

No part of the candidate's evidence in this exemplar material may be presented in an external assessment for the purpose of gaining an NZQA qualification or award.

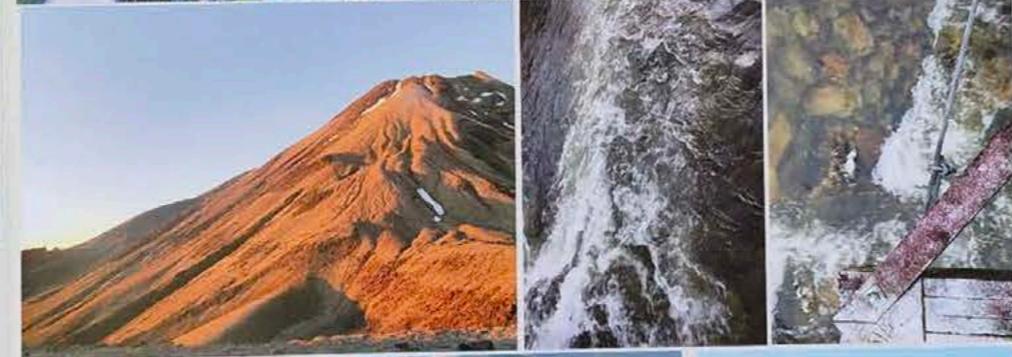


Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Scholarship Visual Arts 2025

93310 Photography

SCHOLARSHIP EXEMPLAR

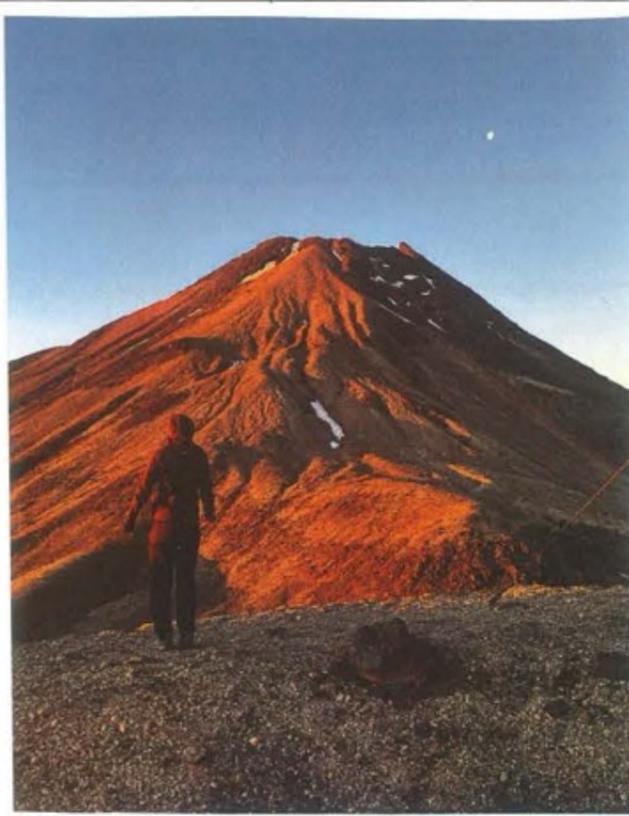


TURANGAWAEWAE – MY BELONGING

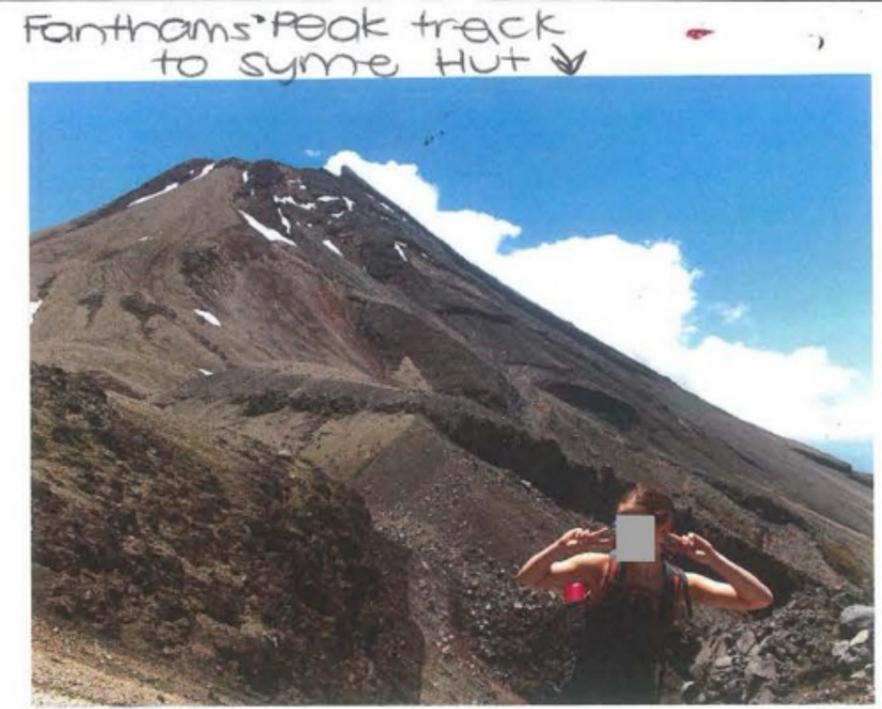
My work explores the theme of belonging through a personal and geographical lens, focusing on my deep-rooted connection to the Taranaki region, a place where I was born and raised. This sense of place is anchored in two constants in my life: the rivers that thread through our land, and the presence of Taranaki Maunga (Te-Papa-Kura-O-Taranaki), standing watch over the region.

From a young age, I have felt connected to the mountain. It is more than a landmark—it is part of my identity. My upbringing was shaped by experiences of hiking and volunteering with my dad, within the national park, on the mountains and the ranges around it, often walking tracks and traplines alongside rivers to help restore native ecosystems.

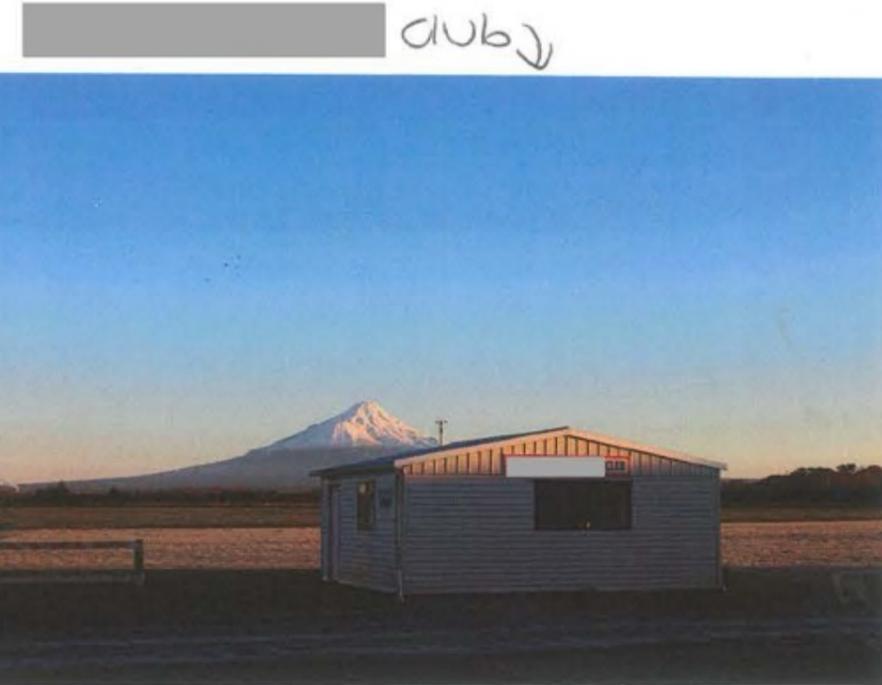
Knowing I will soon be leaving for university has deepened my appreciation for this place and the grounding it has always given me. I have begun to look at familiar landscapes with fresh eyes, aware of how much they have shaped me and how much I will miss them, knowing I took the constant beauty of the area for granted and simply just didn't think twice about how rich I was to grow up in such a surreal area, one that people travel from overseas to catch a glimpse with their own eyes. Photographing the rivers and the maunga now feels like a way of preserving a part of myself; capturing the moments of stillness, strength, and connection that I want to carry with me into the future.



Syme Hut
↘



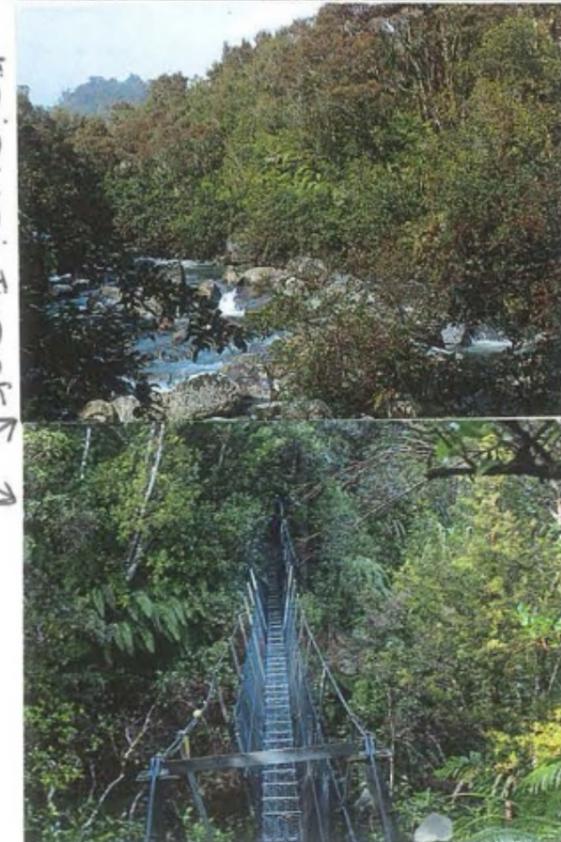
Fanthams Peak track to Syme Hut ↘



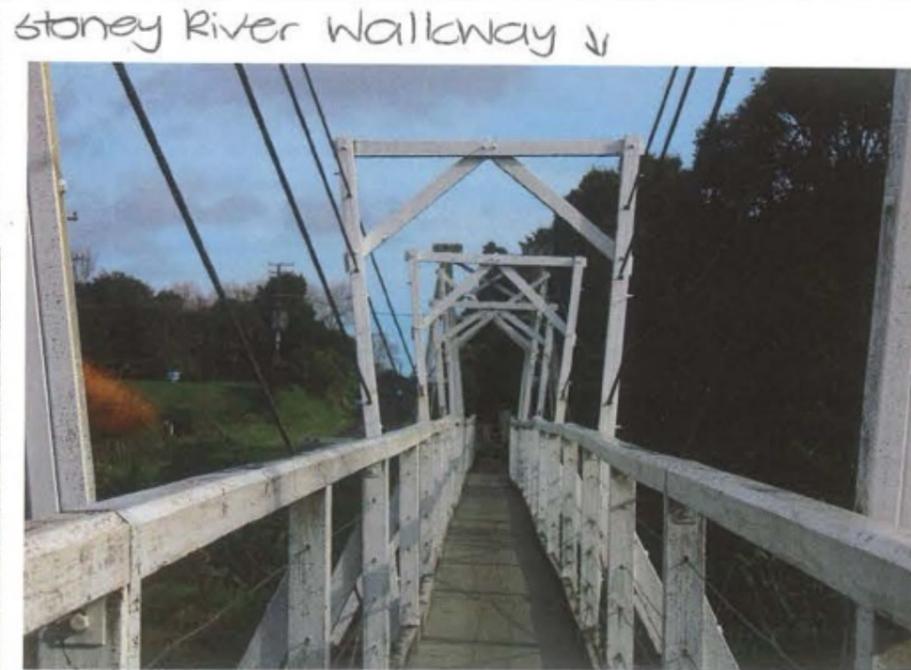
club ↘



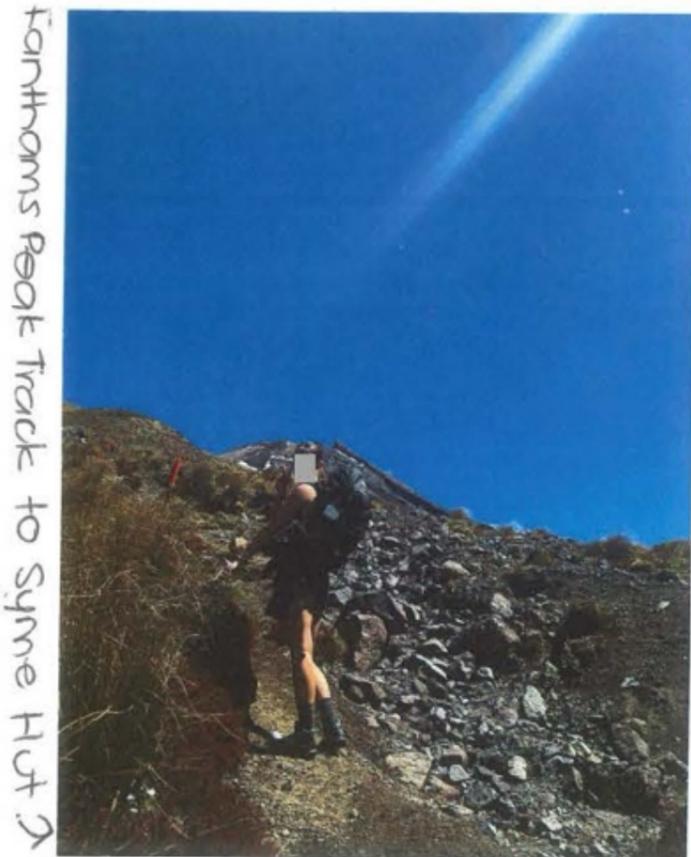
Mangorei Road ↘
Maude Track to Mangatotukaka Falls ↘



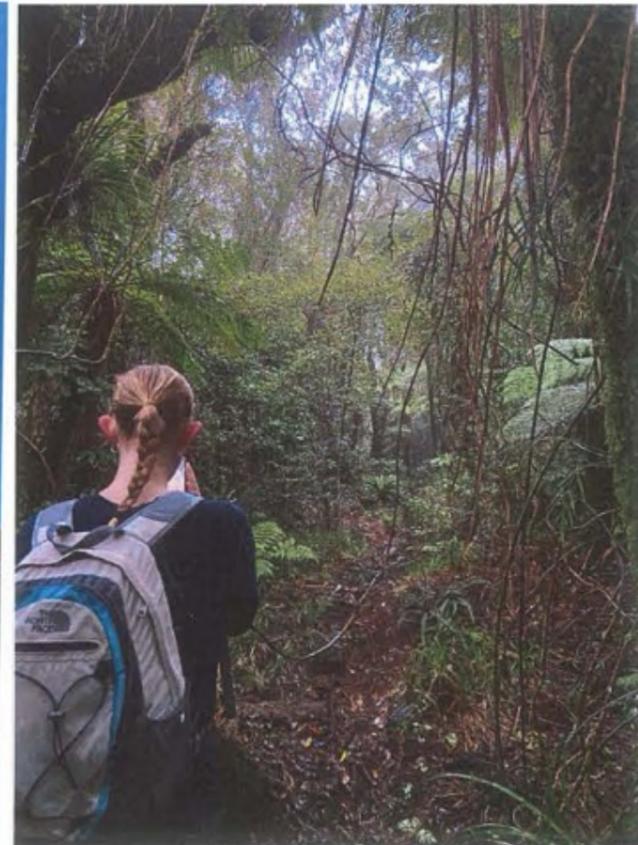
Kaiaua Track to Henry's Peak ↘



Stoney River Walkway ↘



Fanthams Peak Track to Syme Hut ↘



TARANAKI MAUNGA

Taranaki Maunga, stands at 2,518 metres (8,261 feet) and is located in the taranaki region in the North island of New Zealand. It is a stratovolcano which forms a cone shape, from some angles it seems to be nearly a perfect cone. From above, the boundaries of the National Park form a perfect circle of bush to farmlands, with a radius of 9 kilometres in all directions from the summit of Mount Taranaki. This was formed in 1900 established by officials to protect the area of forest on and around Mount Taranaki. The mountain last erupted in 1854, and it is considered to be dormant, and is predicted to erupt within the next 50 years. The hike to the summit takes around 8-12 hours, 12km one way and a total elevation gain of 1500 metres. It is considered to be very challenging, rated as hard/difficult with steep, rocky and icy terrain to reach the summit.

Maori consider mountains as living ancestors with mauri (life force) and wairua (spirit). So, for the local iwi in Taranaki, the taranaki maunga is an ancestor, a guardian, and a source of identity. Taranaki Maunga is legally recognised as a living entity with its own rights. "Ko Taranaki te Maunga, ko au te tangata" (Taranaki is the mountain, I am the person)



Theo Schoon



Fiona Clark



'The Puffer' Mt. Taranaki Summit track

Kaiaua Trakk To Henrys Peak



Te-Papakura-O-Taranaki



Fanthams Peak



Syme Hut on Fanthams Peak (1950m)

The photos taken of the mountain were taken from a range of tracks and trails, some overgrown and unrecognized, and some the more popular hikes people travel to see. Syme Hut located on the top of Fanthams Peak, a secondary cone off the side of Taranaki, is the highest DOC hut in the North Island of New Zealand, perched at 1950 metres above sea level. The hike to this hut took around 7 hours return - 4 hours to the top, 3 hours back, and it is rated to be the second most challenging hike in Taranaki after the summit track. The photos taken at this peak are truly an awe to look at with a close-up angle of the Taranaki Maunga summit.

WATERWAYS

Mount Taranaki is the source of most of the region's rivers, which forms a radial pattern around the mountain. There are around 90 named streams and rivers that come off the mountain, however there are many more tributaries that flow into the main rivers that are unaccounted for. Many of these waterways are short, fast-flowing, and steep in the upper reaches of the mountain, forming waterfalls and pools before flattening out towards the coast. These waterways provide habitat for native fish, such as koaro (whitebait) and longfin eels, these are extremely important for local iwi for food and cultural practices.



Wairau ↑ Stream



Wainakaino ↑ River



Kaihini Stream (stoney River)



Kapuni Stream ↑ Wilkies Pools →



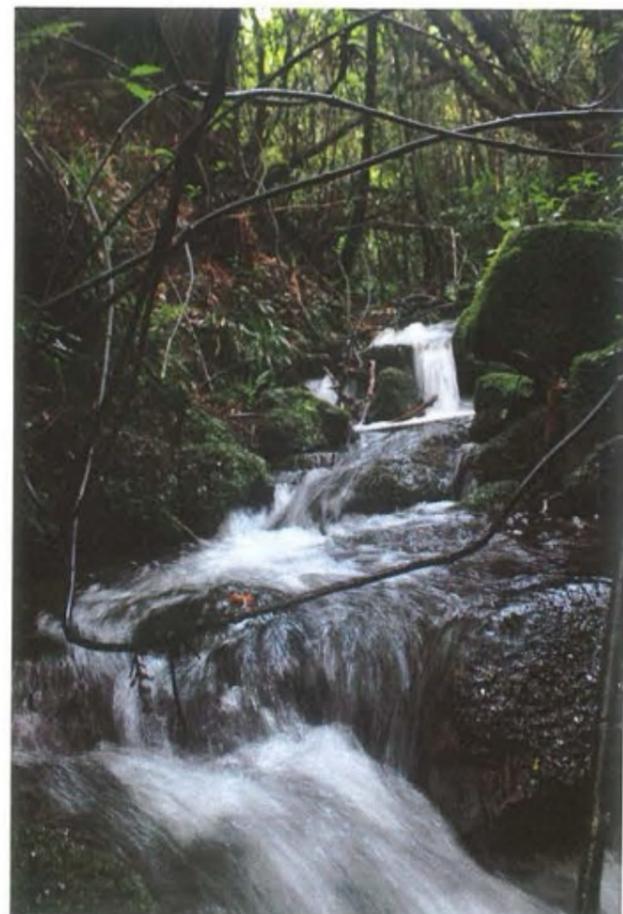
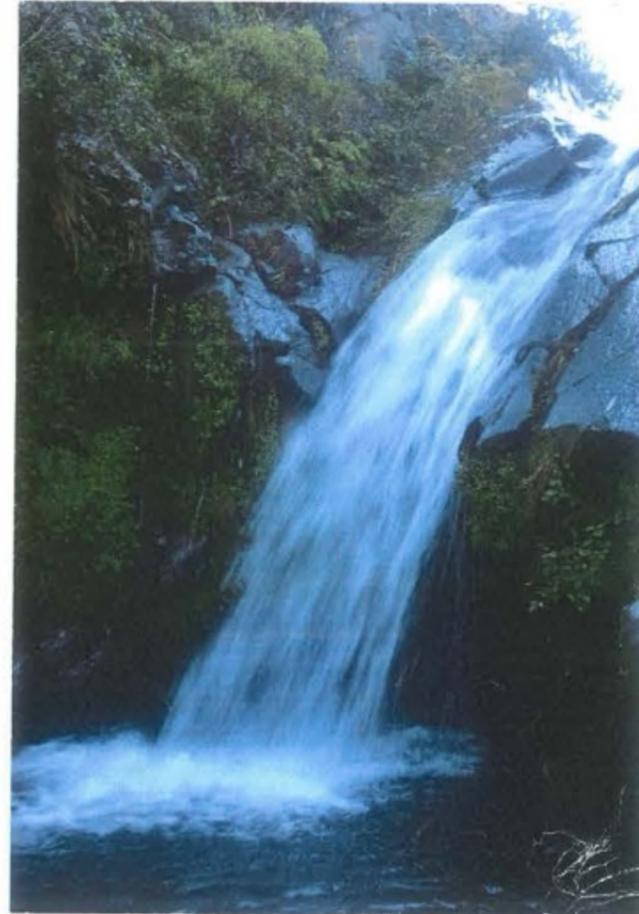
Pouakai Tarns ↑ from Henry's Peak (kaiaua track)

The Taranaki region is a major dairy farming area, the rivers flowing from the mountain quickly meet pasteurised land. Agricultural runoff is the main contributor to the pollution of waterways in Taranaki. Runoff can carry nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilisers, which leads to algae blooms, bacteria from cow faeces, E. coli contamination, and sediment and soil erosion from intensive grazing. All of these impact the clarity and health of the rivers, impacting the biodiversity, and cultural identity.

These rivers, fed by the mountain, flow outward like veins, each one belonging to its place and path. Through this, I have come to see the environment as an interconnected system; physical, emotional, and spiritual.



Wilkies Pools ↑ (Kapuni Stream)



Mangakotukutuku falls ↓

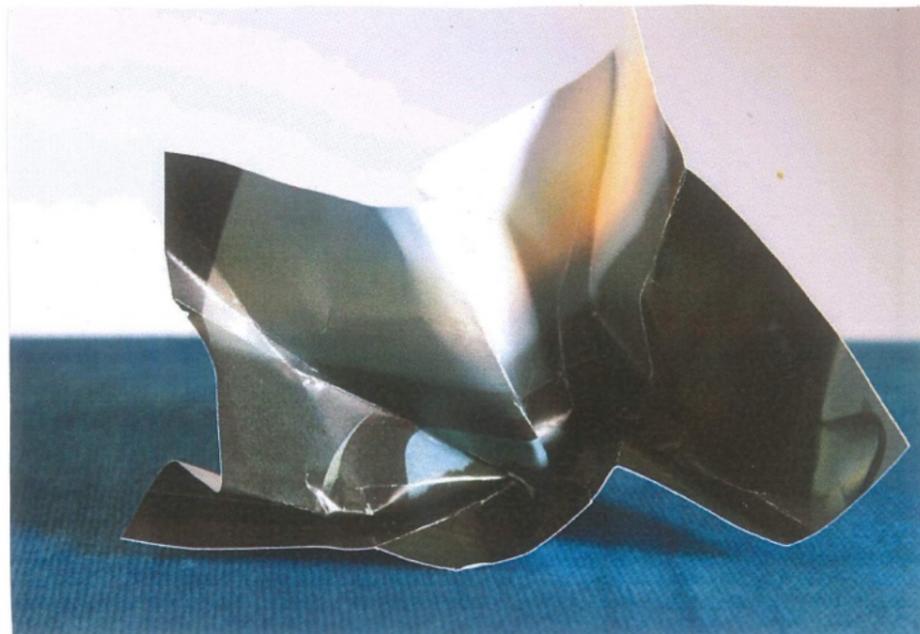
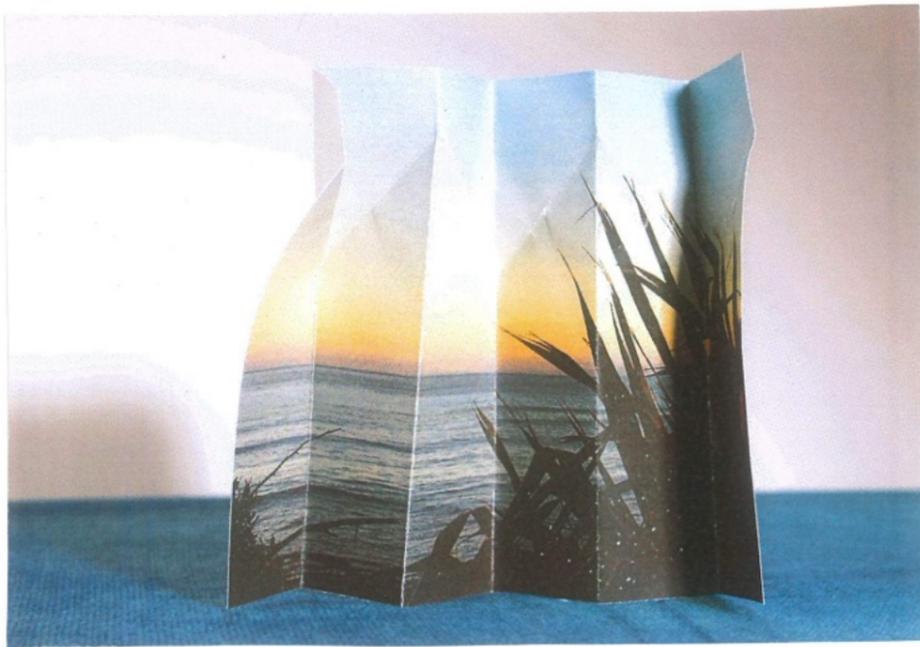
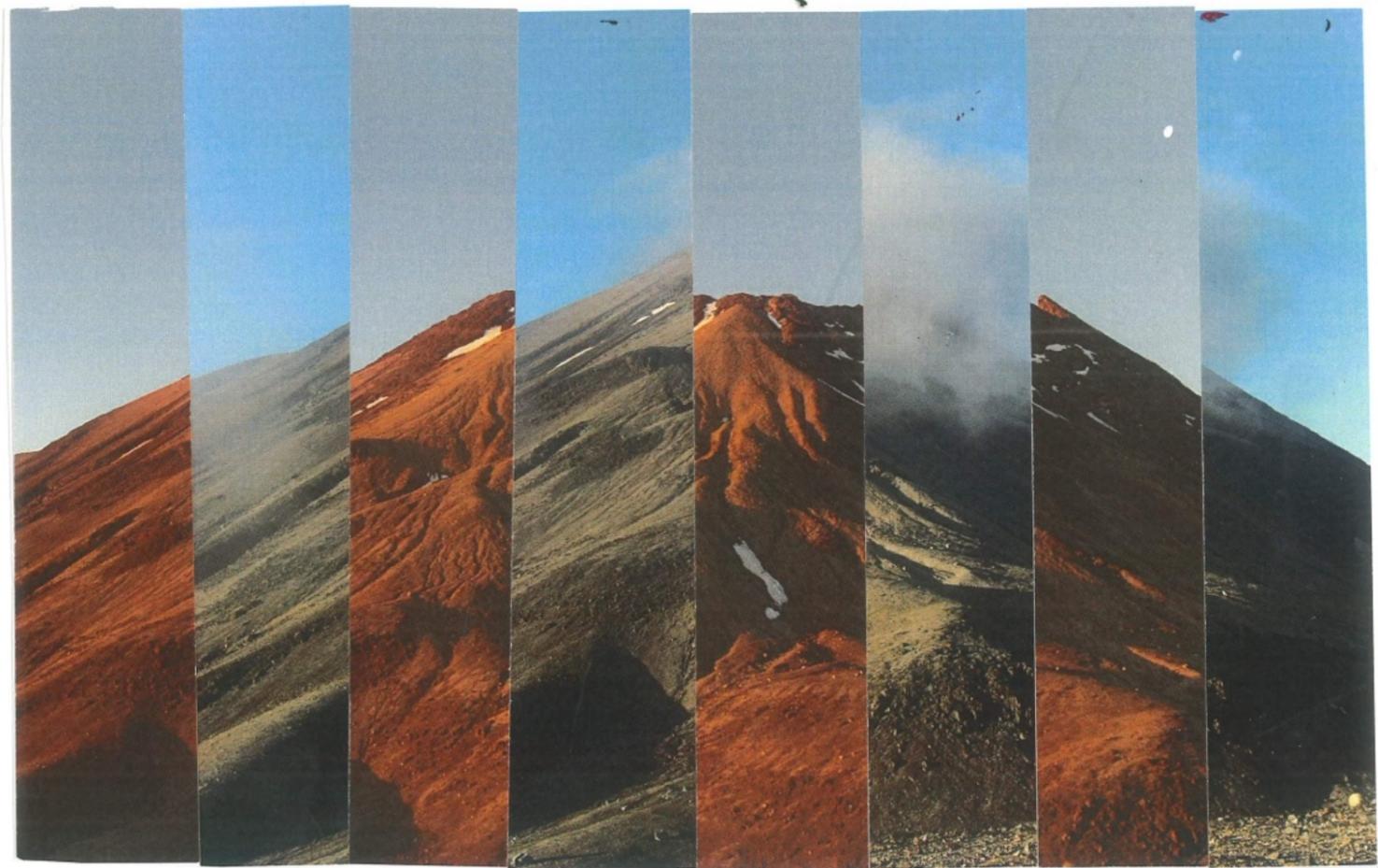


SPLICING

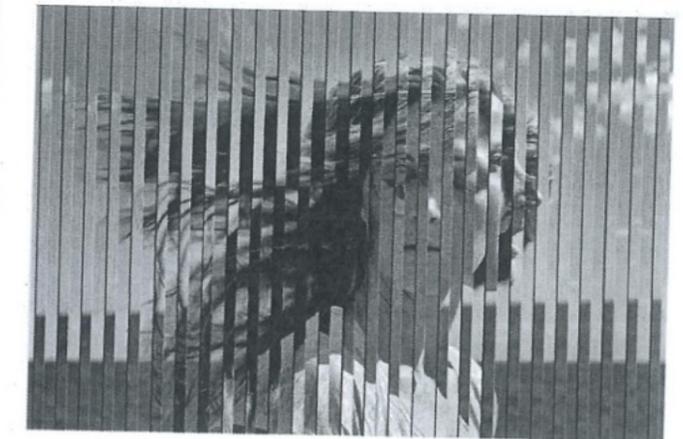
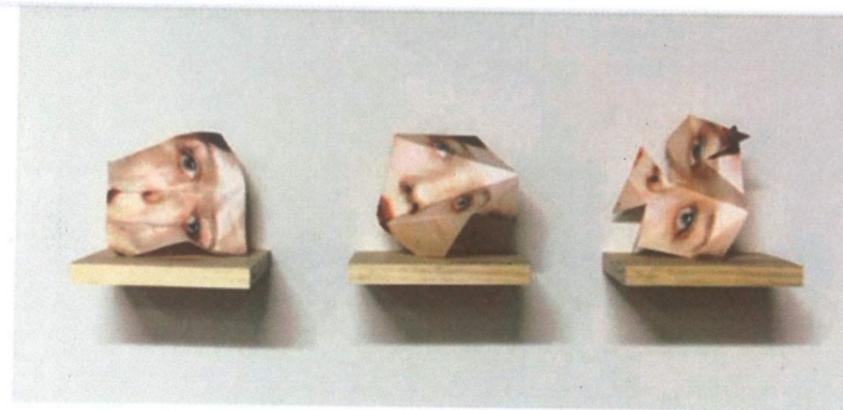
I used splicing to show the contrast of Mount Taranaki at Syme Hut. Both photos were taken at the same place, a few hours apart, meaning that the second photo is more golden from the sunset. By physically cutting the photos and interlacing them, it created a fractured yet unified image of the Mountain.

Another experiment that I undertook was looking into splicing. I was wanting to expand my concept and consider it in different ways.

Manipulating the perception of what I was looking at, I played with splicing to achieve this.



Same subject, different points of view



Another process that I experimented with was created a folded photo to give the effect of 3D in space. Working with the vast outdoors, I thought through the folded process, I could re-construct the 3D environment. I was inspired by the work of **JOSEPH PARRA**.

Here are two of my 3D folded photograph experiments.

AERIAL VIEW

My father, who also was born and grew up in Taranaki, got his private pilot's license in [redacted] and using this he often takes me on scenic flights around the mountain and along the coast. These flights have given me a rare perspective on the region; one that combines ground-level perspective with a wide aerial overview, strengthening my visual understanding of the landscapes that I call home. My dad's own experiences growing up here have also given me a deeper understanding and connection to the history and significance of the region, both personal and cultural. Through his stories, I have learned how much the land has changed, and how much has remained the same. He has shared memories of swimming in the same rivers I now go to for a dip on a hot day, of exploring the same tracks and areas that we now volunteer along to maintain for future generations. His work within the conservation sector, has taught me not only about the importance of protecting our endangered native species, but also about how it is our individual responsibility to care for the land that we inhabit. These shared experiences have created a generational thread that ties us to the mountain, the bush, and the rivers, not only as passive beings but as an active part of our region.



Club ↓



INTERVIEW WITH MY FATHER

HOW DID YOU GET INTO FLYING?

I have always been interested in flying, the idea of seeing the world from above. When the opportunity arose, (from a post on facebook), I was instantly thinking about it, and so i took it. After passing many exams, and 50 hours of training, i got my private pilot's liscence in [redacted] Flying over taranaki for the first time gave me a completely new appreciation for the place I'd grown up and known my whole life. The perfect circle of the forest, the coastline, and the patterns of rivers was surreal to see for the first time from above and that really inspired me to get my liscence to share this with others i love.

IS FLYING PURELY FOR LEISURE?

Mostly is it yes, i fly for the enjoyment and freedom that it gives me, it however is more than just a hobby. Flying lets me share my love and freedom of New Zealand with my family and friends, especially when we go on adventure or scenic flights together.

STITCHING

I used thread to stitch into my photos, this adds texture and highlights to the photo, as the thread physically rises off the photo making it 3D and tactile. The thread highlights the paths in my photos, it emphasises the movement of the water.



Two photograms using the transparency



TRANSPARENCY PHOTOGRAMS

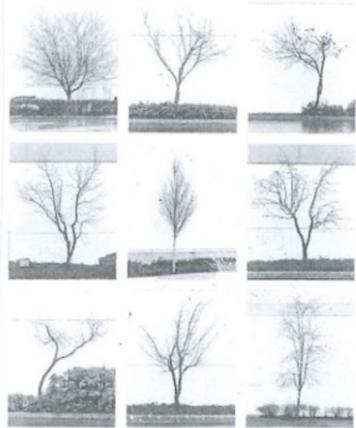
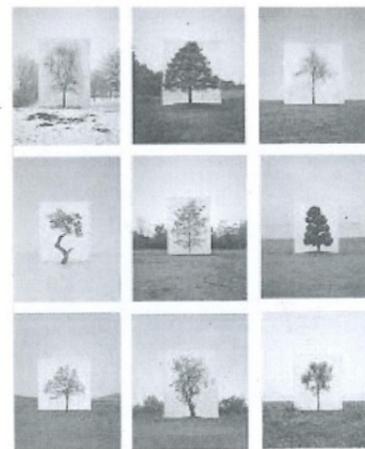
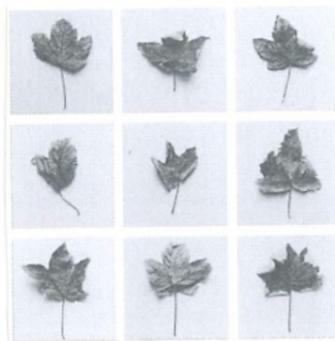
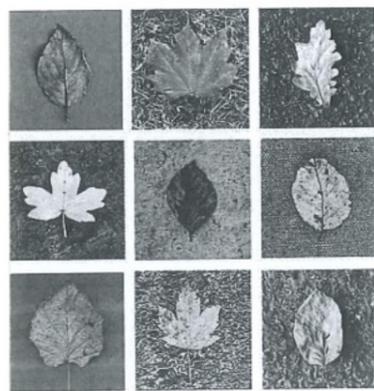
This was an experiment I did making a positive and negative transparency, so I could use the photogram process to make some prints in the darkroom. I was wanting to play with high contrast and create a grainy look to the landscape.



Transparency negatives

PAINTING ONTO PHOTOGRAPHS

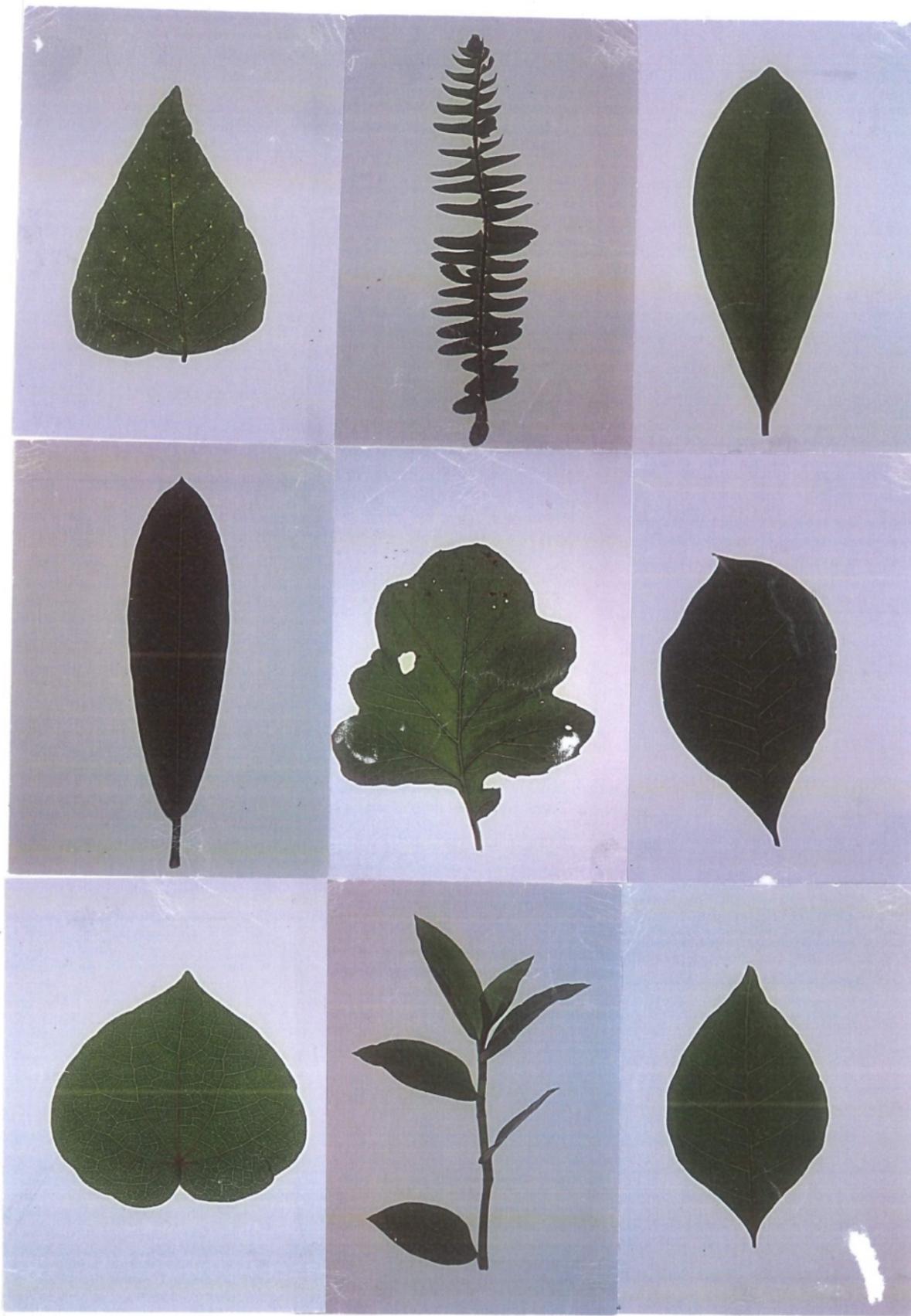
Using paint, I experimented by painting directly onto my printed photographs to add texture, highlights, and colour that isn't captured by the camera alone. The blend between photography and fine art makes the image more personal and expressive. I looked at the painted photographs that Duane Michals made for ideas on my approach. This experiment was fun but not one I pursued further.



Typology examples and inspiration

Throughout the year I did many experiments with a range of processes, I made several typologies as I looked to develop my concept further around nature and conservation. I decided not to put typologies onto my portfolio as pictorially they did not work.

This is my leaf typology.



A typology is study of or analysis or classification based on types or categories.

CONSERVATION

Taranaki Taku Tūranga -Towards Predator-Free Taranaki is a large-scale project aimed at restoring Taranaki's unique wildlife and plants, while also protecting the region's lifestyles and livelihoods by removing introduced predators. It was launched in 2018, and the project is using the latest trapping techniques, innovation, technology and engagement methods, sharing lessons learned as the country works towards its Predator Free 2050 target. Led by Taranaki Regional Council, the region-wide project is working with residents, businesses, schools, iwi, hapū, environmental groups and communities to remove possums, rats and mustelids from urban, rural and public land around Taranaki Maunga. Towards Predator-Free Taranaki is building on the Taranaki community's existing regional biodiversity protection work, which includes the Self-Help Possum Programme, Riparian Management Programme and working with landowners to support the protection of key native ecosystems within the region.

In my lifetime of living in Taranaki, I have been honoured to work by many members of the Taranaki Regional Council as part of school projects, such as using drones to locate kiwi situated within the National Park, and being the 'conservation leader' at my intermediate school working closely with a Taranaki regional council officer to ensure the trap line is cleared and checked regularly. With my father I have also ran traplines on the kaitaki and poukai ranges as well as around the base of the mountain.



Kaiawai Track ↗
↘



Burgess Hill Park ↘



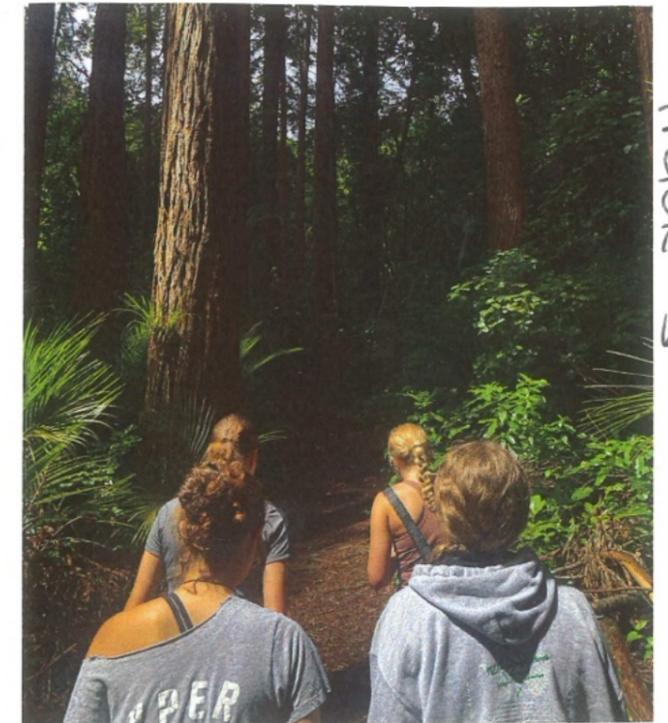
Goats Rock ↗



Mt. Taranaki Summit Track ↗



'The Puffer' Mt. Taranaki Summit track ↗



Lucy's Gully Track ↗

Scholarship

Subject: Visual Arts – Photography

Standard: 93310

Total Score: 16

Marker commentary

This Scholarship portfolio demonstrates compelling engagement with place and Tūrangawaewae, articulating a strong sense of personal belonging. The candidate employs a geographical lens to navigate the rivers that weave through the whenua and the enduring presence of Taranaki Maunga, Te Papa Kura o Taranaki, which stands as a guardian over the region. The resulting photographs communicate, with depth and sensitivity, the ways in which the candidate's upbringing is shaped by whānau and lived experience.

Research is extensive, purposeful, and directly aligned with the candidate's conceptual proposition, effectively informing their approaches to image making. Technical capability is evident through sophisticated use of time, light, atmosphere, and contrast to construct mood and emotion. A substantial suite of experimental explorations complements the primary body of work, employing diverse techniques and processes to investigate alternative ways of perceiving and representing the landscape environment.

The candidate demonstrates thoughtful consideration of conservation and its significance, reflecting personal connections to the environment from both ground level and aerial perspectives. Their commitment to predator free initiatives and biodiversity protection is captured with clarity, expertise, and confidence from elevated viewpoints.

Research functions as the driving force behind both image taking and image making. The candidate investigates a range of established practices to inform their photographic inquiry and outcomes. Their visual documentation reveals lateral, inventive approaches to photographing the maunga, using natural light to accentuate the powerful forms and contours of the environment.

Overall, this Scholarship portfolio extends the breadth and depth of the portfolio, presenting a coherent, well supported, and highly personal investigation. Across both the Portfolio and workbook of evidence, the candidate demonstrates sustained integration of research, content, and photographic practice.