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**Evaluating the Tangible, Acknowledging the Intangible:
The Application of Auditing, Kaitiakitanga and Collection Management
during the Tairāwhiti Museum Taonga Māori Audit**

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For Terry and Lionel;

For Paki and Barry

Thank you

Abstract:

The objective of this dissertation is to reveal how the application of auditing and holistic collection management practices can bring about tangible and mutually beneficial outcomes for museums, Māori and taonga Māori collections. The core research of this dissertation is a case study of the Tairāwhiti Museum Taonga Māori Audit. This demonstrates the praxis of auditing; the concurrent application of kaitiakitanga and collection management principles; and the strategic outcomes that may be achieved when undertaking similar initiatives.

At present the practice and implications of auditing for museums is an underdeveloped area of enquiry. This dissertation clarifies auditing and its emergence in museum practice; the current debates surrounding it; and examples of national and international auditing to place the Tairāwhiti Museum Audit within the broader context of museum based auditing. The Tairāwhiti Museum Audit demonstrates the rationale, implementation and potential benefits of auditing as a strategic collection management tool.

To provide an epistemological framework for the Tairāwhiti Museum Audit the context of taonga Māori from the Māori worldview is clarified, and an overview of shifts toward the acknowledgement and application of mātauranga Māori principles in New Zealand museums is provided. The approach of the Tairāwhiti Museum toward the collection management of taonga has been influenced by external shifts, but more often has been progressive in its response toward meeting the expectations of local Māori and the needs of the taonga Māori collection. The Tairāwhiti Museum Audit is further evidence of this. The dissertation reveals the relevance of taonga to Māori, and demonstrates how kaitiakitanga principles can be applied to strategic collection management initiatives.

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Glossary of Māori Words

Note: Translations are provided within the body of the thesis where Māori words appear for the first time.

atua	god
aurei	cloak pin
harakeke	phormium tenax (New Zealand flax)
hei tiki	neck pendant in the shape of an anthropomorphic figure
hei matau	pendant in the form of a fish hook
heke	rafters
hāpu	sub tribe (also pregnant)
hui	meeting, gathering
hunga tiaki	guardian, custodians
iwi	tribe (also bones)
kaitiaki	guardian, trustee, caretaker
kaitiakitanga	guardianship
kapeu	greenstone adornment with a curved end
karakia	prayer
karetao	puppet
kaumātua	elder
kaupapa	philosophy/ agenda
kawa	protocol
kiekie	freycinetia banksii (often used for weaving)
koauau	flute
kōiwi	human bone, human remains, corpse
kōpaki	to envelop
kōrero	language, knowledge, narratives
koruru	carved face positioned at the apex of a meeting house gable
kotahi tangata	individual person
kowhaiwhai	painted scroll ornamentation
manaakitanga	hospitality, kindness

Māori	indigenous New Zealanders/ normal/ ordinary
mauri	spiritual essence
mātauranga Māori	Māori knowledge
matau	fishhook
mekameka	a pendant in the form of a stylised bat
mere	a hand held weapon, often made of stone
mokomōkai	preserved human heads
noa	profane
pāhi	purse, wallet
pākahawai	fishing lure
pare	lintel
pātaka	storehouse
patu	hand held weapon usually made of wood, stone or bone
pekapeka	a pendant in the form of a stylised bat
pēke	bag, sack, pack
piupiu	flax kilts
pōria	a small stone or bone ring that encircled a tamed birds leg, were also worn as pendants
pounamu	greenstone
poupou	carved interior wall panels in meeting houses
poutokomanawa	centre post in a meeting house
pōwhiri	welcome
purau	fork
rangatiratanga	chieftainship, sovereignty
raranga	weaving
tamariki	children
tangi	to cry, weep, mourn for
tangihanga	funeral, rites for the dead
taonga	something of great significance that is treasured, whether tangible or intangible

taonga tuku iho	treasured handed down through the generations
taonga tūturu	traditional treasures
tapairu	woman of high ranking birth, chieftainess
tapu	sacred, prohibited
te reo Māori	The Māori language
tika	correct, just
tikanga	customary philosophy, protocol, obligation
timanga	food storage platform
toi Māori	Māori art
toki	adze
uenuku	rainbow (the eponymous atua represented by a significant carving housed in Te Awamutu Museum)
umu	oven
urupā	burial ground
waiata	song
wāhi tapu	consecrated area
wakatūpāpaku	funeral casket
whakairo	carving
whakapapa	genealogy
whakapapa rākau	genealogy sticks, utilised as mnemonic devices
whakapakoko rākau	god stick
whakariterite	perform prayers, blessings
whānau	family
whareniui	meeting house, ancestral house, hall
whāriki	Floor covering, traditionally woven