

Point of the Matter Dialogue - Kōrerorero: Conversations that Matter



The Dialogue took place as part of the IIC Wellington Congress.

A recording will be made available to all registered for Congress following the event on our dedicated IIC Congress site. Please email iic@iiconservation.org if you are an IIC member to gain access.

Introduction

Join Māori conservators Rose Evans, Tharron Blomfield, Kararaina Te Ira, Erina McCann and Jade Hadfield for a discussion of the issues and themes that have influenced and affected their careers in conservation.

The panel discussion moderated by Curator Māori Alexander Turnbull Library, writer, journalist, and broadcaster Paul Diamond (Ngāti Hau, Te Rarawa, Ngāpuhi) will touch on topics such as working with taonga, carrying mātanga overseas, the impact of historic trauma, ethical responsibilities to the community, what you don't learn at university and the blockages that there can be in the profession.

Biographies



Rose Evans

Rose Evans (Te Atiawa, French and Welsh descent) is an objects conservator and Director of Objectlab Ltd, a heritage consultancy based in Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand, having specialized in the conservation of Maori and Pacific taonga and contemporary sculpture across a range of institutions from Te Papa Museum of New Zealand (1990-2005) to the British Museum (2002).

She has worked in a range of cultural governance roles such as a Board member of the Arts Council of Creative New Zealand and Te Maori Manaaki Taonga Trust, and is the recipient of both a Getty Fellowship (2002) and a Winston Churchill Fellowship (2009).



Tharron Bloomfield

Tharron Bloomfield is a Māori Heritage Advisor for Heritage New Zealand. He has previously worked as a Curator and Conservator in New Zealand, Australia and the United States.



Jade Hadfield

Jade Hadfield |Ngʻti Kahungunu, Ngʻti Whʻtua o Kaipara, is a conservator and curator living in Narm | Melbourne and has over twelve years' experience at leading cultural organisations, including Te Papa, ICCROM, The Koorie Heritage Trust, Museums Victoria and currently at the State Library Victoria. Jade has utilised her conservation training to help in the return of her hapʻ Pou Tʻpuna and their ongoing care. Jade draws on her upbringing of being immersed in te ao Mʻori to centre Indigenous ontologies and epistemologies, flip dominant narratives and experience in the cultural sector to increase diverse representation and build capacity for Pasifika in Australia.



Erina McCann

Erina McCann is a Rongowhakaata, Ngʻti Ruapani wahine from Tʻranganui-a-Kiwa |Gisborne, Aotearoa New Zealand, with over thirteen years' experience working in the cultural sector in

Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia. As a trained conservator living on the unceded lands of the Bunurong/Boon Wurrung Peoples in Naarm | Melbourne, Erina works from a Te Ao Māori lens, consulting across diverse heritage communities, to embed intercultural practices and create space for community-centric and collaborative conservation and cultural collection care practice in Australia and across the moana.



Kararaina Te Ira

Kararaina Te Ira He uri au o nga? tu?puna mai nga? waka o? Tainui, Te Arawa, Kurahaupo?, Takitimu me Tokomaru. Ko Kararaina Pareroi Ra?hui Te Ira taku ingoa. Ko te mahi tautiaki t?ku nei whaingaroa.

I mahi ahau i roto Aotearoa, ki t? w?hi hoki, hei h?pai i ng? kaupapa t?honohono ki waenganui ng? taonga me ng? h?pori. Otir?, ko te oranga o ng? taonga ? iwi, t?ku tino mahi. Ko te mahi penapena taonga, te mahi tiaki taonga, ?ku nei p?kenga matua.

Kararaina has a firm connection to her whakapapa in both Te Ika a Maui (North Island) and Te Waka a Maui (South Island). After training as an art historian, Kararaina transitioned into cultural material conservation, obtaining her master's degree in conservation from the University of Melbourne, focusing on textiles and objects. In her capacity as a heritage professional, Kararaina has worked with numerous arts, cultural and heritage institutions throughout New Zealand and abroad, with a notable example including Rauru, Māori meeting house displayed in Museum am Rothenbaum of Hamburg. Kararaina has curated numerous exhibitions in New Zealand where women have been the central focus. In her 2018 Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre exhibition, she explored the cross-section between astronomy and female narratives. Additional projects include the permanent exhibition at Puke Ariki, titled Ko Taku Poi te Manu, which explores w?hine Māori and their practice of poi as a cultural tool to transmit political and historical messages. Kararaina is now the director of Hokitika Museum after working as Senior Adviser for Protected Objects where she established in 2019 the new framework for the Conservation of Taonga T?turu Programme. Kararaina continues to operate Penapena Taonga, an independent conservation practice that has been operating since 2016.