

# Ara Foundation

Review 2019 | 2020

➤ **Changing lives**  
through opportunities  
and experiences



# Welcome

“Clearly COVID 19 has had an impact on the Foundation’s investments but we are confident that our investments will recover to ensure we can continue to provide grants...”

**When reflecting on the year gone by it is hard to do so without considering the present, and how different things are in New Zealand and the world compared to this time last year.**

The Foundation finished 2019 in a very positive position. We awarded over \$95,000 in grants which was a significant increase from \$35,156 awarded in the prior year. We made the decision at our April 2019 AGM to change to two funding rounds with the first round open to students and staff and the second round open to just students. Despite the fact we were able to award a higher number of grants than the previous year, limiting the funding rounds to just two per annum did have its drawbacks so the Foundation will be moving to three grant rounds for the 2020/2021 year.

The Foundation awarded two students the Karen Lewis Award. One recipient was from the cookery school and the second recipient was studying hospitality. We also presented the Neil McInnes scholarship to the top performing Level 4 cookery school student.

The Foundation’s investment portfolio had a very solid performance resulting in a net return after fees of 18.3%.

In addition to our own funds, the Foundation administers two separate funds, the John Foy Memorial Foundation,

and the Paul Norris award. The Paul Norris Award is funded by donations from friends and family of the late Paul Norris. The Foundation was asked by the family to administer the funds and grant the award to the top journalism graduate in New Zealand Broadcasting Schools Bachelor of Broadcasting Commutations Degree Programme.

The John Foy Memorial Foundation provides an annual scholarship to the top journalism student with the highest grades across all radio-related assessments in the Advanced Broadcast Journalism of the New Zealand Broadcasting Schools Bachelor of Broadcasting Commutations Degree Programme.

During 2019 we said farewell to four of our long-standing trustees Jane Cartwright, Elizabeth Hopkins, Geoff Cranko and Jackie Curtis. We also welcomed three new trustees, Tracey Berry (Ara appointed), Renata Donal Te Rita Hakiwai and Janet Wright. All four outgoing trustees had completed their two four-year terms and therefore were required to step down. The Foundation is extremely thankful for the time, effort and the valued input these four trustees have provided over the past 8 years.

In April this year the New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology came into existence. This brought together the existing 16

ITPs from around the country, including the Ara Institute. One of the concerns for Foundation Trustees was to ensure that the Foundation’s funds remained predominantly for the benefit of staff and students of the Ara Institute. Following legal advice, the Foundation Trust Deed was amended to address that concern.

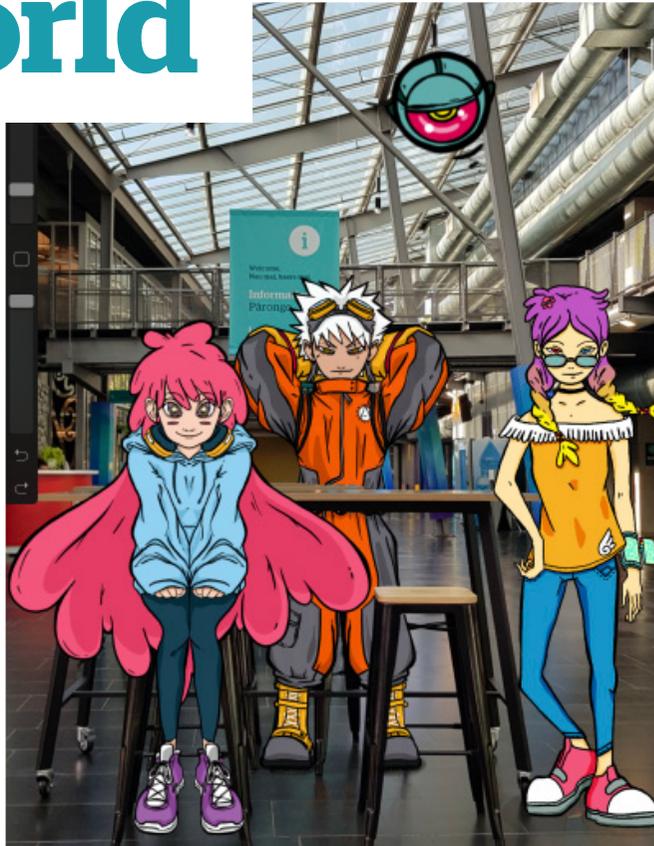
Towards the end of 2019 the world first started to learn of COVID 19. Clearly COVID 19 has had an impact on the Foundation’s investments but we are confident that our investments will recover to ensure we can continue to provide grants, scholarships and financial assistance to the students and staff of the Ara Institute.

The Foundation will be looking at how we can respond to the challenges and changes of 2020 and how we can adapt and respond to the needs of the students and staff of the Ara Institute.



**Katherine Ewer**  
Chair of Ara Foundation

# A Virtual World



**Bachelor of Information and Communication Technologies student at Ara Institute of Canterbury, Josiah Kerr, was looking for something to keep him busy over the summer. When one of his lecturers suggested working on an IT project during the break, Josiah was up for the challenge.**

His idea... a virtual tour of Ara, an idea that came about after Josiah witnessed a large group of potential and new students being shown around campus.

“From what I saw, I don’t think all of the students could hear what the guide was saying. I could see about five students really close to the guide getting all the information, but others weren’t as engaged. That was the light bulb moment when I thought that a different solution could be offered.”

Josiah’s lecturer mentioned to him that there was the possibility to back a successful idea with a grant from the ARA Foundation. Josiah thought this could be the perfect project and was pleased when his grant application was successful.

One aspect of Josiah’s application that was very positive for Ara Foundation trustees was that in addition to funding, Josiah identified that he needed the skills of students from across Ara to be involved to make the project successful.

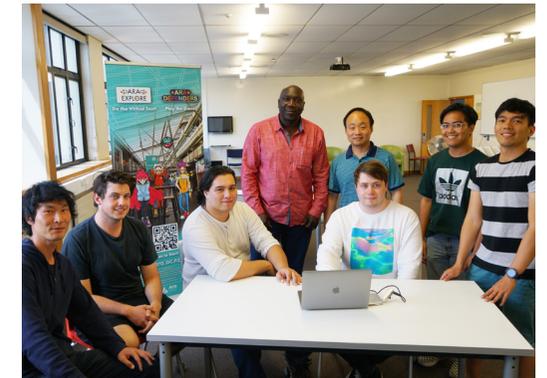
“We had five different departments working on the project and at least eight students ended up touching the project at some point in its development. The team was amazing, especially the designers and programmers, but everyone pitched in and you can see the amount of talent that we had involved from the final product.”

The end result meant prospective students were able to visit the Ara Explore website on Open Day and from there they could choose between being guided through a virtual campus tour or playing a demo version of a virtual tour game Ara Defenders.

“We wanted to show prospective students, Ara isn’t boring, we do cool stuff. We were really happy with the end result. We broke 1,000 views on the first Open Day and a lot of people played the game, so it went really well. It is still live today and Ara is maintaining the project.”

Josiah said he has learnt a huge amount through this opportunity from the Foundation.

“The team involved were all doing a lot of new things, from project management to managing people and meetings. It was the best industry practice you could get!”



**The Virtual Tour Team, left to right:**

**Seated:** Yutaka Kawakami (Programming),

Dylan O’Callaghan (Game Art), Josiah Kerr (Project Manager) and Sean Ryan (code).

**Standing:** Tutors Dr Bernard Otinpong and Dr Luofeng Xu, and students John Ymbong (Design) and Paolo Siat (graphic design).



# The Song Writers Professional Collection

**In 2019, Josh MacGregor, also known as Josh Mac in the pop industry, was in his final year of completing a Bachelor of Musical Arts at Ara Institute of Canterbury, majoring in singing and song writing.**

For his capstone project, Josh planned to create a song writing portfolio. This consisted of writing as many songs as he could and collaborating with other artists and producers in the process. He would then put his favourite songs on a professional collection.

To ensure the success of the project and to achieve a professional end product, Josh applied to the Ara Foundation for financial support. He received a grant that helped cover the cost of flights, allowing him to work with artists and producers throughout the country, album art and production - mastering and mixing of the songs.

Josh said from the get-go he worked hard on the project and didn't feel like he was studying as he loved it so much. He went to Auckland three times throughout the year. On the first two trips he wrote numerous

songs with various artists and producers and he finished the songs on the final trip.

Josh said the project has been a fantastic success and that he is super happy with how it turned out.

"I released the collection of nine songs on Spotify and other streaming platforms. One of the songs plays on mainstream radio, which also has a music video that plays on TV and the rest of the songs play on various radio channels."

Josh says without the help of the grant he wouldn't have written the songs that ended up on the professional collection.

"I didn't have any support from labels or managers, apart from the money from the Ara Foundation, so it went well."

While Covid-19 has put a hold on his future plans, Josh intends to move to LA sometime in 2020 to further pursue his music career.

# Capturing the Experience

“I am grateful for the grant that has enabled me to complete a piece of work that not just me, but others are interested in.”



**Emma Densem works as a nurse educator at Christchurch Hospital as well as on the floor as a nurse in the Children’s Haematology Oncology ward. She has completed a postgraduate diploma and is in the process of completing her masters.**

Emma’s masters thesis is exploring nurses experiences with the death of a child in a hospital setting. Emma chose the topic based on her personal experience of caring for children when they die and the complexities of managing these situations.

With fulltime work and study and the subjective topic of her masters, Emma knew she would need to invest in transcribing of the interviews and final editing to meet timeframes. She applied to, and received a grant from, the Ara Foundation to assist with these tasks.

“I’m grateful for the grant. When I went to my supervisors and said this is what I wanted to do and this is the time it will take, they asked whether I would be able to achieve it. Without the grant it would have been difficult, and I may not

have completed research that I felt passionate about. I am grateful for the grant that has enabled me to complete a piece of work that not just me, but others are interested in.”

Emma intends to hand in her thesis mid-2020. She hopes to have it published and present it locally.

“It is a small study, I interviewed eight nurses, but it is unique, especially in a New Zealand context. When I started the work, I didn’t find any other New Zealand research about a nurse’s experience of caring for children who die. There were broader experiences but in a small population like ours it hasn’t been spoken about.”

“I was worried that people wouldn’t want to participate in my research, but I quickly had all the participants I needed. It’s obviously something people want to talk about.

“I really hope to share what I find widely and the research helps nurses feel better supported to manage these experiences.”



**Kirsten Gunn is a Senior Lecturer for the Department of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health at Ara Institute of Canterbury. She also works with the Nursing Council of New Zealand in relation to competence assessments for registered nurses.**

The competence assessments used in New Zealand were originally based on a Canadian model. With the support of Ara Foundation, Kirsten visited Canada in 2019 to review the competence assessment process and discuss quality improvement opportunities. In addition to visiting the assessment centres and observing the assessments in process, Kirsten also visited the regulatory authorities to learn more about the processes for the registration of nurses in Canada as well as for the accreditation of undergraduate nursing programmes.

Kirsten said the experience was very informative and provided some great insights. These visits reinforced for Kirsten that New Zealand is doing a great job in these areas. However, it also highlighted some areas that

could be further developed in relation to the competence assessments. Some of these key learnings included incorporating more opportunities for nurses to demonstrate critical thinking and clinical reasoning throughout the assessments.

Since returning from Canada, Kirsten has been able to put her learning into practice. In particular, the Canadians have a course for overseas nurses that runs over the period of a year and Kirsten has been able to compare this to the New Zealand offering. The outcome of that comparison will see future changes coming about.

“What I learnt will continue to inform my practice for a long time. There are many things that I will be able to call on in the future when we are doing further development and reviews. It was not a one-off learning opportunity,” says Kirsten.

In addition, Kirsten has also formed strong relationships with the people she met and is in regular email contact.

## Comparing nursing competence assessments

# Growth, Friendship and Learning

**Nursing student Mikayla Wieblitz joined 100 nominated delegates on the Aspiring Leaders Forum in Wellington in 2019, made possible by funding from the Ara Foundation.**

This is an annual event that brings together individuals, aged 18-26, from all over New Zealand. Across four days, participants discussed why faith and values are foundational in informing and developing character and leadership.

Mikayla said, “It was an incredible four days of growth, friendship and learning that I feel has sparked a desire within me to learn more, see more and be more.”

Spending the first day at Parliament House, Mikayla was exposed to the day-to-day running of Parliament and heard from numerous MPs who shared their insights on leadership. This was followed by a banquet dinner at the Beehive with Dame Jenny Shipley delivering the keynote address. Dame Jenny spoke about discovering your “who” and “why” in order to find your “what” in life.

Day two commenced with leaders of the business community talking about their organisations and how they prioritise their people. Leaders of Pacific and Māori heritage also spoke. This has inspired Mikayla to look at enrolling in the Te Hoe Māori for beginners’ course that Ara offers in order to further her knowledge and understanding of Te Reo.

A range of young leaders that have started their own NGO’s and projects within their communities shared their experiences on day three. This was followed by a presentation on selected community service projects.

On the final day of the forum, delegates reviewed their learnings and discussed how they could apply these in their communities and places of study or work.

Mikayla said, “The forum challenged me to not only look at how I can lead or be a good leader but also about finding out my ‘why’ and ‘who’, both as a person and as a leader in different communities. It has inspired me to look at ways I can make a difference

in people’s lives and has clarified the values that underpin my desire to become a nurse and work in the medical profession. I feel as though it has given me critical thinking skills and interpersonal relationship skills that I can take into all areas of life. I hope to get more involved in community events at Ara and be able to share this experience and the things I have learned with other students”.



# Learning from the Best

## Each year the Music Arts programme at Ara Institute of Canterbury runs Artists in Residence.

While the programme has been running for six years it is often a stretch on budget and means going without other things. Tutor, Harry Harrison, approached the Ara Foundation in 2019 for support for the programme and was successful in receiving a grant.

“The programme is put together to give students the opportunity to have experienced music practitioners come and do intensive workshops, tutorials, one-on-one sessions over the course of a week,” says Harry.

For the programme in 2019, two young singer songwriters, Georgie Clifford and Emily Browning, who were graduates of Ara’s own Music Arts programme, and who had both been performing in the United States and releasing their own music, were organised to lead the programme.

Georgie and Emily presented a four-day programme of workshops, tutorials and tutoring on creativity, music, performance and industry to all levels in Music Arts, with a couple of sessions directed at song writing students only.

Harry says that he can’t stress enough the importance of being able to offer something like this.

“The artists are who our students aspire to be, so it is very exciting for them. They see tutors every week of every year and while I’m sure they find us inspiring, the value of having artists present, who are recognised by our students, is really important.”



Emily Browning



Georgie Clifford

# Why Journalism Matters

**JEANZ, the Journalism Education Association of New Zealand, is a network of professional journalism educators that supports and promotes journalism training at tertiary level, as well as fostering research into journalism education.**

Every year JEANZ holds an annual conference and in 2019 Christchurch had the opportunity to host.

2019 JEANZ President, Karen Neill, who is also a Senior Academic – New Zealand Broadcasting School, Ara Institute of Canterbury, applied to the Ara Foundation for a grant to enable the New Zealand Broadcasting School (NZBS) at Ara to host the conference.

“The conference attracts delegates from New Zealand and Australian tertiary training

organisations. The grant from Ara Foundation enabled us to secure travel for a keynote speaker and media professionals to take part in discussions over the two days, networking opportunities, and a chance to promote NZBS and Ara. We would not have been able to host it without this support,” says Karen.

The conference was held on 2-3 December and the theme was Why Journalism Matters, which Karen says sparked dialogue around the changing nature of journalism education, and journalism as a career choice.

The conference opened with a keynote address by former NZBS-graduate and Broadcasting Minister Hon Kris Faafoi, and was followed by a panel on Funding the News (with Chair Paul Thompson, RNZ

Chief Executive; Sinead Boucher, Stuff Chief Executive; Mark Jennings, Co-founding Editor of Newsroom; and Jane Wrightson, Chief Executive NZ On Air). There was also a panel discussion on the Christchurch Mosque shootings with journalists who covered the event (Kamala Hayman, Editor The Press; Jehan Casinader, Reporter TVNZ; Katie Scotcher, Reporter RNZ and ex-student; and Thomas Mead, Reporter TVNZ).

Day two started with a live stream keynote address from Mel Bunce in London, author of The Broken Estate: Journalism and Democracy in a Post-Truth World and was followed by a panel on the Future of News (chaired by NZBS alumni Jack Tame with student-alumni from JEANZ-member institutions).

Over the two days there were also 12 research presentations on a range of topics including journalism education and industry practice, and a member debrief from the 2019 World Journalism Education Congress (WJEC) in Paris.

Karen says invited speakers from major media were unanimous that the industry needs more qualified journalists and confirmed that the opportunities are there for students who can write and want to change the world.

Karen says the conference was a great success, and further cemented the NZBS and Ara as a leading provider of tertiary media training in New Zealand.





# The Spring Sprint

**In 2019 the Ara Foundation supported six Ara Institute of Canterbury students entering Te Ōhaka Spring Sprint.**

Te Ōhaka is a partnership founded by Ara Institute of Canterbury and Ministry of Awesome and is the home of high-growth startups in Christchurch,

The purpose of Spring Sprint is to encourage Ara students who have an entrepreneurial idea, whether it's for a product, social enterprise, or a business, to turn it into reality through two weeks of mentoring and coaching.

Following this, students then pitch their innovative ideas to a panel of judges and an audience of business leaders with a winner selected.

Mia Hopping, a third-year architectural student at Ara, who was one of the six students to receive the grant, won the challenge with the idea for an online op-shop.

“Without support from the Ara Foundation, these students would not have participated. Many thanks for making a difference to the learning opportunities and future of these students,” says Tracey McGill, Innovation Manager, Ara.

All six students who entered Spring Sprint continue to be mentored and supported to further grow their ideas at Te Ōhaka.

## It's a Beautiful World

**In 2019 the Ara Foundation supported a student completing the New Zealand Certificate in Beauty Therapy (Level 4) at Ara Institute of Canterbury by sponsoring completion of the additional International Therapy Examination Council (ITEC) qualification.**

ITEC is an international examination board, operating in over 38 countries worldwide and provides a qualification that is recognised internationally.

Since completing the certificate and ITEC exam the recipient of the grant has been working as a Beauty Therapist. She is grateful for the opportunities that the grant has provided her.



# Sometimes it's who you know...

**Nick Sanders, who was a student at the New Zealand Broadcasting School, received a grant last year from the Ara Foundation, to create a millennial focused web series pilot that focused on a student's film making experience and life in general.**

While significantly self-funded, Nick says the grant from the Ara Foundation was enormously helpful in making the project possible. He also said the experience taught him the value of good networking.

"Finding a crew willing to work for less than industry standard rates is really tough and relies a lot on knowing people beforehand. That's where the networking really comes in," says Nick.

Covid-19 lockdowns delayed the ability to conduct final edits and release of the pilot, but Nick hopes to resume work on the project once alert levels enable this level of interaction.

## Beeing Busy

**Sustainability enthusiasts and students of Ara Institute of Canterbury Nicola Thomson and Johanna Church were given a grant in 2019 by the Ara Foundation to complete a project designed to reduce students use of single use plastic items.**

At an expo, run over two days with several other classmates trying to make change and create a more sustainable way of living for Ara students, Nicola and Joanna gave away 200 DIY beeswax wrap kits to staff

and students. The contents of the beeswax kits were funded by an Ara Foundation grant and enabled people to make wraps themselves.

Nicola and Joanna thanked the Ara Foundation for allowing them the opportunity to make change.

# Trustees

## › Katherine Ewer -Chair

Katherine Ewer, LLB, TEP is an experienced Tax and Trust lawyer based in Christchurch.

Katherine became a Trustee of the Ara Foundation in November 2013, Deputy Chair in 2016 and was appointed Chair in April 2019. Katherine has 24 plus years' experience as a Barrister and Solicitor in New Zealand and operates her own specialist Tax and Trust practice which she formed in 2013. Katherine is a member of the New Zealand Law Society and the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) and sits on the New Zealand Law Society Taxation Committee (NZLS), the NZLS Canterbury Westland Branch Trust Committee and NZLS Canterbury Westland Branch Standards Committee.

## › Izzy Berliner

Izzy joined the Ara Foundation as a student representative in 2016 from the Ara Student Council. She has a strong focus on the student experience and is passionate about maintaining a strong student voice on the Foundation. She attended Ara from 2014-2016 and completed a Bachelor of Engineering Technology. She is currently a Civil Engineer at Beca and is also a member of the Canterbury Young Engineers committee and Engineering New Zealand.

## › Tracey Berry

Tracey Berry has over two decades of experience in financial services, specialising in wealth management, regulatory affairs, compliance and distribution. She is presently General Manager, TSB Bank and a member of the Financial Advisers Disciplinary Committee, in addition to being a Trustee of Ara Foundation. Tracey has previously held the positions of Non-executive Independent Director and Chair of Nikko Asset Management NZ, Deputy Chief Executive at Ara, Group Manager at Kiwibank and Head of Wealth Management at Westpac NZ. Tracey has a Post Graduate degree from Waikato University and holds the following designations: PFP, FFin, AFNZIM.

## › Janet Wright

Janet Wright became a trustee in December 2019. She has more than 25 years' experience in communications and has worked across a range of industries including agriculture, iwi, electricity and telecommunications.

Janet brings strong communications and marketing skills to the Foundation and has a strategic focus on identifying growth opportunities. Janet will use this experience to further enhance the profile of the Foundation to Ara students.

## › Annemarie Mora

Annemarie Mora is an award-winning communications and engagement specialist with nearly 20 years' experience in the private and public sectors. She has led the communications function for some of Queensland and Christchurch's largest infrastructure projects, including for the Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team.

She brings to the table extensive management team experience, robust knowledge of governance policies and procedures, thorough knowledge of Health Safety and Environment best practice, a deep understanding of organisational culture and high-performing teams, astute risk management, and financial acumen. She is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Directors.

### › David Fussell

David Fussell is an Investment Adviser at JBWere, an Australasian Wealth Management Specialist. Prior to his current role, David held commercial and institutional roles in the banking sector. David is a graduate of the University of Canterbury, holding a Bachelor of Commerce with Honours; is an Authorised Financial Adviser and accredited NZX Adviser. David became a Trustee of the Ara Foundation in March 2019.

### › Clive Jones

Clive Jones is a Director of management consultancy Metamorphis Digital and has over 20 years' senior management and leadership experience in a range of industries including vocational education, international education, energy, telecommunications, central and local government. He holds a Bachelor of Technology degree and a Masters degree in Business Administration from Massey University.

### › Tony Gray

Tony Gray was appointed Chief Executive of Ara Institute of Canterbury in September 2017 having previously been Chief Executive of NMIT in Nelson for eleven years. He has a long career in the tertiary education sector in both private industry training and polytechnics.

Tony came to New Zealand from the United Kingdom in 2003 to take up a role as Chief Executive for the privately owned Pacific International Hotel Management School in New Plymouth, where he also had responsibility for the ORION Hotel Schools group in Australia, China and Switzerland.

Tony is a Fellow of the NZ Institute of Management and a member of the Institute of Directors in New Zealand. Tony is currently a member of several New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (NZIST) national working groups and an appointment to the Government's interim Regional Skills Leadership Group. He chairs the Tertiary Accord of New Zealand (TANZ) Board and is a member of the NZIST Advisory Group to NZQA.

### › Brett King

Brett King brings to the table more than 30 years' experience of technical, operational and leadership roles within the civil construction industry throughout the wider Canterbury Region. Brett is an Executive Divisional Manager with Fulton Hogan with an operational overview of the Central South Island and West Coast.

He currently serves on the board of NetCon Limited and South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce and is a Trustee of the Aoraki Arts Charitable Trust. He has a Bachelor of Applied Management and a National Diploma in Business (Health and Safety Management). He is a Chartered Member of the New Zealand Institute of Directors.

### › Renata Hakiwai

Ko Puketapu te maunga  
Ko Ngaruroro te awa  
Ko Ngati Hinemanu, Ngai Te Upokoiri nga hapu  
Ko Takitimu te waka  
Ko Omahu te marae  
Ko Ngati Kahungunu,  
Rongomaiwahine, Tuwharetoa,  
Tainui, Ngati Porou nga iwi  
Ko Renata Donal Te Rito  
Hakiwai toku ingoa

Renata has extensive experience in the Iwi, commercial and public sector alongside being a successful entrepreneur and social innovation and start up enthusiast.

His focus is on social innovation and enterprise and he has interest in a number of successful enterprises.

He currently holds a number of Governance positions in Iwi, land based primary sector organisations, education and employment and a number of start ups alongside sitting on the Matariki REDS Governance - Regional Economic Development Strategy for the Hawkes Bay, and National

Maori and Pasifika Business Committee for the Ministry of Social Development.

He has extensive experience and knowledge in the commercial, iwi, tertiary and innovation sectors.

Renata is currently the Managing Director of HTK Group Ltd, a Consultancy company that focuses on Economic Development, Strategy and Business Advisory. The focus audience is Māori and indigenous groups, working with indigenous peoples from Taiwan and Australia.