Māori Book Award finalists announced

An exciting range of books have been named as finalists in Massey University’s Ngā Kupu Ora Awards: Celebrating Māori Books and Journalism.

Patricia Grace’s first novel in 10 years sees the internationally-acclaimed writer return to the awards with her new book Chappy. Ms Grace won the biography award in 2010 for her WWII love story Ned and Katina. Chappy is an intriguing love story between a young man’s Māori grandmother and Japanese grandfather that has caught the judges’ attention. Also in the Te Tuhinga Auaha - Creative Writing category is Waitapu, a collection of short stories from award-winning writer Helen Waaka.

The Te Reo section illustrates the growing resource for language learners. Broadcaster Scotty Morrison caters for beginners with his latest book Māori Made Easy, while He Iti Kahurangi by Hēni Jacob hones advanced speakers in the nuances of grammar. Language experts Agnes McFarland and Taiarahia Black return for the second year in a row to the awards with the third in a series, Toitū te Whare, an edited collection of articles from 10 reo academics at Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi.

Massey University Māori language lecturer and judge Dr Darryn Joseph says it is exciting to see Māori language books aimed at every level. “All three finalists in Te Reo Māori were topical for different reasons: increasing Māori language speakers; improving Māori language speech; recording Māori language and cultural activities." Dr Joseph says. "Each book had its strengths this year and could have been the winner.”

Continues …
The Te Kōrero Pono - Non-Fiction section features a variety of topics from food security to working with Māori children and leadership training.

In all there are 13 finalists spread over five categories, which include Te Kōrero o Mua/Te Haurongo – History/Biography and Te Mahi Toi – Arts.

University Assistant Vice Chancellor Māori and Pasifika Dr Selwyn Katene says 2016 is a milestone for the awards, which are now in their eighth year. “The expansion of the awards to include journalism means we can truly celebrate Māori storytelling in its many forms and further promote Ngā Kupu Ora’s original kaupapa of recognising excellence in Māori books and now journalism.” Dr Katene says.

He says Massey University is delighted with the growing support for Ngā Kupu Ora from sponsors such as Te Puni Kōkiri and MediaWorks. The awards evening is being held in Auckland for the first time, in conjunction with Tāmaki Paenga Hira, the Auckland War Memorial Museum, at the museum’s Event Centre.

The winners of the book and journalism categories will be announced at the awards dinner on October 3.

RELEASE ENDS

High res photos of finalist imagery can be provided on request
Finalists - Massey University 2016 Ngā Kupu Ora Awards: Celebrating Māori Books and Journalism

Te Mahi Toi - Arts

Title: Māori Art: History, Architecture, Landscape and Theory
Author: Rangihiroa Panoho. Photographs by Mark Adams and Haruhiko Sameshima
Publisher: David Bateman Ltd.

Title: In Pursuit of Venus
Author: Lisa Reihana
Publisher: Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki

Title: Toi Awe, Toi Iro, Toi Hanga, Toi Hua
Editor: Kereti G. Rautangata
Publisher: Te Whare Wānanga o Aotearoa

Te Kōrero o Mua/Te Haurongo – History/Biography

Title: Maiea Te Tupua
Author: Tom Roa, Maehe Paki
Publisher: Pirongia: Purekireki Marae

Title: Te Whiti o Rongomai and the Resistance of Parihaka
Author: Danny Keenan
Publisher: Huia Publishers

Te Tuhiinga Auaha - Creative Writing

Title: Chappy
Author: Patricia Grace
Publisher: Penguin Books NZ

Title: Waitapu
Author: Helen Margaret Waaka
Publisher: Escalator Press
Te Kōrero Pono - Non-Fiction

Title: Te Mahi Māra Hua Parakore  
Author: Jessica Hutchings  
Publisher: Te Tākupu Publications

Title: Wayfinding Leadership: Ground-breaking Wisdom for Developing Leaders  
Author: Dr Chellie Spiller, Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr and John Panoho  
Publisher: Huia Publishers

Title: Working with Māori children with Special Education Needs  
Author: Jill Bevan-Brown, Mere Berryman, Huhana Hickey, Sonja Macfarlane, Kirsten Smiler and Tai Walker  
Publisher: NZCER Press

Te Reo Māori – Māori Language

Title: Māori Made Easy: For Everyday Learners of the Māori Language  
Author: Scotty Morrison  
Publisher: Raupo Publishing

Title: He Iti Kahurangi  
Author: Hēni Jacob  
Publisher: Te Tākupu

Title: Toitū te Whare  
Author: Agnes McFarland, Taiarahia Black  
Publisher: NZCER Press