



Call for Papers

Haerenga / Journeys

Costume & Textiles Aotearoa New Zealand Annual Symposium

8-10 May 2026

Whanganui Regional Museum, Whanganui

Haerenga / Journeys

'The awa is always flowing and evolving. It starts from a single mātāpuna (source/wellspring) and gradually builds momentum and shape. It grows and is fed by many tributaries. It moves with intent and purpose, adapting and changing based on the conditions, until it reaches its destination. Much like the awa, design follows a similar journey, over time shaping the environment around it, and nourishing the people.'

Extended Whānau Sons & Co, Whanganui UNESCO City of Design, Best Award, 2025

This year's theme—*Haerenga / Journeys*—is inspired by the history of our host city, Whanganui, which has been shaped and sustained by its famous awa (river) over generations.

In 2017, the Whanganui River was recognised as Te Awa Tupua, a legal person, in acknowledgment of the awa as a living and sacred entity. In 2021, Whanganui was designated as a UNESCO City of Design in recognition of its historic and contemporary contributions to art and creativity, from Māori innovators who worked alongside the awa for more than 800 years, to the city's visionary architects, industrialists and manufacturers (including many working in clothing and textiles), and current community of makers.

Whanganui is a vibrant city in which the layers of its history are palpable.

We are looking for presentations that explore dress and textiles in relation to journeys through place and time, including wellsprings, tributaries and destinations.

Presentations can take the form a paper (20 minutes), panel (3-4 people) or lightening talk (10 minutes)

Themes could include, but are not limited to the following:

- Place-based dress and textiles
- Tūrangawaewae / a sense of place
- Whakapapa
- Local / global
- Time
- Currents
- Journeymen
- Travel
- Forces—natural, social and / or cultural—that shape dress and textile histories
- Trade / trade routes
- Ka mua, ka muri / walking backwards into the future
- Traces / palimpsests / layers
- Design journeys
- Wellbeing

Please submit your abstract as a Word document of up to 300 words, with a short biography and your contact details and saved as surname_firstname.docx by **Friday 23 January 2026** and email to president@costumeandtextile.nz.

Abstracts will be peer reviewed, and authors will be advised of acceptance or not by Friday 13 February.

Applicants are not required to be members of the CTANZ, but all presenters are required to pay the symposium registration fee.

We would love contributors to consider publishing their papers in *Context*, CTANZ's journal.

Any questions?

Please contact us at president@costumeandtextile.nz

Figure (details):
Embroidery, 'Wanganui River', 1891, Wellington, by Maud Brown.
Bequest of Mrs L.M. Wickenden, 1963. Te Papa (PC000832)



Figure (details):
Wanganui River Embroidery, 1880, Wellington, by Alice Clapham.
Gift of the Clapham family, 1951. Te Papa (PC000798)

