



## Te Tohu Pae Tawhiti Award 2012

Kathie Irwin

Dr Irwin (Rakaipaaka, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu, Orkney Islands, Scots and Irish) has built a career, specialising in Māori education, research, and development, which spans three decades (1981 - 2012). She has pioneered initiatives which have had at their heart the kaupapa of growing authentic Māori academics and researchers. More than researchers and academics who happen to be Māori, these are professionals at the cutting edge of the nexus between Māori epistemology, ontology and methodology.

In 1991 Kathie founded and led *He Pārekereke: The Institute for Research and Development in Māori Education* (at Victoria University) through its first five years. She received the Ngārimu VC and 28th Māori Battalion Post Graduate Scholarship for her PhD research; was the first Māori to be awarded the Hodge Fellowship (1994); and was the inaugural recipient of the Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi Post Doctoral Professorial Research Fellowship (2007 - 2008).

Kathie pioneered curriculum development as a strategy to create pathways to research careers for Māori. Her research contribution has been made through a journey from Junior Lecturer to Professor, across five institutions: Massey University (1981 - 1988); Victoria University (1988 - 2000); Christchurch College of Education (1999 - 2000); Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust (2002 - 2005); and Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi, Wellington Campus (2005 - 2008).

Dr Irwin has published widely in the fields of Māori education policy, Māori schooling, Māori literacy and numeracy, Māori research, kōhanga reo, kaupapa Māori research on whānau success, Māori feminism and mana wahine. She was an editor of *Feminist Voices* and of *Toi Māori: Worlds of Māori Women*; and was part of the team who researched *What happens to Māori Girls at School?* Kathie was a member of the team that researched *Teaching and Learning in the Supervision of Māori Doctoral Students* and has published from this study. Her most recent publications include a suite of kaupapa Māori reports: *Whānau Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow* (2011); *Mātiro Whakamua* (2011); *Partnerships with Māori* (2012); and *What works with Māori? What the people said* (2012).

Dr Irwin has been a keynote speaker for many years. In 2003 she spoke at the First UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on the kōhanga reo model. In 2004 she addressed the OMEP World Congress on Early Childhood Education on this theme. Dr Irwin has valued these forums as a strategy for taking research findings to a range of audiences who may not access written research reports.

Dr Irwin has held governance positions where her research has informed her work: Wellington College of Education Council; the Women's Advisory Committee on Education; the NZARE Council; the Board of the New Zealand Council of Educational Research; the Royal Society Social Science Advisory Committee; Ako Aotearoa, The National Centre of Tertiary Teaching Excellence; and, the Association of Social Science Researchers.