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## Professor Angus Hikairo Macfarlane

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Angus Hikairo Macfarlane, after his investiture as CNZM, for services to education, psychology and Māori, at Government House, Wellington, on 14 December 2021. Photo: Office of the Governor-General

It is with deep sorrow that we at *Kairaranga* remember Professor Angus Hikairo Macfarlane (Ngāti Whakāue, Te Arawa) CNZM, FRSNZ, a visionary educator and respected colleague.

Professor Macfarlane's contributions to the field of education are significant and enduring. His legacy includes not only his well-known educational models such as the 'Educultural Wheel', the Hikairo Schema, the Mana Model, and He Awa Whiria, but also his deep commitment to equity, his belief in the importance of manaakitanga and whanaungatanga and his generosity of spirit.

Perhaps lesser known is the very significant contribution that Professor Angus Macfarlane has made to the journal *Kairaranga*. Professor Macfarlane was instrumental in the development of the journal, and was there at its inception when four RTLTB who were engaged in the original RTLTB training programme got together to discuss how they might provide a platform for RTLTB to share their research and practice. These four were Cath Steeghs, Carol Watts, Paul Mitchell, and Grant Ackerman. A fifth RTLTB was to join soon after, Graeme Nobilo. At this time, Professor Angus Macfarlane was approached for support and guidance, and he quickly saw the value of what was being proposed.

His first gift was that of the journal's name – *Kairaranga* – which, in consultation with Dick Grace, he bestowed in 1996. Angus described this name as being appropriate for this journal as it spoke of networking, collaboration, whānau and tamariki engagement, and the weaving of theory and practice. Throughout the years, and with humility, wisdom and a real dedication to serving others, Angus has provided unwavering support and advice to *Kairaranga*, ensuring that the journal remained true to its foundational principles. He showed us the value of drawing on the rich cultural heritage of Aotearoa to shape our learning environments and respect all peoples. We will be forever grateful to Angus for these contributions. More than this however, we are grateful to have known Angus, thankful for his friendship and his guidance and thankful for the privilege of working with him on *Kairaranga*. We will greatly miss him but know that his legacy will live on in the publications of *Kairaranga*, and in the work of *Kairaranga's* readers.

As with any legacy, it behoves us all to reflect on just what this means to us and how we will enact the principles upon which it is based. We leave you with an excerpt from an interview with Professor Angus Macfarlane, published in *Kairaranga* in 2015. Angus was asked what advice he might give to teachers and others involved in education in Aotearoa. This was his advice to us:

*Keep an open mind; don't rule anything out too readily. Then I would encourage educators to consider a new set of three R's: Reflect, Reassure and Reposition. Be good reflective practitioners: for example, ask yourself "If I had that opportunity again, would I do it the same way? If not, how would I do it differently?" The other R is 'Reassure'. The system has taken enough of a pounding. We need to give ourselves a pat on the back from time-to-time. We provide a good service within which are an abundance of exceptional educational practitioners and professionals. We need to reassure ourselves that we are up there with the main players internationally. The final R is 'Reposition'. Education is a dynamic phenomenon, expressed more aptly in te reo as 'Ngā mahi mātauranga o te ao hurihuri'. In order to keep up with the pace it is necessary to reposition our thinking. This might mean going back to the literature, going back to what other people are offering through research and practice, positioning our thinking alongside our own beliefs and, if necessary, repositioning the perceptions and realities we hold dear. Finally, my advice would be 'persevere, never give up', best expressed in the whakatauki: He moana pukepuke e ekengia e te waka: A choppy sea can be navigated.*

### **Professor Alison Kearney**

Massey University

#### **PROFESSOR ANGUS HIKAIRO MACFARLANE**

Professor Angus Hikairo Macfarlane affiliated to the Te Arawa confederation of tribes in the central North Island. His research and publishing focused on exploring indigenous and sociocultural realities that influence education and psychology. He pioneered several theoretical and practical frameworks associated with culturally-responsive and restorative approaches for professionals who are working in these domains. Professor Macfarlane's prolific publication portfolio earned him national and international standing in his field of scholarship. He was the recipient of a number of prestigious awards that acknowledged his accomplishments. In 2010 he was presented with the Tohu Pae Tawhiti Award from the New Zealand Council for Educational Research in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Māori research over an extensive period of time. In 2013 he was awarded the University of Canterbury Research Medal – the first ever Māori recipient and the highest honour that the University Council can extend to its academic staff – acknowledging sustained research excellence. In 2015 he received the national Ako Aotearoa Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award. Professor Macfarlane was the Kaihautū (Senior Māori Advisor) of the New Zealand Psychological Society, and Professor of Māori Research at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand.