

Professor Michael Walker

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[Behaviour in Space and Time Laboratory](#)

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Professor Walker, of the Ecology, Evolution and Behaviour Group, School of Biological Sciences at the University of Auckland, is Joint Director of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence. A Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Professor Walker teaches in the School of Biological Sciences. His research interests focus on the behaviour of animals in space and time, with particular emphasis on the magnetic sense and its use in long-distance navigation by animals. He has served on the Boards of two Crown Research Institutes, the New Zealand Government Science and Innovation Advisory Council, and as a co-opted member of the Society Council of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Throughout his career he has worked to increase participation by Māori and Pacific Island people in all aspects of science and has helped lead initiatives to improve their recruitment and retention as students entering the sciences at university level. This work has included the establishment of the Tuakana Programme to ensure Māori and Pacific Island students in biology succeeded in their first year at university and in their whole degree. He is also active in advocacy for science and science education to Māori and Pacific Island people.