence (Register now for the free follow-up session on 12 April) • Rachel van Gorp and Dr Stella Lange, Otago Polytechnic – Neuroabilities Symposium 2025 • Dr Marvin Wu, Ako Aotearoa – Ako Aotearoa Research and Innovation Agenda (AARIA) Fund Information Session 2024 • Ruth Peterson, Ako Aotearoa – Finding the Flourishing: An update on the 2023 Forum Working Group
1.35	Dr Lisa Russell, Dr Kim Watson and Dr Keith King (CELS191 Teaching Team) , University of Otago Transitions in teaching and learning (Introduced by Karyn Paringatai, University of Otago)
1.55	Pasifika Values Panel – Chaired by Pale Sauni, Ako Aotearoa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrick Vakaoti, University of Otago • Sia Lei-Mata’afa, University of Otago • Patricia Quensell, Otago Polytechnic
2.15	Kōrero/Talanoa at tables
2.25	Dr Joe Te Rito , Ako Aotearoa Ako Aotearoa Mātauranga Māori programmes
2.35	“PTE Chat” – Chaired by Norman Roos, Skillsec <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nadia and Pauline Steedman, Front-Line Training Consultancy Invercargill • Virginia Watson, Dive Otago
2.55	Afternoon Tea – Te Paramanawa o te Ahiahi
3.05	Janet de Wagt , Community Educator and Artist Completion of ‘Making a mark together’ activity

Time	Action
3.25	Graeme Smith , Education Consultant, Ako Aotearoa Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology AI (Video presentation introduced by Graeme Read, Ako Aotearoa)
3.45	Hannah Pia Baral , ACE Aotearoa Reflections of the day
4.05	Tai Samaeli , ACE Aotearoa Mihi Whakamutunga, impacts from the day and closing comments
4.25	Dr Joe Te Rito , Ako Aotearoa Karakia Whakamutunga
4.30	Finish

Photographic Services

Nate Lachmann will be taking photographs throughout the Forum. These photographs will appear on the website and may be used in publicity materials. If you do not wish to have your photograph taken, please let Nate know.

Special thanks to The Tarn Group for sponsoring the 2024 Southern Regional Forum



www.bracken.cloud



www.pathwaysawarua.com

Special thanks to ACE Aotearoa for supporting this event



www.aceaotearoa.org.nz

Southern Regional Forum presenters



Annette van Lamoen

Annette has a rich background in teaching Literacy, Language and Numeracy (LLN) and providing professional development to educators. She was a Teaching Fellow at the University of Waikato, where she lectured and tutored in adult literacy education and dyslexia. She was the Manager of New Zealand's National Centre of Literacy and Numeracy for Adults and is now a member of Ako Aotearoa's Manako team. She is passionate about supporting educators and, by extension, their learners.

annette.vanlamoen@ako.ac.nz



Dr Claire Goode

Claire is a member of Otago Polytechnic's Learning and Teaching Development team, Te Ama Ako. She works alongside academic staff across the College of Health to build their capabilities in multiple aspects of pedagogical practice. This role brings together skills, knowledge, and practice acquired throughout more than 25 years in a variety of education contexts in NZ, France, and the UK.

Claire is particularly interested in teacher development and the scholarship of teaching and learning. She also enjoys seeing how educational technology can enhance the learning experience of different students, while opening many teachers' eyes to new opportunities.

Claire.Goode@op.ac.nz



CELS teaching team – Dr Lisa Russell, Dr Kim Watson and Dr Keith King

The CELS teaching team plays a vital role in the delivery of CELS191, a large paper 2,000 enrolled students. As a component of the Health Science First-Year programme and prerequisite for various science degrees, CELS191 plays a vital role in shaping the academic journey of approximately 45% of Otago first-year students.

While they provide exceptional academic support, a primary emphasis lies in facilitating smooth transitions. The most prevalent transition involves students moving from high school to university, but they also consider transitions such as mature students returning to education, or individuals relocating to Otago. They also aid senior students in transitioning into teaching roles where they play pivotal roles in assisting our students.

While diverse transitions necessitate tailored support, a common theme underscores their approach: fostering a sense of community, cultivating safe and inclusive learning environments, and provision of comprehensive resources to support all individuals throughout their journeys.

lisa.russell@otago.ac.nz



Derek McCormack

Derek began his tertiary career as a Biochemistry teacher at Otago University, and then Otago Polytechnic. He then took on the role as National Leader of Association of Staff in Tertiary Education, one of the two education unions that later combined to create the current Tertiary Education Union. Moving then into education management, Derek contributed to the transformation of the Auckland Institute of Technology to Auckland University of Technology, becoming its Vice Chancellor in 2004. For the next 18 years, he led the advance of the new university into a major contributor of excellence and equity in higher education.

Derek has served on numerous governance and advisory boards, often as Chair, from institutional Academic Boards and Councils to national bodies such as the Authority for Advanced Vocational Awards, New Zealand Qualifications Authority, the Committee on University Academic Programmes, and Universities New Zealand, as well as various community and private education boards.



Emma McLean

Emma McLean has been involved in education throughout all her working life, both in NZ and overseas. She feels fortunate to be presently working at Central Otago Rural Education Activities Programme (REAP) to meet the educational needs of many in the rural environment.

Central Otago REAP runs a range of TEC-funded ACE programmes throughout West Otago, Central Otago, and the Upper Clutha. They work across all sectors of the community, from early childhood to the aged, providing educational opportunities not provided by mainstream education in the rural sector.

Emma's role at REAP varies from organising ACE courses to being responsible for the Quality Management Systems. Her main role is tutoring 'Choices', an intensive literacy and numeracy programme based in Alexandra. This programme supports second-chance learners to gain the skills to participate more confidently in everyday life and re-enter education or work.

emma@coreap.org.nz



Graeme Read

Graeme is the Manako (Adult Language, Literacy, Numeracy and Cultural Capability) Programme Manager for Ako Aotearoa, and was previously the Central Hub Sector Services Manager. He has been active in the tertiary education sector for 15 years, including teaching roles from foundation through to degree levels. In 2016, he received his Master's Degree in Adult Literacy and Numeracy Education. Graeme welcomes the opportunity to meet and discuss how Ako Aotearoa can collaborate with your organisation on their language, literacy, numeracy and cultural capability needs.

graeme.read@ako.ac.nz



Graeme Smith

Graeme Smith is a Professional Learning and Development Consultant with Ako Aotearoa's Manako team. He specialises in integrating effective practice including cultural values into educational frameworks, contributing significantly to innovative programs like the Tapatoru Programme. Under Graeme's guidance, this initiative weaves Māori and Pacific cultural values into education capability building, promoting inclusivity and learner-centric approaches.

Known for his dynamic teaching style and deep understanding of educational trends, Graeme excels in transforming complex ideas into actionable strategies for educators. His leadership and insights continue to shape the evolving landscape of tertiary education in Aotearoa New Zealand. As well as his work for Ako Aotearoa, Graeme writes about education, music, artificial intelligence and other interests on his blog.

graeme.smith@ako.ac.nz



Hannah Pia Baral

Hannah was born in the Philippines and immigrated to New Zealand the late 80's. Since earning a BA in English and Politics and an MA in Politics from the University of Auckland, her career path has seen her take on a variety of leadership roles in the health and education sectors in both New Zealand and Australia. During her 14 years in Australia, she also earned her MBA from the University of Newcastle, and held volunteer roles with a number LGBTIQ+ organisations, including a board position and expert advisory roles.

Hannah has a wealth of adult education sector experience and has gained recognition for her exceptional skills in transforming and modernising organisations, spearheading strategic change, successfully collaborating with government agencies and funders, and growing strong workplace cultures. It is with great excitement that she returns to New Zealand

and ACE Aotearoa, to continue supporting a sector she is very passionate about.

hannah.baral@aceaotearoa.org.nz



Heidi Renata

Heidi is the Founder and Chief Energy Officer of INNOV8HQ, and popular motivational speaker whose illustrious career spans over 25 years, with 13 years at the forefront of technology in the ICT sector. She was named Otago Daily Times Business Leader of the Year in 2022 for her contribution to enterprise and rangatahi, and in 2023, her youth programme – ‘Mana Rangatahi’ won Programme of the Year – Tangata Whenua from ACE Aotearoa.

Her story as a Culturally Curious Wahinepreneur was inspired by her life journey, launching INNOV8HQ and developing a business model that innately reconnected Heidi to her Māoritanga and what it means for wahine Māori in business. This unique experience has formed the foundations for her business and personal life and she now works with indigenous communities, developing leaders and enterprises around the globe. Heidi is also an internationally accredited Life Coach and has been on a variety of Advisory panels for Tertiary Education, Government, including NZTA in tertiary for Māori, MBIE’s – RSLG panel for Otago and Industry partner for Education agencies, in addition to a diverse portfolio of governance roles.

heidi@innov8hq.com



Helen Lomax

Helen (Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki) is Director/Tumuaki of Ako Aotearoa, New Zealand’s National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence. Helen has been a judge for the Global Teaching Excellence Awards for Advance HE, United Kingdom. She has worked on projects for international quality peer review benchmarking with universities and institutes from New Zealand, Australia and Pacific countries including Samoa, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea. She is a member of the Australasian Standards Advisory Board for Advance HE which provides strategic advice to help meet the needs of members and partners across Australasia.

For the Tertiary Education Commission, Helen led programmes for priority learner groups, literacy and numeracy, and funding for centres of research excellence. Helen previously worked as a consultant for projects on Māori business development, developing human capabilities, industry learner reps, work-based learning, and women in trades.

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Janet de Wagt

Janet is a renowned Dunedin-based artist with a passion for community art. She has been involved in community arts for over 40 years and has facilitated hundreds of initiatives in partnership with a wide variety of community groups all around the world. Janet regularly exhibits her work as an en plein air landscape painter and is known for her environmental concerns.

She has held numerous artist residencies and is heavily involved with teaching and promoting art and painting throughout the region. She is currently Artist in Residence at Bathgate Park Primary School in Dunedin, working with all classes to support school themes and reinforce classroom learning. Janet firmly believes that creativity enables children to more deeply understand the world around them, and helps them develop the abilities necessary to adapt, change and respond to the challenges the future holds.



Janine Kapa

Janine (Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha) is the Pounuku Tiriti for the Academic Centre and Learning Systems (ACLS) Group at Te Pūkenga. In this role, Janine leads the integration and implementation of Te Pae Tawhiti, Te Tiriti o Waitangi Excellence Framework, for ACLS and is also part of the integrated team in the Tiriti Outcomes Group.

Janine has been passionately involved in Māori education for over 30 years – in the compulsory and tertiary sectors; from the classroom to the board room; locally, regionally, and nationally. With a background in social research, project management, communications and strategic development, Janine co-founded Kia Māia Bicultural Communications in 1999, and has held Māori leadership roles at Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (2003–2005), the University of Otago (2007–2017) and Otago Polytechnic (2017–2022). Aoraki matatū!

janine.kapa@tepukenga.ac.nz



Jennifer Leahy

Jennifer has extensive experience and skills in the research and facilitation of training and education programmes and has represented Adult and Community Education on our Southern Region Hub Advisory Group for many years. She facilitates the Adult and Community Education (ACE) Ōtautahi CoP, which meets face-to-face every six weeks at various ACE venues around the Christchurch. The group enjoy networking and keeping up to date with ACE and Ako Aotearoa news.

jennifer.leahy@ako.ac.nz



Dr Joe Te Rito

Joe's lifelong commitment to Māori language revitalization, research, and community engagement has left a legacy in New Zealand's educational landscape. Prior to his current role at Ako Aotearoa, Joe held the position of Kaihautū Tikanga (Senior Research Fellow – Tikanga and Reo) at Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga until December 2015. In this role, he provided guidance in tikanga Māori (Māori customs and protocols), te reo Māori (Māori language), and community/iwi relationships.

He headed Māori Studies at EIT for 17 years where his commitment to language preservation led him to become the founder and current Chair of Radio Kahungunu, a Māori radio station that has been broadcasting since 1988. Dr. Te Rito was part of the original group that took the Māori Language Petition to Parliament in 1972.

Joseph.TeRito@ako.ac.nz



Karyn Paringatai

Karyn is an Associate Professor based in Te Tumu – School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies at the University of Otago. She teaches primarily in the areas of Māori language, Māori performing arts and Indigenous notions of identity and belonging. She was the recipient of the Prime Minister's Supreme Award for Tertiary Teaching Excellence in 2014.



Mark Doyle

Mark has been involved in the Education Sector since 1985, starting his career as a PE teacher in Christchurch. Over the years he has been involved in teaching, managing PTEs, operational and academic management with Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, mentoring and coaching, lecturing, and a spell at the Ministry of Education.

Mark is currently Regional Manager for two Literacy Aotearoa regions – Aoraki & Southern, covering Kaikoura to Bluff. Mark is at the forefront of Literacy Aotearoa and has also had a hand in helping the Pasifika community in Christchurch through the Tupu Aotearoa programme. These years of experience in the education sector has afforded Mark some interesting insights into what works - and what does not work - when it comes to delivery of education.

mdoyle.cm@literacy.ac.nz



Dr Marvin Hao Wu

Marvin oversees the Research and Innovation portfolio of Ako Aotearoa (AARIA), to ensure the effective strategic planning, decision making, and management of research projects, and contribute to team leadership and stakeholder relationship management (commenced May 2023). Since the successful launch of the AARIA Commissioning Funding Round in September 2023 with six new research projects being funded, Marvin and his team are working to implement the AARIA Contestable Funding Round in March 2024, with a preliminary budget of \$250,000.

Previously, Marvin held several roles with University of Auckland, including Research Programme Manager (Liggins Institute), Senior Research Programme Coordinator (Faculty of Medical and Health Science), Research Programme Coordinator (Faculty of Arts), with a strong background in research and portfolio management.

Marvin.Wu@ako.ac.nz



Mary Geary

Mary is a fabric artist teacher and the President of the Dunedin Workers Educational Association, Te Wāhi Akoranga o Ōtepoti (DWEA), reestablished in Dunedin in 2021. Mary has a passion for adult education, believing that learning is a lifelong process and a fundamental right of all people which enriches lives regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or social status. She has worked tirelessly to develop a comprehensive programme of DWEA courses, from te reo Māori and Māori raranga (weaving) courses, to slow cooking on a budget, and photography classes.

Having spent a lifetime working in a variety of education roles such as a teacher and principal, she recently retired from a senior role in the Ministry of Education. She has a degree in Teaching and Learning and prior to working at the Ministry, was a professional development facilitator for the University of Otago. She currently works as an adult education facilitator, training Adult Community Education providers.

marygeary08@gmail.com



Michael Grawe

Michael is an experienced educator, focussing on literacy and numeracy education. He is the Professional Learning Manager at Pathways Awarua and a Professional Learning and Development Consultant at Ako Aotearoa. With a Master's Degree in American Literature, Media Studies, and Teaching, he has dedicated over 20 years to the education sector, both in Aotearoa and abroad.

Having worked in various roles such as ESOL, as a Kaiako for Business & Computing, and Advisor for Literacy, Language and Numeracy, Michael has made significant contributions as a resource developer, facilitator, and presenter at conferences, showcasing his expertise and insights on effective literacy and numeracy instruction.

Passionate about learner success and whānau transformation through education, Michael understands the power of education in driving positive change and has been instrumental in supporting the professional development of educators and empowering learners to achieve their goals.

Michael@pathwaysawarua.com



Nadia Steedman

Nadia is a dedicated professional committed to empowering individuals through her role as Kaiwhakahaere Rauemi – Operations Manager, of Front-Line Training Consultancy Limited. Front-Line Training is in its 31st year and has for many years been the primary PTE in Waihōpai.

With a wealth of experience and expertise, she excels in creating and adapting programs to cultivate essential skills for success. Her passion for fostering growth and development in the workplace and training environment is evident in her approach, which consistently yields results. Known for her direct and effective implementation of new methodologies, Nadia is currently spearheading exciting initiatives that have the potential to revolutionise training to better meet the needs of rangatahi.



Nate Lachman

Nate Lachmann is an Otago-based photographer and filmmaker. His creative focus revolves around capturing the lively essence of people, nightlife, and adventure. His passion for visual storytelling started early with a love for video editing, allowing him to acquire a versatile set of skills. Over the years, he has collaborated with a diverse range of clients, including INJAmusic, Gregg's Coffee, Yeti Cycles, Otago Nuggets, and more, earning recognition and showcasing his work in prestigious venues. When he's not behind the camera, you'll find him exploring and travelling the world, amidst the party scene, or indulging in his love for analogue photography.

nate1dxmarkii@gmail.com



Neihana Matiu

He tanata whakapakeke ki Te Tai o Poutini, He tanata nō te kohu, He taura here tupuna ki te whenua, He taura here whakapapa e taea ai te kōrero.

Neihana is one of the National Programme Managers who provides a national perspective and oversight of the Reo Rumaki programmes offered at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Te Reo Māori and a Graduate Diploma in Secondary Teaching. He has worked in the education sector, from early childhood to tertiary, for over 15 years.

Neihana.Matiu@twoa.ac.nz



Norman Roos

Norman Roos is a country guy who grew up (mostly) in Millers Flat Central Otago. He is married to Leisa and has four mostly grown-up children.

Norman and Leisa spent 25 years in the shearing industry, employing up to 80 staff at their peak while owning and running a country pub and raising their family.

Currently they have a farm in Roxburgh, a pub in Millers Flat and own and operate Skillsec, an education training and employment business in Ōtepoti, where they now spend most of their time.



Pale Sauni

Pale is Ako Aotearoa's Pacific Priorities and Cultural Leader. He was born in Samoa and had all his formal education in New Zealand. He is a highly experienced workshop presenter and co-author of the 'Pacific Cultural Centredness Pathway' featured on Pathways Awarua. This online interactive tool provides practical ways to use specific Pacific values and principles, ethnically centred to safely approach seven Pacific community groups who live in Aotearoa: Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Fiji, Cook Islands and Niue. Pale uses humour, research, song, activities, and role-play to engage workshop participants and build their cultural capability.

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Patricia Quensell

Patricia is Cook Island Māori with a background in business management, career guidance, social services, and education. She has been employed at Otago Polytechnic as Team Leader for Student Support Services for the last 10 years.

Patricia oversees a comprehensive portfolio, including Student Advisory, Pastoral Support, Refugee Background Support, Homestay Accommodation Services, Counselling, Mental

Health Services, Accessibility Services, International Student Support, Careers Services, and Pasifika Student Support. Her passion lies in fostering a supportive and enriching environment for Pasifika learners, continually striving to enhance their journey and contribute to their success.

Patricia acknowledges the role played by the Otago Polytechnic leadership team, attributing the institution's success in improving outcomes and experiences for Pasifika students. She also credits the excellent Pasifika staff for their dedicated efforts in driving and operationalising this work over the years. Patricia humbly recognises their collective contributions, past and present, which have paved the way for ongoing success and continuous improvement.



Patrick Vakaoti

Patrick is a Fijian sociologist. His research focusses on street-frequenting young people and youth participation and leadership in Fiji and the Pacific. His teaching is inspired by his experiences with young people and by the Fijian values of *veiwekani* (relationships), *vei rogorogoci* (listening with intent) and *vei talanoa* (conversing respectfully). He sees the classroom as a magical, fun, and hopeful space where complex ideas and practices can be demystified and made more accessible for students.

Patrick currently teaches a postgraduate class on 'Indigenous Theory and Method' at Te Tumu – School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies, University of Otago. In 2022, Patrick received a Te Whatu Kairangi Award and Enhancing Pacific Learners' Success endorsement.

patrick.vakaoti@otago.ac.nz



Pauline Steedman

Pauline is the CEO and Founder of Front-Line Training Consultancy established in 1993. As a passionate and dedicated professional she brings extensive knowledge and experience to the sector. Having a background in business, education, curriculum development and a strong commitment to fostering growth, Pauline excels in creating impactful learning experiences for individuals of all backgrounds. Her commitment to excellence and innovation is evident, as Front-Line consistently delivers excellent results and fosters a culture of success.

As the world of learner needs and education demands change, she is cognisant of the importance of her governance function maintaining Front-Lines DNA, principals, and standards. "Nothing is achieved in isolation it takes a strong and dedicated team to foster a culture of success."

pauline@front-line.co.nz



Rachel van Gorp

Rachel is a Senior Lecturer at Otago Polytechnic's School of Business, teaching across the undergraduate programmes with her extensive professional background in banking, personal training, massage therapy, business ownership, mentorship, and volunteering. As the chair of the OP Neurodiversity Community of Practice and co-organiser of the 2023 Neuroabilities Symposium, she passionately advocates for neurodivergent individuals in vocational education.

Rachel's commitment to promoting inclusion and equal opportunities for learners with diverse abilities is extremely important. Rachel engages learners with practical perspectives, immersing them in real-world scenarios to support their skills essential for future success. Rachel's dedication to vocational education and promotion of neurodiversity has earned her respect in the academic community, significantly impacting learners and the wider community.

Rachel.vanGorp@op.ac.nz



Richard Fogarty

Richard has been with The Tarn Group for over a decade, being responsible for managing client relationships for the online learning platform "Bracken".

Richard is a dedicated professional with a passion for education and technology, and has become a trusted expert in implementing and optimising Bracken for a diverse range of organisations.

Richard particularly loves the challenge of revolutionising the clients' learning experiences through sound instructional design, i.e. encouraging engaging and effective digital learning content through understanding e-learning methodologies. Richard is adept at guiding clients through the process of implementing Bracken, providing comprehensive training and support and continuously evaluating and optimising learning initiatives.

richard@thetarngroup.com



Ruth Peterson

Ruth provides leadership covering the territory from Taumarunui and Hick's Bay to Cape Reinga, the most densely populated part of the country, with the greatest number of tertiary organisations. She assists the growth of culturally capable educators, working in collaboration with many people throughout the northern region, with whom she has formed valuable relationships over the past fourteen years.

ruth.peterson@ako.ac.nz



Sia Lei Mata'afa

Sia is Samoan, born and raised in Dunedin. She has a Bachelor of Teaching endorsed in Primary Education from the University of Otago, College of Education. After University, Sia went straight into teaching. She taught at a school that educated youth in Oranga Tamariki for eight years, before making her way back to Otago University where she is currently working as a Pacific Islands student support officer.



Dr Stella Lange

Stella is a transplanted scientist working in the School of Design. She has worked to set up a Neurodiversity Community of Practice with colleagues at Otago Polytechnic. Her research interests include knitwear design, histories of repair of domestic textiles, and a recent hyper-focus on Neurodiversity in tertiary education. Stella credits her Hyperfocus as a research superpower, is a member of Ako Aotearoa Community of Practice, and has worked to introduce neuro-friendly options for teaching and assessment in undergraduate and postgraduate Design courses.

Stella.Lange@op.ac.nz



Tai Samaeli

Tai Samaeli, the ACE Sector Capability Manager at ACE Aotearoa and former Executive Assistant at Ako Aotearoa, brings over a decade of experience to the ACE Aotearoa team. His expertise spans educational levels from early childhood to tertiary education, while his passions for the performing arts, social media, and communications infuse creativity into his mahi.

Dedicated to advancing the ACE community, Tai actively advocates for ACE educators and programmes within New Zealand's education landscape. He prioritises continuous learning, networking, and collaboration, valuing the exchange of knowledge and fostering a supportive ACE environment. Tai's commitment to lifelong learning and community-building solidifies his role as an ACE sector advocate, promoting professional development for educators nationwide.

tai@aceaotearoa.org.nz



Virginia Watson

Virginia Watson is the director of Dive Otago Ltd, one of the largest delivery sites of tertiary-level dive education in Aotearoa. She is a current Board member of the Private Training Establishment - Academy of Diving Trust. She is a PADI Open Water Dive Instructor and is a passionate water-safety advocate, particularly is focused on addressing Māori drowning rates through ruku kai education.

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University of Otago & Otago Polytechnic projects 2019–2024

Learner Capability Framework: A validation study (Otago Polytechnic | Te Kura Matatini ki Otago)

This project from Otago Polytechnic aimed to create a method for learners to gain evidence of their transferable, employment-ready capabilities alongside their academic qualifications.

Kilsby, A., Schmidt, L., Greaves, M., Paterson, A., Chan, R., Ditzel, L. & Dr. Leonard, G. (2021). *Learner Capability Framework: A validation study*.
<https://ako.ac.nz/knowledge-centre/developing-a-learner-capability-framework/>

Student perceptions of student evaluations: Enabling student voice and meaningful engagement (Otago Polytechnic | Te Kura Matatini ki Otago, University of Otago | Te Whare Wānanga o Ōtākou)

A two-year project that explored student perceptions of the evaluation process and informed the institution and potentially other tertiary institutions, on how student evaluation systems can be refined to encourage student engagement.

Terry, S., Dr. Stein, S., Moskal, A. & Stuart, F. (2019). *Student perceptions of student evaluations: Enabling student voice and meaningful engagement*.
<https://ako.ac.nz/knowledge-centre/student-perceptions-of-student-evaluations/>

Hūtia Te Punga (Te Tapuae o Rehua, Otago Polytechnic | Te Kura Matatini ki Otago, Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation (BCITO), University of Canterbury | Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha)

Hūtia Te Punga (lift up the anchor) project is part of a larger change agenda to drive systems-level change to improve the educational experience and outcomes for Māori learners.

Dr. Prendergast-Tarena, E., Dr. London, P., Prendergast, P., Kapa, J., Armstrong, S., Tainui, M., Punivai, V., Dr. Macfarlane, S., Fleming, B., Dr. Kuntz, J., McIntyre, C. (2019). *Hūtia Te Punga*.
<https://ako.ac.nz/knowledge-centre/hutia-te-punga/>

Teaching occupational therapy students how to integrate evidence for better clinical outcomes (Otago Polytechnic | Te Kura Matatini ki Otago)

An 18-month project, undertaken by Otago Polytechnic, to better prepare occupational therapy students to transition from an academic environment to the realities of evidence-based practice.

Robertson, L., Jeffrey, H., Reay, K. & Dr. Benfield, A. (2019). *Teaching occupational therapy students how to integrate evidence for better clinical outcomes*.
<https://ako.ac.nz/knowledge-centre/better-clinical-outcomes/>

Mentor and peer observation to improve the practice of casual, short-term teachers (University of Otago | Te Whare Wānanga o Ōtākou)

An 18-month project that was undertaken by the University of Otago, to investigate the effectiveness of a teacher development programme through peer observation and mentoring.

Dr. Wass, R., Howell, A., Davies, D., Dr. Hartung, C. & Dr. Rogers, T. (2019). *Mentor and peer observation to improve the practice of casual, short-term teachers*.
<https://ako.ac.nz/knowledge-centre/mentoring-and-peer-observation/>

Teaching and learning circles: A framework for enhancing teaching culture and practice (University of Otago | Te Whare Wānanga o Ōtākou)

This one-year University of Otago project investigated using Teaching and Learning Circles (TLC) to enhance teaching practice and culture in Higher Education. The Teaching and Learning Circles is a voluntary, non-evaluative, reciprocal peer observation of teaching with an emphasis on collegial dialogue and self-reflection.

Dr. Rogers, T., Golding, C., Dr. Wass, R. & Dr. Timmermans, J. (2019). *Teaching and learning circles: A framework for enhancing teaching culture and practice*.
<https://ako.ac.nz/knowledge-centre/teaching-and-learning-circles-a-framework-for-enhancing-teaching-culture-and-practice/>

The quality of medical student teaching and learning - Through the eyes of patients (University of Otago | Te Whare Wānanga o Ōtākou)

A project to encourage the regular involvement of patients in giving feedback to assure quality learning by health professionals in training through the development of a routine way of incorporating patients' views into teaching and learning.

Dockerty, J. & Dr. Anderson, L. (2019). *The quality of medical student teaching and learning - Through the eyes of patients*.
<https://ako.ac.nz/knowledge-centre/the-quality-of-medical-student-teaching-and-learning/>

Otago-based online course

Bullyproofing the learner experience | A Toolkit for Educators

Investigate the phenomenon of bullying in teaching and learning, and engage with some verbal tools to use in acute bullying situations.

<https://ako.ac.nz/professional-learning/in-house-workshop/teaching-practicestrategies/bullyproofing-the-learner-experience-a-toolkit-for-educators/>

Ako Aotearoa

The National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence



Ko wai tātou

Who we are

All our services aim to improve the way people deliver high-quality teaching and learning. That's because we want to bring about lasting change in the tertiary education sector to enhance learner success. Effective networks and strong relationships are important to us and how we work together to achieve this.

Ako Aotearoa holds a unique position in the tertiary education sector. We provide advocacy and leadership on all aspects of teaching theory and practice. Our goal is to encourage and enable excellent educators to support the growth of capable and skilled learners who can contribute to our communities and society.

We support educators, teams and organisations to frame all that they do around the success of their learners, including in workplaces, universities, wānanga, institutes of technology and polytechnics (Te Pūkenga), independent tertiary enterprises, and in adult and community education.

Ko ā tātou mahi

What we do

Te Akoranga Ngaio | Professional Learning and Development

Delivering high-quality, relevant, evidence-based professional learning solutions is an important part of what we do.

We contribute to the growth of skilled, culturally capable educators, managers and support staff.

Every year we run a wide range of professional learning and development programmes throughout New Zealand. They focus on topic and skill areas relevant to educators working in a wide range of tertiary contexts.

These workshops and courses are available online, face-to-face and/or in-house. Visit ako.ac.nz/professional-learning to view our full public schedule.

Te Whatu Kairangi | Aotearoa Tertiary Educator Awards

Te Whatu Kairangi (previously the national Tertiary teaching Excellence Awards) celebrates outstanding educators and trainers across the entire tertiary education sector who are making a difference to learners, their whānau and communities.

Recent changes include the introduction of Le Moana Mua, the new Pacific award, and a revitalised Groups criteria in 2023, plus the new Te Tohu Reo Māori Award for te reo Māori educators in 2024.

Visit ako.ac.nz/te-whatu-kairangi to learn more, including how to enter, dollar amount of awardee grants, and past recipients. The Prime Minister's Educator of the Year Award, along with an additional \$10,000, is granted to the awardee whose portfolio best exemplifies the overall criteria.

Ko te Rangahau me te Auaha | Research and Innovation programme

Our new approach is guided by the Ako Aotearoa Research and Innovation Agenda (AARIA), with a strong emphasis on innovation and collaboration with the tertiary sector. The programme focuses more closely with objectives two and three of the current Tertiary Education Strategy and aims to:

- support the tertiary education system and contribute to better tertiary teaching and subsequently better learning outcomes for ākongā/learners
- share research and innovation findings in ways that support teaching and learning/education and training, as well as supporting the interests of any collaborating organisations or entities
- provide opportunities for collaborative work and networking that benefits all involved and contributes to building research capability.

Pūtahi Mātauranga | Knowledge Centre

Our website-based Knowledge Centre has over 1500 free resources available to those working in tertiary education, vocational and workplace training. This wide range of practical resources support staff to build teaching and learning practice to benefit learners.

The evidence-based tools, guides, videos and other outputs are developed from our research, projects and other initiatives. We encourage people to download from ako.ac.nz/knowledge-centre and share widely.

Our Manako programme

Ako Aotearoa's Manako team focuses on building educator capability to enhance cultural capability and Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) success for all learners. 'Manako' means "aspiration" and "hope" in te ao Māori.

Some key components to the Manako programme include the Dyslexia-Friendly Quality Mark and the Tapatoru Ako Professional Practice Award. The programme also involves high-quality professional learning and development courses and workshops, online educator pathways hosted on Pathways Awarua plus leading work on learner agency and digital literacy.

Huihuinga Tāngata | Strategic forums and sector events

We are proud to run strategic events in priority areas of tertiary education in Aotearoa. These events include the Regional Forums hosted by our Northern, Central and Southern Hubs, and Tuia Te Ako (our national Māori tertiary education hui). We also collaborate, sponsor and contribute to a range of sector events organised by other groups.

Find us on:

 facebook.com/AkoAotearoa  linkedin.com/company/ako-aotearoa  instagram.com/ako-aotearoa

Connect with us

Jennifer Leahy

Sector Services Manager
for Southern region

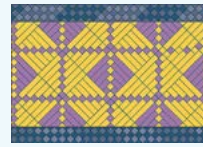
jennifer.leahy@ako.ac.nz
021 748 496

Jennifer has extensive experience and skills in the research and facilitation of training and education programmes and has represented Adult and Community Education on our Southern Region Hub Advisory Group for many years. She facilitates the Adult and Community Education (ACE) Ōtautahi CoP, which meets face-to-face every six weeks at various ACE venues around the Christchurch. The group enjoy networking and keeping up to date with ACE and Ako Aotearoa news.



Te Pātaka Mātauranga Māori | Storehouse of Māori Knowledge

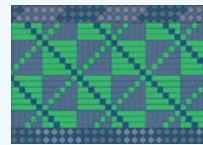
Since June 2022, our Pātaka or storehouse has been making it easier for visitors to our website to find content relating to Mātauranga Maori, Kaupapa Maori, success for Maori learners and building cultural capability. Visit ako.ac.nz/te-pataka-matauranga-maori and explore the Pātaka's four kete:



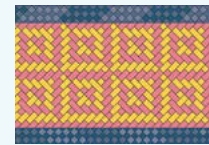
Te Kete Rauemi Mātauranga
Kete of Māori Resources



Te Kete Āheitanga Ahurea Māori
Kete of Cultural Capability
Pathways



Te Kete Hāpai Akoako
Kete of Professional
Learning and Development



Te Kete Huihuinga Tāngata
Kete of Events

Communities of Practice

We facilitate two online communities of practice (CoP): our Manako CoP is for educators in the adult language, literacy and numeracy space. You are welcome to join at facebook.com/groups/alnacc and participate in the discussions. Our Neurodiversity CoP is for anyone with expertise or interest in neurodiversity. Contact Graeme at Graeme.Read@ako.ac.nz if you'd like to join. We are pleased to support the development of other CoPs in the tertiary sector, whether it be within your own organisation or across institutions.



Tūhono: Connecting Traditions and Futures in Tertiary Learning

Nā āheitanga ā-mātauranga,
ko angitū ā-ākonga
Building educational capability
for learner success

Ako
AOTEAROA