

Tia Barrett (PhD) Faculty of Design & Creative Technologies

Mauri Tuna, Mauri Tangata is an interactive, “kaupapa tuna-led” (Barrett, 2025) creative exhibition and workshop that addresses an urgent question of environmental wellbeing through a relational exercise that engages participants in examining relationships between humans and tuna (eels). The activation is guided by the principle that the mauri (life force/life energies) shared by humans and tuna is reciprocal and that, regardless of environment, we remain inseparable through whakapapa and genealogy. The workshop draws attention to the entanglement of environmental degradation, climate change, and ongoing social inequities in urban living, and explores how these forces and energy affect the lives of tuna. The exhibition invites participants into a multisensory experience through spoken-word poetry, kōrero (conversation), moving image, and hands-on eel-inspired art-making. These exploratory modalities slow participants down within the fast-paced academic environment and enable a shift from cognitive engagement to deeper bodily awareness. Through this process, the workshop encourages participants to reflect on their own positionality and responsibilities within systems that affect both human and non-human worlds (Kawharu, 2000). This work operates within a framework of kaitiakitanga (stewardship) and relational ethics, emphasising kinship rather than separation between species (Barrett, 2026). By activating creative expression as a mode of inquiry and connection, *Mauri Tuna, Mauri Tangata* offers participants a space to reimagine care, responsibility, and collective action in response to contemporary crises.

Keywords

Mauri, tuna, kaitiakitanga, human, non human

References

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