Title: A Whānau-led, Kaupapa Māori Collection Management project

Presenter: Ria Waikerepuru

Abstract:

Within many whānau we have memories of our kui wearing a beautiful pounamu tāonga around her neck, or one of our tauheke writing each day in beautiful handwriting into a diary. Or, there is the orange painted stone that holds the meeting house door open then doubles as a baptismal font as the occassion arises. Before it came to the marae it sat for many years on the front porch of Kui Harriets whare. These taonga provide cultural links, connections, relationships and narratives associated for whānau. Hence the need to ensure that these tāonga remain accessible to the whānau.

Purpose

The purpose of this Collections Management Project is to digitally catalogue selected sets of items the Personal Collection of Māori Language Advocate Dr Te Huirangi Waikerepuru.

Project Outline

Sets of archival material have been selected for this project and were identified from the overall collection in a series of whānau wānanga held in 2017. These wānanga were in partnership with Te Pūtē Routiriata o Taranaki, the archive arm of Te Reo o Taranaki in 2017. Whānau are keen to develop a kaupapa Māori, whānau-lead collection management methodology for this project. The naming of the current sets aims to be consistent with the nomenclature of sets described in the cataloging of the Pei te Hurinui Jones collection (Anderson, 2014). The overall number of items to be catalogued will remain at 250.

Primary Aim

The primary aim is to digitally catalogue 250 items from the Personal Collection. This represents a very small sample of 30 years research and te reo revitalisation work. The full scope of the collection (in both Māori and English) is as yet unknown. However the collection spans personal and professional worlds and many geographic locales. It includes a vast range of kaupapa. There are items

in the collection in need of conservation and/or preservation action. Digitisation is required for many items facing obsolescence.

There are items within whānau collections in need of conservation and/or preservation action. Digitisation is required for items facing obsolescence. The whereabouts of a cabinet full of remembered, yet unlocated taonga has identified the pressing need to consolidate, at least, an inventory of items distributed throughout the whānau. While Te Reo o Taranaki has collected a significant range of Waikerepuru's reo revitalisation work, this has yet to be assessed, described and arranged with appropriated kaitiaki provisions still to be put into place. There is a narrow window of opportunity to gather contextual metadata around the collection from Waikerepuru. However, there are many assistants, supporters, kaiawhina, students and followers who can also offer living memory and vital information about collection items. This information, will help compose a biographical view of his life and work.

Secondary Aims

The secondary aims are to formulate inventories for:
1. The entire personal archival collection inclusive of material in the care of the wider whānau
2. Archival material in the care of Te Reo o Taranaki
3. Archival material in libraries, archives and museums and with individuals outside the whānau
4. Development of a centralised database for ongoing collection and metadata management

This is the basis of my Museum Studies Advanced Research Practicum studies for 2018.