

**Friday 2 August 2024**

## **WISPC 2024 Haukāinga – Seneca Nation of Indians**

First and foremost, we must acknowledge the haukāinga, who were the gracious hosts for the many Indigenous Peoples traveling from around the world to join the Seneca Nation for WISPC 2024. Our experience with them revealed a humble community, whose unassuming presence belied a powerful mana reflective of their ancestors. It was an extraordinary privilege to engage closely with them at all levels—from their elders and senior leadership, including their President and Councillors, to their many kaimahi and whānau at a more granular level. Their hospitality made WISPC 2024 a truly special hui. Here are a few pikitia of the haukāinga with some of our whānau.

1. Pictured here we have our TRO Board Chair with Elder Clayton



2. Pictured here we have Te Whetumairangi with some of the Seneca Nation Kaikanikani, with a backdrop of First Nations Kara, centred is the Flag of the United Tribes of New Zealand which is representative of He Whakaputanga which many Hapū consider to be the tuakana to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.





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3. Pictured here we have Jocelyn Jones after receiving one of our taonga/koha, this wahine toa could be considered an activist for her people and is always trying to keep her elected leaders and their systems to account.



4. Pictured here (L) to (R) we have Allegany Councillor and their co-chair Arlene C. Bova, Natalie Stahlman who was the WISPC Project Planner and was instrumental in enabling many of our kaupapa for our TRO rōpū while we were with the Seneca Nation, and Jocelyn Jones again with their taonga gifted on behalf of TRO



**TE RAU ORA**



5. Pictured here we have our TRO Board Chair, Cattaraugus Councillor Jeffery Gill and our CE



6. Pictured here we have President Rickey L. Armstrong, Sr. (Allegany), in the purple shirt surrounded by some of his Councillors and our own TRO whānau.



## WISPC 2024 closing ceremony – Indigenous Whanaunga



As is the tikanga of the Seneca Nation, no pikitia or video were permitted to be taken of either the opening or closing ceremony by manuhiri. Before and after is kei te pai, so pictured here is our Board Chair, Donovan Clarke, who was honoured to receive a koha on behalf of TRO from Eliza Kitchener, one of the First Nations Mob (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples) who attended WISPC 24. Eliza was deeply moved by the kōrero delivered by our chair during the closing ceremony of WISPC 2024 on July 25th. His speech about ngā kōrero whakaheke mai ō ta tātou tūpuna ki ngā rākau kauri resonated profoundly with her. Inspired by the wairua of his kōrero, Eliza felt compelled to offer a taonga that she had crafted. This taonga symbolises their dreamtime world, illustrating how their many pathways are interwoven and highlights the guidance and strength that their ancestors and future unborn leaders provide to those in the present day. I roto i tera ki te āhuatanga ō te whakataukī nei, "ehara tāku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini". Ka nui te mihi ki a koe, e Eliza.

## WISPC 2024 Community Partners

Our hīkoi to WISPC 2024 was greatly enhanced by the presence of several community partners we were able to support in attending. Among them were Brendon Rei and Mathew Kiore, chosen from a pool of 53 applicants from around the motu. Notably, Mathew was also selected as our new Centre of Māori Suicide Prevention (CoMSP) manager. Zack Makoare joined our group as well, bringing his dual roles as a valued CoMSP kaimahi and a community partner of TRO through Te Taitimu Trust.



These three tāne contributed significantly to our kaupapa, serving as kaimanaaki with the haukāinga and in various other capacities with our travelling kaupapa whānau. Supporting our community partners in this way aligns with our vision for flourishing whānau, enabling them to share their mātauranga with Indigenous whanaunga globally. This highlights who we are at TRO and showcases their crucial grassroots mahi to the world. It also reflects our commitment to improving the oranga of our people through capacity building and locally led solutions. It was a true pleasure to have these tāne with us on our haerenga with the Seneca Nation.

1. Pictured here we have Brendon Rei offering a koha to one of the Seneca Nation wahine Toa, Natalie Stahlman.



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1. Pictured here we have Zack Makoare doing what he does best, building relationships with the haukāinga.



2. Pictured here we have Bredon as a Kaikōrero to a packed breakout room, sharing his kaupapa about Te Kawa o Rongo, many in the room felt the wairua and there was a few roimata amongst those fortunate enough to be present.



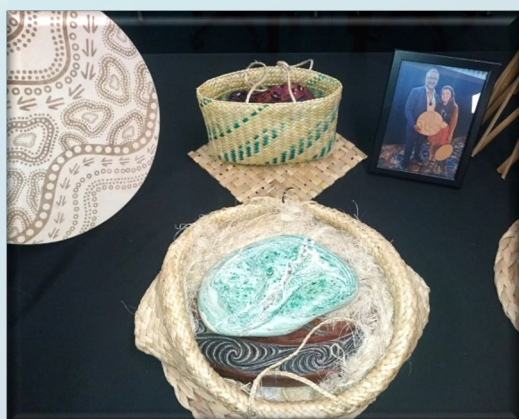


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3. Pictured here we have Zack Makoare also as a Kaikōrero sharing his very personal experiences with the kaupapa that we travelled for, his kōrero was similarly very impactful and touched the hearts of many.



### WISPC 2024 Karakia for the Seneca Nation Bundle and other Taonga



A karakia was held at Waikato te Awa yesterday morning, beginning at 7am. This ceremony was performed to cleanse the 'bundle,' a collection of Seneca Nation Taonga gifted to Te Rau Ora and ngā hapū whānau katoa o te motu during the closing ceremony of the 2024 World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference in upstate New York. This was in recognition of our role in hosting the hui in 2026 in Kirikiriroa on Tainui whenua from September 3rd to 5th.



Following an Awa (Niagara) ki te Awa (Waikato) approach, this tikanga was undertaken at Waikato te Awa before the bundle was brought into the TRO Kirikiriroa whare. Further mihimihi and karakia followed, culminating in a hākari. Many TRO Kaimahi and community partners were able to attend. We were guided through proceedings by our kaumātua Papa Witi, Papa Katene, and Papa Hori, with support from Ikimoke Tamaki-Takarei as the Tariao for the Kiingitanga.

The Seneca Nation bundle, along with another taonga gifted to our TRO Chair by one of the First Nations Peoples from Australia at the WISPC 2024 closing ceremony, are now placed next to the Centre of Māori Suicide Prevention kōhatu mauri, 'Maumahara.' A big mihi to Papa Witi and Michele for helping organise this special occasion on behalf of our Chief Executive, Riki Nia Nia.

## Innovations Team Celebrating Highlights from Recent Initiatives and Events



The Innovation Directorate has grown its innovation and welcomes the opportunity to have a new programme. Kirimatao Paipa has moved from He Whare Wahine for the next 12 months to lead the new Kaumatua Programme. Maira Pihema will join Kiri to support the development of a kaumatua workforce development programme. We appreciate the flexibility of Kiri and Maira to move and progress this exciting new (and old) venture. But wait there is more ...

We cannot let these multi-talented wāhine let their skills be wasted therefore... Kiri will also support Shaun, Insights and Knowledge Directorate with the Niwha Project, Maira will support Natasha, Corporate Operations and both of them will support Poli (Rolinda), who will continue leading He Whare Wahine. Ngā mihi nui ki a kōrua!

Mākohakoha co-hosted Taihoro Nukurangi the Kaupapa Māori Integrated Primary Mental Health and Addiction National Conference with the Tuakana Teina National Roopū. We were privileged that mana whenua opened our hui. Paora Te Hurihanganui, CEO, Te Arawa Whānau Ora set the scene and challenged us to stop decolonising and to focus on 'naturalising' ourselves, a way to reindigenise our space and environment. This resonated with participants as a positive way forward. Participants agreed to serve whānau well in this current environment they need to come together: Manawa tahi - One heartbeat | one voice

The fabric that weaves them together is:

**Kotahitanga** | Collectively our voices are stronger.

**Rangatiratanga** | Respecting and sharing our uniqueness, Doing what we say.

**Mana motuhake** | Honouring the whānau voice, Naturalise to our environment,

They commit to continuing **Whakawhanaunga** | Keeping connected, sharing their skills, and supporting each other to build capacity.

They would like support to facilitate ways to come together and build a directory.

## Fortnightly All-Staff Hui

A big mihi to everyone who presented and contributed to our hui this week.

If you missed it, you can watch the kōrero here: [Fortnightly All-Staff Hui-20240731\\_083817-Meeting Recording.mp4](#)

Our next all-staff hui is scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> August – see you all then!

## Kaimahi Profile – Claudine Gonzales-Calope



I am the Assistant Accountant in the Finance Team at Te Rau Ora, where I have been working for the past 10 months. Originally from the Philippines, I have called New Zealand home for nearly 17 years. I initially came to New Zealand as an international student, planning to return home after completing my studies. However, life took a different turn, and I was fortunate to secure a job that led to permanent residency. Now, New Zealand is not just my home but my country.

I hold three degrees: a Bachelor's in Business Administration with a major in Marketing, a degree in Hospitality, and another in Accounting. These qualifications have enabled me to work in various roles, gaining experience in marketing, management, and accounting. Currently, I am pursuing my CPA Australia certification to become a Certified Practising Accountant.

Beyond my professional life, I am a wife and mother. I have a beautiful 5-year-old daughter, and our family loves to travel. Being part of Te Rau Ora and working with such a brilliant team has been a privilege. Over the past 10 months, I have enjoyed every moment.

I approach life with a positive outlook. Even when things don't go as planned, my faith as a devout Catholic reassures me that God has better plans.

Nāku iti noa, nā

**Acting Chief Executive and the Executive Leadership Team**