

International Indigenous Employment Symposium – Speakers Bio’s



Arama Mataira

Throughout her long-lasting career in education in Australia and in New Zealand, Arama has experienced high levels of success from the outset from being the first remote schoolteacher to be awarded the Teacher of Exemplary Practice status to being the youngest principal in the region at the age of 25. The majority of her work has been in Australia’s most remote regions working with Indigenous Aboriginal peoples in Central Australia and in Western Australia. Arama’s particular interests include coaching and bringing awareness to leadership teams, aspirant leaders, individuals and Iwi.

Ali Jalayer

Ali is the Branch Manager at the Australian Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations. The department is responsible for national policies and programmes that help Australians find and keep employment and work in safe, fair and productive workplaces.

Alicia Weiderman

With over 15 years’ experience in Government related roles, Alicia has been responsible for the development and implementation of various program and policies, managed national consultation processes and engaged widely with communities, industry groups and employers. Working in Australia and the United Kingdom, she has a track record of delivering results in complex environments. Alicia is passionate about creating opportunities for Indigenous Australians, and supporting women in leadership roles.

Annie Aranaui

Annie is the Regional Commissioner at the Ministry of Social Development in East Coast New Zealand. The Ministry is all about helping to build successful individuals, and in turn building strong, healthy families and communities. Some of Annie’s key skills include; stakeholder management and engagement, governance, public sector and change management.

Chris Sarra

Professor Chris Sarra an internationally recognised Indigenous education specialist and is the founder and Chairman of the Stronger Smarter Institute.

Chris grew up in Bundaberg in Queensland and is the youngest of ten children. He experienced first-hand many of the issues faced by Indigenous students throughout their schooling. Encouraged and supported by some teachers and mentors, Chris successfully completed a Diploma of Teaching, a Bachelor of Education and Master of Education at QUT and a PhD in Psychology with Murdoch

University. His thesis has been published in a book released in 2011, titled *Strong and Smart - Towards a Pedagogy for Emancipation Education for First Peoples*.

In the 1990s, Chris took on the challenges of Indigenous education as Principal of Cherbourg State School in South East Queensland. Under Chris' leadership, the school became nationally acclaimed for its pursuit of the Stronger Smarter Philosophy which significantly improved the educational and life outcomes of students. In 2004, Chris was Queenslander of the Year, and in 2010 he was Queensland's Australian of the Year. He is the NAIDOC 2016 Person of the Year. Professor Sarra also sits on the Australian Rugby League Commission.

Professor Sarra is passionate about effecting sustainable change through positive leadership and mentoring with high expectations for a strong and smart Indigenous population. He embraces a proud cultural identity and a holistic sense of what it means to be Aboriginal in contemporary Australian society.

In 2012, Chris published the story of his life working for a stronger, smarter future for Indigenous children as his biography, *Good Morning, Mr Sarra*. By sharing his own journey and through his work with the Stronger Smarter Institute, Chris encourages other leaders to embrace the Stronger Smarter challenge of high expectations relationships. Chris' leading advocacy of the Stronger Smarter approach has inspired transformation in schools across Australia.

Don Worme

Donald Worme, QC, IPC graduated with his Juris Doctorate in 1985 at the College of Law, University of Saskatchewan, Canada. He articulated with the Federal Department of Justice in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, prosecuting federal offences and received his call to the bar in 1986. Donald has been a member in good standing ever since and continues to practice law with offices in Ontario and British Columbia.

Mr. Worme, Q.C. is founding member of the Indigenous Bar Association of Canada, a national advocacy group comprised of Indigenous Lawyers, Judges and law students, where he served as president from 1990 - 92. A Cree lawyer from the Kawacatoose First Nation, Treaty Four, Saskatchewan, Mr. Worme is one of the leading advocates in the province for criminal law and treaty litigation and has been a vocal member of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Tribunal since 2001.

Mr. Worme has been involved in developing and public policies under the scope of Aboriginal and treaty rights. He was engaged in the studies and analysis for the National Indian Tax Advisory Board and has provided both research and commentary for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

Mr. Worme has served on several Judicial Commissions of Inquiry in different capacities:

- he represented Sandra Paquachon in the 1995 Commission of Inquiry into Certain Events at The Prison For Women in Kingston, Ontario, Canada;
- he acted as lead counsel to the family of Neil Stonechild in the 2002 Judicial Inquiry into the Saskatoon Police Service's involvement with the teen's freezing death in Saskatchewan;
- he acted as Commission Counsel during the 2004 Ipperwash Judicial Inquiry in Ontario, Canada which looked into the killing of unarmed Indigenous land protester Dudley George;
- he acted on behalf of the Assembly of First Nations in the 2009 Oppal Commission in Vancouver, British Columbia which examined the critical issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls; and

- he was Lead Commission Counsel to the 2010 Truth & Reconciliation Commission which over its six year mandate examined the 150 year legacy of the Indian Residential School experience in Canada and its devastating aftermath.

Donald received his Queen's Counsel appointment in 2002 and his Indigenous People's Counsel designation in 2006 in recognition of his service to Indigenous peoples and the Creator.

Ed Montague

Ed joined the SIU in March 2016. He was previously a Principal Advisor at the NZ Treasury where he acted as Treasury's lead on the social impact bonds pilots and other related initiatives.

Prior to joining the Treasury in 2013, Ed was a Director in the Finance & Economics practice at PwC NZ where he specialised in providing commercial advice to wide range of government agencies.

Before moving to New Zealand in 2010, Ed spent five years as an investment analyst at a London-based hedge fund, IBIS Capital Partners LLP. Ed's investment experience builds on his early career as a management consultant at Arthur D. Little, Strategy Advisor at the UK communications regulator, OFCOM, and Strategy Manager at the global telecommunications company, O2 Telefonica.

Ed has a Bachelor of Arts in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) from Oxford University.

Gretta Carney

Gretta is the owner and founder of Hapi which creates food that is plant based, nutrient dense and tastes delicious. More than just healthy food, each product is created to act synergistically to heal and enhance the brain, body and spirit. Hapi is a way of living that celebrates diversity in eating styles.

Since graduating with a BA in Theatre and Film Gretta has dedicated herself to food, healing and health.

She has worked in various guises including co-director of Wellington based The Organic Catering Company, researcher to OANZ (Organic Aotearoa New Zealand), Project Manager to Te Waka Kai Ora overseeing the development of the Hua Parakore Organic Verification Programme and member of the Aotearoa delegation to the Terra Madre International Slow Food Meeting of Indigenous Food Producers in Italy 2008.

Gretta has a National Diploma in Biodynamic Organic Agriculture and has spent many happy hours over the years in abundant organic gardens.

Gretta is also a qualified Classical Homeopath running a clinical practice in Hawkes Bay since 2012. She has 3 children who have grown up on her family's sheep and cattle farm in Rissington.

Hamahona Ambler

Hamahona is the project lead for Te Kahui Ohanga O Takitimu, New Zealand which is a collective of Iwi and Maori organisations who have come together to play a key role in achieving collective economic goals for Maori through *Matariki- Hawke's Bay Regional Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan 2016*.

Through his own business, Te Ora Consultancy, Hamahoma leads economic development and business development projects in the region.

Hemi Inia

Hemi is the trust Manager for He Toki Ki Te Mahi at the Te Taupe O Rehua. Hemi has been in recruitment, student support, management and project management roles and brings an excellent level of understanding of tertiary education and the importance of Kaupapa Māori principles, cultural values, achievement, and successful outcomes for Māori.

Hilary Jones

A long-time human resources practitioner, Hilary Jones joined the NWT Mine Training Society as General Manager in 2006, Hilary has played a pivotal role in improving the quality of programs, increasing enrolment, and building partnerships.

Prior to MTS, Hilary led the NWT Tourism Training Group and was a founding member of the Canadian Tourism Human Resource Council. She was instrumental in establishing occupational standards and certification for diamond polishers – a global first. She played a significant role in the establishment of diamond polishing factories in the Yellowknife area and was the Director of Operations for Arslanian Cutting Works (NWT) Ltd., for six years. She spends her volunteer time between the Yellowknife Rotary Club True North and Scouts Canada as a Beaver Leader.

Jody Hamilton

Jody (Ngati Kahungunu, Ngati Raukawa, Ngarauru) brings over 18 years' experience, including 12 years at the senior executive and senior manager level. Jody has worked in a range of strategy, policy and operational roles in Australia, New Zealand and Canada, primarily in the areas of economic, community and social development.

She is Director of her own company, JMP Consulting which strengthens businesses, organisations, communities and people.

Jeannie Cranmer

Jeannie Cranmer, Kwakwaka'wakw a member of the Namgis First Nation, has worked in Human Resources for over 25 years with a strong focus on skill development within the Aboriginal labour force. She has led major Aboriginal employment initiatives across the country, signing 14 Aboriginal Employment partnerships for the provincial government between industry and Aboriginal organizations providing pathways to Aboriginal employment.

Katrina Fanning

Katrina is a Wiradjuri woman and a director at Coolamon Advisors, she provides a broad range of expertise across Government Policy and Operations, including a deep understanding and proven capability across Indigenous areas. Katrina has deep public sector experience at senior executive levels and has been responsible for leading complex operational and policy activities for a number of organisations.

Keriana Tawhiwhirangi

Keriana is a leadership coach and owner of Lead with PIZAZZ. She is an inspirational leader who is passionate about bringing out the best in others in a supportive and enthusiastic environment. She approaches every challenge as an opportunity and has the proven ability to develop solutions to seemingly unsolvable problems with optimism. Keriana is a highly skilled and experienced educator, mentor, facilitator and advisor with exceptional communication, management and administration skills.

Her career highlights include:

- Fourteen years NZEI Te Riu Roa activist as a counsellor, advocate and executive member
- Three years as a School Management Adviser, Waikato University
- Member of the National Advisory Committee on Special Education, National Association Resource Teachers Advisers Maori Executive, the Waikato School Advisers Employment Negotiation Contract Team and Ministry of Education Māori representative on the State Services Commission Advisory Group (Recruitment and Retention of Maori and Pasifika in the Public Service)
- Trained Human Rights facilitators to facilitate Treaty of Waitangi dialogue in communities
- Four years leading a cutting-edge project as Programme Director of the Principals' Development and Planning Centre for Experienced Principals. Ministry of Education

Levi Armstrong

Levi is the director and founder of Patu Aotearoa which is a new initiative to engage with whanau and decrease inactivity rates in New Zealand in particular Maori and Pacific Island.

Levi has a Bachelor of Sport and Recreation and strong entrepreneurial experience.

Lewis Rapatu

Lewis Rapatu is the General Manager for Business Growth and Design at Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga, New Zealand whose strategic direction encourages them to look forward and strive for the well-being of Whanau in Heretaunga.

Matthew Clark

Matt is the Deputy CEO of the National Employment Services Association, the peak body for the Australian employment and related services industry. Matt has led two of Australia's largest reform projects across remote Australia over the last four years focusing on building capacity and workforce development. He has designed a national supply chain of industry experts and has personally overseen the successful delivery of 250 building capacity projects and 200 professional forums.

Matt has over 14 years' experience working in the employment services sector including executive management roles both at a strategic and operational level. Matt has also worked across the community services sector for 10 years including 7 years as an Aboriginal Health Worker. Matt's passion has always been to bridge the gap that Aboriginal Communities experience in terms of employment, education and health. Matt holds a BSc (Hons) from the University of Wollongong, majoring in Indigenous Health.

Melaina Newport-Karaitiana

As a Maori business owner herself, Aroha & Friends co-founder Melaina has a passion for supporting Maori business development and using business growth to support whanau into employment.

Aroha & Friends is a retail destination in Napier, which also operates as both a freelance design studio and print department producing finely crafted print works embracing both traditional and modern printing techniques including serigraphy, printmaking and letterpress.

Michaela Vodanovich

Michaela joined The Icehouse in 2012 as the Regional Manager of The Icehouse Hawke's Bay. Michaela helped to establish The Icehouse in Hawke's Bay through her involvement with the economic development agency, Business Hawke's Bay.

Michaela is passionate about revitalising regional businesses and she is highly motivated to provide the support required for owner managers to recognise their potential, clarify their business strategy and improve their capability and performance and that of their staff.

Narelle Huata

Narelle is chair of the Ngati Kahungunu Runanga Arts and Culture Board, currently leading the organisation Te Matatini 2017 when Ngati Kahungunu will host the biennial national kapa haka competition in Hastings.

She is also Chief Executive Officer of Te Wananga Whare Tapere o Takitimu, Takitimu Performing Arts School.

Precious Clark

Precious Clark is of Ngati Whatua and Tainui descent and is the Director of Maurea Consulting Ltd, a consultancy practise that is set on sharing Maori culture globally so that it may shape and inform a modern world.

They provide consultancy services in strategic planning, engaging with Maori and assist organisations to incorporate the Maori worldview within their organisations. They are developing a unique programme that will assist the corporate sector to understand and identify with Maori culture with the aim of increasing confidence to engage with Maori.

Rawinia Kamau

Rawinia is the owner and director of Whakatane business KamTech and Associates, specializing in business and economic development.

With a strong economic and community development background through she has built extensive relationships across Aotearoa New Zealand.

She currently sits as a governance member on several boards and has extensive experience in advisory, executive and director positions across a range of entities.

Renata Hakiwai

Renata is the Director for Whenua Kura at the Te Taupe O Rehua. Renata joined the Te Tapuae team from CPIT where he held the position of Manager - Maori and Pasifika Trades Training. Renata brings to his role a blend of experience having worked in both the Education and Commercial sectors.

Renata is passionate about using his knowledge and experience to support initiatives that build capability within Māori, but first and foremost, those that support whanau transformation by developing Māori leaders.

Ronnie Rochel

Ronnie is the Director of Te Aratika Drilling and has eighteen years' experience as a local and international business entrepreneur. She is an advocate for creating pathways for youth, families and communities.

Te Aratika Drilling was established in Auckland as a family business in 1998. Te Aratika translates from Māori to mean "the right path". The significance of the name for the company is represented on its worksites. This is ensured from the initial planning phase to assess that the correct method/path has been chosen to complete each individual project. This concept forms the corner stones of the business as a Christian based company.

Shayne Walker

Shayne is a part of Te Kahui Ohanga O Takitimu and is also the General Manager for Maungaharuru-Tangitu Trust which was established to receive and manage Treaty of Waitangi Settlement redress from the New Zealand Government.

Shayne has collective experience across various industries with the past 10 years working in justice and health, managing operations, designing strategy, policy and various governance roles with a particular focus on accelerating Māori outcomes.

Tania Pouwhare

Tania Pouwhare (Ngāi Tūhoe) is a Social Intrapreneur at The Southern Initiative, Auckland Council. Her role is to be a positive disruptor inside the Auckland Council-family to create greater value with its finite resources and to leverage opportunities for South Auckland's change agents. Tania started at Auckland Council in 2011 as a principal strategist in Community and Cultural Strategy and then Strategic Advice.

Prior to this, Tania spent a decade in London, where she was Head of Policy and Deputy Chief Executive at the Women's Resource Centre, the UK's leading infrastructure organisation for the women's NGO sector. Tania played a major role in growing and developing the Women's Resource Centre, which was awarded Britain's *Most Admired Charity*. Before leaving New Zealand, Tania worked for Women's Refuge as a policy advisor, and supported grassroots Māori organisations with research. Tania has a MA (Women's Studies) from The University of Auckland. She is mum to six year-old Lilian and partner to Andrew.

Tara Worme

Tara Worme is the Executive Director of the Amiskusees: Semaganis Worme Family Foundation. She has been in the position since November 2015, prior to which she was an active board member since

the creation of the foundation in 2014. Through the Foundation, her goal is to empower the human spirit. Notably, she is committed to supporting indigenous women and children in the areas of education, sports, the arts and cultural programming. Tara is Cree from Poundmaker First Nation in Treaty 6 territory Saskatchewan.

Tara attended post-secondary at the University of Florence, Italy, to study the Italian language and culture, and to research a special studies project on how Native art and artifacts are preserved in museums and marketed in Europe. She continued her studies at the University of Saskatchewan at the college of Arts & Science. Prior to attaining a degree Tara embarked in a career as an Administrative Assistant in the public service, working in Ottawa, Ontario for the Federal Government for 13 years with a focus on HR and Finance. Here she perfected the study of French, while developing her administrative skills at Health Canada and the Department of Employment and Social Development, and briefly providing support for the Government of Australia.

Tara is currently living in Saskatoon.

Te Huia Bill Hamilton

Bill (Ngāti Kahungunu, Nga Rauru, Ngāti Raukawa) has over 20 years' experience in governance and senior management and expertise in operational matters including reporting, monitoring and risk management. He has owned and managed a Maori restaurant in Wellington, which was recognised by the Lonely Planet as one of the top 10 'must do' attractions for NZ. He has a sound knowledge of Tikanga Maori and Te Reo Maori.

Toro Waaka

Toro (Ngāti Pahauwera, Rakaipaaka, Ngāti Kahungunu, Tuhoe, Rauwaka, Tūwharetoa) has been involved in tourism for more than 25 years, beginning with tourism interpretation of Māori Historic sites, walking tracks and environmental tourism for the Department of Conservation.

He is also Chair of Ngāti Pahauwera Development Trust, whose mission is to protect and enhance the resources of Ngāti Pāhauwera for the welfare of the people and to maintain the Treaty claim settlement in a sustainable manner for future generations.

Wayne 'Buck' Shelford

Wayne gained his first experiences of team sport as a teenager, where he played for a local rugby league team in his home town of Rotorua. Although he was not aware at the time, this experience was to provide a stepping stone for Wayne into a rugby career, which would eventually see him as one of the world's most prominent loose forwards.

Quoting from the 1989 Rugby Almanac 'The All Black captain W T Shelford, with his excellent ball skills, powerful running and sense of anticipation, must rank as the best player ever seen in this position during the last decade'.

Wayne began his representative rugby career in 1978 where he played for the New Zealand Colts and the New Zealand Combined Services. He then went on to play for the Auckland Rugby Union in 1982 where he made 28 appearances. In 1985 Wayne was voted Player of the Year and it was also in this year that he joined the North Harbour Rugby Union (a break-away Union) and within three years Wayne led North Harbour to first division status for the 1988 season. He included three tries in his side's conclusive defeat of Hawkes Bay to clinch promotion late in the season.

Wayne made his test debut in 1986 against France with a typically barging try. In 1987 he played in five out of six World Cup matches, scoring two tries in the semi-final match against Wales in Brisbane. He then played against Australia in Sydney and at the end of the season he gained the honour of leading the New Zealand team on their short tour of Japan where he appeared in all five matches. Wayne appeared in 32 matches (13 tests) for the All Blacks and held captaincy from 1987 until 1990 when he was dropped in controversial circumstances.

He then joined Northampton Rugby Club in England as a player and coach. During his time there the senior team, which had an average age of only 23 years, twice made the Cup Final after lifting itself up significantly in the rankings.

As well as representing the All Blacks, Wayne also represented the New Zealand Maori All Blacks (first in 1985) and then captained the 1988 tour.

Wayne Shelford is one of the toughest men ever to set foot on a rugby field and in 2007 he was faced with an opponent tougher than him – cancer. Wayne is now in remission and has begun to speak out for the first time about his fight for his life.