

NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION

TE HUNGA RANGAHAU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

Pasifika Group Award, 2006

Taloha ni. Malo e lelei. Nisa bula vinaka. Kia orana. Talofa. Fakaalofa lahi atu. Talofa lava. Pasifika greetings to all.

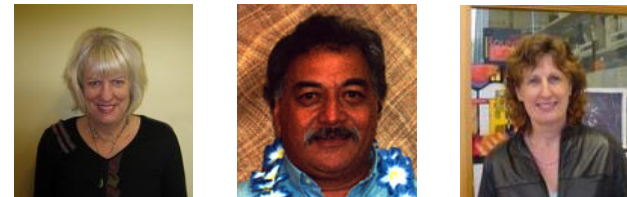
The 2006 NZARE Pasifika Group Award recognises a significant educational research project undertaken in Aotearoa New Zealand by a group of researchers, utilizing research methods that are responsive to Pasifika peoples, with outcomes that are of benefit to New Zealand education including Pasifika peoples.

The 2006 award goes to Amosa Fa'afai, Jo Fletcher, and Faye Parkhill (Christchurch College of Education). The team's research investigates and forefronts good literacy practices in schools with high Pasifika populations. Rather than start from deficit models, their research celebrates achievements and promotes these to wider audiences. The researchers are committed to empowering their local Pasifika communities to become more involved in their schools in ways that are culturally appropriate for them, raise achievement, and that highlight Pasifika contributions.

The research is completed within a Pasifika research methodology. The researchers favour the "Talanoa" method (Vaioloti, 2003) because it is a "qualitative, ecological, oral, interactive approach to research that allows for continuity, authenticity and cultural integrity". The team's research has features of a truly Pasifika experience and enterprise. The team membership includes Pasifika heritage and cultural expertise.

The researchers work as a collaborative Pasifika and Palagi team, with genuine respect for Pasifika approaches to knowledge and research. Research is conducted with the advice and support of local matai and involves community meetings to set up the research, gather data and disseminate findings. The researchers are careful to work with a range of Pasifika groups and respect the diversity within and between groups. Through their mentoring activities, the team empowers further Pasifika and Palagi researchers wanting to work in Pasifika contexts. Over the past three years, the team has compiled a significant presence regionally and nationally and is esteemed by peers. Projects have resulted in publications and presentations to academic and school audiences. Publications include articles in *NZJES*, *SET*, *Qualitative Research Journal*, and a book chapter. The Ministry of Education has provided research funding in 2006. The team has won the respect of the local Pasifika community who has now commissioned them to conduct further research.

This award goes to a group that has focused on Pasifika in terms of research methods that are responsive to Pasifika peoples. The work of the researchers engages with Pasifika contexts, principles and perspectives with cultural integrity, research expertise, and authentic partnership. This award salutes the leadership and contribution of Amosa Fa'afai, Jo Fletcher, and Faye Parkhill to Pasifika Group Research in Education.



from left, Faye Parkhill, Amosa Fa'afai and Jo Fletcher