VAIPUNUIAN TAIREA

TECHNOLOGIST & EDUCATOR



CONTACT

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sunriselabs.io
linkedin.com/in/ian-tairea/

ABOUT ME

My passion and purpose is the advancement of Māori and Pasifika peoples by means of technology education and innovation. Based in Mauke, Cook Islands, since 2022, building for the Pa Enua and the wider Pacific.

EDUCATION

42 SILICON VALLEY
2019 | C Piscine

QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
2013 – 2014 | Graduate Diploma of Education (with Distinction)
2003 – 2006 | Bachelor of Business (E-Commerce & Marketing)

EXPERIENCE

CURRENT — **SUNRISE LABS** *(sunriselabs.io)*
FOUNDER & DIRECTOR
A technology research and development lab in Mauke, Cook Islands, leveraging technology for social impact across the Pacific: learning platforms, knowledge systems, community infrastructure and public websites for island organisations and government.

CURRENT — **MAUKE TECH ACADEMY** *(facebook)*
FOUNDER & LEAD TEACHER
A tech academy founded at Apii Mauke, teaching digital technologies to Pa Enua students and reaching the outer islands virtually on Galaxy Maps.

CURRENT — **GALAXY MAPS** *(galaxymaps.io)*
FOUNDER & LEAD DEVELOPER
An online learning platform of structured pathways, progress tracking and cohorts, themed around galaxies and star constellations. Built in the Cook Islands, used by learners in Aotearoa and the Pacific.

CURRENT — **MĀTOU COLLECTIVE** *(matou.nz)*
CONTRACT DEVELOPER
Contract development with Mātou on Indigenous digital identity and whānau data sovereignty, including the Āhau platform and community server infrastructure.

2019 - 2023 — **TAI COLLECTIVE** *(taicollective.nz) (video 1 | video 2)*
FOUNDER & DIRECTOR
A Charitable Trust operating as a social enterprise for rangatahi to develop and gain experience working on creative and technology outcomes for real clients.

2018 - 2021 — **TAI WĀNANGA TŪ TOA** *(tutoa.co.nz)*
DIRECTOR OF INNOVATION (SENIOR LEADERSHIP)
Helped run a small Māori kaupapa high school and developed and delivered a leading NCEA Levels 1–3 Digital Technologies curriculum. (more info)

2017 - 2019 — **IOA - INTERNET OF AGRICULTURE**
CO-FOUNDER & CTO
An "Internet of Things" agri-tech business that grew out of winning the Manawatū AgTech Hackathon.

2012 - 2019 — **SEENBROS**
CO-FOUNDER & CEO
A digital media company my brothers and I ran, creating websites and promotional videos for clients including Massey University, UCOL, Te Rōpū Pakihi and many local businesses.

2016 - 2017 — **FREYBERG HIGH SCHOOL**
HEAD OF COMPUTING
Ran a department of three teachers teaching digital technologies to Year 9–13 students.

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(Medium article & video about my Digital Technology Curriculum)



(teaomaori.news/whiz-kids-reach-stars)



(Stuff article)

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PROJECTS

CURRENT **GALAXY MAPS** *(github.com/tairea/galaxy-maps)*
LEAD DEVELOPER · OPEN-SOURCE LEARNING PLATFORM

CURRENT **TE ARE VANANGA O ONEUNGA**
FOUNDER · HOUSE OF HIGHER LEARNING & RESEARCH LAB, MAUKE (IN DEVELOPMENT)

CURRENT **TE KUPENGA**
PROJECT LEAD · AI KNOWLEDGE KEEPER FOR COOK ISLANDS MĀORI, WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

2026 **FARMERS IOT TOOLKIT** *(iot.sunriselabs.io)*
SUNRISE LABS R&D · OPEN-SOURCE SOLAR-POWERED SENSING & IRRIGATION KIT FOR GROWERS

2023 **TŪ TOA PORTAL** *(github.com/tairea/tt-portal)*
LEAD DEVELOPER

2023 **ĀHAU APP** *(ahau.io)*
DEVELOPER

2023 **MYMAHI APP** *(mymahi.co.nz)*
DEVELOPER

2020 **MANAWATŪ AGTECH HACKATHON** *(video)*
BMSB DETECTIVE (RANGATAHI PROJECT)

2020 **48HOUR FILM COMPETITION** *(timelapse video)*
ROCKY THE WIZARD (RANGATAHI PROJECT)

2018 ***WINNER* - HACK TAIRĀWHITI** *(ngatiporouseafoods.glitch.me)*
BLOCKCHAIN NARRATIVES

2017 **STARTUP WEEKEND PASIFIKA** *(marvelapp.com/7128a5h)*
ARO'A (SHARING-COMMUNITY APP)

2017 ***BOUNTY WINNER* - GOVHACK**
DONATE NOW

2017 **GOVHACK** *(video)*
KACHINGME

2017 **HOLOLENS + UNITY CONTEST** *(video)*
GREENVIEW V2 (AR FARM VISUALISATION)

2017 **TECHWEEK HACKATHON** *(video)*
GREENVIEW V1 (AR FARM VISUALISATION)

2017 ***WINNER* - MANAWATŪ AGTECH HACKATHON** *(video)*
GREENVIEW V1 (AR FARM VISUALISATION)

2016 **BOUNTY *WINNER* - GOVHACK** *(video)*
MONUMENTAL APP

SKILLS

