

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Without doubt one of the greatest aspects for Maori studying at university is the support they receive from colleagues, friends and family. I am no exception and have been more than fortunate to have the support of a great number of people.

A large part of the thesis was informed by the interviews of Tainui graduates. To those of you who agreed to participate in this research, nga mihi. It has been an honour to hear your experiences and a challenge to interpret them within the confines of this thesis.

The main incentive for me to study at this level was due to the generosity of the Tainui Maori Trust Board (Waikato Raupatu Lands Trust). Without this support, I would not have ventured so early into postgraduate study. As one of the first group of students to benefit from the postgraduate scholarships established after the 1995 settlement of Raupatu, I am indebted to the tribe for its investment in me, and am forever grateful for the opportunity.

To the kuia and koroua who have opened up my eyes to the importance and strength of what it means to be Tainui, who continue to uphold the values of the Kingitanga and who have always been willing to share in their experiences. They are there as constant reminders of past struggles and achievements, and their sacrifices and commitment to the kaupapa of the Kingitanga provide strong motivation for the youth of today to preserve these traditions for future generations. To John and Hera Haunui, Hare Puke, Waea Mauriohooho, Poka Nepia and to the many other kuia and koroua who have willingly shared their time and knowledge with me – thank you for your understanding, patience, guidance and wisdom. A very special thanks and mention to ‘Nanny’ Iti Rawiri who took many of the rangatahi working for the Board under her wing, guiding us, and sharing with us her knowledge and experiences, and who has always been available to listen to our concerns and fears, to our hopes and dreams. He mihi aroha tenei ki a koe, Nan. Kia ora.

Since the beginning of my early days working for the Board and the Centre, I was extremely lucky to have had the guidance and support of Dr Barbara Harrison. As my chief supervisor, Barbara has guided my progress over the years with a great deal of patience and wisdom, and on occasions, the odd touch of frustration! I have been fortunate to have a mentor of such calibre. Nga mihi nui ki a koe, Barbara. To Professor Wharehuia Milroy, Professor Linda Smith, nga mihi hoki ki a korua. I would also like to thank Professor Russell Bishop, who joined my supervisory team rather late in the piece, but whose advice and comments have been both challenging and immensely rewarding! Tena koe, Russell. I am also grateful to Dr Godfrey Pohatu, who kindly provided an opinion on the thesis, nga mihi hoki ki a koe. I am also truly grateful to Helen de Barry for agreeing to undertake the mammoth task of proofreading, editing and helping produce the final copy of the thesis. He mihi nui tenei ki a koe, Helen. Thanks.

I am extremely indebted and privileged to have had the support and advice of Dr Norman Kingsbury, Denese Henare, Dr Ann Parsonson, Gordon Chesterman, Haupai Puke, Jenny Ritchie, Cath Richardson and others who have helped me manage the

often-frustrating process that is doctoral study. It has been a source of great relief to be able to talk to these special people over the years, people who have all given so willingly of their time and listened to my concerns and worries, and who have boosted my confidence at vulnerable times. Also, to my friends and colleagues at the Waikato Raupatu Lands Trust – thank you for your support, advice and critiques over the past few years.

There have been times when I didn't think I was going to make it through this process, and I have been lucky to have been able to rely and lean on the support of my family and friends, who always believed I would finish (eventually!). Kia ora and a big thanks to you all. To my parents and my sister and brother, Debbie and Richard, and their families who have lived and breathed the thesis with me since I started. Nga mihi nui ki a koutou katoa. To my 'other' family – ki a koutou o Ngai Tuhoe – especially my father-in-law, Puni, and 'mother-in-law,' Hariata. Nga mihi nui ki a korua, a, ki a koutou katoa.

To my children Tiana, Rimuerena, Akuira and Timoti, and to my greatest support of all, my husband Hans: I have finally finished! I have been fortunate to have had someone who has ensured that I have stayed on track through these years, and who has always been able to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Now life can get back to normal.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to two people who began this thesis with me and who are no longer here to share in its completion.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge Sir Robert Te Kotahi Mahuta, whose dogged determination was the catalyst for me enrolling in this degree. Sir Robert gave me a number of challenges and opportunities, of which he demanded a level of commitment and excellence that tested my resolve many a time. He had great foresight in viewing education as being the key for the tribe to determine its own path and its own development. By instilling in me a belief that my contribution, through this degree, was indeed worthwhile, however small, gave me a sense of purpose and real achievement. I am forever indebted for the opportunities, guidance and support that he gave me.

I would also like to acknowledge my father, Lang Davis. He instilled in me the importance of being educated, and of never accepting second best just because I was Maori. He taught me the importance of working hard to achieve one's goals, to view adversity as a challenge, and to always have faith in my own abilities. My only regret is that I am not able to share the completion of this thesis with my father, and the dreams he had for Maori education. Kia inoi, kia mahi.

This thesis is dedicated to them.