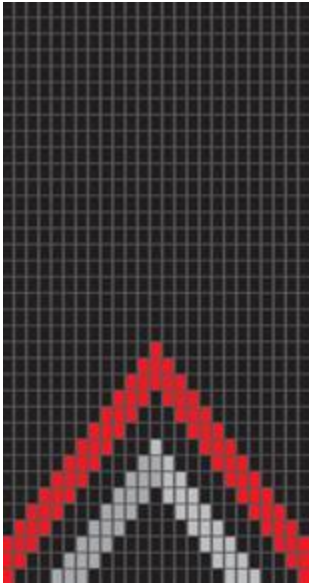




Māori data sovereignty: A hapū case study

Professor Tahu Kukutai
19 September 2025

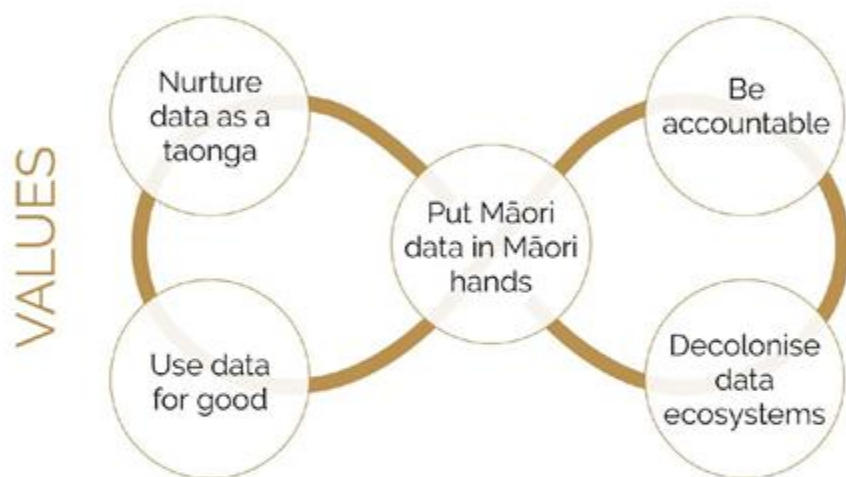
Māori and Indigenous data sovereignty



- **Māori data** refers to digital or digitisable information or knowledge that is about or from Māori people, our language, culture, resources or environments.
- Māori data are a **taonga** (treasure) under Art. 2 of Te Tiriti
- **Māori Data Sovereignty** refers to the inherent rights and interests that Māori have in relation to the collection, ownership, and application of Māori data.
- **Māori Data Governance** refers to the principles, structures, accountability mechanisms, legal instruments and policies through which Māori exercise control over Māori data.

Māori Data Governance Model

VISION: Tuia te korowai o Hine-Raraunga - *Data for self-determination*



This vision enables iwi, hapū and Māori organisations, businesses and communities to pursue their own goals for cultural, social, economic and environmental wellbeing and to address inequities.

Desirable outcomes:

- The right services, at the right time, in the right way
- Better shared and autonomous decision-making
- A trusted and safe data ecosystem
- Data to drive Māori economies
- Supporting whānau to flourish
- Reaffirming and strengthening connections to identity and place

Māori authority over Māori data

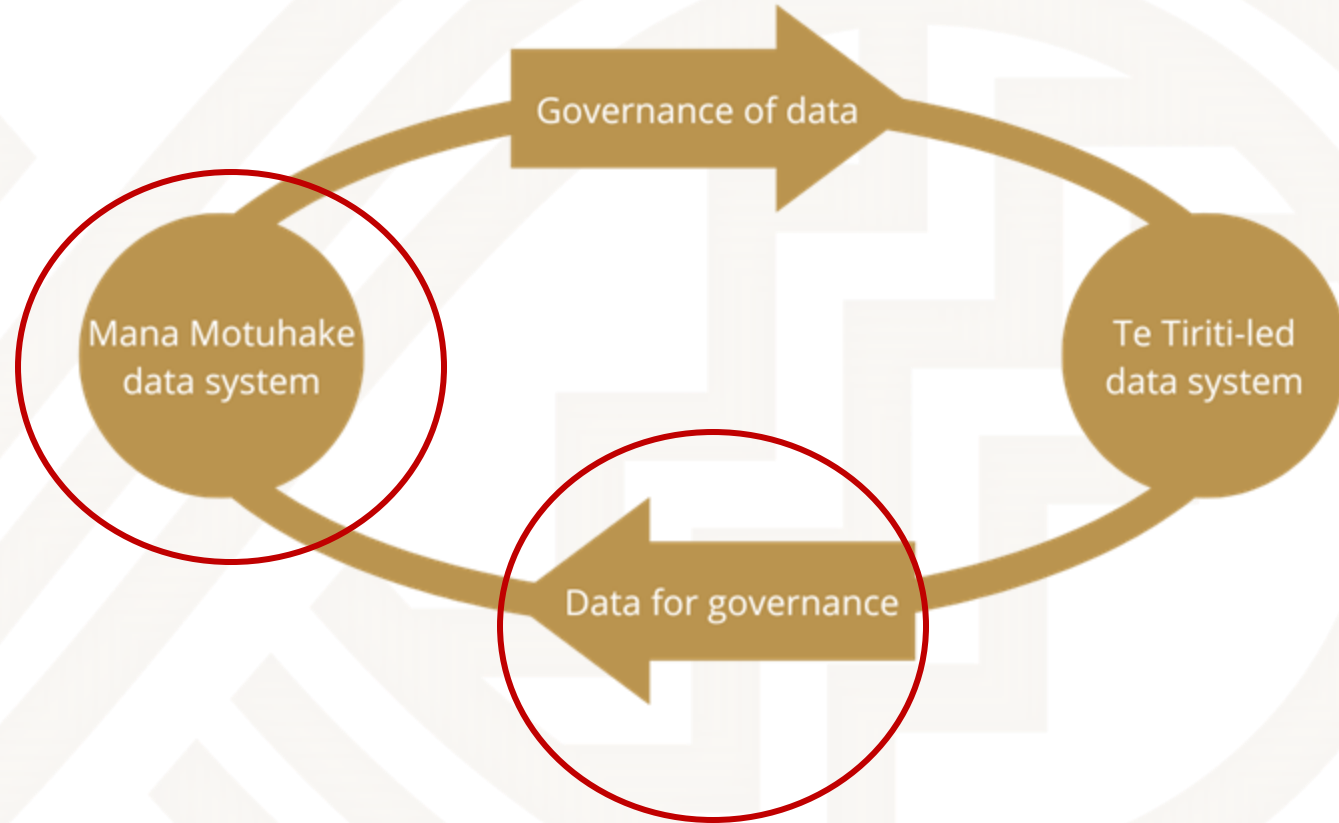
DATA POU



Governance of Māori data & Data for Māori governance

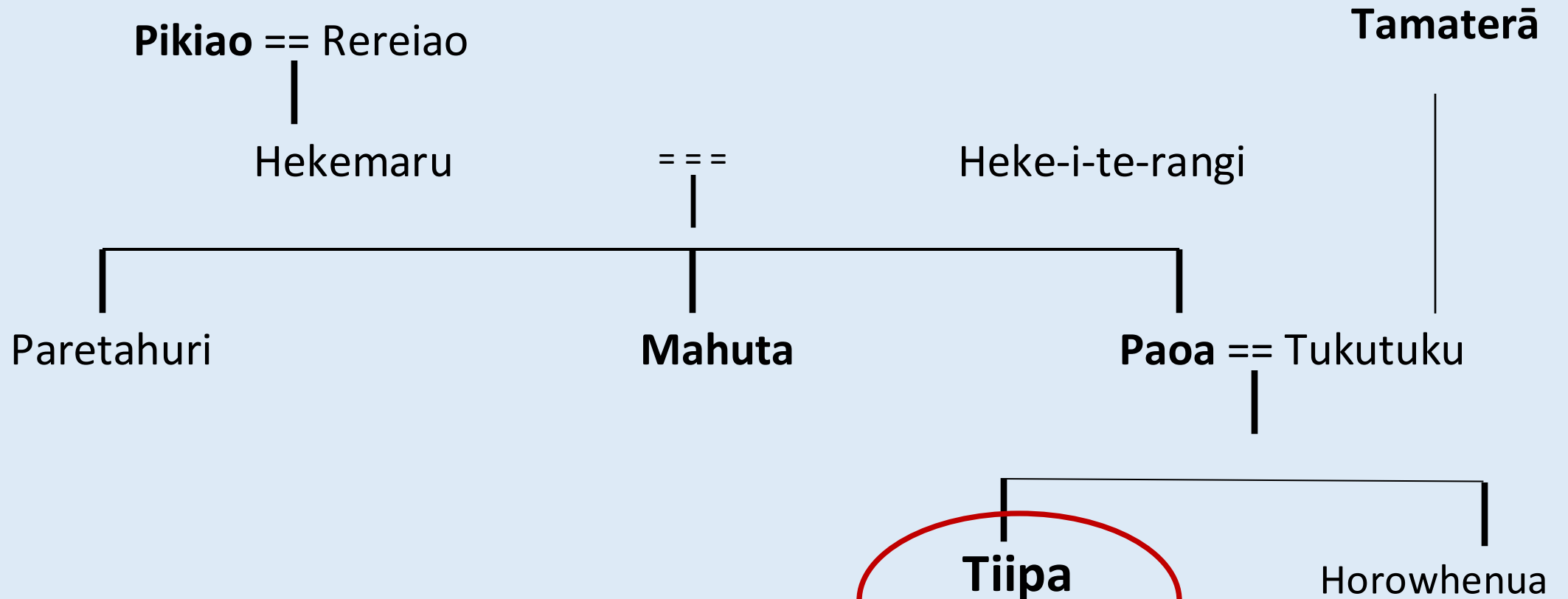
Data for Māori governance (self-determination).

The focus is on accelerating the critical steps needed for a Mana Motuhake data system



TE KĀHUI RARAUNGA

NGĀTI TIIPA: OUR WHAKAPAPA & WHENUA RANGAHAU





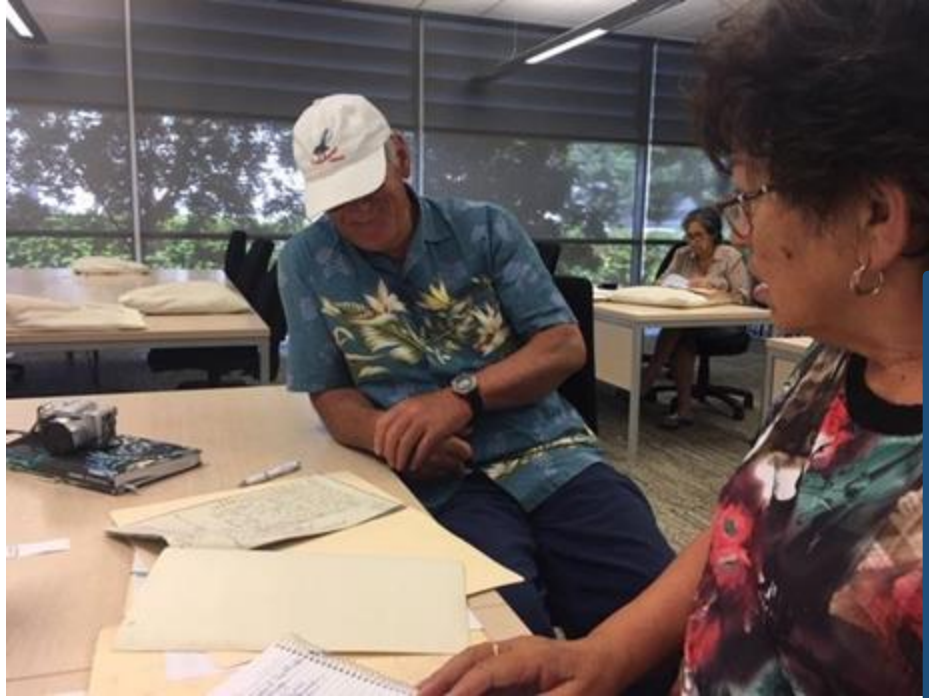
P1 | PURPOSE | WHAKAPAPA & WHENUA

- Bring together whakapapa information on our Ngāti Tiipa tūpuna from c.1750- 1900 and data on our whenua (lands) to create our own Ngāti Tiipa whakapapa database
- The database to be owned and controlled by Ngāti Tiipa as a taonga for current and future generations – tikanga for access and use developed by whānau
- We are not an entity - this is by whānau for our whānau, marae and hapū
- Building our whānau capacity in rangahau and data kaitiakitanga is KEY

P2 | PEOPLE | OUR WHĀNAU – KAUMĀTUA



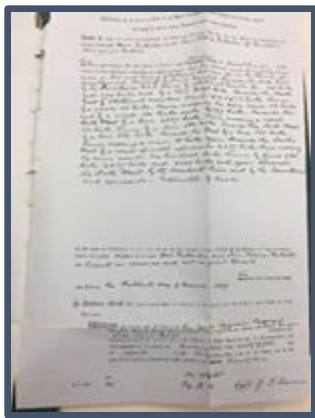
P2 | PEOPLE | OUR WHĀNAU - KAIMAHI



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1844		1858		1868	
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97	98	99	100	101	102



1844 missionary
census

1858 colonial
government
census

1844		1858		1868	
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79	80	81	82	83	84
85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100	101	102

OBSTRUCTIVE MAORIS.
THE 'OPUATIA DISPUTE
KEREI KAIHAU IMPRISONED FOR
TWELVE MONTHS
THE OTHER MAORIS RELEASED

At ten o'clock this morning His Honor Mr Justice Connolly sat at the Supreme Court in order to pass sentence on Kerei Kaihau and other eight natives of the Lower Wai-kato who had been convicted of obstructing the police in the execution of their duty at Mercer on March 9th last, in connection

1868 genealogy from
Tuterangianini Potaua
Kukutai



P3. PŪTEA | RESEARCH FUNDING

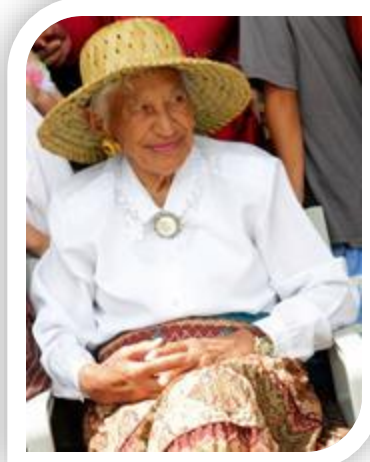
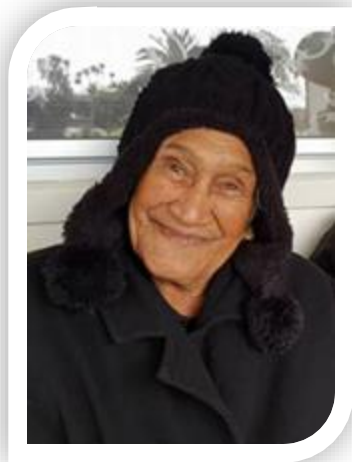
- Project 1: 'Counting our tūpuna'. Marsden Fund, 2018-2021
 - locate & digitise our whakapapa & whenua information around the motu
 - build our tūpuna database
 - build the foundations for our hapū digital pā harakeke
- Project 2: E kore au e ngaro. Ageing Well NSC, 2021-2022
 - Ngāti Tiipa framework for whakapapa research
- Project 3: MBIE Endeavour 'Tikanga in Technology' programme, 2020-2024
 - test protocols & security
 - Ngāti Tiipa PhD study
- Project 4: 'From populations to peoples: A new paradigm for 19th century Māori historical demography'. Marsden Fund, 2025-2028

P4. PROCESS | WHĀNAU WĀNANGA



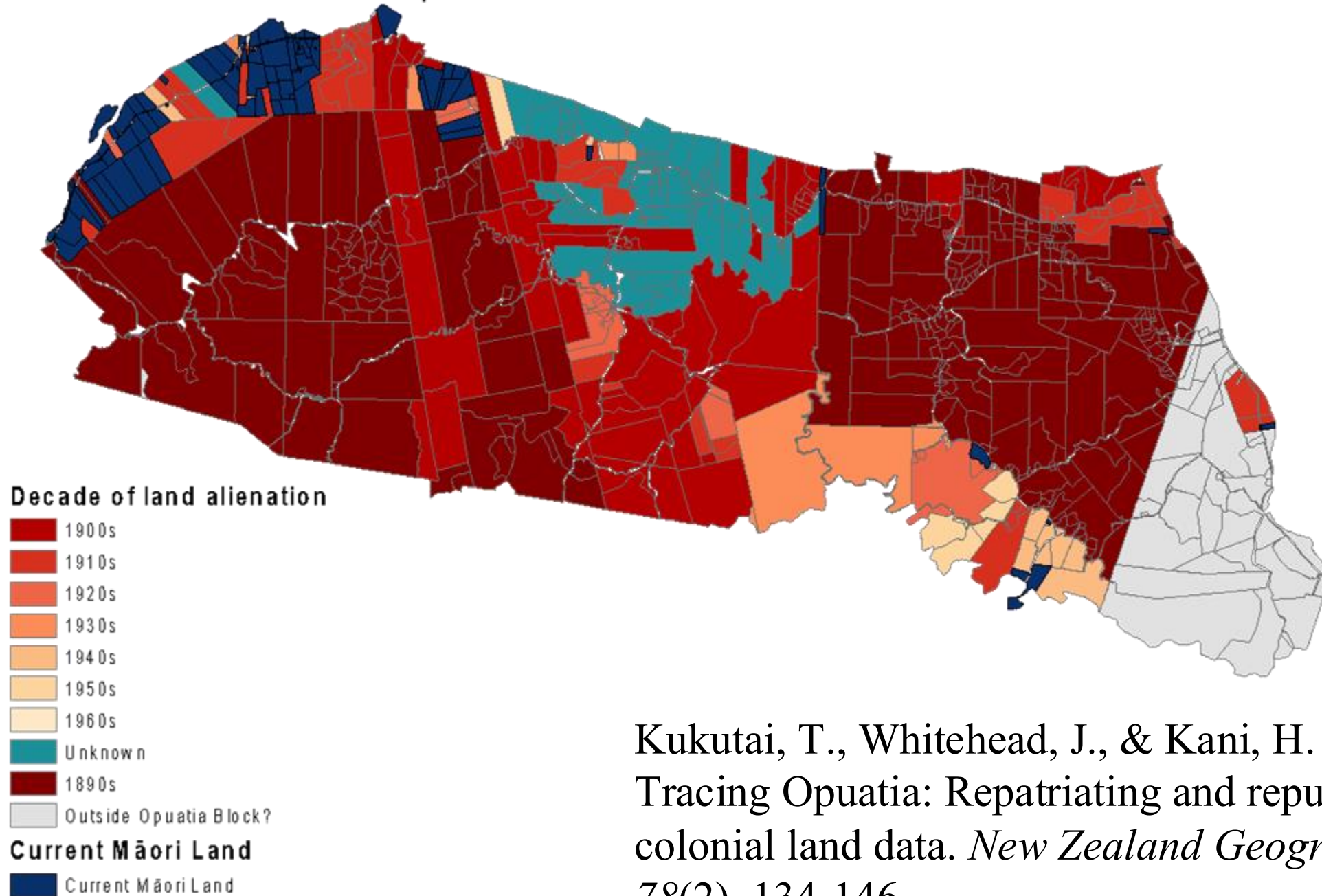
P5. PĀNUI | SHARING THE RANGAHAU





Kukutai, T., Mahuika, N., Kani, H., Ewe, D., & Kukutai, K. 2021. Survivance as narrative identity: Voices from a Ngāti Tiipa oral history project. *MAI Journal*.

Opuatia Block Land Alienation



Kukutai, T., Whitehead, J., & Kani, H. 2022.
Tracing Opuatia: Repatriating and repurposing
colonial land data. *New Zealand Geographer*,
78(2), 134-146.

Ngāti Tiipa digital pā harakeke (Vanessa Clark)

APPLICATIONS

Web-based

TIKANGA

Access permissions

PĀTAKA

*Servers must be in Aotearoa

DIGITISED

DATA

Tūpuna database
Whenua (Maps, GIS)

Archival material
Oral histories
Photos

K
A
W
A

G
O
V
E
R
N
A
N
C
E

Access permissions



- Our repository and our tūpuna database includes data digitized from ‘open access’ public libraries, archives etc, as well as information from whānau.
- How can our tikanga help us make good decisions about data access and use?
- Our translation of tikanga into a digital space and our understanding of what it takes to be good kaitiaki of our digital taonga continues to evolve

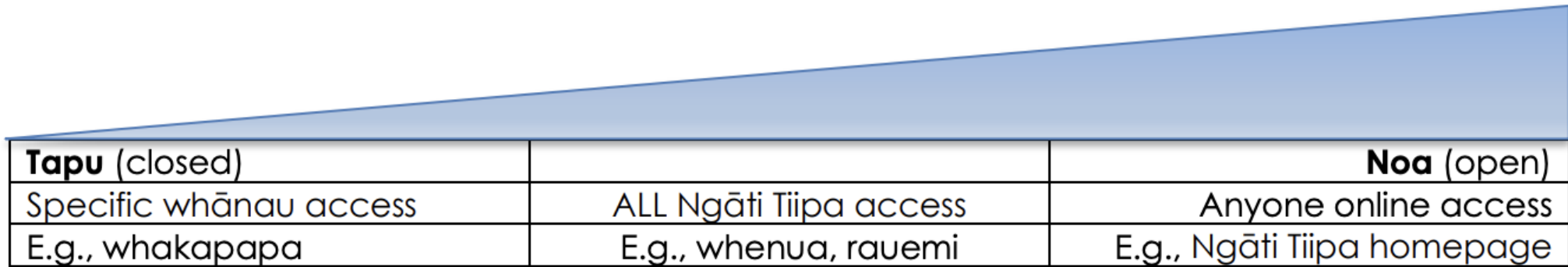


Figure 10: Tapu – Noa Continuum

Additional hapū resources



Tikanga in Technology Brief #4

Hapū data sovereignty: Tips for getting started

February 2025

Vanessa Clark,¹ Tahu Kukutai,¹ Heeni Kani,² Vanessa Teague³ & Ella Pēpi Tarapa-Dewes²

¹ Te Ngira Institute for Population Research

² Te Tira Rangahau o Ngāti Tiipa

³ Thinking Cybersecurity



Tikanga in Technology Brief #2

Protecting hapū data privacy:

A Ngāti Tiipa case study of technology considerations

February 2025

Vanessa Clark,¹ and Vanessa Teague²

¹ Te Ngira Institute for Population Research

² Thinking Cybersecurity



Tikanga in Technology Brief #3

The Māori Data Privacy Framework:

How useful is it for hapū?

February 2025

Vanessa Clark,¹ Tahu Kukutai,¹ Vanessa Teague,² Heeni Kani,³ and Ella Pēpi Tarapa-Dewes³

¹ Te Ngira Institute for Population Research

² Thinking Cybersecurity

³ Te Tira Rangahau o Ngāti Tiipa