

26TH ISANA CONFERENCE, MELBOURNE, DECEMBER 2015

Non-Refereed Workshops

(abstract and interactive workshop 60-90 minutes including questions)

A workshop with a theme emphasising practical solutions. We are hoping to get people who wish to teach others some skills and pass on knowledge and practical steps they have taken to improve their services and/or improve the experience of the students. Workshops should involve a significant degree of participation from those in attendance. It is not meant to be a 1.5 hour lecture.

#WHĀNAU4LIFE – an indigenous cultural based international student alumni engagement strategy

The foundation of the “Whānau 4 life” strategy is based on the celebrated notion of “whānau,” the Māori word for “family,” that in its broadest sense may include those who come together with a common purpose. Based in this idea, the programme fosters the building of family connections between students that not only commences upon their arrival and throughout their academic programme, but continues beyond the students’ time in Aotearoa, New Zealand, focusing on specifically Māori immersive cultural experiences, rather than just superficial landscapes. This strategy comprises a suite of initiatives and activities developed by International Student Support under the auspices of the Office of Māori Advancement as they relate to international engagement for the Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Development at AUT University and, in particular, the development of a dynamic, whānau-oriented international alumni programme. The aim of this interactive workshop is to get the audience to engage in experiential cultural learning activities. By participating in learning some of the activities the students do, the audience can understand aspects of a positive international student experience at AUT, forming the foundation for a non-traditional international alumni engagement strategy. The presenters are a Senior Maori Lecturer voted by AUT students as best lecturer and the Manager of International Student Support, one of the original developers of the programme.

The workshop will cover:

- *Origins: Background of the International Student Noho Marae – a pastoral support initiative (15 mins)*
- *A short video by Kathi Macheiner – an Austrian student’s experience (5 mins)*
- *Audience Participation:*
 - 1) *rapu whānau; Māori language activity focusing on establishing kinship (10-15 minutes)*
 - 2) *pepeha – introducing your country, university, name (15 mins)*

3) *waiata tira* (*learning a Maori love song that captures the sentiment of being away from home - Pōkarekare Ana*) (15mins)

- *Evolution: Stages of the journey from social to academic to alumni, whānau bonds - #whānau4life, merchandise and also including a short video – (10 mins)*
- *Reflections: Lessons, Conclusions including videos from offshore whānau council events - (10 mins)*
- *Q & A*