

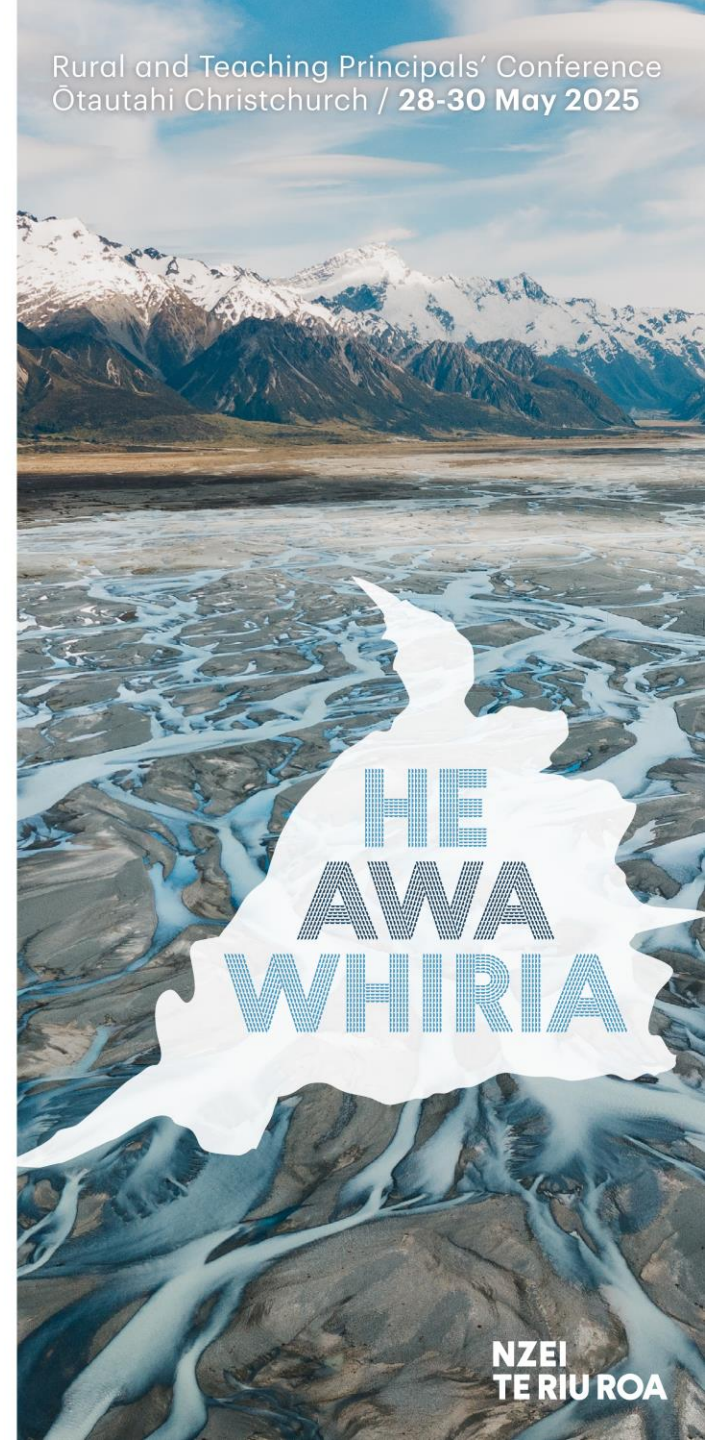


KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

He Awa Whiria: Braiding Knowledge Systems for Educational Success

Jennifer Smith

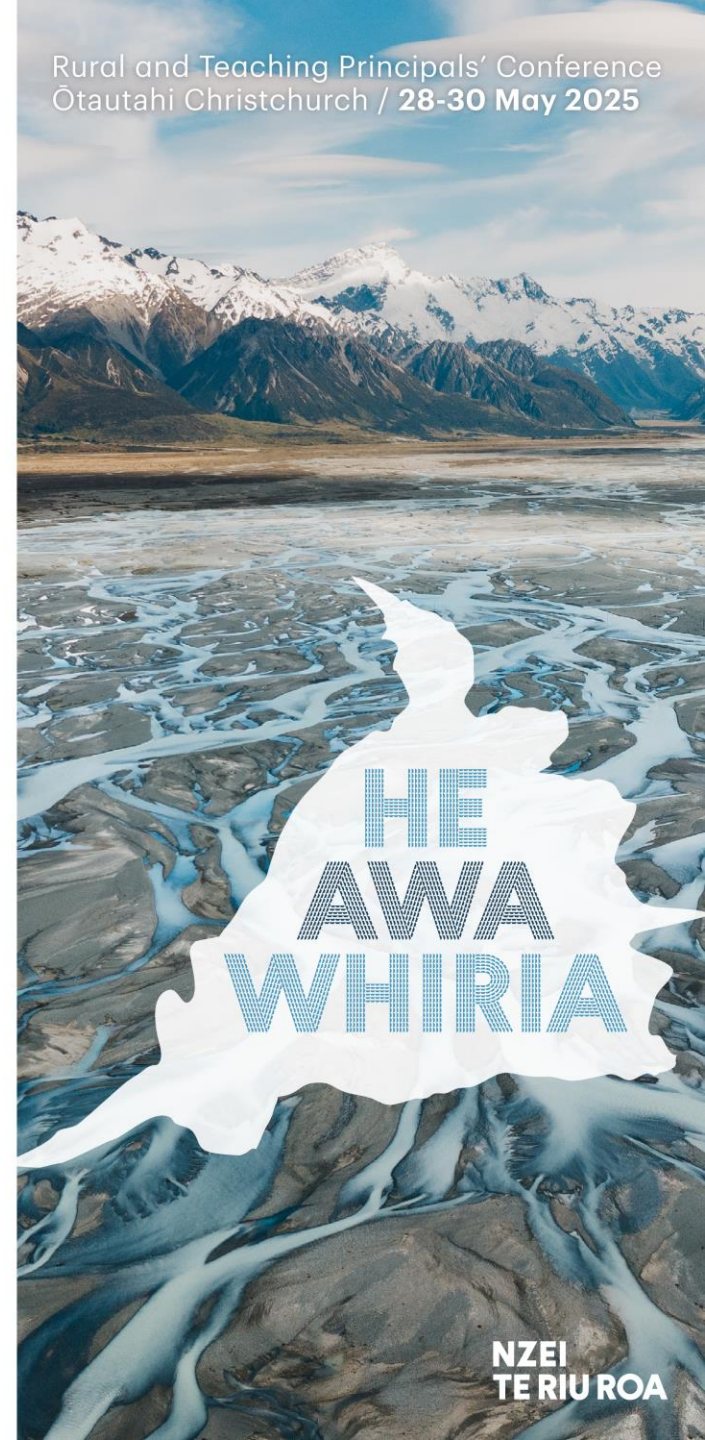
Jennifer Smith (Ngāti Whātua, Ngāpuhi, Te Roroa) is a Senior Lecturer in Māori Education and Initial Teacher Education at the University of Canterbury and the lead of Culturally Responsive research at the Child Wellbeing Research Institute. As a primary school specialist, Jen is deeply committed to culturally responsive pedagogy, Indigenous education, and the well-being of educators and learners. As an educator with a hearing difference, she brings a unique perspective on accessibility and inclusion, advocating for equitable learning experiences that honour diverse ways of knowing and communicating. Grounded in He Awa Whiria—the Braided Rivers Model—developed by her mentor, Professor Angus Hikairo Macfarlane, her contributions to educational research aim to authentically braid Indigenous knowledge and Western methodologies to create inclusive, strengths-based learning environments.



Resilience: what is it and how can we get more of it for ourselves and others

Dr Lucy Hone

Regarded as a thought leader in the field of resilience psychology, tragic circumstances have deepened Lucy's personal understanding of what it is to cope with loss. Adjunct senior fellow at the University of Canterbury and at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine, an internationally sought-after professional speaker, best-selling author, and award-winning 'pracademic', Lucy has a gift for turning complex science into useable tools. Author of *Resilient Grieving*, and with a TED talk on resilience that went viral during Covid, Lucy now runs courses helping people cope with disruption, change, uncertainty, and loss. Her work is regularly featured in global media, including the Guardian, the Hidden Brain, the Washington Post, the BBC, CBS, and ABC, Channel News Asia, Swedish Television, and TVNZ. She's also the author of the *Educator's Guide to Whole-school Wellbeing* and has worked for several years in education supporting kura widely.



HE
AWA
WHIRIA

NZEI
TE RIU ROA

Te Whare Mauri Ora

Wiremu Gray & Dr Sue Bagshaw

Rural and Teaching Principals' Conference
Ōtautahi Christchurch / 28-30 May 2025

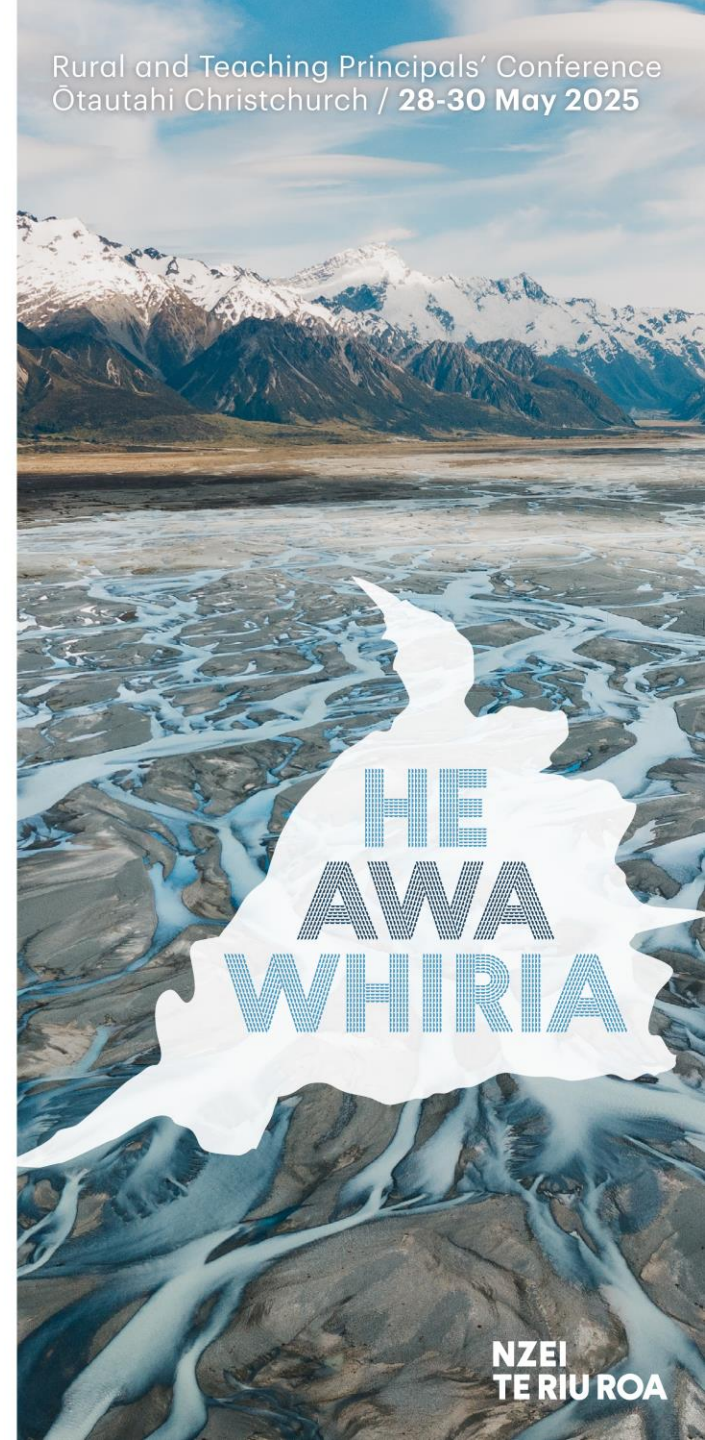
Sue and Wiremu will demonstrate the power of collaboration, weaving together Te Ao Māori wisdom and Western knowledge streams. Through their shared perspectives, they will explore how kotahitanga—unity and collective strength—can enrich our schools, strengthen relationships, and enhance overall well-being. This heartfelt discussion aims to provide principals and schools with a deeper understanding of a holistic approach to well-being, while exploring the lasting impacts of colonisation—particularly its effects on Māori identity and wellbeing. Through this conversation, Wiremu will highlight why Te Whare Mauri Ora is a vital framework for fostering bicultural relationships and promoting the well-being of our tamariki, ultimately contributing to a healthier, more connected nation.

•Pre-Presentation Reading: [Te Ao Māori Grounding For Wellbeing Mahi](#) [Leadership Lab](#)



Wiremu has over 20 years of experience in counselling, cultural supervision, and well-being, primarily in school settings. With a strong background in Māori wood carving, surfing, rugby, and coaching, Wiremu brings a unique blend of cultural knowledge, creativity, and leadership to his work. He is deeply passionate about improving the well-being of tamariki and rangatahi, driven by his desire to change the negative health statistics that affect many young people in Aotearoa. Wiremu believes that integrating a bicultural approach to well-being through Te Whare Mauri Ora offers schools and health providers a uniquely Aotearoa framework for promoting holistic health. After many years working at the intervention level, he now focuses his energy on prevention, collaborating with rural and urban schools across the country to embed Te Whare Mauri Ora as a proactive tool for building healthy, thriving communities.

Sue Bagshaw worked as a primary care doctor specialising in youth health at a one stop shop(YOSS) community youth health centre for 10-25 year olds, which she helped to set up, in 1995, now called Te Tahī Youth. She is working with others to set up a Youth Hub of services, recreation, creativity and transition housing. She is a senior lecturer in adolescent health in the department of Paediatrics at the Christchurch School of Medicine, and she is an educator with the Collaborative Trust (a research and training centre for youth health and development, which she also helped to set up). She has served as the President of the International Association of Adolescent Health and organised many international Youth Health Conferences. She has a wonderful husband who set up the Canterbury Charity Hospital, 4 adult children and 7 mokopuna and despite being born in Hong Kong doesn't look a bit Chinese.



Nic Low

Nic Low spent years researching Ngāi Tahu's history in the Southern Alps, then loaded that knowledge into his pack and criss-crossed the mountains using old Māori trails. Join him for a lively account of the adventures contained in his best-selling book *Uprising* and find out why it's possible to see history rather than wilderness when looking up at the peaks.

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