

PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 05 AUGUST 2026

- 9.30AM** Registration | Cup of Tea
Whanganui Function Centre,
Eulogy Lounge
- 9.50AM** Opening | Ruruku
- 10.00AM** Toiora Hawira
- 10.45AM** Building Catchment Resilience Project
- 11.30AM** Workshop Rotation 1
- 12.15PM** Special Performance: **Ko Au te Awa**
Rutherford Intermediate
- 12.30PM** Lunch
- 1.15PM** Workshop Rotation 2
- 2.00PM** Workshop Rotation 3
- 2.45PM** Workshop Rotation 4
- 3.30PM** Closing | Ruruku
Whakamutunga

WORKSHOPS

WEDNESDAY 05 AUGUST 2026



TE PĀ AUROA (EEL WEIRS)

Eulogy Lounge

Surely it can't be that hard to make one.

The wisdom of our old people is unparalleled. Pā Auroa were massive engineering feats to be marvelled at even by today's standards. The institutional wisdom required to harvest all of the essential materials is a challenge in itself. But, to then construct one in an open flowing river requires precision and expertise.

Much of that knowledge and expertise is scarce today. But, come and join a bunch of overenthusiastic uri that had a brain explosion and thought to themselves "lets just give it a crack!"



KOKOHUIA WETLANDS

Whanganui Room

We are all children of Te Awa o Whanganui.

Our mahi is all about biodiversity. Ranging from restoration of our natural wetlands and waterways connected to our Awa. Our work creates a thriving habitat for our whenua by allowing the population of diverse species to adapt to environmental changes. We work in our communities to build resilient ecosystems against climate change and working towards becoming predator-free in and around the Whanganui area.



MARAE ENERGY RESILIENCE

Celebrity Room

This workshop provides an overview of the project that Te Whawhaki is undertaking, installing solar systems on Marae connected to Te Awa Tupua.

This workshop will cover and discuss solar energy benefits and impacts experienced since the project commenced, insights in terms of living with solar and future opportunities that Marae may benefit from.



MOURI TŪROA

Vandercross Room

Mouri Tūroa (JFN) is a catchment restoration kaupapa grounded in the mouri and wellbeing of Te Awa Tupua. Through mahi such as stock exclusion, pest control, native planting, the initiative supports healthier waterways, stronger biodiversity, nature-based employment, and the reconnection of whānau, hapū, and communities with Te Awa Tupua o Whanganui and the whenua.

Our work continues to grow new approaches to big problems.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

WEDNESDAY 05 AUGUST 2026

TOIORA HAWIRA

EULOGY LOUNGE | 10.00AM

Toiora will share insights into the revival of traditional non-instrumental navigation and ocean voyaging, and the importance of preserving these traditional practices through international succession as a vehicle for transferring knowledge to future generations.

Drawing on his own experiences, he will also share stories from his own journey and the voyages he has been a part of.



BUILDING CATCHMENT RESILIENCE

EULOGY LOUNGE | 10.45AM

Uri and GIS experts Jake Robinson, Javell Pereka and Aimee Kopeke have been working with Professor David Hamilton and Senior Research Fellow, Liliana Pagliero from the Australian Rivers Institute on a planning tool known as Building Catchment Resilience (BCR).

The BCR initiated our procurement of LiDAR for the catchment, the recent work has delineated 311 subbasins, giving a far greater understanding of the physical nature of our catchment. This keynote presents the progress on Building Catchment Resilience in the Whanganui River Catchment, the challenges and future benefits.



MEET THE GIS EXPERTS

BUILDING CATCHMENT RESILIENCE

WEDNESDAY 05 AUGUST 2026

EULOGY LOUNGE / 10.45am

DAVID HAMILTON

Professor David Hamilton is a globally recognized authority in lake management and water quality modelling. He is the Director of the Australian Rivers Institute at Griffith University in Queensland and was the inaugural Bay of Plenty Regional Council Chair in Lake Restoration at the University of Waikato.



He has helped to shape freshwater ecosystem policy and management with advice to government agencies and industry groups across New Zealand and Australia. He is Editor-in-Chief of Inland Waters. His contributions to limnology were recognized with the 2026 Naumann-Thienemann medal of the International Society of Limnology – considered as “the highest honour that can be bestowed internationally for scientific contributions to limnology [inland waters]”.

LILIANA PAGLIERO, PHD, MSC, BSC(H)

Senior Research Fellow
Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University
Australia

Liliana Pagliero's research interests are watershed hydrology and hydrological modelling to support the assessment and fair and sustainable management of water resources.



During her career, Liliana has worked in government institutions, in Chile and in the European Commission, with the role of implementing and executing hydrological models as a support tool for the management of water resources and the formulation of policies at basin and up to continental scales. She has worked at Universities in Chile, Belgium and Australia; investigating the different hydrological processes and their interactions, including snow processes, flooding, agriculture and irrigation, erosion, water quality, climate change and mining interaction with water resources. Her work has evolved from considering only technical aspects for water management to a more holistic approach that includes environmental, legal and social aspects through her participation in multidisciplinary projects.

MEET THE GIS EXPERTS

BUILDING CATCHMENT RESILIENCE

WEDNESDAY 05 AUGUST 2026

EULOGY LOUNGE / 10.45am

JAVELL PEREKA

Has a Masters in Earth Science from Massey University. Javell has developed her skills in GIS contributing to Environmental Reporting previously at MFE and now as a Principal Advisor at Te Puni Kōkiri.



JACOB ROBINSON (JAKE)

Works at MPI. Jake has undertaken postgraduate and PhD study in Earth Sciences at Massey University with research focusing on topics including GIS, volcanology, and land-based environmental science.



AIMEE KOPEKE

Environmental and Geospatial Science (GIS) Graduate from Auckland University. Aimee contributes to the Toi Taiao at Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei in Auckland.



SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

WEDNESDAY 05 AUGUST 2026
Eulogy Lounge, 12.15pm

KO AU TE AWA

Rutherford Intermediate

This performance powerfully tells the story of Te Awa Tupua & the journey to legal recognition, weaving together creative elements to express our connection to te taiao, the impact of rules and systems on our rivers, and the voices of our young people advocating for the future of our Awa.

This First Place winning performance also won - Best Story, Recognition in Music, Excellence in Culture & Tech at the Regional Show Quest 2026.

