

## ★ What are we doing for our industry?

Fiona Timoti-Knowles recounts her story of the hui fono and what has happened since.

Tēnā koutou, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Kia orana, Bula vinaka,  
Fakaalofa lahi atu, Malo ni, Talofa koutou

*Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi,  
Engari, he toa takitini.*

*My strength is not the strength of one,  
It is the strength of many.*

Meet two of my dearest and amazingly talented friends, Andrew Tui and Huia Murupaenga. We started working for Careers New Zealand in 2010. Even though Andrew and Huia moved on 3 years ago, we continue to stay in contact and catch-up.

I love our catch-ups! We're so like-minded ... it's like we've known each other all our lives. We express gratitude and purpose for the opportunity to share our careers knowledge with our communities. We have a lot of fun ... often oblivious to what's going on around us. We get in the zone ... and time just flies by. We go our separate ways ... until our next catch-up.



Just before Christmas 2015, Andrew, Huia and I met for dinner. Like always, we get in the zone and unconsciously block out everything going on around us. During dinner we asked ourselves "What are we doing for our industry?" followed by "and are we going to take action or not?" Confronted by the challenge of success or failure, without hesitation we hatched a plan.

On the 13th of July 2016, Andrew Tui and Huia Murupaenga and I co-hosted the Māori and Pasifika Career Practitioners Hui at Unitec. We each invited five friends/contacts working in the careers space ... and 13 talented practitioners showed up on the day. We posed a series of questions and gathered feedback. Andrew, Huia and I promised to collate the feedback and share the information. We dedicated some time to sharing experiences and best practice. There was a unanimous call for more opportunities to meet as a network.

On the 26th of July 2016, Andrew and Huia and I met in Auckland. We had many pinch moments ... of OMGosh we hosted our first Māori and Pasifika Career Practitioners Hui! We agreed to collate the feedback using word clouds. On the 2nd of August 2016, an email was sent to everyone who attended the hui with PDFs of the feedback presented in the form of word clouds. The intention to call another hui for September was shared ... and replies flooded in with a mass 'yes' and the suggestion put forward to hold a Symposium later in the year. On the 11th of August 2016, a small team Skyped to talk through the logistics of hosting a Symposium and discuss possible timing.

So ... a CALL TO ACTION that started as a seed in December 2015 has grown and continues to gain strength through the support, hearts and minds of many. I am very grateful to Careers New Zealand for supporting my participation in this amazing journey.

Nō reira, tēnā koutou katoa

Ngā mihi

Fiona Timoti-Knowles

★ [Fiona Timoti-Knowles. Chair, Māori Staff Network - Careers New Zealand.](#)