



Te Tohu Pae Tawhiti 2013

Jill Bevan-Brown

Associate Professor Jill Bevan-Brown (Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Wehiwehi, Ngāti Awa, Ngāi Te Rangī) is an outstanding scholar, researcher, teacher, leader, colleague and policy advocate. She has made major original contributions at national and international levels to Māori and indigenous education, inclusive education, gifted education and autism research.

Publications from her research have informed public understanding and helped to develop better policy and provision for learners, families and whānau. The *Cultural Self-Review: Providing Culturally Effective, Inclusive Education for Māori Learners*, (2003) has encouraged and facilitated the cultural responsiveness of schools in their quest to address the needs of Māori and Pasifika students.

A DVD on autism, *In My Shoes*, was produced by the PAI4ASD Trust of which Jill is Chairperson. The DVD was supported by the Ministry of Education and Autism NZ and was launched in 2008. Some 17,000 copies have been distributed to schools, hospitals, tertiary institutions, social and Māori organizations.

In 2008 Associate Professor Bevan-Brown was awarded a Templeton International Fellowship from Iowa University in recognition of her commitment to gifted education in New Zealand. And, in 2012, Jill was the inaugural recipient of the Te Manu Kotuku Award from GiftEDnZ, the Professional Association for Gifted Education, for her work into understanding gifted and talented Māori learners.

Jill has demonstrated sustained leadership and excellence in service to the Institute, the University, and to the fields of Inclusive Education and Māori Education. She was the inaugural director of the Massey University Centre for Research Excellence in Inclusive Education. She is also a foundation fellow of the Massey University Academy for Māori Research and Scholarship, Te Mata o Te Tau. Her expertise has drawn many PhD students who wish to be supervised by her.

Within the profession and wider community Associate Professor Bevan-Brown has participated as an adviser on the development of the ASD National Guidelines; an invited reviewer of the Draft New Zealand Curriculum; a member of four Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health ASD national advisory committees; and been a member of the national advisory group on gifted education. Recently she was selected as the sole academic on a Parliamentary Advisory group for the national Review of Special Education.

Woven throughout her work is a tireless commitment to inclusive and to Māori education. She is passionate about both disciplines and through her work has made a significant positive difference to the lives of many children, young people and their whānau. She has also made a significant contribution to the professional lives of her colleagues, ensuring that biculturalism imperatives are uppermost in all of their work. She is a very worthy recipient of Te Tohu Pae Tawhiti 2013.