

Media Release

Immediate

Judith Binney Fellowships and Writing Awards Announced

4 December 2019

The Judith Binney Trust is pleased to announce the 2020 Judith Binney Fellowship and Writing Awards:

The **Judith Binney Fellow** for 2020 is **Dr Michael Stevens** (Kāi Tahu). Dr Stevens is an independent historian, previously a Senior Lecturer in Māori History at the University of Otago.

The 2020 Judith Binney Fellowship will support the completion of Dr Stevens' book *A World History of Bluff* – a study of his hometown which is both a heartland Kāi Tahu village and a commercial seaport.

“This award is hugely humbling and I am incredibly grateful,” Dr Stevens said.

“Bluff has the highest proportion of Māori residents in the South Island and perhaps one of the highest in New Zealand. My publication hopes to answer the reason why this is so and explores the nature of being Māori in this part of New Zealand.”

Three **Judith Binney Writing Awards** have also been made. The recipients are:

Architectural historian, **Ellen Andersen** (Tainui); writer, **Dr Rachel Buchanan** (*Taranaki, Te Ātiawa*); and Kaupapa Māori Researcher, **Dr Ngahuia Murphy** (Ngāti Manawa, Ngāti Ruapani ki Waikaremoana, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngai Tūhoe).

Ellen Andersen is writing a book on 100 years of Matangireia, the First Māori Affairs Committee Room at Parliament; Dr Rachel Buchanan will further her research on the action-packed history of Te Motunui Epa, Māori carved panels from Taranaki which ended up half a world away before returning home; and Ngahuia Murphy is exploring the ritual histories of Māori women and their status in traditional society.

Chair of the Selection Panel, Dr Miranda Johnson, commented on the high standard of the proposals received: “The Selection Panel had some difficult choices to make, from a wide range of ground-breaking proposals representing excellent new research in New Zealand history.”

The Chair of Judith Binney Trust, Adam Ross QC, says: “It is good to see such interesting projects in the range of applications in this, the second year of the Judith Binney Fellowships and Writing Awards. We are very pleased that the Trust is able to support scholarly historical research and writing in this country.”

The Judith Binney Trust was established by the late Sebastian Black to honour the legacy of historian Dame Judith Binney / Te Tōmairangi o Te Aroha. The Trust was supported by Dame Judith's mother, Marjorie Musgrove.

Editorial notes

Biographical information on applicants accompanies this release.

The 2020 Judith Binney Fellow Dr Michael Stevens and Writing Award recipients, Ellen Andersen, Dr Rachel Buchanan and Dr Ngahuaia Murphy are available for interview.

For more information about the Judith Binney Fellowships or the Judith Binney Trust, please contact:

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Further Information

The Judith Binney Fellowships and Writing Awards were established by the Judith Binney Trust in 2018 to support research and writing on New Zealand history. The Fellowships honour the contribution made by the late Dame Judith Binney/Te Tōmairangi o Te Aroha to our understanding of New Zealand's rich history.

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

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.
