

1) abstract 300 words

Title: Ko Tatou Te Tangata: We are the People!
Sound carrying laser light

Tena koutou katoa,
Tutahi maku e whai atu I nga kupu whakaari a nga manu e rua, arā nga
tangata ko Tohu ko Te Whiti o Rongomai,
Korōria ki te Atua ki runga rawa,
Maungarongo ki te whenua
Kia whakaaro pai ki nga tangata katoa. Pai marire!

Abstract : 300 words max

Ko Tatou Te Tangata: Visualizing essence¹

Innovative digital media is often associated with specialist solution-based inquiry. When contextualizing a design/artistic work, audiences, often feel excluded, as they attempt to understand the technical processes and language. Some people feel technology leaves them 'cold' or does not resonate for them as creative human-based expressions.

By relay of laser light lines through the night skies and across the land, these digital light technologies will carry and transmit aural cultural expression, to a diverse audience range. This visual and sonic medium, cultural knowledge, aesthetics and peopled participation is focused to creating inclusive sensory experiences. Ko Tatou Te Tangata will demonstrate the 'warming' or engaging capacity of these contemporary technologies concomitant with Māori/indigenous protocol and exchange to develop understanding towards forming relevant 'world ideas' of being, within the environment, with peoples and technology as an aesthetic and communicative tool.

¹ The title "We are the people" was a jovial but deeply felt proclamation from a Ngāti Tawhirikura tipuna of Katere ki te Moana¹, which, like many sentiments of the 'home people' continues to resonate intangibly through the land and the present generations.

Scanz2013 3rd Hybrid was an extraordinary opportunity to bring together key creative, technical and cultural aspects to realize Tipi Rā-ngī, a preliminary project using sound carrying laser light technology to create an experiential visu-aural scape, transmitting expert interpretations of hapu/iwi-specific knowledge. Following this highly successful project, ongoing involvement includes contributions to environmental management planning of Te Rewa Rewa Pa, development of hapu knowledge and identity.

This focus toward further developments centers on technical refinement, deepening of hapu knowledge and wider social/cultural public exchange to cultivate an increased awareness of innovative digital technologies as relevant and meaningful creative expression plus instantiating customary knowledge within a shared global context.

Ko Tatou Te Tangata will transform an environment into an awareness of the dynamic layered diversity of the land: drawing from initial public assumptions as recreational landscapes, to enhance notions of 'the intangible' and 'the unseen energies' to be articulated through diverse notions, such as 'wairua', through to the nature of virtual technologies: for these 'essences' to both encode and perform cultural understanding and to offer a creative model for other communities.

Project Description

Ko Tatou Te Tangata: We are the People! Sound carrying laser light

Within the landscape, sound will be transmitted along lines of laser light. When the focused laser is received by a contact panel, the sound is amplified. At each contact point new aural input can be added and projected on further to another receiving cell at the next location.

The laser light visually delineates the night air/sky space with a range of effects occurring at differing viewing placements. Aurally, customary iwi/hapu utterance will be transmitted.

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The sound carrying laser lights will be installed in three locations. Two of these locations are intended primarily for visual and aural documentation, 3a and 3b. The third location 3c is focused to participation by hapu members and the wider public. This site-specific installation, projecting from Katere ki te Moana to Te Rewa Rewa Pa will be the key presentation for the Media Art Project (listed as no: 5 below);

Ko Tatou te Tangata will be divided into stages:

- 1 sound carrying laser lights prototyped and constructed
- 2 research development of hapu knowledge including consultation with Ngāti Tawhirikura, archaeologists, and pertinent agencies
- 3 sound laser site-specific installation for visual documentation 3 sites
 - a) Mt Taranaki to Pouakai/Parihaka
 - b) Te Rewa Rewa Pa to Todd-Shell oil rig (35kms offshore)
 - c) Katere ki te Moana (Cody Pl) to Te RewaRewa Pa²
- 4 hapu presentation: Katere ki te Moana and Te Rewa Rewa Pa
- 5 public presentation: Katere ki te Moana to Hickford Park
- 6 documentation
- 7 publication of research

² Te Rewa Rewa Pa, is a large pa situated on the northern side of the Waiwhakaiho River (Hickford Park located on southern side), which was heavily fortified with extensive earthworks with a category 2 classification in the NZHPT National register of sites.²

The key event for the Media Art Projects presentation is:

5) public presentation of Ko Tatou te Tangata : Festival of the Lights.

In conjunction with Ngāti Tawhirikura, this event will include offering of kai, commercial food vendors, musicians, kapa haka performance, the participation of elders, walking-information tours to identify various sites and events. Dusk may be signified by fireworks leading into the presentation of Ko Tatou te Tangata.

The key project collaboration is with Ngāti Tawhirikura hapu, situated north of the Waiwhakaiho River extending towards Bell Block. Katere ki te Moana papakainga is situated in Cody Place, with an urupa located on the south side of the New Plymouth Golf Club. Up to nine pa sites leading to the coast signifies the Te Rewa Rewa Reserve³. Te Rewa Rewa Pa site is regarded as a 'finite and non-renewable resource'⁴ and a taonga , of hapu/iwi, New Plymouth and national significance.

Ko Tatou te Tangata will project sound carrying laser light lines from at Cody Place, extending across Te Rewa Rewa Reserve, to collect further aural input at Waiwhakaiho River to Hickford Park, and then extend further to the coast, and out to the offshore Shell-Todd rig.

Ngāti Tawhirikura will collaborate with this project team to conduct a public event, where the work may still be projected from Cody Pl, to Whakawaiho River to the public Hickford Park. This event will hallmark the inaugural Ngāti Tawhirikura 'hapu' day, an inclusive celebration. Ko Tatau te Tangata delivers a significant ceremonial aspect of this; collapsing the sense of space, distance, and time between people.

This project team will work in collaboration with Ngāti Tawhirikura, to realize the development of hapu specific knowledge that will ceremonially transmitted through the laser light, by and to hapu members.

Youth may be invited to work in collaboration with Ngāti Tawhirikura and the Community Development Agency for learning experiences in digital technologies.

Environmental research may involve collaboration with DOC, Archaeologists tree specialist, laser experts consultation and involvement with pertinent agencies within NPDC. The preservation and protection of the pa and further sites is an issue that can be brought to stronger public awareness, enhanced and visualized through the laser installations.

³ Te Rewa Rewa Reserve is owned and administered by NPDC as a joint partnership agreement between NPDC and Tawhirikura A hapu Trust. Purchased by NPDC in 2005. It was acquired for a local purpose reserve, to foster iwi activity, to extend the coastal pathway, and indicated plans for the development of the reserve for the cultural benefit of Ngati Tawhirikura reported to include and art and cultural heritage centre, a papakainga, and a marae (Taylor, 2008)

⁴ Michael Taylor (2008) Archaeological Assessment on the proposed coastal walkway, New Plymouth, p. 3

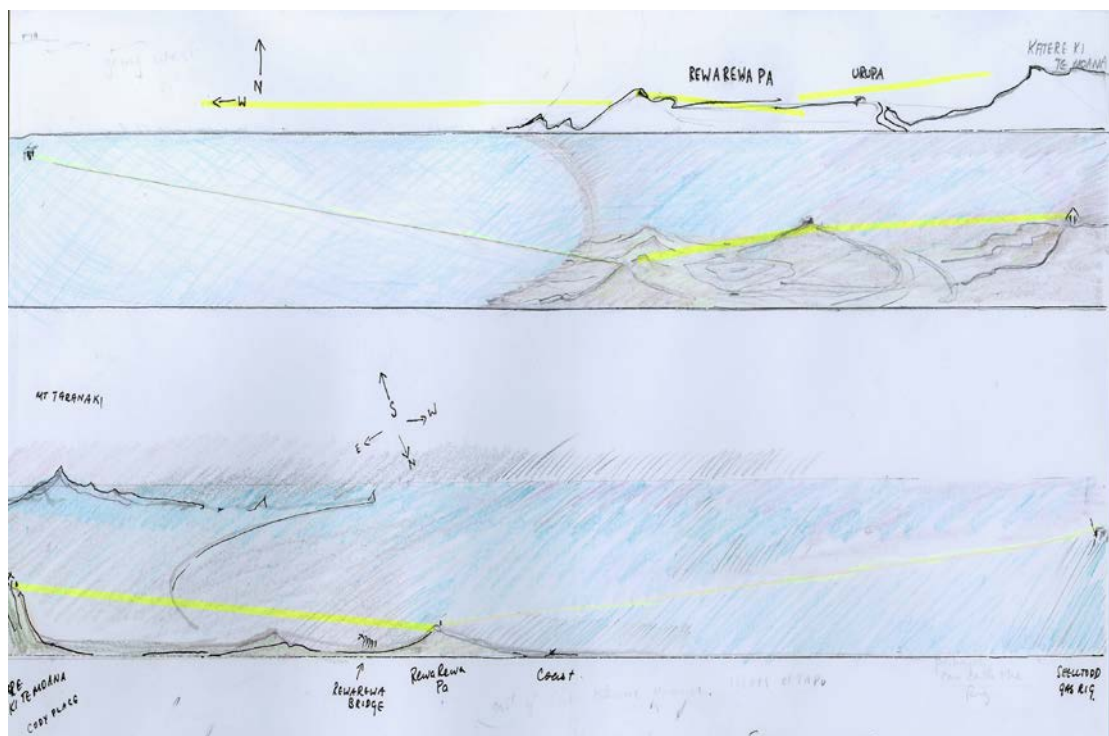
Ko Tatou te Tangata in collaboration with Ngāti Tawhirikura, offer learning experiences, from tribal elders, with topics of Te Taiao Māori and understandings of energy will be of presented to Ngāti Tawhirikura as a hapu session, and within the public event.

Ko Tatou Te Tangata will draw create responsive innovative new knowledge and a creative cultural experiential exchange for different participants and audiences to engage with the significant shared spaces of the Fitzroy region particularly Hickford Park, the coastal walk and its relationship to Te Rewa Rewa Pa site.

The developing theory of 'warming technologies' is a term that makes visual; the 'virtual' and 'wairua': the exquisite but undeniably 'felt' essences of a closer, more inclusive society based on aroha and mana.

Images:

Sketch_ 3x viewpoints : Katere Ki te Moana to Te Rewa Rewa Pa.



Below: 2) project title; Tipi Rā-ngī: Feb, 2013

Sound-carrying laser-light project, site-specific installation on land of the hāpu: Ngati Tawhirikura :

Te Rewa Rewa pa site, Nga Motu New Plymouth, (Mt Taranaki in background, under Southern sky)



The Ti Kouka, laser light and Mt Taranaki. (pls note the light appears through optical illusion to be projecting to the sky, but is travelling horizontally).



3 & 4) Speakers at the base of the Ti Kōuka transmitted the karanga and karakia