Kā Rikarika a Tāne is a mentoring program run by Te Huka Mātauraka/The Māori Centre at the University of Otago in Aotearoa/New Zealand. The program is underpinned by Māori concepts, structures and values to provide a culturally familiar environment where our first year Tauira can feel comfortable accessing support and our senior Tauira can develop leadership. It also provides opportunities to investigate what it is to be Tauira Māori and make important connections for their time here at Otago.

The literal translation of Kā Rikarika a Tāne is “the Hands of Tāne”. Tāne being Tāne-Mahuta, the father of the forest and birds, creator of woman and knowledge seeker. Tāne was selected to ascend to the highest heaven, Tikitiki-o-Rangi to retrieve 3 baskets of knowledge and bring them back to mankind. On his journey - Tāne faced many challenges, however was ultimately successful due to his courage, perseverance and the support he received along the way.

The story of Tāne is a metaphor for our Tauira Māori that they too are on a journey. To pursue knowledge, to complete their degree and to return to their whānau, Hapu, Iwi (Family/Sub tribe/Tribe) where they can contribute to improving our communities. It warns them of the many obstacles and challenges they will need to overcome but also acknowledges that there will always be support available and that they just need to reach out.

This presentation will highlight how cultural concepts, structures and values can underpin programs to create learning environments that indigenous students can succeed in.

**Learning outcomes**

- How to put Indigenous concepts into action
- What does this look like for Māori learners
- What is Indigenous success

**Presenter**

Ken Tipene, University of Otago

**Ko Motatau te Maunga**
**Ko Taikirau te awa**
**Ko Ngātokimatawhaorua te waka**
**Ko Manukoriki te whare**
**Ko Ngati Hine te Hapu**
**Ko Nga Puhi te Iwi**
**Ko Ken Tipene toku ingoa**

I am of Nga Puhi descent, having been born and raised in Whangarei during the 1970’s and 80’s. I joined the army after High School and spent 20 year serving with the Royal NZ Infantry Regiments serving overseas in Bosnia-Herzegovina and East Timor.

On retirement I returned home and became the Director of the Leadership Academy of A Company, a military themed residential academy for Māori boys of High School age. The Academy was created in response to the staggering statistics of failure of r Māori boys in NCEA. It focussed on developing cadet identity as Māori, building character and supporting academic achievement.

After moving south to Dunedin in Feb 2018, I started work at Te Huka Mātauraka/The Maori Centre as the coordinator for the Turaka Hou and Ka Rikarika a Tane program.