

# Surveys to determine the orientation of standing stones on the Hauviri and Taputapuātea maraes on Ra'iatea, and associated issues.

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**12:00 noon, Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup>**

**May 2015**

**L1 Lecture Theatre**

**School of Surveying**

**310 Castle Street**

## Abstract

Building on an earlier project that investigated whether a sample of whareniui (meeting houses) in New Zealand were oriented towards the sacred marae of Taputapuātea on the island of Ra'iatea (old name Havai'i or Hawaiki), this research considered three follow-on questions:

- 1) Does any evidence remain on Ra'iatea to shed light on meeting house orientation in New Zealand?
- 2) With no means of determining longitude, how would it have been possible for early Maori to know the direction of Ra'iatea when orienting meeting houses?
- 3) How have azimuths of stars and star pillars that may have been used in orienting meeting houses in NZ changed over the years as a result of precession?

This seminar presents initial findings of surveys undertaken in late 2014 to determine the azimuth of standing stones at the Hauviri and Taputapuātea maraes in the Opoa district of Ra'iatea.

