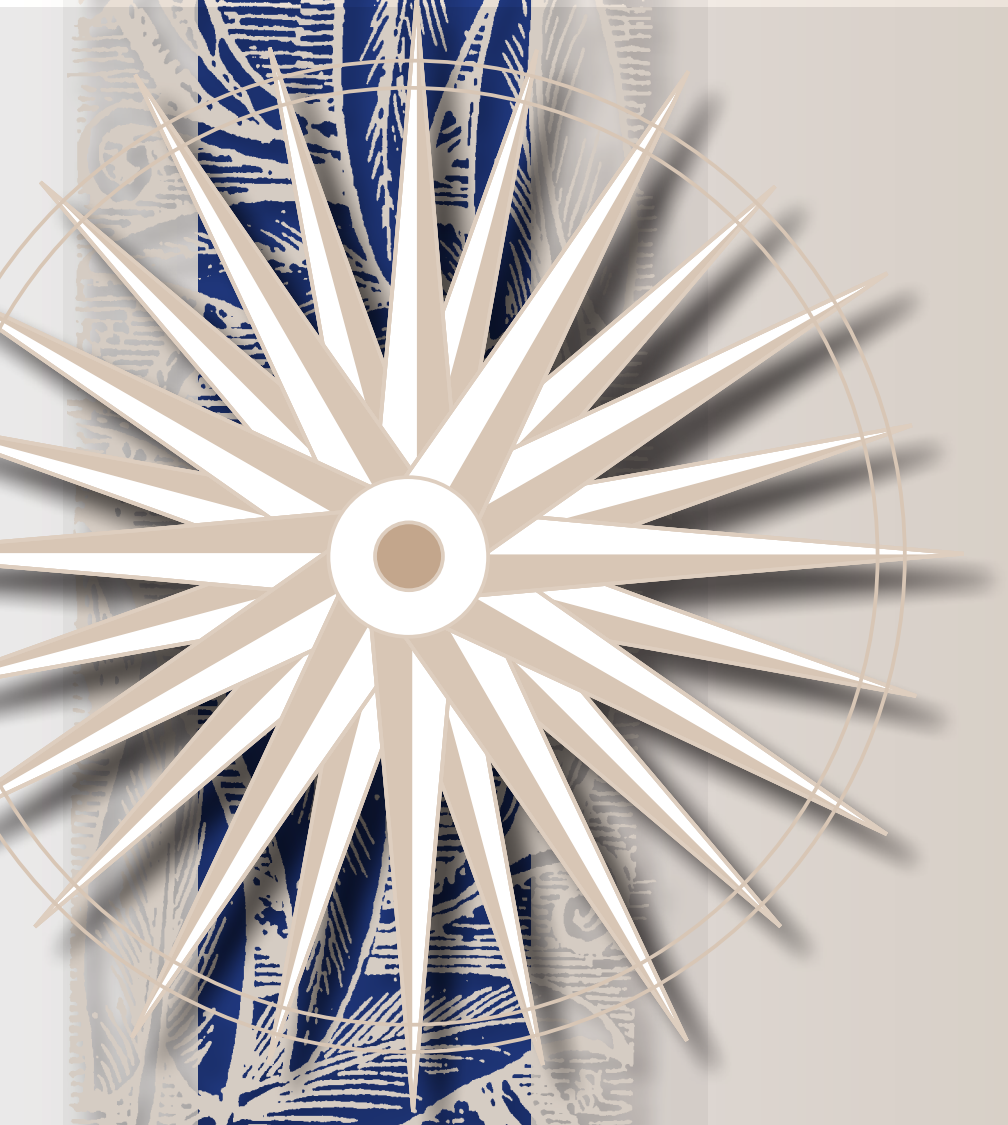


Kura Marie Teira Taylor

Award Citation



Kura Marie Teira Taylor was born in Taranaki in 1932. Educated at New Plymouth Girls' High School, she commuted to school each day from Waitara. An enthusiastic student, Kura immersed herself in the school curriculum and culture, laying the foundations for her lifelong love of learning and future leadership in the wider community.

In 1949, her final year at High School, Kura was asked to fill in as a teacher in commercial subjects for the rest of the year. This experience gave her the determination to do further study and become a teacher.

After completing her training as a teacher, she went on to achieve a Bachelor of Education. From there she pursued a lifetime career of teaching, which saw Kura progress through the New Zealand Educational Institute and represent New Zealand at international conferences.

In 1983 she was made a Fellow of the NZEI, the first Māori woman to achieve this recognition.

Kura spent a varied career in teacher education - lecturing, administration of a teaching programme and mentoring of Bachelor's and Master's degree students. A lifetime of education reached its pinnacle with Kura graduating with a Ph.D, at the age of 86 in 2018.

In 1971 Kura joined the Māori Women's Welfare League and spent many active years in the organisation at local, regional and national levels.

In 1969 Coastlands Shoppingtown opened in Paraparaumu. A pioneering venture, it was established by the Spackman, Mansell and Love families and was the first large shopping mall in New Zealand and the first to offer Saturday shopping.

During the 1970's the land bounded by State Highway 1, Paraparaumu Airport and Kāpiti Road and Ihakara Street became central to the expansion plans of Kāpiti and Coastlands. At this time, it was almost entirely whanau owned ancestral land. These whanau formed the Ngahina Trust, of which Kura Taylor was part of - one of the Trustees appointed by the Māori Land Court.

In 1984 the Court appointed Kura Principal Trustee. That same year a joint development was approved between Ngahina Trust and Alpha Securities Limited.

These organisations formed Ngahina Developments Limited with each owning 50% interest in the new company. The Trust land was made available for the development of the Coastlands expansion, and a fruitful partnership has grown with the development. In 1995 Kura became Chairperson of the Ngahina Trust.

The Ngahina Arcade extension to the south was opened in 1991, and in 2018 westward expansion resulted in Takiri House. A second Takiri House is currently under construction.

Speaking in early 2013, Kura noted that the Ngahina Trust and Coastlands partners had a business relationship built on dignity, respect, loyalty, and trust on the part of all, and that all Board decisions were unanimous. This reflected on all members as "an exceptional bicultural professional practice with high ethical standards".

Under Kura's leadership the Ngahina Trust has contributed significantly to the development of other community facilities, including: The Te Atiawa Park netball courts, Coastlands Aquatic Centre and Te Raukura ki Kāpiti (the Performing Arts Centre), all of which are examples of the ongoing legacy of the Trust.

In considering the benefits to Kāpiti and its growth and economic potential, with the development of Coastlands, Paraparaumu Town Centre, the Te Atiawa Park, Aquatic Centre and Te Raukura community facilities, and the underlying, vital, influence of the Ngahina Trust, we must acknowledge the contribution made by Kura Marie Teira Taylor to our community - as a pioneer, a guiding light of bicultural business development and a stalwart of the Kāpiti business community over more than five decades.