

Te Kura Pounamu 2009 Judges Report

Tēnā koutou katoa kua huihui mai nei i tēnei ahiahi pō whakahirahira. Ngā mihi nui, ngā mihi mahana hoki ki a koutou katoa. Nā, ka huri kau atu ōku mihi ki te kaupapa o te pō, nāna nei tātou i whakaemi mai, arā te taonga nei, **Te Kura Pounamu**.

Ā, me te mea hoki, he pō whakahirahira tēnei mō koutou ngā kaituhi me ngā kaitā-pukapuka. Nā ā koutou mahi ūpoko pakaru, ngā tuhinga nei i taea te whakaputa ki te reo Māori, hei painga mō te takitini. Nō reira me mihi ka tika ki a koutou, mō ēnei rauemi e whakanui nei i te reo Maori.

Ā ko Alice Heather toku ingoa He uri ahau nō Ngati Raukawa ki te Tonga. He kaimahi au ki Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa e mahi ana i te taha o ngā kura.

Heoi anō, hei mihi whakamutunga māku, he honore nui tēnei, kia riro anō māku te mahi whakawā i ēnei pukapuka whai kounga. Nō reira, huri noa tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, ā, tēnā anō tātou katoa.

Kia ora to all of you who have gathered this evening to celebrate great writers, great books and publishers that selected them. And in this case, for **Te Kura Pounamu** award, it is celebration of the ever increasing quality and quantity of te reo Maori publications. I'd like to acknowledge the two judges that assisted me judging; Haromi Williams - a commissioner on The Library and Information Advisory Commission and CE of the Tuhoē Education Authority and Kathleen Tamaki - Outreach Co-ordinator Māori at Manukau Public Libraries.

This year 24 titles were submitted for this award including two series. Once again we faced the challenge of judging quality fiction, both novels and picture books, against quality non-fiction.

Our first short listed title is ***Nau te Rourou, Naku te Rourou***. This non-fiction title was written by ***Rosalind and Waaka Vercoe*** with photography by ***David Hamilton, Rosalind Vercoe, Shotz Photography and Hayley Wickham***.

The design of the book was by ***Te Tahi Takao*** and ***Huia Publishers*** were the publishers. We loved the bright, colourful cover and the cheeky photos of the kids and their cooking totally draw the reader in. The title immediately alerts us not only to the content of the book but also to the Maori tikanga about kai. The sharp, detailed photos worked with the text to create easy to follow instructions for the young cook.

The emphasis in this book is on healthy food. Each section is colour coded and preceded by a proverb relating food to the Maori world.

The way that traditional kai recipes were interspersed with modern recipes was another top feature for us. The contents, instructions, index and glossary pages all add to its value for the intended audience.

The second nonfiction short listed title is ***Toheroa*** written by ***James Te Tuhi and Ross Gregory*** and published by ***Huia Publishers***. Photographs by ***Ron Monten***.

Again the cover is colourful and inviting and the reader straight away is aware of the book's content. An impressive range of photos detail the various aspects of the toheroa and work with the text to capture the reader. This book covers a wide range of explanatory information from the legends about the toheroa to the preservation of toheroa. Māori tikanga, history and values are interwoven into the different sections. The language is informative and easy to follow explaining new terms in the text. The glossary, contents pages and clear layout add value to this superb example of a te reo Maori nonfiction book. As far as we know there has never been a book published on the topic of toheroa before. This book is, therefore, ideally suited to publication in English as well to enable a wider audience to access this information.

The third short listed title is the picture book ***Maraea me te Toroa*** written by ***Patricia Grace***, illustrated by ***Brain Gunson*** and translated by ***Waiariki Grace***. The publisher is ***Penguin NZ***.

This is a delightful story that gives the young reader a glimpse of Maori tupuna's lifestyle, values and tikanga. The illustrations are outstanding and really bring this story to life. The simplicity of the theme is one of its features as it explores the special bond between the toroa and the kuia and her people.

The fourth short listed title is the picture book ***Hinemoa te Toa*** written by ***Tim Tipene*** and illustrated by ***John Bennett***. It was translated by ***Katerina Te Heikoko Mataira*** and published by ***Scholastic***.

This is a modern day “girls can do anything” story. We loved the cheekiness and staunchness of Hinemoa which is superbly depicted by the illustrations. The taniwha digger invariably creates spontaneous laughter from young and old. It is my husband’s year one class’s favourite book!! Everyone of us has a Hinemoa in their whanau!

The final title is a novel, *Mihiroa* written by *Peti Nohotima* and illustrated by *Misty*. The Publisher - *He Kupenga Hao i te Reo* is new publisher.

This story is aimed at young teenagers particularly girls. It revolves around the world of young teenage girls and is written from that teenage world perspective - from texting to teenage jealousy, from budding relationships to the intensity of sporting competition. The interspersing of Maori world values and tikanga such as the importance of the extended whanau and hura kohatu add to its authenticity as a relevant text for young Maori.

Throughout the story the language is of a very high standard, expressive and easy to follow. One of the most captivating features is how the language is used to develop the characters and their interactions. “Hei Keriana, pehea ana?” ta Kahu. Paku nei te hiki o ona tukemata, paku nei tana menemene. Ko te titiro korotaha noa a Kereana ki a Kahu me te paku nei o te hiki o ōna tukemata. Ka tatari a Kahu ka tatari engari auware ake a Kereana i kōrero. You can just picture the coolness and aloofness of Kereana in this interaction and the subconscious messages being given to Kahu.

The delightful line drawings at the beginning of each chapter add to the story’s attraction to younger readers. In summary, this is an exceptional novel for its descriptive, engaging narrative.

This year for the first time a novel has won this award. We are delighted to have selected this book as an example of te reo Maori fiction which sets the benchmark for fictional writing for this age group.

Therefore, the winner of Te Kura Pounamu Awards for 2008 is *Peti Nohotima* for *Mihiroa*.

The Te Kura Pounamu judges have faced the challenge of judging nonfiction against fiction across all age levels. This year Te Ropu Whakahau has stepped in to rectify this situation and has introduced the Te Ropu Whakahau Awards.

Te Ropu Whakahau Awards

History of the Awards

In 1993, Northcote Library ran a local competition as part of Māori Language Week. The success of the competition encouraged the N Strategy Bicultural Actions Group to turn it into a national event. The then Bicultural Special Interest Group of the New Zealand Library & Information Association continued to run the competition.

In 1997, National Library of New Zealand—Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa was approached to be involved in the New Zealand Māori Language Competition. The objectives of the competition were to:

- support Māori language
- promote Māori language to the communities
- generate Māori language material to consider publishing an anthology.

Te Rōpū Whakahau took on running this Māori Language Competition with the following four taonga as awards for various levels

Nga Kete e toru

This award was donated by the Wellington Region LIANZA Bicultural SIG.

Taurapa

This taonga was donated by Palmerston North City Libraries, Te Ara Whanui o te Ao

Hoani Whatahoro

He tohu whakamaharatanga tēnei ki a Hoani Te Whatahoro Jury.

Pounamu

Buddy Tainui of Ngai Tahu & Aoraki LIANZA donated this Pounamu Trophy.

Unfortunately these competitions were discontinued as other National Competitions such as Manu Korero and Ngarimu gained strength.

Therefore in 2006, it was decided by Ngā Kaiwhakahau (Executive committee of Te Rōpū Whakahau) to utilise these awards for Te Kura Pounamu.

1. The first award, **Te Tohu Hoani Te Whatuhoro for te waihanga pukapuka pono**, the nonfiction section goes to **James Te Tuhi** and **Ross Gregory** for their book **Toheroa**.
2. The second award, **Te Tohu Pounamu mo te wahanga Kaiwhakamaori** – the translator section goes to **Katerina Te Heikoko Mataira** for her translation of **Hinemoa te Toa**.
3. The third award, **Te Tohu Taurapa mo te wahanga Pukapuka Pikitia** – the picture book section goes to **Tim Tipene** for **Hinemoa te Toa**.
4. The fourth and final award, **Te Tohu Nga Kete e toru mo te waihanga pukapuka Paki** - the fiction section goes again to **Peti Nohotima** for **Mihiroa**.