



Royal Australasian

**College of Surgeons**

*Te Whare Piki Ora o Māhutonga*

# Hotoke

Pipiri 2025





## Ngā kōrero – in this issue

<i>Matariki mā Puanga!</i>	2
<i>Mihimihi –Kaiārahi Update</i>	2
<i>Kaimanaaki – Counselling service</i>	2
<i>Whakanuia! – New surgeons and scholarship winners</i>	3
<i>Pūhoro – RACS is on the Road!</i>	4
<i>Whakaahua - Photo gallery</i>	5
<i>Kaupapa Motuhake- Latest news and upcoming events</i>	6
<i>Ngā Hononga – Partnerships</i>	7
<i>Whakapiri Mai – Join up!</i>	8



**Ka mahuta a Matariki i te pae, ka mahuta ō tātou tūmanako ki te tau**  
*When Matariki rises above the horizon, our aspirations rise to the year ahead.*

The theme for Matariki this year is Matariki mā Puanga. Matariki and Puanga appear in the Kahui Whetū a Te Waka a Tamarereti (Scorpio Constellation) and are celebrated around the country and the world. We hope you are enjoying the season and joining in with local celebrations. The AONZ Wellington office is celebrating on June 19<sup>th</sup> with a shared kai hākari and unveiling a taonga for the office. If you are in Wellington, drop in to view the taonga and meet the team! Mānawatia a Matariki mā Puanga.

## Mihimihi – Kaiārahi update

**Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa.**

Welcome to the June newsletter at the half-way point of 2025.

Congratulations to Dr Nicolas Buckley who was successful in the May FEX in Orthopaedic surgery. Currently there are 32 surgeons in five specialties and 36 set trainees who whakapapa Māori. There are 15 medical students who whakapapa Māori and taking part in interviews for SET Training positions in Cardiothoracic Surgery, General Surgery, OHN and Orthopaedic Surgery. Kia piki te kaha!

Te Poka Pū is commencing the regular webinars. On Wednesday July 16 at 7pm Dr Kayla Matenga (orthopedic trainee) will feature. Sign up to the Facebook page for more information.

Te Ora is running Zui as an opportunity for resident medical staff to provide feedback and information on regional attachments and conditions- please join you feedback is important in helping us to shape and change services for the future <https://teora.maori.nz/maori-rmo-zui-feedback/>

Finally, this Saturday 28 June is Sir Māui Pōmare day at Owae Marae, Manukorihi, Waitara. Te Ora is leading a ope to honor this tīpuna. For more information: <https://teora.maori.nz/honouring-ta-maui-pomare/>

## Kaimanaaki – Counselling Service

As part of the College's commitment to ensure RACS is a safe place to identify as Indigenous, Te Rau Poka offers free counselling through qualified counsellor Di Waters (Kai Tahu, Kāti Mamoe, Waitaha, Ngāti Kahungunu). To book a time to speak with Di please email [kindred@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kindred@xtra.co.nz). The College also has a process for managing complaints around bullying, discrimination and sexual harassment. See the website [Our process | RACS](#). You may also contact Prof Jonathan Koea directly [Jonathan.Koea@surgeons.org](mailto:Jonathan.Koea@surgeons.org)



## Whakanuia! Celebration!

### New Surgeons

Two new Orthopaedic surgeons were recognized at a special dinner of LIONZ, the Orthopaedics Society of New Zealand. Congratulations to Dr Ruth Tan and Dr Teriana Maheno who were gifted a pounamu and had korowai named in their honour. Please read more here about the event [LIONZ Celebrating A NZOA First | New Zealand Orthopaedic Association](#) and gifting of taonga [Ngā Rata Kōiwi Korowai | New Zealand Orthopaedic Association](#).

### Scholarship and ASC awards

Congratulations to the winners of 2025 RACS scholarships.

Dr Jamie-Lee Rahiri was awarded the John Corboy Medal by RACSTA (RACS Trainees Association) for exceptional service to trainees. Jamie-Lee is a research and advocacy leader and completing her clinical Training.

She is a thoroughly deserving recipient of this award. <https://www.surgeons.org/surgicalnews/Articles/2025/Volume-26/Issue-3/RACSTA-Jamie-Lee-Rahiri>

Dr Wiremu MacFater has won a research award from Johnson & Johnson MEDTECH. Have a read here [Advancing healthcare for Māori children | RACS](#). Tūmeke Wiremu!

The ASC Indigenous scholarship Māori winners this year were Dr Nasya Thompson (Otautahi) and Dr Annelisse Olsen (Te Whanganui a Tara). Nasya has deferred her award to next year's ASC. Annelisse attended the ASC in Sydney and spoke at the Indigenous breakfast. Ka mau te wehi kōrua.

Dr Julia Tairua-Doyle a House Officer at Tauranga Hospital was supported by Te Rau Poka to attend the ASC in Sydney where she presented in the Indigenous Plenary on inequities in the treatment of colorectal cancer for Māori. Julia also had a poster presentation. Tau kē Julia!

Last but not least, the award for best Indigenous research paper at the ASC was awarded to a second-year medical student Elaijah Tuivaiti from the University of Auckland. Tō nanakia hoki!



## Pūhoro - Ki te hoe! - RACS is on the road!

Pūhoro STEMM is a Māori focussed careers expo held annually in multiple locations around Aotearoa New Zealand. The roadshow is aimed at Māori secondary school students considering a career in the Science and Technology fields that also utilise Mātauranga Māori (Traditional knowledge encompassing a Māori world view).

This year Pūhoro is going to twelve regions including two new destinations Tauranga and Taranaki. We have three new presenters in Term Two- Nigel Henderson in Whanganui, Jared White in Tauranga and Vaughan Poutawera also at Tauranga. Maia Tipene is returning to help in Whāngārei, Waikato and Auckland. Seasoned presenters John Mutu-Grigg and Jonathan Koea will also be presenting in Auckland and Palmerston North.

We have a new Kaiwhakahaere Leanne Wagner who is with RACS for a few months and will be helping us with the Pūhoro roadshow and organisation of the Hui a Tau in Rotorua. Leanne and Ruth will be travelling to Whangārei, Auckland, Tauranga, Whanganui, and Manawatū to support the presenting surgeons. Check out Leanne's bio on our Te Rau Poka page on the RACS website [Te Rau Poka – Māori Surgical Academy | RACS](#)

Pūhoro Kaiwhakahaere Adele Vukula shared with us recently that since RACS involvement with Pūhoro 90 students are thinking about future medical careers. RACS is proud to be part of the kaupapa! Check out the Pūhoro website [Pūhoro STEMM Academy](#) to see the awesome programmes they offer to rangatahi Māori.

We cannot offer this programme without your support as surgeons. If you would like to help us out in Term Three please send us an email to express your interest to present. [ruth.herd@surgeons.org](mailto:ruth.herd@surgeons.org). We are looking to present in new areas in August and September- Rotorua, Heretaunga, Taranaki and Otautahi.

He mihi manahou to all our presenters this term Maia Tipene, John Mutu Nigel Henderson Jared White, Ailsa Wilson and Jonathan Koea. Check out the photos from the Auckland sessions run by John Mutu-Grigg and Maia Tipene. Ka wani kē kōrua!

John and Maia are also modelling the customised scrub tops that all presenters receive for their fantastic mahi.







## Kaupapa Hou – Upcoming Events

### Hui o TOKO ki Te Whanganui a Tara

Te Oranga Ki Otakou is hosting an event in Wellington on July 12th at the University of Otago Medical School campus on 23A Mein Street. Wellington. To register please contact Makenzie Wilson [teoranga.exec@gmail.com](mailto:teoranga.exec@gmail.com)

### Hui ki Te Arawa

The hui will be held in August in Rotorua. Kopa Manahi will host at one of **Tunohopu Marae ki Ohinemutu Rotorua. 15-17 August** (venue is confirmed) Please register your interest to attend by emailing [teraupoka@surgeons.org](mailto:teraupoka@surgeons.org). **Please register by July 15, 2025.**

### ASM ki Te Whanganui a Tara.

This year's ASM is in Wellington at the Parliament Building 4-5 September. Please check out the website for information on the [Louis Barnett Prize | RACS](#).

### Te ORA Hui a Tau

The Hui a Tau is being held in **Otaki 25-28 September**. RACS Māori Health Advisory Group meets face to face in Wellington prior to the hui a tau and supports the Te Rā Tuhura Careers Day. We will be vying for best stand as voted by the tauira and putting some of our surgeons through their paces in the Shark Tank! If you are interested in attending the hui and hanging out with the awesome surgeons please register for the academy and email if interested in being part of careers day and presenting on your specialty. Each surgeon has 3 minutes to pitch their specialty and the award goes to...haere mai tetahi āhua!. Bring it on! Email us [teraupoka@surgeons.org](mailto:teraupoka@surgeons.org)

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## Ngā Hononga – Partnerships

### Te Poka Pū Surgical Interest Group

Te Rau Poka has an agreement with Te Poka Pū – A Māori Surgical Interest Group comprising over 170 members. Te Poka Pū will deliver 8 webinars this year on surgical topics. For more information check out the website [Te Poka Pū | Te Piringa Kōtuku](#) and join their Facebook group to get the links to the webinars.

### Te Oranga Māori Medical Students Association

Te Rau Poka has an agreement with Te Oranga Māori Students Association that includes their affiliated rūpū TOKA (Te Oranga ki Akarana) and TOKO (Te Oranga Ki Otākou) for the second year running.

TOKO are holding their annual Wānanga-ā-tau on **12 July** in Wellington and the annual Kura Reo will be held in **5-7 September** in Waikato. The kura reo has five places for RACS affiliated surgeons and trainees and medical students. When you apply to the Kura Reo, please indicate you are a registered member of Te Rau Poka (link to join is on the last page of this newsletter). When your place is confirmed, please send a copy of your paid receipt to [teraupoka@surgeons.org](mailto:teraupoka@surgeons.org)

For enquiries about the Wananga a tau and Kura Reo please contact Te Rato Leach [teorangatumuaki@gmail.com](mailto:teorangatumuaki@gmail.com)





## Whakapiri mai – Join the Academy!

### Tēnei au te hōkai nuku, te hōkai rangi

Te Rau Poka refers to the pursuit of excellence in surgery but in a holistic sense, encompassing all aspects of one's being, such as physical, mental, spiritual, and cultural.

It represents a core value in Māori culture, which emphasises the importance of striving for excellence and maintaining a balanced way of life. This concept can be understood through the pūrākau (legend) of the acquisition of knowledge by Tāne Nui A Rangi.

Te Rau Poka provides support and guidance to Māori interested in surgical careers, creating a pipeline of taura (students) from secondary school onwards to surgical leadership roles.

To join the Academy, please scan the QR code below and fill out the form. To enter the prize draw put HOTOKE in the comments section. The prize is a Surgical Suturing Kit.

To meet the team, check out our webpage on Te Rau Poka – Māori Surgical Academy | RACS. For any questions please contact us at [teraupoka@surgeons.org](mailto:teraupoka@surgeons.org)

