

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



Te Tohu Pae Tawhiti 2010
Angus Macfarlane

Angus Hikairo Macfarlane is of the Te Arawa waka and its confederate tribes. Prior to progressing a career in tertiary education, Angus was a secondary teacher, head teacher, Liaison Officer for the Ministry of Education, and Advisor for Special Education Services. Since taking up lectureship and associate professorship positions at the University of Waikato in 1995, his constant plea to educators has been to work together towards a greater understanding of the educational realities that will guide our futures.

The thrust of his research activities is concerned with the exploration of cultural concepts and strategies that affect positively on the professional practice of teaching, from which numerous publications have emanated. In the late 1990s through to 2007 Angus was national curriculum coordinator (Maori and Bicultural) of a consortium of three institutions – Auckland, Waikato and Victoria - for the training of Resource Teachers of Learning and Behaviour (RTLb). In 2003 Angus Macfarlane was awarded the inaugural Senior Research Fellowship by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research, at which time he took up residency in Wellington to carry out further work in his area of interest. In 2004 his landmark book, *Kia hiwa ra! Listen to culture – Maori students’ plea to educators*, was published. That same year he was a recipient of a Tohu Kairangi award, a citation for academic achievement in Maori education. In 2006 he was nominated by the University of Waikato for a Tertiary Education Commission National Teaching Excellence Award. Another book, *Discipline, Democracy and Diversity*, was published in August 2007 and this year 2010 he has edited a volume of readings on identifying and nurturing Maori students of promise entitled *Above the Clouds – Ka rewa ake ki nga kapua*.

Angus Macfarlane’s prowess as a researcher has made him a sought after figure on external contracts and advisory boards throughout the country. His roles for the Ministry of Education’s national coordination contract for Gifted Education Advisory Support, for the Ministry of Social Development’s advisory group on conduct problems (AGCP), as well as many other external entities - have been offered on account of his insistence on quality research, his energy for the research tasks, and the respect he renders those around him. He strives to include a sound articulation of the research process, a keenness for rigour of its implementation, and an emphasis of a comprehensive and clear picture of the educational aspirations of Māori. Notwithstanding the importance of these activities, Angus keeps close ties with his iwi through the Te Arawa Research Strategy and Te Ara a Ihenga. His leadership role in the Ihenga initiative has been integral in bringing together emerging and experienced researchers from the iwi, drawing from their respective expertise and encouraging them to drive and conduct research that will work toward a better life for the Te Arawa people, and indeed all peoples. He commands respect as an educational leader through his knowledge, his wisdom, his patience, his humour, his generosity, and his humility.

