



June 1995

Tēnā koe

MAPPING OUR ORIGINS

In celebration of He Taonga te Reo, Māori Language Year, I am very pleased to be able to bring to your attention a set of two entirely unique maps of the North and South Islands of New Zealand. These maps show original Māori place names, and important pa and vegetation.

The maps "Te Ika a Māui (the North Island) and "Te Wai Pounamu" (the South Island, Stewart Island and the Chatham Islands) are the first maps to show macrons over vowels (indicating a long or stressed vowel) and word division so the meaning of the name can be identified.

The information provided in these maps represents an authoritative source of material for researchers, students, and teachers, as well as Kaupapa Māori and Kōhanga Reo. The maps are based on a draft prepared for a Centennial Atlas, which was due to be published in 1941 to commemorate the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. Due to a shortage of funds, this atlas was never completed.

The New Zealand Geographic Board is required to collect original Māori place names for recording on maps. The place names were gathered by verifying what records were available through research and meeting with the Kaumātua of the Māori tribes. Gathering the information was a race against time as the elders who have the knowledge are passing away.

These uniquely presented maps combine a wealth of information from our past that has never before been presented. The wall maps are 868 x 720mm, printed in full colour and illustrated by the noted Māori artist Cliff Whiting. To obtain your copy of this unique piece of our heritage, complete the order on the accompanying flier.

Kia ora

W A Robertson
Chairman, New Zealand Geographic Board
Director-General/Surveyor-General
Department of Survey and Land Information