

Ko Corbin Tūwairua tōku ingoa.

He uri tēnei nō Ngāi Tūhoe, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Heretaunga, Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha hoki.

I am putting myself forward for Tumuaki of Te Awhioraki for 2027.

My journey within Te Awhioraki has given me two years of experience across the executive, beginning as a Kaimahi, then serving as Tumuaki Tuarua, and now stepping into the role of Tumuaki following the previous Tumuaki, Halle Gravatt's, departure. Each of these roles has given me a deeper understanding of our rōpū, our tauira, and the responsibility that comes with representing Māori students at Lincoln.

Through these roles, I have also developed valuable experience in governance and leadership beyond Te Awhioraki. As Tumuaki, I have the opportunity to sit on a range of university boards and committees, including University Council, Ahumairaki, Student Experience, and other governance groups. My experience within Te Awhioraki has strengthened my confidence in these spaces, allowing me to contribute meaningfully to discussions, advocate for tauira Māori, and build relationships with key decision makers across the university. I believe these skills are essential for ensuring our voice is not only heard, but respected and represented where decisions affecting our tauira are made.

Stepping into Tumuaki for the remainder of 2026 has also allowed me to build strong relationships with university council members and wider university networks. I believe these relationships are an important foundation for continuing to advocate for our tauira and ensuring Te Awhioraki has a strong voice within Lincoln.

One of my key kaupapa has been establishing opportunities for tauira Māori beyond the university campus. Through developing strong connections within the waka ama space, I have been working towards establishing our own Te Awhioraki waka ama team in 2027. This is a kaupapa I am committed to seeing through, creating opportunities for whanaungatanga, hauora, cultural connection, and participation for our tauira.

I also intend to carry forward and enact policies developed under the previous Tumuaki. I believe good leadership is not about starting from scratch each year, but recognising what has already been built, strengthening it, and continuing to move our rōpū forward.

If elected, my focus will be on continuity, growth, and action. Te Awhioraki has been growing well in recent years, and we have the opportunity to build on this momentum so that our rōpū can grow, strengthen our tauira participation, and compete alongside other rōpū at future Te Huinga Tauira.

Corbin Tūwairua