

Maaku ano e hanga i tooku nei whare:
Advancing tribal development through education and research.

abstract

The Waikato-Tainui College for Research and Development is a tribal institution that was built to memorialise the tribe's history and 1995 settlement of its Raupatu (land) claim with the New Zealand government.

One of the aims of the College is to grow indigenous leadership to support those who are engaged in settlement or post-settlement development. Additionally the College believes that there is a need to ensure that the growth of our greatest asset – our people – keeps apace with gains made in regards to Māori positioning within the New Zealand and increasingly global economy.

The approach of the College has not been to gain accreditation itself, but rather to partner with quality institutions (including universities and wananga) to deliver programmes that have mutually beneficial outcomes in supporting the growth and development of our people. As a result of this approach, the College has had to give particular consideration to the inclusion of tribal knowledge and history, and Maori worldviews in academic programmes with its partners.

The title of this paper is drawn from a tongi (lasting saying) from the Second Maori King, Tawhiao, and refers to the period of Raupatu (land confiscation) suffered by the Waikato-Tainui tribe in the 1860s. Tawhiao exhorted his people to remain hopeful and unite to rebuild the tribe following the land confiscations. The tongi directly informed the construction of the College and is woven both physically through the building and through the approach the College takes in its research and academic programmes. This paper explores the challenges the College has faced as a tribal institution – which receives no direct operational funding from government – in supporting the realisation of tribal development aspirations.