

# Plant & Food Research joins forces with Māori groups

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Press Release: [Plant and Food Research](#)

Plant & Food Research joins forces with Māori groups to conserve taonga fish and plants



Giant kōkopu/taiwharu (*Galaxias argenteus*)

Photo credit: Ron Munro

Scientists at Plant & Food Research will collaborate with Māori groups to develop protocols to preserve reproductive cells for iconic or endangered freshwater fish and develop local skills for the establishment of a nursery of regional treasures for the Ūāwanui community near Gisborne.

These two projects are backed by MBIE's Vision Mātauranga Capability Fund with the goal to build new connections between Māori organisations and the science system. They also support Plant & Food Research's vision to become a trusted and meaningful partner of Māori and promote prosperity by weaving Mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) with Western science.

Dr Matthew Wylie (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Māmoē, Waitaha), aquaculture scientist, and Dr Maren Wellenreuther, Science Group Leader of Seafood Production at Plant & Food Research, will lead the project "Contemporary kaitiakitanga (guardianship and protection) of freshwater taonga in Aotearoa". Together with collaborators from Ngāi Tahu/Kāi Tahu, the team will explore the ethical, methodological and cultural considerations that should guide the development and use of cryopreservation and surrogacy tools for fish that may assist iwi and hapū with the conservation, captive breeding and recovery of their freshwater taonga species. The research project will include iconic whitebait species giant kōkopu/taiwharu, endangered species mudfish/kōwaro, and some non-migratory galaxiid species, many of which are only found naturally within the Ngāi Tahu takiwā (tribal boundary).

These technologies are likely to be transferrable to other species, and thus have important applications for conservation and the development

of new fish species for aquaculture, providing opportunities to expand the Māori economy through aquaculture diversification, training and employment.

Meanwhile, the “Uawanui Cultural Nursery Project” is being coordinated by Dr Jocelyn Eason, GM Science Food Innovation of Plant & Food Research, and Te Aitanga-ā-Hauiti Centre of Excellence. Along with Massey University collaborators, the team will provide vocational training to upskill Eco-Warrior cadets in nursery management and plant germplasm conservation, with a key focus on the rohe flora.

These skills, together with expertise in plant propagation and an understanding of the ecology of the ecosystem, will enable the development of the Uawanui Nursery.

Each project will be awarded \$100,000 (excluding GST) over the course of two years.

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### **Westpac: Sets Out Plan To Go Cheque-Free**

Westpac NZ has announced details of its plan to phase out cheques, after signalling in May that it would be supporting a move to other forms of payment. Cheques will cease to be available as a means of payment after 25 June 2021. Westpac NZ General ... [More>>](#)

#### **ALSO:**

- Inland Revenue Department - [Inland Revenue Reminder About The End Of Cheques](#)
- Kiwibank - [Final countdown for Kiwibank cheques](#)



### **NZTA: Major New Zealand Upgrade Programme Projects Go To Tender**

Two major New Zealand Upgrade Programme projects are beginning tenders for construction. The New Zealand Upgrade Programme is a \$6.8 billion investment to get our cities moving, to save lives and boost productivity in growth areas. The first Auckland ... [More>>](#)



### **Reserve Bank: RBNZ Seeks To Preserve Benefits Of Cash**

The Reserve Bank – Te Pūtea Matua is taking on a new role of steward of the cash system “to preserve the benefits of cash for all who need them”, Assistant Governor Christian Hawkesby told the Royal Numismatics Society of New Zealand annual conference ... [More>>](#)

#### **ALSO:**

- Next Payments - [New Zealand Moves To Protect Cash](#)



### **Economy: Double-Dip Recession Next Year, But Housing Rolls On**

New Zealand's economy is expected to slip back into recession early next year as delayed job losses, falling consumer spending, and the absence of international tourists bites into growth. [More>>](#)

#### **ALSO:**

- Kalkine - [Zoom Your Lens Over Bright Spots Dazzling In The NZ Economy](#)



### **Microsoft New Zealand: Microsoft Expands “Highway To A Hundred Unicorns” Initiative To Support**



## Startups In Asia Pacific

New Zealand, 14 October 2020 – Today Microsoft for Startups launches the Highway to a Hundred Unicorns initiative in Asia Pacific to strengthen the region’s startup ecosystem. This follows the initiative’s success in India, where 56 startups were ... [More>>](#)



## Fonterra: Farmers Taking Another Step Towards New Zealand’s Low Emissions Food Production

They’re hot off the press and intended to help take the heat out of climate change. Fonterra farmers are already among the world’s most sustainable producers of milk and now have an additional tool in their sustainability toolbox. Over the last few ... [More>>](#)

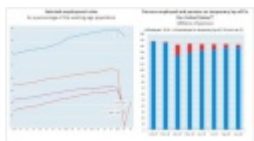
### ALSO:

- NZ Govt - [New Zealand And Uruguay Unite On Reducing Livestock Production Emissions](#)



## Courts: Businessman Eric Watson Sentenced To A Four-Month Jail Term

New Zealand businessman Eric Watson has been sentenced to a four-month jail term in the UK for contempt of court, TVNZ reports. [More>>](#)



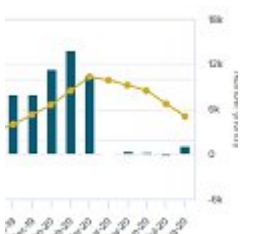
## OECD: Area Employment Rate Falls By 4.0 Percentage Points, To 64.6% In Second Quarter Of 2020

The OECD area employment rate – the share of the working-age population with jobs – fell by 4.0 percentage points, to 64.6%, in the second quarter of 2020, its lowest level since the fourth quarter of 2010. Across the OECD area, 560 million persons ... [More>>](#)



## Spark: Turns On 5G In Auckland And Offers A Glimpse Into The Future Of Smart Cities

Spark turned on 5G in downtown Auckland today and has partnered with Auckland Transport (AT) to showcase some of the latest in IoT (Internet of Things) technology and demonstrate what the future could look like for Auckland’s CBD with the power of 5G. 5G is ... [More>>](#)



## Stats NZ: Monthly Migration Remains Low

Since the border closed in late-March 2020, net migration has averaged about 300 a month, Stats NZ said today. In the five months from April to August 2020, overall net migration was provisionally estimated at 1,700. This was made up of a net gain ... [More>>](#)



## University of Canterbury: Proglacial Lakes Are Accelerating Glacier Ice Loss

Lake Tasman, New Zealand | 2016 | Photo: Dr Jenna Sutherland Meltwater lakes that form at glacier margins cause ice to recede much further and faster compared to glaciers that terminate on land, according to a new study. But the effects of these glacial ... [More>>](#)

**ALSO:**

- Robert J. Burrowes - [Our Vanishing World: Glaciers](#)
- NIWA - [Glaciers Continue To Melt Away](#)



### **Dairy: Fonterra Sells China Farms**

Fonterra has agreed to sell its China farms for a total of \$555 million (RMB 2.5 billion\*1), after successfully developing the farms alongside local partners. Inner Mongolia Natural Dairy Co., Ltd, a subsidiary of China Youran Dairy Group Limited ... [More>>](#)

**ALSO:**

- Fonterra - [Fonterra Announces Its Annual Results And A Return To Paying Dividend](#)

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