

## 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.

**Ahakoā 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

## Acknowledgements

I would like to begin by acknowledging the people of the Manurewa Marae community. They made me welcome, as they do any person who goes there. I shared in Tai Chi and Line Dancing classes (but never managed the steps despite patient and good humoured coaching) and had many enlightening conversations with the people I met there. I will never forget this experience which has been among the most meaningful of my career.

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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