

# TOITŪ TE WHENUA BIOBLITZ

2021 Unitec/MIT Research Symposium

## Hei Whakamihi

Toitū te whenua  
Toitū te tangata  
As the land endures, people flourish.

Based at Te Noho Kotahitanga Marae, Toitū te Whenua BioBlitz, is a unique research collaboration, providing a platform for insight into the interwoven knowledge of mātauranga Māori and science, within education. A bioblitz is a biological inventory of the biodiversity/plants/animals within a specific area. In this instance, we will be covering the area of Wairaka campus. One of the main objectives of the BioBlitz is to create a report, as a koha for all the iwi groups who are kaitiaki of this area. Also to address current challenges for Kaitiakitanga strategies in the care and protection of te taiao (the natural environment), which struggle in the present climate of constant urban growth and development, where intensive transformation of landscape and natural habitats significantly contribute to an increasing loss of biodiversity.

Due to Covid restrictions, the BioBlitz proper, originally planned for September, was postponed to early 2022. A mini BioBlitz of Te Ngahere (Unitec campus) was conducted in November by EAS staff Peter de Lange, Dan Blanchon and Adam Parkinson, and students Tamara Everiss, Jade Matthews and Amanda Whittaker. We include the results here alongside key components of our research framework. We went live with an online repository/kete wānanga <https://bit.ly/3xyuVcj> on 6 December 2021, which contains further information on the project, and will house our content as we continue to collectively gather mātauranga pūtaiao. Pouhine is the pattern we chose for our kete wānanga, to acknowledge Wairaka, and in support of tauira educational pathways (see left).



*Piki mai,  
kake mai rā.*

Ngākau Māhaki, Te Noho Kotahitanga Marae



Te Waiunuroa  
o Wairaka  
<https://bit.ly/2Zy0B4X>

The life giving waters of Wairaka.



Environmental and Animal Science staff and students documented a variety of flora mycobiota and fauna in the ngahere.  
<https://bit.ly/3FJpLqj>



Te Noho  
Kotahitanga  
Marae  
Framework  
<https://bit.ly/3F1GXa>

The rākau totara is a host for many other species.



Toitū te  
Whenua  
<https://bit.ly/3r8M6j9>

As the land endures, people flourish.



Pā Harakeke  
<https://bit.ly/31aF575>

Rangimārie pā harakeke is a taonga of Te Noho Kotahitanga marae.



Lichen  
<https://bit.ly/3CUpEwy>

Man-made structures are a home for many varieties of lichen.