

Tūpuna Maunga Residency Programme - Information Sheet

The Tūpuna Maunga Authority is pleased to announce the Tūpuna Maunga Residency Programme, delivered in partnership with the Michael King Writer's Centre.

The programme funds two 2 week residencies at the Michael King Writers Centre (MKWC), based in the historic Signalman's House on Takarunga / Mt Victoria.

The residency is open to individuals working on projects about or related to the Tūpuna Maunga. Projects can be new and ongoing, and come from a wide range of fields, including creative arts, literature, social sciences, and applied sciences.

Mana Whenua writers, Tūpuna Maunga Authority Research Scholarship applicants, and Tūpuna Maunga project specialists are encouraged to apply.

Applications can be submitted in Te Reo Māori and/or English.

Timeframe

- Applications open: on 29 June 2026 and
- Applications close: 11:59pm, 30 August 2026.
- Applicants will be notified of the outcome by October 2026
- Residency dates are flexible and can occur between October and May, depending on the resident's schedule

Who is eligible?

- You must be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.
- Your projects must relate to the Tūpuna Maunga.

What is included

- Accommodation at the Michael King Writer's Centre for two weeks (dates flexible)
- A stipend paid at living wage for two weeks

What you applications must consider

- The value of the project to the Tūpuna Maunga including how it enhances the mana and wellbeing of the Maunga
- How mana whenua are included, considered, or benefit from the project.
- Expectations of residency recipients
- Follow any rules set by the Michael King Writers Centre during the residency period.
- Submit an end of stay report following the conclusion of the residency

Applications are submitted via [SmartyGrants](#),



Contact us:

Email maungaevents@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz for any questions about the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Research Scholarship or assistance with applications.

More information

- [Tūpuna Maunga Authority website](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Research Policy](#)
- [Integrated Management Plan](#)
- [About Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau](#)
- [Michael King Writer's Centre website](#)



Appendices:

Appendix 1: About the Michael King Writer's Centre

The Michael King Writers Centre (MKWC) was established in 2005, in memory of historian and writer Michael King. The Centre offers 17 funded residencies to both domestic and international writers and provides pay to stay options. Since opening, the Centre has hosted over 300 writers.

For more information on the Centre, check out their [website](#).

Appendix 2: About Signalman's House

Located on the slopes of Takarunga, Signalman's House is a two-bedroom villa built in 1898. Its name comes from the signalmen who once lived there while operating the flagstaff and signal station at the tihi (summit) of the maunga (mountain).

The resident's room has a double bed, ensuite bathroom, desk, Wi-Fi and all linen is supplied. The kitchen, lounge and laundry facilities are shared with the visiting writer. Pantry basics are available for residents to use. A parking space is available, and public transport is nearby.

Appendix 3: Preparing your application

Ensure that your writing is clear and well structured, with appropriate spacing and consistent font size. Applications can be written in English and/or Te Reo Māori. When writing in English, simple and plain language is encouraged.

You may attach supporting documentation, such as:

- Letters of support
- CVs
- Examples of previous research or creative work

Appendix 4: Application evaluation criteria:

All applications are assessed against:

- Alignment with the Tūpuna Maunga Values
- Project details and feasibility
- Mana Whenua connection and cultural competency
- Impact and outcomes

