

# Nona Hohepa-Taute

*Tainui, Te Arawa*

*“You can always find an answer. You can go deeper and deeper into the detail of a structure to find how it works.”*

**Civil and  
environmental engineer**  
*Building Māori values and knowledge  
into geothermal engineering*

*Nona in Auckland during the welding of a 600mm diameter polyethylene pipe.*



**NZASE**  
New Zealand Association of Science Educators

[www.nzase.org.nz/resources/?resource=scientist-profiles](http://www.nzase.org.nz/resources/?resource=scientist-profiles)

## **Nona's research**

### ***Māori values and geothermal engineering***

Nona held wānanga (seminars) with iwi and hapū in Rotorua, Kawerau and Taupo where they created his PhD research goals together. He assessed the social, environmental, and economic impacts of geothermal projects, to create indicators of how Māori values are upheld.

Nona found that earthquake engineering standards do not take account of long Māori experience in building resilience to earthquakes and eruptions in structures such as marae, and in communities. Conflict between engineering and Māori value systems was aggravated by a 2016 law which increased the minimum earthquake resilience standard for all buildings.

Nona aims to contribute to strong processes for incorporating mātauranga Māori in engineering.

*See his complete profile from May 2021 - scroll down at <https://nzase.org.nz/resources/?resource=scientist-profiles>*