

NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION

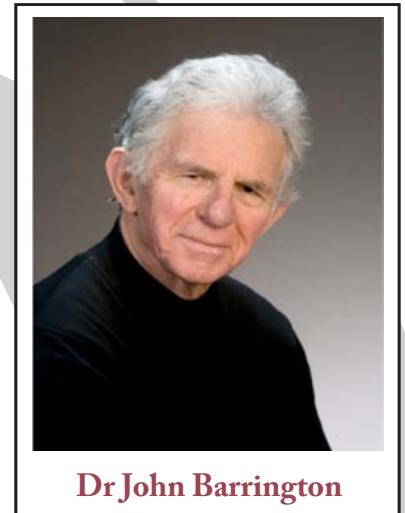
TE HUNGA RANGAHAU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

McKenzie Award 2008

The recipient of the 2008 McKenzie award is Dr John Barrington.

John Barrington has been one of our leading educational researchers for 40 years. He has published four books, numerous chapters in edited international and national collections, eleven commissioned research reports, and approximately 40 articles in refereed educational journals.

His first article was published in Issue 1 of the New Zealand Journal of Educational Studies in 1966, and his most recent book was released by Victoria University Press in October this year. Significantly, both publications dealt with Māori school history, which has been one of his main research interests. John has been described as the 'foremost' historian of the Māori schools, and his research has consistently produced ground-breaking new insights. These insights relate both to official policies followed in New Zealand, as well as those in other parts of the world where Europeans have administered school systems for indigenous people. In addition to publishing widely in leading local and international academic journals, John has never flinched from participating in debate in the popular press when issues regarding Māori education have arisen, such as criticism of so-called 'separatism', or the importance of the Māori language. He was one of several Victoria University staff who in 1972 addressed a Parliamentary Select Committee to support written submissions each of them advocating the introduction of the Māori language in schools.



John's scholarly knowledge has been drawn on extensively in recent years to research the educational history of several iwi for Waitangi Treaty inquiries, including that of Ngai Tahu, Ngati Koata, and those in Northland and on the East Coast. These opportunities to research in depth at the local level have provided him with many new insights of value to iwi, but also the wider field of Māori educational history. He has been able to draw on these in his recently published book, *Separate but Equal? Māori Schools and the Crown 1867-1969*.

John's ability to undertake ground-breaking research has also been demonstrated in several of his other research interests, including educational administration. One example was his research relating to the Tomorrow's School reforms. He demonstrated that some of the underlying causes of, and explanations for, the reforms had indigenous origins, rather than just being attributable to 'new right' ideas emerging from Margaret Thatcher's Britain and Ronald Reagan's United States. In particular, there had been a build-up of disaffection with aspects of the existing system going back several decades during which several official reports had recommended reforms in areas which foreshadowed, and were almost identical with, those subsequently recommended by Picot. These included the 1974 Nordmeyer report, which included amongst its recommendations more responsibilities for primary school committees; the Holmes Report (1975) recommending increased representation of Māori and Polynesian parents and students on boards; and the 1976 McCombs Report on Secondary Education recommending reform of the administrative structure both centrally and locally. In this area John's involvement has also extended well beyond the university. It has included membership of the Wellington High School and Wellington Girls' College boards (the latter as Chairperson), the governing board of NZCER, and the Wellington College of Education Council. And in the context of this Conference, it is particularly relevant to recall that he was a member of the original committee which formed NZARE, and was the Association's second President.