Dedication

I offer this work to the staff and students of James Cook High School and to the people of the Manurewa community. It is my koha, the best that I can give, my learning from time spent with you all. This Whakatauki suggests a humble offering of a small gift. Pounamu stands here as a metaphor for a treasure from the heart.

**Ahakoa he iti he pounamu**

*Although it is small, it is greenstone*

I dedicate this thesis as a labour of love for my dearest departed boy Kurt, who always sits at my shoulder.

.....and to my Dad... See, I finally did it.

Deborah May 2013
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The work that the Marae committee have done and continues to do, to promote caring and well-being for the elders in the community; to nurture Māoritanga and care for the environment is inspirational. Every person I have met there, be it in the Whare Oranga, on the Dance floor, in the Tare, or the welcoming Marae Café, has enriched me and my study.

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