



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

GEOFF IRWIN

**CITATION FOR THE ROGER C. GREEN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD**

2018 NZAA/AAA CONFERENCE, AUCKLAND

Professor Geoff Irwin received his PhD from the Australian National University (ANU) in 1977, having completed his MA in Anthropology and BA in history at the University of Auckland. He was appointed as lecturer in the Anthropology Department at Auckland in 1975, he held a position as Senior Research Fellow at the ANU from 1985-1986, and he was appointed as Professor of Archaeology at the University of Auckland in 1991. He was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 1999, and a Fellow of the New Zealand Academy of the Humanities in 2009.

Geoff specialises in New Zealand and Pacific archaeology and he has carried out fieldwork in New Zealand, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Indonesia, and Fiji. He is interested in the first maritime exploration and settlement of the Pacific as well as settlement pattern archaeology in New Zealand and the Pacific. He has followed the routes of ancient seafarers on his own yacht across the Pacific and has studied the archaeological remains of canoes and used computer simulation to investigate traditional voyaging. His theories on the voyaging strategies employed by Polynesians over the millennia to move out across the Pacific have influenced voyaging theorists and archaeologists both in New Zealand and abroad.

He is also renowned in New Zealand for his work on wetland archaeology, investigating the 17th century Māori lake village of Kohika in the Bay of Plenty, with its unique Māori assemblage of wooden and fibre artefacts. He has an on-going project on patterns of Māori settlement and society in the islands of the Hauraki Gulf and he has previously studied Māori settlement in the south Kaipara region.

Among his many publications, his book on Kohika (published by Auckland University Press) and *The Prehistoric Exploration and Colonisation of the Pacific* (published by Cambridge University Press) stand out. Geoff also published Monograph 15 of the New Zealand Archaeological Association, *Land, Pā and Polity*, based on his Kaipara settlement pattern work and co-edited *Oceanic Culture History*.

For many years, Geoff taught New Zealand archaeology at the University of Auckland, inspiring generations of archaeology students who went on to work all over the country and throughout the world. He ran several archaeological field schools including at Kohika in the Bay of Plenty, and on Motutapu and Ponui in the Hauraki Gulf. As Head of the Anthropology Department at the University of Auckland, he was responsible for hiring many of the current generation of academic archaeologists. Geoff promoted a new approach to settlement pattern studies which influenced our understanding of the New Zealand and Pacific pre-European contact period. In recent years, he has continued to work on the Kohika material, as well as publishing studies on voyaging and waka remains in New Zealand, and on his interest in the origin of trading systems in the Western Pacific.

Geoff has provided a lifetime of inspiration to his colleagues and to archaeology in New Zealand. His work on voyaging changed the way people thought about Pacific navigation, including the first settlement of New Zealand, and his fieldwork in New Zealand prompted archaeologists to think beyond the site and consider the landscape.