

MEDIA RELEASE

Significant Fellowships for New Zealand History Announced

The Judith Binney Trust is proud to announce the Judith Binney Fellowships and Writing Awards – with a celebration in Wellington on 14 August. On that date, applications open for the inaugural 2019 Fellowship and Award (see www.judithbinneytrust.org.nz, live on 14 August).

Dame Judith Binney / Te Tōmairangi o Te Aroha (1940–2011) was one of New Zealand’s most distinguished historians. In remarkable publications over four decades, she opened new pathways into this country’s complex and challenging past, one that placed different voices at the heart of the historical narrative, and wove together competing versions and conflicting truths.



The Judith Binney Fellowships and Awards support research and writing that will enrich our understanding of this South Pacific history – in the same spirit of scholarly rigour, courage, imagination and respect that Judith Binney’s writing demonstrated over so many years.

These significant new fellowships have been established from funds provided by the estates of the late Judith Binney, her husband Sebastian Black, and the parents of Judith Binney, Professor Sydney and Marjorie Musgrove.

The words of Judith Binney have informed the Trust’s vision for these Fellowships:

- *Storytelling is an art deep within human nature. ... Stories are the essential way by which we expand our empathy and our imaginations; stories are the means by which we communicate across time and across cultures.*
- *Received histories are the authoritative histories of a particular society. They are based in the constructions of the dominant society and its polity; in New Zealand they have emerged out of a relatively recent colonialist past and a scale of values that were once thought to be inclusive but which were in actuality blind to others’ experience.*
- *Biographies are essentially personal histories... [yet] they may tell us more than the story of one life: they may reveal the struggle for the survival of an entire community.*

- *If we who live in the present in Aotearoa can discuss our shared history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, then we may gain from the past. If we cannot do this, then we will have learnt nothing from the past and we will have exchanged nothing with each other.*

In founding the Judith Binney Trust, Sebastian Black was aware of the significance of financial support for research and writing, and of the great value to scholars of time freed up for intellectual investigation and reflection. The Judith Binney Fellowships and Writing Awards offers these opportunities for established scholars and for emerging writers.

These independently funded fellowships stand alongside other significant fellowships such as the J D Stout Fellowships, and the James Cook Research Fellowships. But such opportunities are scarce in New Zealand, and the Judith Binney Trust acknowledges the foresight and generosity of Sebastian Black in enabling this important initiative.

Further Information

For more information about the Judith Binney Fellowships or the Judith Binney Trust, please contact: John Barr, ingram.barr@outlook.com, 027 246 4459.

Full information about the Judith Binney Fellowships and Writing Awards is available from 14 August on www.judithbinneytrust.org.nz.

The celebration will be held at 5.45 for a 6.00pm start, Tuesday 14 August at Te Ahumairangi, National Library of New Zealand, Molesworth Street, Wellington.

The Judith Binney Fellowships and Writing Awards are managed by the Judith Binney Trust, in association with the National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa).

About Judith Binney

Dame Judith Binney / Te Tōmairangi o Te Aroha was one of New Zealand's most distinguished historians.

Her early work ranged from the MA thesis on Thomas Kendall that became an award-winning book, *The Legacy of Guilt* (1968), to the richly illustrated history *Mihaia: The Prophet Rua Kenana and His Community at Maungapohatu* (1979, co-authored with Gillian Chaplin and Craig Wallace), and the following oral history *Ngā Mōrehu: The Survivors – The Life Histories of Eight Māori Women* (1987, co-authored with Gillian Chaplin). In these two collaborative works, Judith Binney brought scholarly principles to new research in oral history and took this community-based Māori history out to a mainstream readership through powerful visual narratives.

The two magisterial books – *Redemption Songs: A Life of Te Kooti Arikirangi Te Turuki* (1995) and *Encircled Lands: Te Urewera, 1820–1921* (2009) – grew from this early connection with the people and land of Te Urewera. These award-winning books continued her commitment to rigorous scholarly research and drew also on oral history and the visual record. Above all, they make manifest Judith Binney's respect for and commitment to the people of these histories, the people of the land. This was recognised

by Tūhoe elders who gave the name Te Tōmairangi o Te Aroha to Judith Binney at the launch of *Encircled Lands* at Waikirikiri Marae in Te Urewera in December 2009.

By that time, Judith Binney had begun the collaboration with Atholl Anderson and Aroha Harris that led to the publication of a new Māori history, the award-winning *Tangata Whenua: An Illustrated History*, in 2014. This tremendous undertaking took forward her commitment to Maori history in multiple ways – expanding the visual narrative, drawing together different disciplines, and working with indigenous perspectives that connected place and community to the longer arc of a 5000-year history.

As Tūhoe scholar Rawinia Higgins has written:

Ka mau, ka mau ō kōrero
He mutunga kore.
Your stories will be enduring
Your stories will be without end.

Rawinia Higgins, 'He Poroporoaki: A Farewell to Dame Professor Emeritus Judith Binney', *Te Pouhere Kōrero*, 5 (2011)

