



This special issue profiles the Whetu Kanapa Awards

*The Whetu Kanapa Inaugural Award Evening was
held on the 29th March 2012*

A special Dinner hosted at the 3rd Te Ao Māramatanga Māori Caucus Bi-Annual Wānanga held in Rotorua, 28-30 March 2012 provided the perfect platform to acknowledge five special Māori nurses for their contributions in the field of Māori mental health. The 'Whetū Kanapa Award' honours career long nursing contributions in the fields of Māori mental health and nursing.

'Whetū Kanapa personify brilliant and gleaming stars, they are living aspirations for all'.

This year five recipients received special medals at Tangatarua Marae in Rotorua. Award recipients, members of their whanau, conference attendees and guests were treated to a medley of music and entertainment by local Rotorua talent, and Te Arawa kapa haka regional winners (2012), Tuhourangi, with guest speaker Te Ururoa Flavell (MP for Te Waiariki), MC Phyllis Tangitu (GM Māori Health-Lakes DHB) and Hineroa Hakiaha (Kai Whakahaere) awarding the five Māori mental health nurses. (contd over)



THE RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARD 2012 WERE



Ronald Baker, Tai Rawhiti – Ron registered as a psychiatric nurse in 1978 undertaking his training at Carrington Hospital in Auckland. Much of Ron's career has encompassed working in Kaupapa Māori Mental health settings where he was involved in the development of at least six new Kaupapa Māori health initiatives. In 1984-1989 he was a staff nurse, then charge nurse at Whaiora Cultural Unit at Tokanui Hospital. From there Ron took up the position of Manager at Te Whare Paia (Carrington Hospital) from 1989-1991, and then onto Manawanui Māori Mental Health Service which he managed until 1996. From 1997 to 1999 Ron moved home to the East Coast where he was involved in the development of Iwi based Kaupapa Māori services in Mahia, and with Ngāti Porou. In 2001 Ron became the CEO of North Care Trust Mental Health Services (Whangarei) until 2006. Ron then returned to clinical nursing practice with the Northland Mental Health Services in Whangarei.

Ron is a fellow of Te Ao Māramatanga and was a member of the Australian New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses at the establishment of the New Zealand Branch in 1992. Ron's current position is Kaumatua for the Auckland/ Waitemata DHB Mental health services based at Manawanui Mental Health services in Auckland.

Mere Hammond, Ngāti Kahungungu, - Mere's nursing career began in 1956 at Wairoa Hospital, she has been involved in mental health nursing since 1960, starting as staff nurse and ending in management positions at Porirua Hospital, in Wellington. She later moved from the hospital sector into the Health Department working on funding initiatives and then to the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the former Central Regional Health Authority (RHA). In 1996 she moved to the Hawkes Bay to manage their Māori Mental Health services. Mere is currently Kuia for the Central Region Rangatahi Acute Inpatient Services (Te Whare Marie) in Wellington, responsible for the cultural, tikanga, wairua input for the services.

Mere has served in Ministerial appointed committees, is a former member of the Māori expert committee of the Mental Health Commission, the Mental Health Foundation, the Māori Council, and was also Kuia for the New Zealand Nursing Council for five years. In 2007 Mere received the New Zealand Medal of Merit for Services to Māori Health.

Timoti George, Te Arawa - Timoti commenced his nursing career at Oakley Hospital in 1971 where he registered as a Psychiatric Nurse in 1974. During his career Timoti has held the positions of – Psychiatric Home Visitor, Psychiatric District Nurse, Mediator (Human Rights Commission), Manager National Secure Unit, Manager Regional Forensic Psychiatry Services & Addictions, Clinical Manager, Clinical Director, Kaiako (Te Ngāru Learning Systems), Unit and Service Manager.

Timoti is current service manager for Whitiki Maurea MOKO Māori District (Waitemata DHB) Mental Health and Te Atea Marino Māori Regional (covering Auckland, Waitemata & Counties Manukau DHBs) Addictions Services, a position he has held since 2001.

Robert Elliott, *Ngāti Maniapoto, Kahungunu, Hauraki* - 'Uncle Bob' began his Psychiatric Nurse training at Tokanui Hospital in 1965, and graduated in 1968. In 1972 he was appointed co-Charge Nurse for the acute psychiatric admissions ward which he held till 1979. In 1980 he completed his then General Nurse & Obstetric Nurse training at Waikato Hospital and became a Registered Comprehensive Nurse. He became a Psychiatric Nursing Supervisor up until 1983, and then a Senior Nursing Supervisor (Nursing Recruitment) until 1990. During this period Bob (with others) was instrumental in the establishment of Whai Ora Cultural Unit at Tokanui Hospital. From 1990 to 1993 Bob was appointed to the position of Bi-Cultural Advisor for Waikato Area Health Board. From there he had the position of Operational Manager at Tokanui Hospital (1993-1996). He was the Chairperson of Hauora Waikato (1996-2000); and held the position of Kai Wānanga with Te Rūnanga O Kirikiriroa from 2002 till 2007. He has been on a number of Māori, Ministerial and specialty advisory groups.

Bob has presented several psychiatric & esoteric presentations; 'Cultural Perspectives in Psychiatric Nursing, a Māori view point'- The Galleries, in Adelaide, South Australia in 1986; Sydney in 1988; Perth in 1990; Cairns in 2002, and also presented at the last Australian and New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses, international conference held in Rotorua in 2003, He is now retired.

Jamesina Kett, *Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Koata, Rongomai Wahine, Ngāti Rangitane* -

Jamesina is the youngest of 13 children born to James Elkington and Huitau Mere Meha from D'ville Island in the Marlborough Sounds. Jamesina's nursing career started at Porirua Hospital in the late 1950s, where her nursing focus has centered upon children and youth. Jamesina has nursed at Kimberly Hospital and for many years at Tokanui Hospital in the Waikato region, as well as Kingseat Hospital. In the early 1980s Jamesina moved from a hospital setting to The Waikato Community Living Trust, where she worked as a case manager and set up Māori services. From there she went on to work at Waikato Polytechnic in Hamilton as a Whaea where she also taught. While at the Polytechnic Jamesina was instrumental in supporting the development of the Tihei Mauri Ora stream for Māori nurses in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Jamesina is a life member of Te Kaunihera O Ngā Neehi Māori, and a founding member of Wharangi Ruamano Māori Nurses National Educators Group. Jamesina is now retired and lives in Turangi, she is very active with her whanau and iwi in Te Tau Ihu and Wellington. She remains very passionate and active in Māori nursing education where she is now the Kuia for Whitireia Bachelor of Nursing (Māori) programme in Wellington.



*Taranga
Te Kumete o
Te Ao Maramatanga*



