



TE AUAHA PITO MATA

2026 EMERGING RESEARCHER AWARDS



Partner with us to celebrate the next generation of community researchers and champion community research in Aotearoa

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Webpage

teauhapitomataawards



TE AUAHA PITO MATA AWARDS

CELEBRATING EMERGING COMMUNITY RESEARCHERS IN AOTEAROA



The Te Auaha Pito Mata Awards celebrate the impact of emerging community researchers in Aotearoa. They shine a light on rangatahi and researchers in the first 1–8 years of their careers whose work uplifts communities and strengthens knowledge for positive change.

- The awards recognise excellence and raise the profile of the recipients, their research projects, community research and diverse ways of knowing.
- Recipients are provided with travel to the in-person Awards ceremony in Te Whanganui-a-Tara where category judges, research, sector and community leaders can connect to affirm and champion the unique value of community research.
- The awards help foster career progression for emerging researchers.

2023 award winners (left to right): Tufalasi Taleni - Pacifika Community Researcher, Petar Druskovich - Tangata Whenua Community Researcher, Ayesha Qureshi - joint winner of the Billie Award, Pooja Jayan - Ethnic Community Researcher, Leonie King - Community Researcher, Joe Wilson - joint winner of the Billie Award

ABOUT US



Established in 2008, Tangata Whenua Community and Voluntary Research Centre Inc (Community Research) is a national, te Tiriti-led NGO and registered charity.

We support and champion community-led research and knowledge making and provide a trusted online hub for sharing community-led research and knowledges in Aotearoa

Since 2010, Community Research has been hosting awards to celebrate researchers. Over that time the awards categories have evolved to be more inclusive.

The Te Auaha Pito Mata Awards are an important way to champion community research and recognise emerging community researchers in Aotearoa.

OUR VISION

Ko ta mātou whakakitenga he Aotearoa e tōkeke ana, e whai kiko ana, e whakamohio mai ana e te matauranga hapori.

Our vision is a more equitable, engaged and inclusive Aotearoa informed by community knowledge.

OUR MISSION

He maha ngā mātauranga o ngā hapori o Aotearoa. Ko ta mātou mahi he whakakaha ake i te rangahau hapori me te tohatoha ki ētahi atu kia puta ai he huringa pai.

Communities in Aotearoa are rich in diverse knowledge. Our role is to amplify community research and share it with others to bring about positive change.

THE AWARD CATEGORIES

The awards profile outstanding research across four categories:

- 🌀 **Tangata Whenua Community Researcher**
- 🌀 **Pasifika Community Researcher**
- 🌀 **Ethnic Community Researcher**
- 🌀 **Community Researcher**

A further category: **The honorary Billie Award**, is bestowed in recognition of strengths-based research or evaluation.

For these awards, *researcher* refers to people who have conducted community research or evaluation (either individually or as part of a wider team) either through academic studies, volunteering or their work.



PARTNER WITH US

to play a pivotal role in
empowering the next generation
of community researchers.



01

Champion Community Research

Align your organisations' brand with a kaupapa that uplifts Māori, Pasifika, Ethnic, and broader community knowledge and voices for positive change.

02

Support Emerging Leaders

Provide opportunities for early-career rangatahi and researchers to thrive and share knowledge that benefits communities across the motu.

03

Connect With Community and Sector Leaders

Attend the awards ceremony, kōrero with the recipients, judges, researchers, sector, and community leaders and celebrate the transformational mahi making a difference in people's lives.

04

Gain National Brand Recognition

Community Research connects with 6,000+ subscribers across Aotearoa, each month. Sponsors gain sustained visibility through a 5-month campaign (Feb–June 2026), plus post-event promotion.

OPPORTUNITIES

TE AUAHA PITO MATA

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WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER

As a small organisation - we can deliver greater impact across the motu by partnering with others.

Stand with us in a collective kaupapa to affirm and champion the value of community research and the next generation of researchers in Aotearoa.

We would love to discuss how your organisation can be part of this kaupapa.

Research Category Sponsor



Lift your organisations' visibility by directly sponsoring a specific award category: Tangata Whenua, Pasifika, Ethnic, and Community.

Friend of the Awards



Support the awards with a contribution towards the running the Awards more broadly.

In-Kind Sponsorship



Provide practical support to help with the mahi or facilitate ways we can run the event cost-effectively (e.g. venue, catering, photography, and AV).

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Webpage [teauhahapitomataawards](https://teauhahapitomataawards.org.nz)

TESTIMONIAL



"The Awards were a way for me to showcase the valuable findings from the research in a way that was accessible for those working in the community and those who would not necessarily access academic publications. The awards were also a valuable opportunity to understand the range of community research being undertaken and the variety of methods used to undertake this research.

As someone working at the coal face in the community as well as in research I benefitted from this knowledge and from networking with other researchers. I also, have no doubt, that receiving the award helped me secure my next role, which has enabled me to put my research findings to use in very practical ways for the benefit of rangatahi in Aotearoa."

Leonie King - winner of the 2023 Community Researcher Award

'Enhancing the development of refugee-background youth in Aotearoa New Zealand through non-formal education'

