Tuia: 250 years of navigation, map making and belonging

Emily Tidey, Tony Moore, David Goodwin, Mick Strack, Kara Jurgens, JL Morrison, Liam Rees

School of Surveying / Te Kura Kairūri
University of Otago / Te Whare Wānanga o Otākou

Abstract:

It is 250 years since the first encounters between Māori and Captain Cook’s European crew in 1769. This important moment in our shared history is being commemorated around Aotearoa in late 2019. Tuia means ‘to weave or bind together’ and more information on commemoration events can be found at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage website: https://www.tuia250.nz/

Te Kura Kairūri (the National School of Surveying at the University of Otago) is commemorating the geospatial aspects of the first encounters, aided by the generous donation of three 18th century charts. As surveyors and spatial scientists we wish to celebrate our professional ‘ancestors’ and share our findings with the public during these commemorations. We are preparing special journal publications and online story-maps, as well as presenting at the S+SNZ conference, NZR AHS seminar and the Encounters and Exchanges conference this year.

We have been working with journals, charts and spatial data to consider several elements: hydrography, nautical charting and hydrographers over the last 250 years in New Zealand; the navigation skills and map-making techniques of all of our ancestors; GIS analyses of space-time; and aspects of naming and claiming when different cultures interact. In this presentation we discuss highlights from our ongoing work.