



MANU AO
Academy

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Dr John Pirker

Recombining Streams of Knowledge at the University of Canterbury – Mātauranga Māori and Western Science

Dr John Pirker, of Kāi Tahu, is a lecturer at the School of Biology and an associate lecturer at Aotahi: School of Maori and Indigenous Knowledge, University of Canterbury.

John is a marine ecologist with a special interest in supporting kaitiakitanga and involving mātauranga Māori and science in partnership. He has assisted the Kaikoura whānui in monitoring the success of their temporary closure, is a scientific advisory to the Akaroa Taiāpure Committee and is a member of Te Tiaki Mahinga Kai. The proliferation of community-based conservation highlights the necessity to include mātauranga Māori in the mainstream tertiary science curriculum. Acknowledging this conceptual shift in managing the sustainability of our environment within the science curriculum will provide science graduates with an essential background in cultural awareness, improve their learning outcomes and increase their cultural confidence.

***Thank you to all our guest speakers who have presented this year –
kei runga noa atu***