

**NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION**  
**TE HUNGA RANGAHAU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA**



***The McKenzie Award 2011***

***Alison Jones***

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This award recognises Alison Jones' major contribution over thirty years to the initiation and leadership of pioneering areas of educational research, to research-informed changes in practice, and to the development of new researchers.

Alison has been influential in establishing the fields of women in education, feminist theory in education, and Māori education in New Zealand, and her writing has been acclaimed nationally and internationally. Her books have influenced a generation of new scholars through their extensive use in New Zealand universities. As the first education researcher to be awarded two prestigious Marsden grants, her work has opened new and important areas of inquiry. Through the first of these grants her research on social anxiety about children's bodies achieved the relatively rare feat of altering policy – in this instance, the policy on touching children. Through the second on the early nineteenth century development of Māori writing and schooling she, along with her colleague Kuni Jenkins, not only produced a significant number of research publications and won international awards but most significantly, took the findings to the people of the North - the descendants of the earliest Māori actors in the story of schooling and writing in New Zealand. This commitment to the local impact and usefulness of research, and its return to the people, is at the core of Alison's interest in research.

As well as her contribution to research knowledge, Alison has had a very significant impact on research writing in New Zealand. She has specialised in research writing workshops for Māori students, and for six years has led annual workshops for Māori doctoral and postgraduate students and staff, at all the universities in New Zealand as well as Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi. Her writing workshops for Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga and for the annual national writing retreats at Hopuhopu, for Māori doctoral students have provided guidance and support for more than 250 Māori doctoral candidates since 2003.

Alison is a research leader who takes seriously her role of attending to both the local and the international audiences for her work, and who commits to engagement with her academic peers and to encouragement and support of new researchers. Her work evidences a long history of successful collaboration and mentoring, and of courage in taking on new, challenging, but critically important areas of educational research.

**NZARE**