

*Tukuna mai he kapunga oneone  
hei tangi !*



Provide me with a handful of soil from my homeland so I  
may feel the warmth of my ancestors and weep!



# Karanga Aotearoa Repatriation Programme

**Calling our ancestors home to  
Aotearoa, Te Waipounamu me Rēkohu  
(New Zealand)**

**Te Herekiele Herewini – Head of Repatriation**

***Expert Seminar on the repatriation of ceremonial objects and  
human remains under the UN Declaration on the Rights of  
Indigenous Peoples.***

**University of British Columbia**

**4-5 Maehe 2020/4-5 March 2020**



# ***Ko ngā kaupapa o taku kōrero mō tēnei rā*** ***I will talk about the following today***

- Nō whea a Karanga Aotearoa
- *The background to Karanga Aotearoa*
  
- Ko ōna kaupapa, whaingā me te mahi rautaki
- *Main goals, objectives, and strategic direction*
  
- Ko ōna mahi kua ea
- Its achievements
  
- Ko ngā hua akoranga
- Key learnings from 17 years of work



# Māori and Moriori requesting the repatriation of their ancestral remains



**Maui Pomare**



**Sir Graham Latimer**



**Te Arikinui  
Dame Te Atairangikaahu**



# Karanga Aotearoa Repatriation Programme

- Te Papa was mandated with the support of Māori and Moriori, to act as the government agent in 2003
- Policy guidelines include:
  - the government's role is one of facilitation – it does not claim ownership of kōiwi tangata, kōimi tangata and Toi moko;
  - facilitating the repatriation of human remains only;
  - invites institutions to repatriate, by mutual agreement only;
  - No payment for Toi moko/kōiwi tangata/ kōimi tangata will be made to overseas institutions;
  - Māori/Moriori are to be involved in the repatriation of kōiwi, and to determine the final resting place; and
  - The repatriation of kōiwi tangata/kōimi tangata and Toi moko will be carried out in a culturally appropriate manner.

**The programme receives NZ\$500,000 per annum from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.**



# Four stages to our mahi (work)

- Scoping and research
- Negotiation with overseas
- Physical repatriation/care in Wāhi Tapu (Sacred Repository)
- Confirming provenance to enable reunification with iwi (tribe)





# Repatriation Advisory Panel

- Panel of recognised experts
- Provides expert advice and guidance in respect to high level repatriation issues, rangahau (research), whakapapa me kōrero-a-iwi (Māori tribal histories), mātauranga Māori (traditional Māori knowledge systems), tikanga me te reo Māori (deep Māori philosophy and customary practice as well as the Māori language), and high level strategic advice.
- Professor Pou Temara, Derek Lardelli, Whaea Hokimoana Te Rika Hekerangi, [Aroha Mead](#), Haami Piripi, Te Kanawa Pitiroi, Alfred Preece, Dr Arapata Hakiwai.
- Te Herekieke Herewini, Te Arikirangi Mamaku and Susan Thorpe.



# Images of Pōwhiri (Welcoming ceremonies) on Te Papa's national marae



MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND TE PAPA TONGAREWA





# Returning ancestors home to Waimārama.





# Placing tūpuna into their resting place.



## *Ko ngā mahi kua ea mai te tau 2003*

What have we achieved since 2003?

- Repatriated close to 612 tūpuna (Māori ancestors) and karāpuna (Moriōri ancestors)
- Returned 53 tūpuna to their rohe, whānau, hapū and iwi
- Reunified ancestors to 17 different tribal groups
- Developed positive relationships with over 70 overseas institutions
- Built up a data base of collectors and traders of Māori and Moriōri ancestral remains, and those institutions involved in the trade
- Returned one tupuna (ancestor) to Rapa Nui in 2018
- Returned one tupuna (ancestor) to Washington State, USA in June 2018





# Repatriation of tupuna to Rapa Nui – January 2018

First Contact from Jacinta Arthur on behalf of Rapa Nui Repatriation Programme in early 2014

Te Papa trustee for Oldman Collection – but tupuna housed in Canterbury Museum

Negotiated with Canterbury Museum for three years before approved by their Board

Sought advice from three New Zealand Ministries

Hon Carmel Sepuloni – Associate Minister for Culture and Heritage and also Pacific Island Affairs attended handover ceremony.





## *Ko ngā hua akoranga*

### Key learnings

- Partnerships between indigenous people, government and institutions can be successful
- Indigenous led, with key expert advice from respected leaders and elders
- The programme is underpinned by tikanga Māori (deep Māori philosophy and customary practice), mātauranga Māori (traditional knowledge), and mahi tahi (co-operation)
- Long-term resourcing is critical to achieving long-term strategic direction and building knowledge, expertise, and enduring international networks and relationships
- The ultimate goal is to ensure the safe return of all tūpuna/karāpuna to the uri whakatipu (descendants)

