

Dr Peter Coolbear's speech at the launch of Hei Tauira – Friday 19th Feb
Education Library, University of Canterbury, Christchurch

Nā mihi nui hoki kia koutou

Minister the Hon. Dr Pita Sharples, Professor Macfarlane, Professor Gillon / Professor Town / Vice Chancellor, Dr Carr, everyone.

Welcome again to what is a really exciting occasion for Ako Aotearoa: the launch of the work of Janinka Greenwood and Lynne-Harata Te Aika:

Hei Tauira – teaching and learning success for Māori in tertiary settings.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Peter Coolbear, the Director of Ako Aotearoa, the National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence. We are proud to be associated with this project.

First of all I would like to thank you all for coming. We are at once humbled by the turn-out and inspired by the interest in this work.

A special welcome too, to those of you who have travelled from outside Canterbury. I would particularly like to acknowledge Member of Parliament, Rahui Katene; TEC Commissioner, Robin Hapi and Brendon Puketapu, Director Māori Strategy, David Nicolson, Director of the Tertiary Network at the TEC and Selwyn Katene, Director of Manu Ao Academy.

I also see Tony Gray, Chief Executive of the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology here, and I would also like to acknowledge members of our own Board and Māori Caucus, Turoa Royal, Kathie Irwin, Rawiri Taonui, Khyla Russell and Darel Hall. Many other friends and supporters too.

Supporting Māori achievement in education is critical to the future of Aotearoa, New Zealand. We believe that this work can make a significant contribution to this goal we all share.

Before I ask the Minister to launch *Hei Tauira* formally, I need to say two things.

Firstly I must acknowledge that this work did not start with Ako Aotearoa, but with the Ministry of Education. The original study by Janinka and Lynne-Harata was undertaken as a Teaching Matters Forum funded project. I have a special apology from Karen Sewell who intended to be here herself, but at the last minute was unable to do so.

We feel privileged to be able take over the guardianship of this work from the Ministry of Education and support its development for publication. We will also be supporting the discussion and conversation that follows its release.

Secondly, the work itself: Ako Aotearoa has a mission to support evidence based improvement of tertiary education. This project provides the evidence base of how success for Māori is already being achieved in some tertiary organisations. Janinka and Lynne-Harata have then

taken this through to guidance for all tertiary education organisations and their staff. In our view this is not just good research, it is in itself a *Tauira*, an exemplar of use-inspired research.

Our task now is to ensure it reaches as wide an audience as possible. We have thought carefully about how to make this work accessible as possible. We have gone for a layered publishing approach.

The full report *Hei Tauira* will be published on our web-site. It is a very significant piece of research, but however good major reports are, they often get assigned to the “read tomorrow” pile. Thus the key findings and ideas from that study that will support the busy practitioner are in Janinka and Lynne’s summary book.

And for the Chief Executive or Vice-Chancellor too busy to read even a summary document, we have the A4 summary card they simply can’t ignore

Minister: thank you for making the time to be here today, it is with great pleasure that I invite you to launch “*Hei Tauira*”.