



**AN INTRODUCTION TO...  
HUATA HOLMES, NZPSS  
KAUMATUA**

As some of you may be aware Huata Holmes is the NZPSS Kaumatua. Huata was appointed to this position in October 2006, however, Members in attendance at the 2006 annual conference in Auckland may

have had the opportunity to personally meet Huata who was present throughout the conference. Huata was our kaikorero at the opening powhiri. He had also previously assisted with our opening and closing ceremonies at the Dunedin Conference in 2005.

Huata's role within the Society is to provide the Executive with expert council specifically with respect to Maori issues that may affect the Society's business. The Bicultural Directors and the National Standing Committee on Bicultural Issues (NSCBI) liaise with Huata in an effort to ensure the Society conducts itself in manner consistent with its Code of Ethics and Rules applicable to Maori.

**A Background to Huata Holmes' Maori Liaison**

Huata's indigenous heritage is associated with an amalgam of origins stated simply as Kaitahu Fanui; from Murihiku (Southland), Mouterenui (Stewart Island), Tini Moutere ki Akau Tai Toga (myriad of Islands off our Southern Coasts), Ruāmogo (Fiordland) and Tai o Potene (Westland). A descendant of two full blooded Rabuva'i women Tamuk' and Bi who married sealers & whalers James Wybrow and Sam Perkins. He is one of very few native speakers of southern dialect and at an early age became a prodigee of the Late renowned orator and radio commentator Te Ari Pitama and fanau from Tuahiwi mid Canterbury. It was from these early liaisons that an intimate knowledge of Kaitahu fanui whakapapa, history and folklore was gleaned from elders of the tribe in the absence of young men who were away overseas during World war two. In the fifties & sixties Huata was principal and teacher of schools with predominantly Maori students in Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Urewera areas.

In 1986 Huata and Alva Kapa in association with Moko Mead were instrumental in organising major tasks in setting up a number of initiatives ensuring the success of

the Southern Maori presentation in Dunedin Museum of 'Te Maori' exhibition. Special wanaga were instigated to ensure that protocols, language and tikanga would not be compromised which meant intimate liaison between visiting tribal groups to establish tata, tatau a raraga korero (An affinity and how our people were related to each other through blood ties and history).

In the early nineties Huata served two years as research affiliate with Professor Ted Glynn & Russell Bishop and produced research entitled 'Taha Maori in Schools', and along with Auntie Mori Pickering contributed to the introduction of a Maori video which equates to the English version of Pause, Prompt and Praise).

Today Huata plays an active role on many Maori committees relating to environment, health and education and advises on matters pertaining to southern protocols and language. His generous voluntary contribution towards wanaga (engendering knowledge) midst his own people and nationally are widely recognised.. He is currently one of several kaumatua sitting on Maori Television's Kaunihera Maori and is closely associated with Otago Polytechnic as kaumatua...

For many years, Huata, although semi-retired, has been employed as Part time Advisor Maori Education for Education Support Services' at the University of Otago College of Education. His work has embraced Early Childhood, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Education and his scope has covered Maori total immersion maths (Poutama Tau), management, environmental education, literacy, history, kaumatua duties, pastoral care, educational and historical research.

Huata's passion is the outdoors, those lonely places and the conservation of our native species. Most recently he has been engaged with University of Otago students' Natural History film production, 'Beyond the Kelp' and still to go to air, a video entitled, 'The Golden Kea'.

As long as he is domiciled in Dunedin Huata enjoys his allegiance to three local runaga namely, Puketiraki, Otakou and Moeraki. His turagawaewae is Waikava nearest the most southerly tip of the South Island, Mata Tōgaio (Slope Point) which from a distance overlooks the place of his birth beyond Taurapa (Summit of Bluff Hill) and points further south.