



Royal Australasian

**College of Surgeons**

*Te Whare Piki Ora o Māhutonga*

# Ngāhuru

[Issue 2]

1 March 2025





## Ngā kōrero ki roto – in this issue

- *Mihimihi – Welcome from Kaiārahi*
- *Pūhoro – RACS is on the Road*
- *Kaimanaaki – Counselling service*
- *Kaupapa Motuhake- Upcoming Events*
- *Ngā Hononga – Partnerships*
- *Whakapiri Mai – Join up!*

### Mihimihi – Kaiārahi welcome

*Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa*

Tēnā koutou e hoa mā. Nau mai ki te tau 2025.

We have been hard at work over January and there is an extensive schedule of activities for 2025 planned beginning with an online hui on March 11 with members of the Māori Health Advisory Group – we want to hear from you – whats going well, whats not and how we can help. Currently 34 SET trainees whakapapa Māori with between 4-8 scheduled to complete Training annually in the next 5 years. Thirty four surgeons whakapapa Māori as of January 2025. Zoom will be on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.30-8.30pm.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83242910901?pwd=r1Rm0K4uVoUTLtaW3rO6R9hZVfbaXC.1>

If you missed this hui, we aim to have a catchup every quarter.

### Pūhoro - 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). 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.

This year Pūhoro is going to twelve regions including two new destinations Tauranga and Taranaki. If you would like to help us out and present to students, the highlights and realities of being a surgeon please send an email to [ruth.herd@surgeons.org](mailto:ruth.herd@surgeons.org).



## Kaimanaaki – Counselling Services

Last year Te Rau Poka commissioned research by Dr Nasya Thompson (Ngāti Raukawa) who investigated the supports and barriers for Māori surgical trainees, house officers and medical students. This research findings were consistent with a report recently released by Otago and Auckland University on racism, discrimination and bullying experience by Māori medical students.<sup>1</sup>

The findings were informative and have led to the further development of support mechanisms for medical students and surgical trainees. Di Waters (Kai Tahu, Kāti Mamoe, Waitaha, Ngāti Kahungunu) will be returning this year to provide counselling and support for the Te Rau Poka academy. To book a time to speak with Di please email [kindred@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kindred@xtra.co.nz). If you have any questions about the service, please contact [ruth.herd@surgeons.org](mailto:ruth.herd@surgeons.org)

## Kaupapa Motuhake – Upcoming Events

### Wānanga Whakarite

SET selection preparation workshop is an annual event. This year it is being held at Wellington Hospital on 14-15 June. Contact Lincoln Nicholls [1maoridoc@gmail.com](mailto:1maoridoc@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 (subject to confirmation of venue). Please register your interest to attend by emailing [ruth.herd@surgeons.org](mailto:ruth.herd@surgeons.org)

### ASM ki Te Whanganui a Tara.

This year's ASM is in Wellington at Parliament Building September 4-5 September. Please check out the website for information on the [Louis Barnett Prize | RACS](#). Te Rau Poka will provide travel support and registration fees for a student or trainee who has submitted a successful abstract. For more information contact Ruth Herd at [ruth.herd@surgeons.org](mailto:ruth.herd@surgeons.org)

### Te ORA Hui a Tau

The Hui a Tau is in Otaki 25-28 September. RACS Māori Health Advisory Group meets face to face each year at this time. We will be vying for best stand 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. QR code is at the end of the newsletter.

---

<sup>1</sup> [Māori Medical Student and Physician Exposure to Racism, Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying - PMC](#)



## Ngā Hononga – Partnerships

### Te Oranga Māori Medical Students Association

Te Rau Poka has an agreement with Te Oranga Māori Students Association that includes their affiliated rōpū TOKA (Te Oranga ki Akarana) and TOKO (Te Oranga Ki Otākou) for the second year running. They are holding a hui in July and the annual Kura Reo will hold five places for RACS affiliated surgeons and trainees. 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).

### Te Poka Pū Surgical Interest Group

Te Rau Poka has a new 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. Information will be sent through the email network.

## 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 tauira (students) from secondary school onwards to surgical leadership roles.

To join the Academy, please scan the QR code and fill out the form. To enter the prize draw put **NGAHURU** 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](#)

