



## Te Whatu Kairangi Award Kaupapa Māori Category

### Jamie Smiler

Pūkenga Matua i te kaupapa  
Business & Tourism  
Te Kura Matatini o Whitireia  
& Te Whare Wānanga o te Awakairangi  
Te Pūkenga

**“He kaiwhakaako Māori ahau, ā, he mea nui ki a au te mātauranga whakangungu mahi. Mā konā, ka tūtaki te whakaaro tūrehurehu ki ngā mahi o te ao tūturu. Ko te taura tērā e paihere ana i te tūmanako ki te whakatinanatanga.”**

I tana tūranga hei kaiwhakaako Māori, hei tā Jamie, mā te mātauranga ka noho herekore te tangata, arā, kia kua te tangata e whaiwhai poka noa i te ara o te nuinga. Ko tāna, mā te mātauranga ka makere ngā here, ā, ka whai pūkenga ngā ākonga ki te rapu i ā rātou ake tino kaupapa, e wātea ai rātou ki te hāpai ake i a rātou anō, i ō rātou whānau, i ō rātou hapū me ō rātou iwi. Ko tāna, he tuitui i te ariā ki te mahi, ā, ka ākina āna ākonga ki te whakapuare i ngā tatau o ō rātou ao. Anei tāna kōrero ki ngā rangapū hou "ehara ēnei pakitara e whā i te akomanga – ko te ao kē te akomanga". Hei tāna, ki te mauria mai ngā take o te ao ki roto tonu i te akomanga, ka whakatikangia aua take rā e ngā rangatira o āpōpō.

Nā whai anō, kāre e hapa, e pono ana a Jamie ki te whakatinanatanga o te mātauranga whakangungu mahi. Ko tāna, he whakatū i ngā kaiārahi whai tikanga ki te ao pakihī, he whāngai i a rātou ki ngā pūkenga, he whakatō i te ngākau titikaha kia whakaāhua rātou i a rātou anō, i ō rātou whānau, i ō rātou hapū, i ō rātou iwi me Aotearoa whānui tonu. I tana tūranga kaiwhakaako Māori, ko ia tēnā ko tāna kaupapa nui, ko tāna mahi nui anō i te taha o ōna hoamahi, o āna ākonga me ngā tūmomo hapori rerekē. I te mea he Māori ia, he mea nui ki a ia tana tūranga mahi, arā, kia tautoko ia i ngā ākonga, i ngā whānau, i ngā hapū me ngā iwi ki te whakaea i ā rātou tikanga, ki te whai pūtea, kia tautoko hoki rātou i ngā kaupapa e whakapiki ake ana i te oranga o ngā uri whakaheke. He mea nui hoki ki a ia tana tū hei kaiwhakaako. Kei te mārāma ia ki ngā mahi hei whakatutuki tonu i roto i te ao mātauranga kia tino whai take ngā hua o te tikanga-pori, o te ao ōhanga me te ao tōrangapū mā te tangata.

*"Koia te take e mahi ana au hei kaiwhakaako. E whakapono ana au, he kawenga tāku. Kei te mōhio au me pēhea te panoni i te oranga, kua o ngā ākonga anake, engari o ō rātou whānau, o ō rātou hapū me ō rātou iw hoki. Ka tutuki i a au ēnei āhuatanga mā ia akoranga kotahi, ki ia ākonga kotahi, kia angitu ai – ia wā, ia wā."*

I tana tūranga hei kaiwhakaako Māori, kei te mihi a Jamie ki a Graham Hingangaroa Smith rātou ko Leonie Pihama, ko Linda Tuhiwai Smith, ko Mason Durie, ko Wally Penetito, ko Russell Bishop nā rātou ngā poupou o te Kaupapa Māori i whakatū. Kei te arahina a Jamie e ō rātou mātāpono i roto i āna mahi whakaako, arā: e te tino rangatiratanga, e ngā taonga tuku iho, e te akoranga Māori, kia piki ake i ngā raru i te kāinga, whānau me ngā kaupapa; e mārāma ana ki a ia te pānga o ngā mahi tāmi o mua, o nāianeī anō ki runga i te pūnaha mātauranga me te pānga ki ngā ākonga me ō tātou hapori; kei te mārāma ia ki ngā āhuatanga o te hauora me te angitu, ā, me pēhea hoki te hāpai i te mātauranga Māori hei tautoko i ngā hapori ki te whai oranga nui hei Māori; e mārāma ana anō ia ki ngā taupatu e pā ana ki te mātauranga me te mahi whakaako, ki te noho taurite-kore o te nuinga o ngā hapori me te mahi nui ki te kaupare atu i ēnei āhuatanga taurite-kore, ki te hiranga o ngā hononga tāngata me te whakawhanaungatanga e whai hua ai ngā mahi whakaako. Otirā, nā runga i ngā kōrero ā Paolo Freire rātou ko Henry Giroux, ko Pierre Bourdieu, kua

mārama ake ki a ia ngā take tōrangapū e pā ana ki te mātauranga, waihoki, ko te hiranga o te 'kōrero' i roto i ngā mahi whakaako, o te mātauranga torowhānui me ngā whakaakoranga whai kiko.

Kua whakapau kaha ake a Jamie ki te whakaū i āna mahi whakaako ā-kanohi, ā, i roto anō i ngā akomanga ā-hiko. Hei tāna, ahakoa kei te ū tonu ngā tikanga whakaako matua ā te kaiako papai nō tērā rima tekau tau rā anō, kua rerekē te horopaki, tō tātou taiao me ngā hangarau e wātea ana ki ngā kaiako. Kua whakatū ia i ngā ara hou ki te whakaako, ki te ako, ki te aromatawai anō i āna mahi, kia eke te ākongā ki te taumata o te angitu. Ko tētahi o ēnei ara ko ngā take tōrangapū o te ao tūturu (kua whakapuaki ia i tētahi kōrero mō ngā kaupapa pērā i te Three Waters), ko ngā kaupapa nō te ao tūturu me ngā momo whakawhitinga kōrero (kua whakatūria tētahi kaupapa whaihanga mō te mahi kirimana), ā, ko ngā take tūturu o te wā e pā ana ki Te Tiriti (pērā i te mahi rangahau mō te whakawhanaketanga o tētahi whenua e kaha taupatupatungia ana e te mana whenua me tētahi kaiwhakatū kaupapa whenua). He kaha hoki ia ki te taunaki i te whakamahinga o ngā momo hangarau e whakapai ake ana i ngā mahi ako mā te ākongā, ā, kei te whai ia i te huhua o ngā rautaki i roto i tana akomanga ki te hāpai i ngā mahi ā te ākongā – otirā, i te nuinga o te wā, ko ngā rautaki māmā ngā rautaki pai rawa atu. He mea nui ki a ia ngā momo hangarau e whakapiki ake ana i te mahi ā ngā ākongā. Ko te aronga nui, ko te tuituinga o te ariā ki te ao tūturu, otirā, neke atu i te 80 te tokomaha o ngā ākongā, nā reira ka whakamahi ia i ngā hangarau tuari kōrero ā-tuhi mā ngā mahi ā-rōpū, i ngā papa Kanban me ngā momo mahi whakaataata.

Ki tā Jamie, ko tētahi o ngā tino mea whakahirahira ki te kaiwhakaako, ko te mātakitaki i āna ākongā e hīkoi ana i te atamira i te rā whakapōtaetanga, ā, he nui tonu āna kōrero mō ngā whakatutukinga whakahirahira ā ngā ākongā. Ko tētahi, ko te kōrero mō tētahi wahine, ahakoa kua roa ake i te 35 tau e ngaro ana i te ao mātauranga, ko ia tētahi o ngā tino ākongā i roto i tōna akomanga mō tāna Tohu Pōkairua mō te Mahi Tāpoi, ā, nāwai rā, ka riro i a ia tāna Tohu Paetahi o te Applied Business Management. I te tau 2018–2019, ka whakawhiwhia āna ākongā ki ētahi tūranga mahi ki KiwiRail Group, kei te takiwā o te 20 rātau, waihoki, nā te pai o ngā utu i āhei ai rātau ki te kawē i ā rātau ake anō, ki te hāpai hoki i ō rātau whānau whānui.

Hāunga anō āna mahi whakaako ki roto i ngā kaupapa pakihi o WelTEc me Whitireira, kei te āwhina hoki a Jamie i ētahi atu kaupapa mātauranga i roto i ētahi atu momo wāhi tuku matauranga. Kua whakaako, kua āwhina hoki ia i ngā mahi whakangungu i raro i te kaupapa Executive Education (MBA) ki Te Herenga Waka, ā, kua tū ia hei kaitohu mō te Mātauranga Māori ki te Open Polytechnic mō te whakawhanaketanga o te Tohu Paetahi mō te Engineering Technology me te New Zealand Diploma of Engineering, e aro nui ana ki te Mechanical me te Civil Engineering. I a ia e mahi ana hei kaiwhakahaere kaupapa, i mua i tana tū hei kaiako, i tino kite a Jamie i te tokomaha o ngā Māori e mahi ana i ēnei rāngai mahi, ko te nuinga e whakawhiwhia ana ki ngā utu iti, e mahi ana i ngā mahi ā te 'ringarau' me te kaiwhakahaere mihini. Ko tāna whakapae, nā te koretake o te pūnaha mātauranga kāore ngā Māori i eke ki ngā tūranga whai pūtea, whai pūkenga, pērā i te mahi hoahoa me te mahi whakahaere kaupapa. Nā te tokoiti o ngā Māori i roto i ēnei tūranga mahi, kua huri ngā mahi whakaako kia tokomaha ake ngā Māori e kuhu atu ana ki ngā kaupapa e whakanui ana i ngā mōhiotanga me ngā akoranga ā te Māori, kia eke ai rātau ki te taumata o angitu.

I tana tūranga hei kaiwhakaako Māori, kei te hāpai a Jamie i te whakahoutanga o te anga o ngā whare ako o te wāhanga kura tuatoru. Kei te tāpae kōrero ia ki tana Rōpū Whakahaere e pā ana ki ngā kaupapa here me te ahunga o ngā whakahaere, kia whai hua ai ngā kaupapa here. Ko tētahi o ēnei kaupapa ko te rautaki o Tekau-Rima, ā, ko te whāinga o tēnei kaupapa, ko te huaruatanga o te tatau o ngā kaimahi Māori hei te tau 2026. Kei te mahi ia ki te taha o tētahi kāhui kaimahi Māori kua whakatūria nei rātau ki ngā tūranga whai utu o te Kaihautū mō ngā momo kaupapa e hāngai ana ki ngā whāinga tōmua ā Te Pūkenga kei raro i te kaupapa o Te Pae Tawhiti, arā, ko te Anga mō te Whakahirahiratanga o Te Te Tiriti. He mema ia nō te Staff Reference Group, e taunaki ana i ngā hiahia o ngā kaimahi, ā, i āwhina i te whakatinanatanga i ngā kaupapa pērā i te hui ā-tau ā ngā kaimahi, i ngā whakaritenga māmā mō te mahi, i te kaupapa tuku takoha o Mātaiwhetū, i ngā tūmahī me ngā tūkanga hauora hoki.

*"Āe, kei te whakahou mātou i ngā mahi i roto i te akomanga, ia ākongā, ia ākongā, heoi, kia tino whai hua ā mātou mahi, me kaha hoki mātou ki te whakahou i te anga o ō mātou whare mātauranga."*

---



## Te Whatu Kairangi Award Kaupapa Māori Category

### Jamie Smiler

Senior Academic in Tourism  
Te Whare Wānanga o te Awakairangi  
Wellington Institute of Technology  
Te Pūkenga

**“As a Māori educator, I celebrate vocational education. It connects the abstract world of theory with the concrete reality of praxis. It connects what ought to happen with what actually happens.”**

As a Māori educator, Jamie sees education as an instrument to bring about freedom, rather than conformity. He uses education as a liberating force to equip students with the tools to be able to seek purpose and freedoms to support themselves, their whānau, hapū, and iwi. His approach always connects theory with practice and he encourages students to take every opportunity to engage with their world. He tells new cohorts of students, “these four walls are not our classroom – the world is our classroom”. By bringing world issues into the classroom, he believes they can be solved by our future leaders.

Thus, Jamie’s version of vocational education is unapologetically practical. He aims to create practical business leaders, with the skills and a sense of purpose to transform themselves, as well as their whānau, their hapū, their iwi and Aotearoa. This is his mission and practice with his colleagues, students, and the diverse set of communities they serve. Being Māori, he takes his position seriously in contributing to supporting ākongā, whānau, hapū and iwi to live lives that are culturally filling and economically prosperous, enabling them to support the work being done to create intergenerational prosperity. Equally important is his role as an educator. He understands the work that needs to be done within the education system to enable it to meet its potential in transforming socio-cultural, economic, and political outcomes for people.

*“This is why I am an educator. I believe I can contribute. I know how it changes the lives not only of ākongā but also their whānau, hapū and iwi. My contribution is made one class at a time, one ākongā at a time, one story of success at a time.”*

As a Māori educator, Jamie acknowledges the strong influence of the Kaupapa Māori educational philosophies of Graham Hingangaroa Smith, Leonie Pihama, Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Mason Durie, Wally Penetito, and Russel Bishop. Jamie incorporates their guiding principles into his teaching practice, such as: tino rangatiratanga, ngā taonga tuku iho, akoranga Māori, kia piki ake i ngā raru i te kāinga, whānau, and kaupapa; understanding the impact of historical and ongoing practices of colonisation on our education system and how it impacts ākongā and our communities; understanding the different dimensions of health and success and how to draw upon Mātauranga Māori to support communities to not only live more prosperous lives but how to live them as Māori; insight into the contested nature of knowledge and education and socially unjust reality for many communities and the need to actively mediate these inequalities, and the importance of relationships and whanaungatanga as a necessary practice for one to be an effective educator. The philosophies of Paolo Freire, Henry Giroux, and Pierre Bourdieu also give him a deeper understanding of the politics of education and the importance of developing a ‘dialogical’ approach to teaching, holistic education, and critical pedagogies.

Jamie has worked to effect change in both face-to-face and virtual classrooms. He says although the fundamentals of being a great teacher have not changed much over the past fifty years, the context, our environment, and the technologies available to educators have. He has developed innovative approaches to teaching, learning, and assessment to support ākongas success. These include engagement with the political reality of the real world (presenting on infrastructure issues such as Three Waters), real world projects and communication demands (simulating a real-life contracting situation), and engaging in real-life, real-time Te Tiriti issues (such as critically investigating the development of a locally contested land development between a group of mana whenua stakeholders and a local land developer). He is also a strong advocate for the use of technologies that enhance the learning experience for ākongas and uses many strategies in his classes to support student achievement, often finding some of the simplest strategies the best. He finds productivity-improving technologies necessary when teaching vocational programmes that have an emphasis on connecting theory with reality to cohorts of more than 80 students, such as shared documents for group activities, Kanban boards and reflexive practices.

Jamie finds one of the most satisfying aspects of being an educator is getting to see his ākongas walk across the stage at graduation, and he has many success stories to tell. One is of an ākongas who finished as one of the top students in her Diploma in Tourism class, although she had not been in education for over 35 years, and went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Applied Business Management. In 2018-2019, around 20 of his students gained employment with the KiwiRail Group in roles with pay and conditions capable of supporting not only themselves but their larger whānau groupings.

As well as teaching business programmes for WelTec and Whitireia, Jamie is also actively involved in areas of education within other organisations. At Victoria University, he has taught and offered professional development in its Executive Education programmes (MBA) and also has a role as a Mātauranga Māori advisor at the Open Polytechnic on the development of their Bachelor of Engineering Technology and New Zealand Diploma in Engineering with specialisations in Mechanical and Civil Engineering. As a project manager before becoming an educator, Jamie was acutely aware of the large number of Māori employed in these industries, usually in lower-paid, 'unskilled' labouring and machine operator roles. He blames an underdeveloped educational system for not moving Māori into higher-paying, higher-skill roles of designing and project managing. Because Māori are not appropriately represented in such occupations, Jamie's role as a Mātauranga Māori advisor on engineering programmes has helped shape the curriculum so that more Māori will enrol in programmes that involve Māori ways of knowing and learning, enabling them to be more successful.

In his position as a Māori educator, Jamie helps drive structural change within tertiary education institutions. He provides strategic policy and governance direction to his Senior Leadership Team and Board of Directors so that policy is more likely to be effective, including the Tekau-Rima strategy which seeks to transform his organisation by doubling the number of Māori it employs by 2026. He works with a collective of Māori staff who now hold formal paid roles as Kaihautū with different portfolios of interests based on Te Pūkenga's strategic priorities within its Te Pae Tawhiti – Te Tiriti Excellence Framework. He is a member of the Staff Reference Group, which advocates for staff interests and helped implement initiatives, such as an annual staff hui, flexible work options, a Mātaiwhetū rewards Programme, and wellness activities and procedures.

*“Yes, we make change in the classroom, one ākongas at a time, however, to maximise our effectiveness we need to be using our positions to drive structural change within our institutions.”*

---