



## **Te Wai Māori - New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society Rōpū Māori**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Whakakitenga/Vision**

To Māori, freshwater is a taonga and Māori are the kaitiaki (guardians). The concept of Te Mana o Te Wai reflects the recognition of fresh water as a natural resource whose health is integral to the social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being of communities. The vision of the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society Rōpū Māori (hereafter Rōpū Māori) is the successful participation of Māori in freshwater sciences, management and research where Māori principles, values and interests are identified and valued within the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society (NZFSS).

#### **Whakataukī/Proverb**

*Mō wai, mōu māori mā – Water for all*

#### **Whāinga/Purpose**

The purposes of the Rōpū Māori are to:

- Provide a support network for Māori freshwater scientists, researchers and students, including mentoring and identifying research scholarship opportunities for emerging Māori scientists and researchers.
- Support and advise the NZFSS committee on Te Ao Māori worldview and appropriate kawa and tikanga.
- Develop and foster partnerships with Indigenous freshwater organisations, scientists and researchers in other countries.
- Be a point of contact for iwi, hapū and the wider community interested in freshwater sciences, management and research from a Māori perspective.

#### **Tukunga/Methods**

The NZFSS Rōpū Māori uses the following methods to address their Purpose:

- Grow the Rōpū Māori by publicising the group and recruiting members interested in Wai Māori.
- Establishment of a database of Māori freshwater scientists, researchers, and students.
- Annual kanohi ki te kanohi<sup>1</sup> (face to face) meeting and regular email communications.

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<sup>1</sup> Video conferencing will be available at the annual kanohi ki te kanohi hui.

- Dissemination of research and potential funding opportunities to Māori organisations and groups.
- Establish and maintain a social media profile for the Rōpū Māori.
- Seek funding and sponsorship to allow for the participation of Māori delegates (iwi, hapū) and students at NZFSS conferences.
- Contribute to the annual NZFSS newsletter.

### **Kawenga mema/ Roles and responsibilities of members**

Membership of the NZFSS Rōpū Māori is open to those who identify as Māori, as well as those who support, work or associate with Māori on freshwater, including students.

New members are welcome. Members are expected to support the purposes of the Rōpū Māori.

Membership of the NZFSS Rōpū Māori, subject to eligibility, can currently be sought in the following categories:

NZFSS member: A present or past (< 1 year<sup>2</sup>) financial member of the NZFSS.

Associate member: A conference attendee (past or present) or a person who demonstrates an active interest in the Rōpū Māori and its purpose.

When joining the Rōpū Māori a confirmation email will be sent to the new member by a Rōpū Māori representative via [maori.fwss@gmail.com](mailto:maori.fwss@gmail.com).

### **Kawenga māngai/Roles and responsibilities of representatives**

The Rōpū Māori representatives on the NZFSS executive shall be comprised of no more than two senior members, a communications member and a Māori student representative with a minimum 2-year term (current representatives are Ian Kusabs, Siobhan Nuri and Kathryn Gale). The representatives of the Rōpū Māori are expected to:

- Attend scheduled NZFSS executive and Rōpū Māori meetings.
- Champion the Rōpū Māori and the opinions and whakaaro of the Rōpū Māori Members.
- Share information and notify Rōpū Māori Members of relevant matters in a timely manner.
- Advocate and ensure that a collective Māori voice is heard on the NZFSS executive.
- Support and advise the NZFSS to ensure that appropriate kawa and tikanga is used at annual conferences.
- Apply for and allocate up to \$5000 of Society funding to support Rōpū representatives, kaitiaki and kaiārahi attendance at annual conferences, or to support local Rōpū huihuinga in those years when the NZFSS conference is hosted overseas.
- Review and assess applications for the He Manawa-ā-whenua Māori Postgraduate Scholarship and make recommendations to the NZFSS Awards Committee.

Tikanga approaches of the Rōpū Māori are guided and supported by a kaiārahi representative (currently Tredegar Hall, Ngāti Tūwharetoa/Te Arawa).

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<sup>2</sup> Once membership fees are more than one-year overdue then members are considered non-members and considered associates.

**Hui/Meeting Schedule**

The Rōpū Māori will meet kanohi ki te kanohi once a year during the NZFSS annual conference. The meetings will be chaired by a senior Rōpū Māori representative. Decisions will be made by consensus (i.e., members are satisfied with the decision even though it may not be their first choice). A meeting quorum will be (6) members of the Rōpū Māori. Other communication may occur via email (or equivalent) between meetings.

The Rōpū Māori representatives will meet bi-monthly, by kanohi ki te kanohi, telephone or video conferencing. A meeting quorum will be (2) Rōpū Māori representatives.

All meeting agendas and minutes will be provided by Rōpū Māori representatives (currently Siobhan Nuri), including preparation of agendas, supporting papers, and meeting notes.

**Whakarerekētanga/Amendment, modification or variation**

This Terms of Reference may be amended, varied or modified in writing after consultation and agreement by Rōpū Māori members. This ToR will be reviewed annually. The ToR was last amended in April 2023.