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NMIT whanau shine

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By Chris Valli

Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) is buzzing after several of its talented staff members and students made history at this year's Te Matatini o Te Kahui Maunga festival.

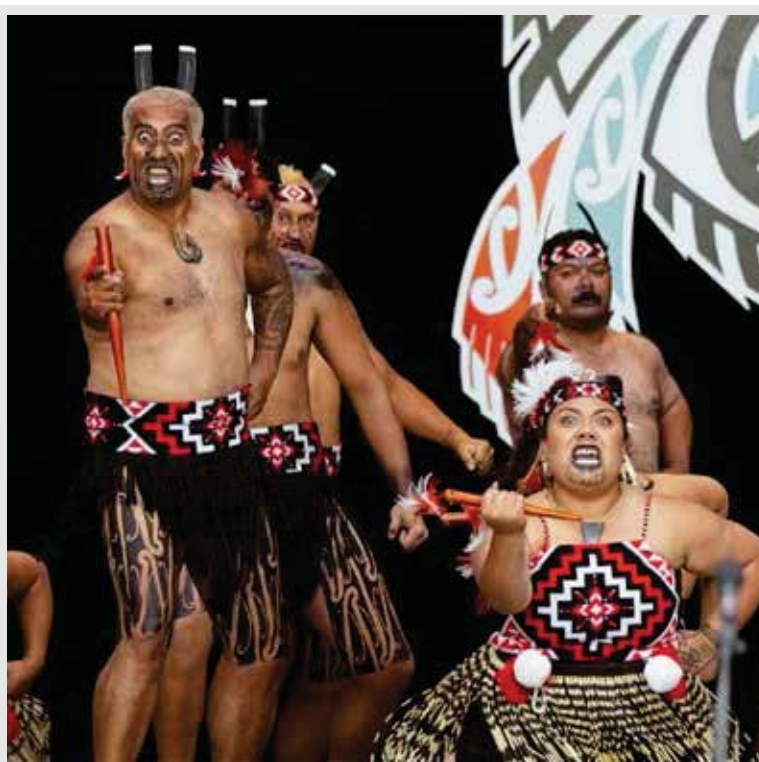
The festival held in New Plymouth last month is the largest celebration of traditional Māori performing arts excellence in the world and encapsulates the power and beauty of Kapa Haka at the most elite level as groups from Aotearoa and Ahitereiria (Australia) compete for the coveted title of National Champion.

A number of NMIT kaiako (tutors) were members of the two incredible Te Taihu (top of the south) kapa haka groups: Te Kuru Marutea and Kia Ngāwari, delivering outstanding performances at the biennial national kapa haka festival.

Te Kuru Marutea took out an historical win by being selected for the inaugural Kohine Ponika (‘Aku Mahi’ Memorial Trophy. The new award recognised the group’s powerful performance.

Their waiata tira (choral performance), which featured outstanding soloists Bailee Hart Tava and Naia Beard, went viral on TikTok, earning over a million views and widespread praise for the striking vocal talents of its performers.

It was a proud moment for NMIT as among the performers were



A PROUD MOMENT: Among the performers were NMIT kaiako from the Mātauranga Māori curriculum area. Pictured above at front right is Tiana Alesana, tutor of Te Kuru Marutea, and teacher of the NZ Certificate in Te Reo Māori, Kaupae 1.

NMIT kaiako from the Mātauranga Māori curriculum area: Tiana Alesana (pictured above, front right), Te Atapō Matthews, and Kowhai de Thierry, along with many NMIT students.

Tiana Alesana, tutor of Te Kuru Marutea, and teacher of the NZ Certificate in Te Reo Māori, Kau-

pae 1 at NMIT says, “Hearing our Iwi of Te Taihu being named, and celebrating what makes our rohe special was a highlight for me. Kapahaka is more than a competition – in preparation for the performance you immerse yourself in te reo Māori, tikanga Mārae, the history of our people and karakia.”