



TE HUNGA RANGAHAU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION

2022



Ranginui Walker Te Reo Maori Doctoral Award

Te Kahautu Maxwell

University of Waikato

Dr Maxwell was conferred with a Doctor of Philosophy in Māori Cultural Studies/Tikanga Māori in 2020. The title of his thesis is *Te Kaunati Hikahika a Ōpōtiki Mai Tawhiti: Ka hika I taku ahi, kimihia e Te Whakatōhea te ara o te tikanga i pai ai te noho i te ao nei*. His thesis is concerned with Te Whakatōhea, an iwi who were decimated by the confiscation of their tribal lands, but who were able to rebuild their cultural capital and reclaim their identity through Kapa Haka.

Dr Maxwell's thesis provides insights into iwi history, identity and the challenges that occurred during and post colonisation. This content will be useful in informing the Aotearoa New Zealand Histories curriculum and providing powerful narratives written in Te Reo Māori that can be used in Māori medium contexts and classrooms. Dr Maxwell draws upon Te Kooti's adaptation of an ancient Ngāti Kahungunu oriori "Pine Pine Te Kura" as a pedagogical approach for teaching and learning and as a methodology for structuring his thesis.

Dr Maxwell is a highly accomplished and award winning composer, an exponent of Tikanga and Te Reo Māori as well as an authority on the history and tikanga of Whakatōhea and Mataatua. His future research will undoubtedly expand on all of these strengths and we understand he is currently involved in a range of Māori development projects. He is naturally curious and determined and has strong ideas about the research that he is interested in pursuing.

It seems fitting that Dr Maxwell was proposed for this award as he and Professor Ranginui Walker are both from the same iwi of Te Whakatōhea. We understand Professor Walker knew of this doctorate although he had passed before it was completed. We believe that Dr Maxwell is a fitting nominee for this prestigious award and we trust it will provide a huge incentive for him to continue living up to and expanding on the life works of Professor Ranginui Walker.