



ROYAL SOCIETY
TE APĀRANGI

Kōrero for the Research Honours Awards

Designed by
Vianney Parata

Te Ātiawa Ki Whakarongotai,
Ngāti Toa, Ngā Puhī, Ngāti Porou,
Ngāti Kahungunu ngā iwi



Rua Kūmara

The Rua Kūmara design represents the kūmara pit of traditional times. The white spaces are said to represent the pit and the pitau the fronds of the kūmara. The kūmara was particularly important in Māori society for a number of reasons. It was a staple food source of our tipuna and was used for ritual purposes also. For instance, to lift the tapu of a newly constructed whare, a cooked kūmara was thrown over the whare, and/or buried someplace near the whare.

Another reason, however, that kūmara did/does have such a strong presence in our creation traditions and is often seen/depicted in Māori society is the fact that kūmara were one of

the few foods that were brought to Aotearoa by our tipuna and survived here. The kūmara therefore marks a feat for our tipuna in terms of their agricultural skill and knowledge.

The pattern also represents wisdom handed down from generation to generation. In this design I wanted to acknowledge the level of skill and knowledge one must have in order to receive such a tohu of excellence and also highlight a particular whakatauki 'Kāore Te kūmara e kōrero mō tōna ake reka'; 'The kūmara doesn't speak of its own sweetness' we show it by doing the work, this represents the persons research, work ethic and mana motuhake.



Pūhoro

Pūhoro was inspired by water and the way a waka broke the current to move forward, traditionally used on the takere hull of waka signifying speed, swiftness and movement. In this piece I have used pūhoro to represent the journey through research and the many ways they have had to break the water to move forward with a sense of achievement.





Pākati Haehae

Pākati (small lines) Haehae (long parallel lines) are said to represent whakapapa, past, present and future. In this design I have used it to represent the knowledge in which the researcher has gained throughout their career, the start of their journey in their research fields, how much they have grown, how much knowledge and wisdom they hold and also a reminder that there is still more to learn.

