MANA in Virtual Reality

Honouring Cultural and Creative Genius

In Reality and Virtual Reality

February 2017
Pou Kapua – In Reality and Virtual Reality

Pou Kapua – "A gift to the nation, a gift to the world".

A Taonga, a Treasure, Pou Kapua is an incredible manifestation of the many wonderful relationships and alliances forged throughout our lifetimes; a demonstration of how these colourful, diverse, and enduring peoples, groups, Indigenous tribes and communities have been able to support a collective vision of cultural heritage, identity, and spirit.

One weekend in February 2002, as Wikuki Kingi (Master Carver / Native Technologist) and Tania Wolfgramm (Cultural Psychologist / Inventor) were having a cup of tea, they read an article about how the local council were planning to build the ‘Pillars of Hercules’ in the Auckland harbour. Distressed and outraged by the idea that a borrowed symbol (two strokes in the dollar sign) would dominate their ancestral harbour, they dreamed instead of creating a magnificent Pou (totem) for the people of New Zealand. Such a Pou would be a symbol of Māori and Pacific identity; would strengthen their mana and reveal the cultural heritage of the Tangata Whenua (People of the Land) in positive and powerful ways.

Knowing that they would be supported by their whānau (families), marae (traditional villages), and iwi (tribes), Wikuki and Tania started to research, develop, and plan the Pou. With the blessing of Te Arikinui Dame Te-Ata-I-Rangi Kaahu the Māori Queen, and the support of Te Ranga Carving Academy, they sought kauri trees from the north. Three magnificent ancient kauri trees were gifted by the tribes of the north, and the carving of Pou Kapua began.

Created and carved by our team of over 35 Tohunga / Master Carvers and international Indigenous artists from around Aotearoa New Zealand, the Pacific Islands of Tonga, Samoa, Cook Islands, Tahiti, Hawaii, Kanak (New Caledonia), Rapanui (Easter Island) and Indigenous peoples of the nations of Australia, Alaska, Canada, and America, Pou Kapua creatively depicts enthralling stories of creations, beginnings, sacred places, people, and legends.

With carving operations starting at their home marae of Kirikiriroa in 2003, the Pou then travelled around Auckland as it was created and constructed with cultural specialists and cutting-edge engineering techniques over the next two years. During that time hundreds of people supported the creation of Pou Kapua with precious resources, funding, skills and expertise, millions of dollars, thousands of hours of time and boundless positive energy.
Hundreds of people helped to bring **Pou Kapua** to life in the human world ... for peoples of the four winds to see and feel.

Standing as kaitiaki / guardians on each side of **Pou Kapua** are two imposing three-tonne moai, carved by expert sculptors from Rapanui / Easter Island. At the base of **Pou Kapua** stands mighty Tangaroa, the Guardian of the Ocean. Above him are Ranginui (Sky Father) and Papatuanuku (Earth Mother). Throughout **Pou Kapua** are many guardians, including Tane (Forest), Tawhirimatea (Winds), Tumatauenga (War), Ruaumoko (Volcanoes), and Rongo (Peace). We have stories of 'ohana', the taro providing the roots of family for the people of Hawaii; stories of Kanak of New Caledonia; Aboriginal dreamtime, Tlingit killer whales, and Cree warriors to name a few.

Threaded throughout **Pou Kapua** are the journeys and adventures of our ancestors, with Maui at the top; fascinating legends and absorbing histories of our migrations throughout the magnificent Pacific Ocean. A spiritual rope of unity binds tribes and people together.

*We call on the ancient past and the warrior spirit of our ancestors to bring to life and manifest their heroic deeds to shine the light on realities of survival in challenging environments - for future generations to know, to learn, to share ...*

In April 2005, the Puawaitanga, sacred dawn ceremony of Te Uranga o Te Ra (the Rising of the Sun), revealed Pou Kapua to the world. Recognised as the largest Māori / Pacific Pou / totem in the world, reaching over 80 feet in height and weighing more than 20 tonnes, **Pou Kapua** is carved from 2,000 year-old magnificent ancient Kauri from the forests of the northern iwi / tribes; 50,000 year-old swamp kauri; 1,000 year old totara; is supported with carved steel; and adorned with paua, pounamu, bone and crystal.

**Pou Kapua** has found his standing place in Manukau, New Zealand. With the highest population of Māori and Pacific peoples in Aotearoa, and home to over 165 different ethnic and cultural groups, Manukau is one of the most culturally diverse areas of New Zealand. This vibrant and colourful region provides an appropriate home for **Pou Kapua**.

As a gift to the people of Aotearoa and the World, in fulfilment of our dream, **Pou Kapua**, a wonderful sacred symbol of our culture, identity, science, and sovereignty, can now be viewed an experienced by millions of people all year long, being accessible to all peoples at all times.
I AM POU KAPUA
I AM POU KAPUA

Conceived in time immemorial by my parents
Ranginui – Sky Father
Papatuanuku – Earth Mother
Fashioned in the abode of Tane of the Heavens
On the sands of the Crimson Bowl

For thousands of years from seed to sapling
To Majesty of the mountains of Mitimiti
I stood, remained steadfast
Ready to leap forth into the world of humans

I have witnessed much in my time
The beauty of the world, lands, oceans
My great cousins the whales
Keepers of knowledge and time
My siblings of forests, lush and fruitful
I have felt both your happiness – and your pain...
Humans I have seen arrive at these shores
Of Aotearoa – this land of long white clouds

I grasp in my hand the Baskets of Sacred Knowledge
Ancestral Knowledge, Life Knowledge
The baskets I entrust to you
To nurture with reverence
To learn, to know, to share
To live in harmony with nature
To live in peace with each other
To love and care for your children and their children
Peoples of the four winds, near and far

I AM POU KAPUA
The feathered cloak of the children of
Sky Father and Earth Mother
Has kept me warm
From beyond time I have emerged
From their cosy haven I have come forth
I have leaped forth into this enduring world

I AM POU KAPUA, the guardian pillar of space and time
I am Uenuku, the standing rainbow that links Heaven to Earth
Now I turn towards the Sun
My dreams to the World carved by Sacred Adzes
Brought into the light by those who answered my call ...

I AM POU KAPUA
I stand tall
I embrace you
I embrace the World
All past, present and future
All hearts rejoice with happiness!

Tihei Mauri Ora
POU KAPUA
I AM TANGAROA

God of the Oceans
King of the Seas
Fear and respect me
Lest I drag you down to the
cold dark depths of my domain
I am the power of the whirlpool vortex
The source of fearsome tsunami
Bringer of the monsters of the deep
Do not come down to the sea
Without paying tribute to me

Guardian of all ocean life
Protector of all creatures, great and small
My body has fed the world
My water gives breath to the planet
Fear me, respect me
For I keep the balance of life in my eye
Do not come down to the sea
Without paying tribute to me
I AM TANE
First-born of Rangi Sky Father
and Papatuanuku Earth Mother
The stars in the sky
I placed upon my Father’s chest
To nurture my children the plants
And to nourish humankind

I AM TANE
Bringer of Light into the World
God of the Great Forests
Its birds, creatures, and living things
I AM TANE
Awaken from your ignorant slumber
Destroy me at your peril …
I AM TANE
Treat me with reverence
And I will give you the power to heal
I AM TANE – THE GREAT ONE OF THE FOREST
I AM MAUI

Conceived in the oceans
Forgotten and alone
I awakened as Hero
With magical jawbone
I hauled up the islands
from the depths of Tangaroa
A dwelling place for my descendants
Forever more

I AM MAUI
I am the one who tamed the Sun
The challenge that gives us
the light of each day
And it is I who brought Fire
to the World of Mankind

I AM MAUI
Demigod, Disrupter, Trickster of Time
I am the Navigator, the Explorer
I challenge the past to secure the future

I AM MAUI
POU KAPUA CREATIONS & REALITY VIRTUAL COLLABORATION

The Challenge ...
Moving the Realty of Pou Kapua into Virtual Reality

The Solution ...
Moving Pou Kapua into Reality Virtual
15000 incredible images
thousands of hours
trail-blazing technologies
countless sleepless nights ...
... and Pou Kapua is reborn
in the Virtual World

Haere Mai – Welcome

Meet Pou Kapua
Tangaroa, Maui, Tane

Be Powerful – Be Free
REALITY VIRTUAL, NEW ZEALAND

REALITY VIRTUAL is a New Zealand based creative technologies research and development collective of trained electrical engineers, software developers, pilots, adobe wizzkids, production engineers and marketing gurus, including Simon, Taron, Alex, Quinn, and Tim. REALITY VIRTUAL has streamlined their ultra-realistic photogrammetry to virtual reality pipeline into an art, with a focus on:

- 6° of movement 'true VR' cinematography - photo-realistic 3D asset and environment acquisition for the purposes of VFX / VR / Desktop / Mobile & Web based applications.
- unique post production and signal processing techniques including the development of deep learning image enhancement & automation throughout their 3D pipeline for PBR workflow
- strong emphasis on advanced robotics and autonomous operations for large data acquisition of 3D environments.
- virtual reality, mixed reality, augmented reality applications for immersive media technologies

As a result, REALITY VIRTUAL can effectively encapsulate reality in all of its visual nuance, creating nothing short of a ‘being there’ sensation for real-time VR applications. Truly an absolute godsend for digital storytelling, VFX cinematography productions, innovative viral marketing strategies and end-user experiences alike. Their emphasis is on implementing off-the-shelf components and rapid adaptation of VFX R&D into our workflow. This alongside open-source tool-sets and modern fabrication techniques allow them to achieve rapid, cost-effective development. Once an R&D process has reached a satisfactory level of practicality and reliability, on the field applications and eventually commercialization is achieved. This keeps REALITY VIRTUAL fresh!

SIMON CHE DE BOER is the Founder & Creative Director of Reality Virtual. His primary focus is towards the development of immersive media technologies. All interrelated, these cover a host of fields: Semi-autonomous unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV & Drone) cinematography, industry typology surveying utilizing ground station way point navigation, HDR video, stunning in-motion time-lapse techniques, FPV (first person view), head tracking stereoscopic 360° cinematic capture, in-motion 4D photogrammetry techniques and virtual reality (VR) cinematography / simulations.

The ethos of REALITY VIRTUAL is driven towards the cutting-edge as they are continuously employing new drone and production techniques alike.

Visit them at www.realityvirtual.co and check out a few of their projects

- **High Above Auckland Skyline** – experience being on top of the world from the comfort of a chair – not for anyone afraid of heights!
- **Saint Matthews in the City** – teleport inside Auckland’s largest church
- **The Maya Payne VR Experience** – true 6 degrees of freedom – in-motion performance
**POU KAPUA CREATIONS, NEW ZEALAND**

**POU KAPUA CREATIONS** are a collective of Tohunga / Cultural & Arts Specialists who have been acknowledged and mandated by their tribes for generations. Pou Kapua Creations are celebrated as traditional knowledge holders, experts, and authorities of Māori, Pacific, and Indigenous art, culture, heritage, native science, leadership and partnership. **POU KAPUA CREATIONS** are supported by tribes and native communities across Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific, weaving people together through a shared vision that is enduring, intentional, and transformative.

**POU KAPUA CREATIONS** ignites and empowers Master Carvers, creative specialists, artisans, native scientists and technologists to come together and collectively illuminate and expand the horizons of the Māori, Pacific and Indigenous worlds. With incantations, deep cultural intelligence and wisdom, thought, word and action, Pou Kapua Creations focuses on making the natural native world visible through Māori and Indigenous culture, art, science, and technology.

**POU KAPUA CREATIONS** creates wonderful Taonga Toi / Cultural Treasures. Like their Pou / Totem **Pou Kapua**, their waka / canoes and marae / tribal houses keep their cultures alive through nurturing their creative spirit. These treasures provide tribes and communities with safe spaces and places for connecting and re-building relationships. They teach everyone who seeks to learn, as they express ancient stories of moana / oceans, whenua / lands, kainga / villages, whānau / family, oranga health – of cultural, social, ecological, and spiritual health and wellbeing. And they remind humanity of their responsibilities regarding the earth, seas, skies, nature - indeed of all living things.

**WIKUKI KINGI**, Creative Director of Pou Kapua Creations, is a native of Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific – Māori and Hawaiian. He is a leading world expert in Māori / Pacific symbology and design, a native science technologist, and Master Carver with an extensive history of creating artistic treasures, including Pou Kapua - for communities, local and global. Shapeshifting in the cyberflux, Wikuki is a modern Maui, seeking to unshackle the power of creativity and innovation encoded in the helix of our DNA – releasing the ‘taniwha of transformation’ upon the universe.

**TANIA WOLFRAMM** hails from the Māori tribes of Aotearoa New Zealand, and the Pacific Kingdom of Tonga. A cultural psychologist, creative designer, visionary thinker and strategist, Tania seeks to express and imprint the Indigenous view of the world, their languages, hopes and dreams onto and into technologies and innovations that they create. Tania is also the founder of the HAKAMANA System of Transformative Design, Development, and Evaluation. Like Matakerepo, she sees the potential for technology to be a powerful creative force for healing the psyche of people and cultures.

I AM MATAKERЕPO

I am blind
Yet I can see all
I am from the past
Yet I can gift you
a glimpse of the future
Call to me
for wisdom and insight
Take care
For what I see is both
Destruction and Creation
Choose your path well …

See:  [www.poukapua.com](http://www.poukapua.com)
And:  [www.hakamana.com](http://www.hakamana.com)