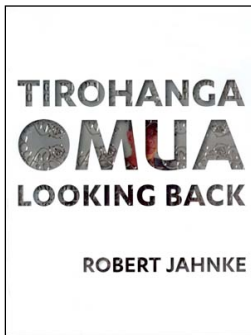


Ngā Kupu Ora Maori Book Awards Appendix

Additional information on winning books and authors



Arts / Te Mahi Toi category

Tirohanga o Mua: Looking Back

By Robert Jahnke

Publisher: Te Manawa Gallery & Te Pūtahi-a-Toi (Massey University's School of Māori Studies in Palmerston North)

Tirohanga o Mua began life as a catalogue for a retrospective exhibition by Robert Jahnke at Te Manawa Art Gallery in Palmerston North in 2010. But as the judging panel noted, "It is too substantial to just call it another exhibition catalogue".

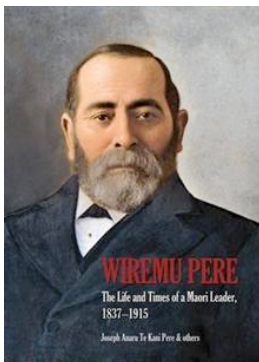
Along with a comprehensive catalogue of work covering some 20 years and an essay by Jahnke himself, the book also contains essays by Nicholas Thomas (director of Cambridge University's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology) and Anna-Marie White (curator at Nelson's Suter Gallery and a former student of Professor Jahnke's). The catalogue also includes a conversation between artist Shane Cotton and Jahnke entitled *Cotton and Jahnke Unplugged*.

"I think the conversation between Shane Cotton and myself was a new approach to recording some aspects of art practice," says Jahnke. "The conversation was very much directed by Shane and he wanted to cover my early training and my transition from an industrial and graphic designer into a sculptor."

While in many ways autobiographical, the judges felt *Tirohanga o Mua* was also highly valuable as a text about the scholarship of art. Professor Jahnke says he created the book not just as an exhibition catalogue, but also "to give direction to young Māori artists".

Discussions are currently being held with Huia Publishers to produce a follow-up edition of *Tirohanga o Mua* ("in more of a book format – although I'm not sure what that will mean," laughs Jahnke), which will no doubt lead to a larger print run and wider distribution.

Professor Jahnke is the head of Massey University's School of Māori Studies, and has been the coordinator of the Māori visual arts programme at the Manawatu campus since 1991.



Biography / Te Haurongo category

Wiremu Pere – The Life and Times of a Māori Leader 1837-1915

By Joseph Pere

Publisher: Libro International

The judging panel described this book as an "outstanding biography" that was long overdue because Wiremu Pere's contribution to politics is "often overlooked due to the high profile of other Māori politicians of the time", including Apirana Ngata.

Written by his great-grandson Joseph Pere, with the support of the Wi Pere Trust, the book describes Wi Pere's eventful life, including his time as a Māori leader in the House of Representatives and the Legislative Council in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

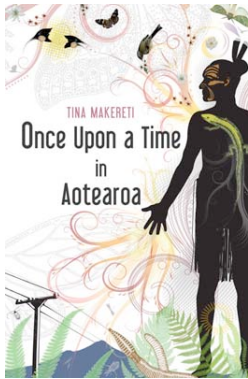
The book details his role as a staunch advocate for Māori land rights at a time when Māori land alienation was being accelerated by the Land Court. Other parts of the book trace his

whakapapa, and profile the Wi Pere Trust, one of his legacies that continues to grow and benefit his descendents today.

Alan Haronga, another Wi Pere descendent and current chairman of the Wi Pere Trust, says the idea of a book celebrating Wi Pere's life had been around for decades. But Joseph Pere took over the work of earlier family members when he decided to "write his Masters thesis on his tipuna". Pere approached the Trust three years ago with a proposal to turn his thesis into a book, and they were very supportive of the project.

"In some respects the book was written for the whanau," says Haronga, "but it would be of interest to historians and Māori in general because Wi Pere lived through one of the biggest periods of transformation in New Zealand's history."

The Trust is now working with the book's publishers to make *Wiremu Pere* available as an e-book.



Fiction / Te Pakimaero category

Once Upon a Time in Aotearoa

By Tina Makereti

Publisher: Huia Publishers

Tina Makereti describes this, her first book, as 'a short story collection that brings Māori myths into a contemporary setting, and also looks at the mythologies being created by contemporary society'.

The judges were very impressed. "As a first piece of published fiction, and as the inaugural winner of the Nga Kupu Ora award for fiction, Tina Makereti has set the bar very high for herself and other potential winners of this award in the future," they said.

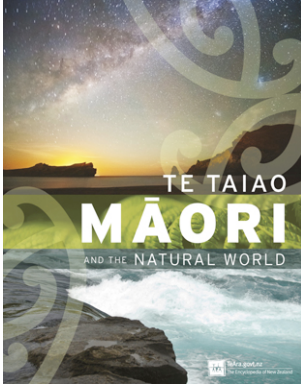
One of the stories in the book, *Skin and Bones*, won the Huia Publishers Best Short Story Award in 2009 and *Once Upon a Time in Aotearoa* has also been chosen as one of the 100 New Zealand titles to be spotlighted at the Frankfurt Book Fair, following New Zealand's selection as the guest of honour for the event.

The book has also been studied by a class of Harvard students undertaking a course in folklore. "I even skyped with the group and that was a really fascinating experience," says Makereti. "I think Māori readers see the old stories that underpin the book but, for non-Māori, it's new and magical. They understand there is something mythological going on, but they approach it with fresh eyes and without pre-judgement."

Makereti says she strives to create stories with universal themes, and wants her work to resonate across other cultures. She has always had an interest in mythology and says she has learned much from the "old stories".

"I went quite deeply into myself in writing this book, and that excavation brings the important things to the surface," she says. "But when others read the book and it strikes a chord, even if they get something quite different out of it – that's just wonderful."

Makereti lives on the Kapiti Coast and teaches life writing at Massey University's Wellington Campus. She completed a Bachelor of Arts and Postgraduate Diploma in Māori Development at Massey and is currently completing a PhD in Creative Writing at Victoria University - along with her first novel.



Non-Fiction / Te Kōrero Pono category

Te Taiao: Māori and the Natural World

By Te Ara – The Encyclopedia of New Zealand

Publisher: David Bateman Ltd

Te Ara – The Encyclopedia of New Zealand is a Ministry of Culture & Heritage project that aims to compile a comprehensive guide to New Zealand's peoples, natural environment, history, culture, economy, institutions and society.

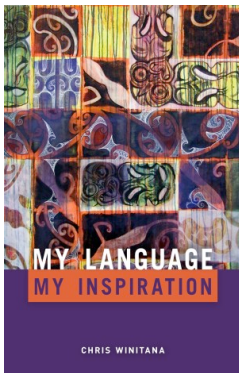
The project consists of a series of themes, which are published online - the first section was published in 2005, and the project is due for completion in 2013. Te Ara also produces some print publications

using text and images drawn from its website. *Te Taiao: Māori and the Natural World* is the most recent of these.

“Our motivation for *Te Taiao* was to make knowledge about Māori and the natural world available in as attractive and interesting a way as possible,” says Te Ara senior editor Jock Phillips. “We hoped that the book would be of value to both Māori themselves, especially in kura kapuapa, but also to the general public who wanted to know more about the Māori world.”

The judges awarded *Te Taiao* not only for contributing to our knowledge of how Māori interact with the environment, but also for the high quality of its writing, editing, illustrations and photography. “The illustrations and artforms supporting each chapter create a visual symphony that allows the reader to indulge in each page, each picture, and each word,” they said.

For the editing team, the award represents recognition of a collective enterprise. “I hope the award also encourages more people to use the book,” says Jock Phillips, “because it is a unique collection of stories and information about Māori and the natural world.”



Māori Language / Te Reo Māori category

Tōku reo, Tōku Ohooho (My Language, My Inspiration)

By Chris Winitana

Publisher: Huia Publishers

The judging panel called Chris Winitana's book “a timely social history about Māori language revitalisation in the last forty years”. For the book, Winitana interviewed dozens of Māori language exponents who were instrumental in revitalisation initiatives, including Huirangi Waikerepuru, Tīmoti Kāretu and the late Kāterina Te Heikoko Mataira.

Originally commissioned by the Māori Language Commission as a bilingual book, Winitana soon realised he had too much good material for a single, bilingual volume, so he wrote separate English and Māori editions.

Around 80% of the interviews were conducted in te reo Māori, so a significant proportion of the book began in the Māori language, and was then translated into English. Winitana sees the two books as very distinct from each other; he believes each has its own ethos and will therefore bring readers different insights.

“Our ancestors left us a world view,” he explains. “Culture is their way in action. Language is their way in words. Each language fits within its own world view, so these two books are not just mirror images of each other.”

As a former journalist, Winitana began his writing career in English but, when he decided to run his own kōhanga reo for his children, the lack of Māori language resources meant he began writing more and more in Māori. Today, he makes a living as a freelance writer of books, radio and television scripts, and stage shows, mainly in te reo.

According to the judges, *Tōku Reo* is written in a “style that will appeal to the student of rich Māori figurative expressions and uncommon lexicon”, which has Winitana seriously chuffed. While te reo is the first language of his children, Winitana only learned the Māori language himself in his late teens.

He says he’s “tickled pink to be in such esteemed company” and hopes the book will find its way onto the reading lists for kura kaupapa and wānanga across the country.