

## Pre-conference Hui

The Kaitiaki of Tae Ora Tinana held a meeting at National Office on 4 May.

Katrina Bryant, Maarama Davis, Kate Haswell, Lynda Kirkman, Ann McKellar, Karen Rasmussen, Emma Webb, Nathan Wharerimu, and I were present along with our Kaumatua Bill Barlow and Whaea Pat Barlow. We were pleased that Maumahara Keelan and student Karaitiana Ripaki-Tamatea accepted our invitation to visit.

We all gave our mihi to introduce ourselves.

### *Safe, nurturing, learning*

We discussed Tae Ora Tinana and how important it is to provide a safe, nurturing learning environment for Māori physiotherapists and Māori physiotherapy students. The core business of Tae Ora Tinana is to identify, promote and support Māori physiotherapist and students. We work to develop a Māori identity, support Māori education and ensure that the Treaty of Waitangi is an integral part of Physiotherapy New Zealand activities.

### *Our goals*

We discussed some of our goals:

- To increase Māori physiotherapists' participation in Physiotherapy New Zealand and Tae Ora Tinana.
- To facilitate mentoring of new Māori physiotherapists and Māori physiotherapy students.
- To try to ensure that the New Zealand competencies include cultural competency.

### *Getting to know us*

To raise the profile of Tae Ora Tinana and attract more Māori to Physiotherapy New Zealand, we agreed that we would all update our profiles, photos, and contacts on the website and for Physio Matters.

### *Meeting the taura (students)*

We're planning hui at both AUT and Otago Schools of Physiotherapy this



Chair of the Kaitiaki, Lynda Kirkman, presents a taonga on behalf of the Kaitiaki to Ailsa Cornell, who receives it on behalf of National Office.

year. The kaupapa for both hui are: tikanga Māori training, the attraction and support of Māori physiotherapists and students, and mentoring. The Kaitiaki will also hold operational meetings before or after these hui. When we've confirmed arrangements, we'll put notices in Physio Matters.

### *Kaitiaki role in welcome*

After closing the hui with a karakia, we all began preparing for the Mihi Whakatau (welcome ceremony) of the Physiotherapy New Zealand Conference in the Wellington Town Hall.

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*Andrea Havell, Kaitiaki*

### **Introducing our new Kaitiaki**

Kia ora, My name is Nathan Wharerimu. I was born in Wairoa but raised mostly in Dunedin. I am of Tuhoe descent. My father's family give me my Maori blood, my mother's family give me my English/Scottish blood.

I graduated from the University of Otago as a physiotherapist in 2002. Since then I have worked a few years as a rotation physio at Dunedin Hospital as well as at a neurorehabilitation centre.

I took half a year off and travelled through India, which was a great experience. My wife and I then went to Bermuda and worked at the hospital there for one year, returning to Dunedin in 2007 to have the first of our two children. Since then I have been working in a private physio clinic working primarily in musculoskeletal and sport injury.

In this time I also completed the manips postgrad diploma at Otago. I have an interest in chronic biomechanical dysfunction and how it relates to the onset of an acute injury. My personal interests include: running so I can get away from people; chess so I can outsmart people; martial arts so I can tell people I know kung fu even if I don't really; and hanging out with my two crazy but lovely kids and equally crazy but awesome wife Emily.

I look forward to working with PNZ and actively contributing to and working with Tae Ora Tinana who have been such a great support to me during my studies and career.

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*Nathan Wharerimu  
Kaitiaki*