

Pānui pāpāho | Media release

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Serving up opportunities.

NMIT Te Pūkenga culinary tutor, Chris Fortune, is organising this year's Te Pūkenga Festival Chef competition held at the Havelock Mussel and Seafood festival.

Chris wants to encourage not just chefs, but 'absolutely anyone' who is passionate about cooking to enter.

"We want to encourage amateurs, young chefs and professionals to put forward their best kai moana dish," he says.

The only expectation is the dish should highlight NZ King Salmon and/or NZ Green-Shell Mussels.

The winner of each division, under 18 or over 18, will take out the 2024 Te Pūkenga Festival Chef title, be awarded the annual trophy and take home a selection of prizes.

All contestants will benefit from the guidance and encouragement of Chris and Master Chef NZ Chef of the Year, Zennon Wijlens, who are this year's judges.

"The festival is such a great opportunity to learn from people like Zennon," Chris says.

Chris Fortune is a renowned New Zealand chef, author and educator who brings a wealth of industry knowledge and experience to NMIT's Culinary Arts and Cookery programmes.

To take part in the 2024 Te Pūkenga Festival Chef Competition, please follow the application process found on the [Havelock Mussel and Seafood Festival](#) website.

The festival is held in the Havelock Memorial Park, 16 March 2024.

For more information contact:

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