

KEYNOTE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTERS



Jesse Kawharu Apiti (Ngāti Te Wehi)

Keynote Speaker

Kawharu is an inspirational young man with a huge future ahead of himself. A workplace accident that left Kawharu paralysed in October 2016 has set him on a new path with new goals. His accident has forced him to look at things differently. He now dreams of being a Paralympian.

Kawharu states: “To sum myself up in a couple of sentences I would definitely say that I’m a guy who doesn’t sit around and wait for opportunities to come to me. I seize every opportunity that I am able to get my hands on and do the absolute best I can! Challenges are a thrill for me because I love coming out the other end saying that I’ve accomplished that and just enjoying the moment. Helping people is another enjoyment of mine because seeing them smile makes me happy.”



Tāwera Tahuri (Ngā Ariki Kaipūtahi, Whakatōhea, Ngāti Uenuku, Tūwharetoa)

Keynote Speaker and Workshop Presenter (Māori Art)

Tāwera Tahuri is a practicing visual & performing artist. She is also a teacher, and is currently completing her PhD in Indigenous Studies.

Tāwera is a mixed media artist covering a wide range of mediums and techniques. She has exhibited her work both nationally and internationally. Tāwera has been influenced by the work of both European, Māori, and Caribbean artist's alike such as Basquiat, Klee, Picasso, Kura Te Waru Rewiri and Emere Karaka.

She has produced a prolific amount of work throughout her artistic career. She is a mother of six children and is actively involved in her local community as a teacher, performer, and internationally as an advocate for indigenous peoples.



Marian Burns

Keynote Speaker and Workshop Presenter (Music)

Musician, teacher, fiddler and violinist, Marian Burns is a talented, passionate and exciting presenter and facilitator with an amazing life's story to share.

Fiddling her way across the world at 100 miles an hour, from the top of the Eiffel Tower to the bottom of the Grand Canyon with the Blarney Castle and the Grand Ole Opry in between, Marian Burns has been taking the world by storm with her exuberance and passion for music.

This dynamic New Zealand artist is racking up awards faster than her version of the Orange Blossom Special (and that's super-fast!), taking home New Zealand's prestigious "Benny Award" at the 2012 Variety Artists Awards, Australia's "Best Fiddler as a Soloist" at the 2013 Golden Fiddle Awards and presented with the "Life Time Achievement Award" upon celebrating 40 years of playing the violin.

Dr Elizabeth Brown

Keynote Presenter and Workshop Presenter (Goal Setting)

Profile to follow



Grant Kitchen (Tuwharetoa, Ngāti Hikairoa, Ngāti Kahungunu) Chef and Workshop Presenter (Hospitality)

Award winning Chef Grant Kitchen hails from Feilding in the Manawatu. As an apprentice at the Park Royal Hotel in Wellington he quickly developed a reputation as a “hospitality all rounder” with designations to the Sultan of Brunei, Prime Ministers and other VIPs. Grant is the head chef of Le Chef in Auckland, winners of the Golden Knife Award 2016 Restaurant Month. Grant is also the Salon Director for NZ Chefs Association and the National Hospitality Competitions and Judge for Hospitality NZ National Awards.

Grant has worked with the New Zealand Defence Force, Accor Hotels and Tertiary Training Establishments, Judges at Culinary Events around NZ and is a Member of the [NZ Chefs Association](#). Other awards include NZ Beef and Lamb Awards, Runner Up NZ Restaurant of the Year 2007, and he has trained up-and-coming chefs and stewards to Class Winners at local and national culinary events.

His philosophy “**my food is about perfection – flavour, appearance, texture**”

His motto “**savour, service, simplicity**”

His attitude “**trust, responsibility, innovation, professionalism, transparency**”



Robbie Richardson and Kim Savage (Ngāti Raukawa, Tuwharetoa, Ngāti Hauti ki Rata, Te Whānau ā Apanui, Ngāti Whanaunga) Workshop Presenters (Rongoa Māori and Mirimiri)

Sister's Robbie Richardson and Kim Savage are in the process of building their papakainga at Ōhakea - Mangamāhoe. These sister's have used Rongoā since birth and learnt the art from their Mum Anau Pare Richardson (nee' Ruha) who passed in 2000.

The ngahere is their first aid kit and they will share some of their mātauranga with you all.

