


Raewyn Good



5th May 1952 - 2nd December 2008

The page features a light purple background with a decorative floral border in a slightly darker shade of purple. The border consists of elegant, swirling vine-like patterns with leaves and small flowers, framing the central text area. At the top and bottom center, there are symmetrical, ornate flourishes that resemble stylized leaves or scrolls.

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In Memory of
Raewyn Good

Remembering Raewyn

This collection of tributes has been prepared by the Association of Social Science Researchers (ASSR) to honour a supportive friend, mentor, researcher, and leader. Raewyn Good wore all these hats and more. The breadth of her work makes it difficult to readily summarise or wholly explain the place she held in our lives, or the contribution she made to New Zealanders' well-being, and this is borne out by the wide range of people who have contributed to this collection. The first tribute below is from the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO. It is followed by thirty-four personal tributes from Raewyn's colleagues, associates, students and friends.

Raewyn had been such an important part of the ASSR for so long that working out when she became our convenor was a challenge. Our collective memories and documentation point her to becoming our convenor in 1996. However, her ASSR involvement goes back much further. She first joined ASSR in the early 1980s, and was proud of having been a "ss" member (the membership fee for many years). Yet this was far from being the only pie in which she had a finger – there were so many facets to her life.

In their tributes, people remember Raewyn as the committed champion of social justice, for whom quality research, applied through forward thinking policy, allowed social and cultural inclusiveness. We remember Raewyn the iconoclast, who described herself as aspiring to be "the Court Tester: prepared to query poor decisions, and counter them with good advice founded in knowledge, wisdom, and careful critique", and who challenged bureaucracies and gave voice to the disadvantaged and marginalised.

While Raewyn would have been humbled by the high regard in which she was held in so many communities, it is also likely that she would have nodded quietly with a "Mona Lisa glint of a smile", and continued to use that mana to make a positive difference. Genuinely humble and selfless in her extraordinarily active professional and personal life, her communication with others was direct, incisive, patient, warm and respectful of other perspectives, ethnicities, lifestyles, and whakapapa.

We relied on Raewyn for her networks, her knowledge and her inspiration. In her absence, and to honour her efforts, we must now attempt to fill her shoes, inspired by her example to lift our game as researchers, policy makers, mentors, friends and neighbours, and to think, influence and act strategically to create healthier inclusive Aotearoa New Zealand communities.

ASSR Committee, 2008 and 2009

Raewyn Good

*Anthropologist. Social Researcher. Policy Analyst. Community Activist. Networker Extraordinaire
A tribute from the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO*

Members of the social science community have been stunned by the loss of such a vibrant advocate of social research and of its contribution to the development and evaluation of policy. Raewyn was a vital node in the network of connections between policy advisors, social researchers and community organisations. Her work at the interface of policy and research was closely aligned with a major plank of UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Programme – the policy-research nexus.

Among Raewyn Good's many connections to UNESCO in recent years was her joint presentation with Tania Rangiheua of a workshop on behalf of the National Commission for UNESCO at the International Forum on the Social Science-Policy Nexus Forum (IFSP), Buenos Aires, Argentina, in February 2006, organised as part of the Management of Social Transformation (MoST) Programme. The presentation explored how social research-policy connections are being forged in Aotearoa New Zealand, and the place of community organisation, especially hāpu and iwi, in that process. Those attending the presentation were encouraged to offer information about related initiatives in their national contexts. Crucial to the success of this contribution to the Forum was the Treaty informed partnership between Raewyn and Tania. Raewyn and Tania reported on this meeting to the Social and Human Sciences Sub-Commission and provided a lively account of some of the strengths and weaknesses of this event.

In addition to her contribution to this UNESCO meeting, Raewyn was a major source of advice to the Social and Human Sciences Sub-Commission, particularly with respect to the preparation of interventions in Major Programme III at biennial General Conferences in Paris. Her encyclopaedic knowledge of developments in social science across different disciplines, across academic and private research organisation, community networks and policy ministries, was consistently available. As a member of the Social Sciences Advisory Committee of the Royal Society of New Zealand, she was a major planner of events in which UNESCO was a partner, such as the Embracing Plurality workshop, which focused on how social researchers in New Zealand could respond to increasing cultural diversity and differences in life circumstances. It also highlighted some of the innovative action research being done by community-based researchers. While a realist with respect to how government worked, Raewyn was also constantly enthusiastic about the possibilities of innovation and new forms of collaboration that cut across divisions between the public service and community groups.

The development of guidelines for research with Māori and Pasifika, both as individual participants and as communities, was a major passion of Raewyn's, and she presented on the development of such guidelines for research at the Ethics of Knowledge Production Conference organized by the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO at Otago University in February 2006, where she was also a very well informed contributor to general discussion. It was consistent with Raewyn's approach to issues of research ethics that her involvement in the processes of developing the SPEER guidelines involved significant community consultation and networking. She was also a major force behind the development of the SPEER website as a key tool for linking different sets of actors involved in social research, policy and evaluation.

She mentored and enabled many researchers to gain and grow their research skills, and worked unceasingly to assist younger scholars to develop their ideas and find funding to help them achieve. She encouraged excellence and provided ongoing support and interest in their work, as many of the recipients of SPÉER awards will attest.

Kaewyn combined detailed experience of the Wellington policy environment with a sharp critical intelligence, independent thinking, huge energy and a delight in an increasingly diverse Aotearoa. Her focus was on those whose lives were often most difficult (women experiencing domestic abuse, beneficiaries, children and poverty, new immigrants, Māori and Pasifika), but she also had a deep appreciation of their strength and their insights into how New Zealand might be different. She had mana in many different social worlds because she had a great capacity to learn from others, as well as a passion for the use of social research in decision-making about policy. Her commitment to her paid and unpaid work was intense, but it was also the fire that kept her going.

Kaewyn will be severely missed, not only because she was a knowledgeable, lively, energetic professional researcher, policy advisor, planner and administrator, but because she had tremendous warmth, an aroha that touched those who knew her personally. She responded to everyone with openness and directness and had a very special capacity to challenge others to do more than they thought they could do. She was astute, a mine of information based on her own experience in community activism and the public service, but also someone who loved a joke, who would provide a brilliant aside as she turned her head, puffed on her cigarette and looked at you out of the corner of her eye. She was a unique, fun-loving person who was also intensely serious about what mattered most – the people of Aotearoa New Zealand.

**Prepared by Rosemary Du Plessis and David
Thorns on behalf of the New Zealand National
Commission for UNESCO**

Personal Tributes to Raewyn

Being much the same age as Raewyn and with a social science background, I had a long if intermittent acquaintanceship with her across several domains which, Raewyn being Raewyn, always felt like a friendship. I remember her first when we crossed paths because of my work at the then Department of Social Welfare (DSW), while she was working at the Institute of Transport full-time, and working in her own time for the Women's Refuges. My dad was a Fellow of the Institute, setting and marking their examination papers, and when I asked him if he knew Raewyn, his glowing reply included the remark "That young woman has a brilliant mind". I also knew Raewyn in the social domain, as we shared friends. At the party where I met my husband Bob, I probably spent more time talking to Raewyn than to him about some pressing social issue. I do recall being pretty impressed by her motor-bike riding status.

I was next impressed, along with many others, by the absolutely compelling business case Raewyn masterminded on the need for Women's Refuges to have statutory funding, rather than relying on grants from year-to-year — so compelling that it achieved its purpose. Raewyn then performed what was to me an amazing feat, swapping her voluntary and paid work roles with each other by moving to a full-time paid position in the Women's Refuge area at DSW, while maintaining some advisory support to the Institute of Transport.

I was upset when, some time later I heard of a tough time Raewyn was having there (due, from my viewpoint, to a difference in interpretation of the bureaucratic boundaries around sharing); but the end result was to allow that incredible and caring mind to become focused on the craft of social science, to that science's huge benefit. Whether I was at a Human Rights Commission seminar on research and Pacific People, or a conference looking at the relationship between policy and research or ways of measuring state sector service performance, Raewyn was there, usually having made a major contribution to the basic frameworks under discussion. I can't describe how delighted I was with her Social Policy Evaluation and Research (SPEAR) metaphors, especially the garden one. Having Raewyn there with her skills and generosity always made me feel that there was a bulwark of support — I knew that if there was a knotty research or ethical problem, I could check it out with her, and that her advice would be absolutely sound. In the last couple of years I was particularly grateful to Raewyn for her welcome and generous assistance with peer reviews and participation in selection panels. It had become clear to me that I needed to identify a formal mentor in the research area, and in her usual generous fashion, Raewyn took on this role, with meetings conducted over coffee. How much I enjoyed those meetings, when I would just say "Raewyn's usual" at the Ministry of Food, when the conversation would range widely, and when, despite the occasional grey Wellington day, it always seemed to be sunshine.

What fun they were — my current issues, but also such things as our shared predilection for resource intensive workspaces maintained in the face of opposition — meetings that I anticipated continuing well into the future. And then a young colleague at my work broke the news to me that there would be no more meetings or phone calls with Raewyn, and in our shared shock we both burst into tears and clung to each other. It occurs to me that in various places all over Wellington and New Zealand, there must have been many similar scenes, with people reaching out to each other in realisation of the immense gap left by Raewyn no longer being there, no longer readily accessible to provide superbly excellent technical and visionary research advice, to work towards shared aims and to cheer us, comfort us with practical words and share a laugh.

I now know that I knew of such a small part of Raewyn's activities, and I feel even more privileged than previously at having had our lives touch. I thank her for being such an unparalleled mentor to me and for other gifts, such as making me feel that I was a friend, that flowed from her personality.

Margaret Geddes Chartres

I could never possibly express my gratitude to Kaewyn for her influence on my professional and personal life. We got to know each other back in 2003/04, when she shared her thoughts with me about social sciences research in a cross-cultural context. Kaewyn had a passion and indeed a determination in developing a set of researchers' guidelines to promote research culture that is responsive to communities from diverse language and ethnic backgrounds in New Zealand and beyond. Her perseverance or even stubbornness in ensuring research work is being used by policy planners and funders is admirable. On a personal note: Kaewyn, I am going to miss all those catching ups in the Ministry of Food at the ground floor, Bowen State Building. The memories are not only about the lemon, ginger and honey drink (that you introduced to me, of course), but the affirmation of what we can achieve by working together and navigating through the system and the bureaucracies.

Samson Tse

My path has crossed with Kaewyn's over many years and over many different activities. Kaewyn's advocacy skills and her passion for developing responsive services and policy will be fondly remembered. She made a huge contribution in many different ways. Her incisive mind, her knowledge and her sensitivity over the issues in the sector will be her legacy. I will miss her wise words and humour at meetings. Meetings were never boring when Kaewyn was there.

Go well my colleague — you will be sadly missed; your influence will last for a very long time.

Robyn Munford

Kaewyn, with her own unique combination of orthodox and unorthodox ways, channelled and interpreted a variety of voices into the bureaucracy so that a richer mix of perspectives became heard. She enthused in building the broader social research community and her joy came from making new connections, sharing knowledge and linking up people. She was endlessly passionate and extra-ordinarily networked — the boundary between her work and life was never sharply drawn. The mission of respectfully navigating and communicating the landscape and nuances of the social realm was always paramount. She did this all with a touch of care, kindness and humour — a combination that will be missed.

While we have lost an irreplaceable queen bee, Kaewyn's contribution changed thinking and opened doors that we can all help to maintain and develop.

Paul Honeybone

Kaewyn was a good friend and colleague, an amazing person, a rare taonga in the public sector, a master weaver of people, very kind, generous with her time, knowledge, and networks, and was always willing to help anyone who asked for her help. No matter how busy she was, she would always be there for anyone who needed her. Kaewyn knew everyone and contributed to so many important kaupapa.

Kaewyn always supported me to be brave in the policy work that I did, she was empowering, and really helped me through some very challenging times at work. Kaewyn was a key player in developing Te Kito, the Family Violence Prevention Strategy. Her work with others laid the foundation for the strategy, and most of her networks built its walls. I will always have fond memories of the time we had basically only half a day to pull together two budget bids. We got together outside and within half an hour had the two bids sorted. Kaewyn downloaded the information from her brain, puffing away there, while I scribbled furiously trying to make sure to capture everything. We often laughed about this, as we were successful in getting both putex, one of which led to the establishment of the Family Violence Clearinghouse. The other was a collaborative fund for family violence initiatives. She had a wealth of knowledge and experience in the family violence area and was only too happy to share this.

Kaewyn also encouraged my partner Te Kani and I to take part in the Commonwealth emerging leader's programme, which was an awesome experience for both of us. I am also aware that she encouraged many others to do so as well, and without her none of us would have probably even known this type of opportunity existed.

Kaewyn was a true friend. She touched the hearts of many, would help anyone and everyone, always saw the bright side of everything, was truly innovative in her approach to work, and walked the talk with integrity. I cannot speak highly enough about her and am so very humbled and privileged to have known and worked with her.

I miss Kaewyn so very much. I particularly miss her calmness and lightness, her aroha and positive outlook on life, her wise advice and encouragement, but most of all her friendship and hugs. She touched so many people, including my baby sister Justine, who was asked by Kaewyn to develop the logo for the ASSK newsletter.

Kaewyn's passing has left a big hole in this world as well as many heavy hearts. The world seems to be less now that Kaewyn is no longer here.

Nā

Kristen Maynard

I met Kaewyn at an ASSK meeting and, by some mysterious magic, found myself on the committee and agreeing to be treasurer. Over the next ten years I would see many other examples of Kaewyn manoeuvring people into positions that, initially, pushed them beyond comfort, but grew their self confidence and capability. She had an amazing ability to assess where people were at, find them a role, and then to encourage and nurture them with her time.

For any issue or information need, work related or otherwise, Kaewyn knew who you should talk to or link with, and she was a superb mentor. I doubt that her skill and value as a connector/networker/broker, across so many areas and at every level, can be replaced.

As ASSK Convener, Kaewyn put in huge effort, often working well past midnight to get the News produced, and then photocopying it and dropping it out to the dispatch people the next evening on her way home from work. In the years when dispatch was my children's task, she always had a reason why driving north to drop off the papers (when she lived south) was no trouble – in fact, she would say, it would mean she could squeeze in other tasks on the way. She usually arrived around 7-8pm looking exhausted, but firmly saying she didn't have time to come in for a break, as she had to rush off to evening meetings or other commitments. She would then stay in her car, the window down, light a cigarette and talk for 10-15 mins!

I remember dropping something in to Kaewyn at home on a sunny Saturday and finding her preparing to attend a 60th birthday party later that day. With card making software, family photographs taken at different times in the person's life, various unique mementoes, weaving, flowers and her own words, she had just finished a beautiful Pacific-themed birthday card. It had taken her hours of work and I could see that she had loved every minute, from thinking of the possibilities to adding the finishing touches. Showing me through the card, she explained the significance of every component. How superficial and inadequate it now seems when I choose a card from the rack at Whitcoulls. Kaewyn had genuine warmth, a wonderful sense of humour and was one of the most selfless and generous people I have known.

Diana Dallas

Kaewyn had touched so many lives and I am one of those who had the privilege to have known and to have worked with her. Her selfless contribution and dedication to social science had been so remarkable and inspiring. I have witnessed how she tirelessly provided advice and encouragement to many researchers. In particular emerging ones I will remember Kaewyn by her hard work and dedication towards work, her kindness and humility, her thoughtfulness and by her warm persona. I miss her and I'm sure many do...

Sheila Macam

I first met Kaewyn in 1999. She became my thesis supervisor and I joined the many others who have benefited from her encouragement, support and mentoring and being pointed in "good" directions.

I recognised the anthropologist in her when I visited her home, and as we sat on the lawn she gave me a lesson in observation by providing a running commentary on what her cat was doing and how it was communicating. I went home wiser and with armfuls of cuttings from her garden. Many times I stood or sat outside in the Wellington wind while Kaewyn networked, discussed and planned stratagems. I soon learnt to listen to her very carefully, for although I didn't always understand her at the time, I knew that in the future what she said would be "decoded" for me and I would need and be grateful for that information.

There were many sides to Kaewyn, and although you knew some aspects, you also guessed that what you saw was only a small part of the woman she was. She not only found the time to talk and advise, but always seemed to know and remember to link people to others who would help them. Generous with her time, her networks, her knowledge, she made you laugh, and even though she was determined to make changes, she always saw the funny side of the politics and relished it when it worked out as she predicted. I miss her laughs, her intelligent reflections, her support, her strength.

Thank you, Kaewyn.

Sue Buckley

I couldn't believe it when I heard that Kaewyn had died – so suddenly, and not from lung cancer. Did this really mean that I would never see her again, "networking" outside the Ministry of Food as I wheeled by on my bike? No more ASSK newsletters sent twice in the middle of the night because she was still working? No more working parties on best practice for contractors and contractees at the Brentwood? No more readily available information on Government expenditure on social research?

I was away from Wellington at the time and came home to uncharted territory and small groups of bewildered social researchers. How could this happen? We know that others will pick up the various pieces of her work, but no one will be able to fill all her shoes or wear all her hats. Nor will any one person ever have such networks or care quite so much. Life in the courtyard in Bowen St will never be the same.

Haere ra.

Alison Gray

It took me a couple of goes to win some Social Policy Evaluation and Research (SPE&R) funding for my PhD about passengers' use and valuation of travel time on public transport. Raewyn supported me all the way. I liked talking transport with her. She'd hold court outside the Ministry of Food, smoke and tell about being a bus driver, and about doing research on buses. Raewyn reckoned she could still size up people getting onto the bus and predict exactly where in the vehicle they would sit! There's her solid chapter on transport in the 1988 Royal Commission on Social Policy, and other pieces: she wrote and published quite a lot about transport. She claimed to be the first woman member of the local Chartered Institute of Transport – now the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport – and she kept up that membership. Even now it's a blokey organisation (I know because she made me join): she was a groundbreaker there in the 1970s and 1980s.

It took me a few years to get started, and during that time I often felt Raewyn was the only person who believed in me. She patiently made me think through, or sometimes just showed me, the policy implications of my topic. She told me who to ring and what to ask them. When I finally got enrolled at the University of Otago, Wellington, Raewyn was the first person I asked to be part of my advisory group.

I miss her already, feeling exposed: so many of us have been sheltered in her lee.

Marie Russell

Raewyn Good was my workmate and friend for many years and I miss her sorely. I miss her generosity in sharing her extraordinary network and knowledge, her championing of research ethics and good research practice, her staunch support as a member of the Editorial Committee of the Social Policy Journal of New Zealand, and her many everyday kindnesses. I will never forget Raewyn, and more than anything I wish I could be thanking her again to her face, instead of just remembering.

Marlene Levine

Dear Raewyn

It is so sad to lose you as a colleague and dear friend. I do remember you and all the moments when you made such a difference in developing my skills, and the kindness and care you offered me.

Boutros Nam

When the ASSK Committee asked me if I would write a short tribute to Kaewyn, I was reminded of the dilemma Pericles spoke about in his famous funeral oration – that those who knew the dead will think any tribute falls short of their knowledge or wishes, and that those who did not will likely be envious of what is about to be said or suspect exaggeration. That's certainly the case with Kaewyn. The number of people she helped, both inside and outside of the research community, are legion. For many, her selflessness was her defining characteristic. The obituary in the Dominion Post nailed this perfectly when it said Kaewyn was "a big-hearted woman [who] always worried about everybody".

I loved Kaewyn's selflessness, but what I admired most was the power of her resolve. She was committed to the idea of "speaking truth to power", and doing whatever it took to ensure that message of truth – no matter how long it took to get through – was spoken.

In this regard, Kaewyn was a firm believer that the purpose of research was not simply to understand the world, but to change it. This was a commitment that was not always a good fit with the bureaucracies she worked within, but this seemed to strengthen her resolve rather than temper it. In this regard, and so many others, Kaewyn made me want to be a better researcher. She made me want to be a smarter researcher but also, like her, to use research smarter. It was Victor Hugo who said "there is no greater power on Earth than an idea whose time has come", but it was Kaewyn who made me believe it.

I know the ASSK is collecting a number of tributes for Kaewyn for this issue, and I know many have been written elsewhere, but I think the only truly fitting tribute for her will be in our deeds. I suggest the research community work together to establish a scholarship or prize in Kaewyn's name for an emerging policy researcher. I suspect that is exactly the sort of thing Kaewyn would want.

Carl Davidson

For the short time that I knew Kaewyn Good, I found her very respectful and charming. My professional relationship with her was enhanced due to her natural down to earth attitude. Kaewyn put no boundaries between herself and others. She was a great mentor, a wonderful leader, a superb colleague and a beautiful person. Sadly missed.

Aliitasi Javila

I will always remember and appreciate Kaewyn's sage advice, wisdom and mentoring, her willingness to give so freely and patiently of her time, her unparalleled networking skills, her gentle spirit and her sense of humour.

Anne Kerslake Hendricks

Raewyn Good was, for more than ten years, an active and highly valued member of the Royal Society of New Zealand Social Sciences Advisory Committee. She brought to that role a wealth of knowledge of the developments within the social sciences across different disciplines, across academic, private sector research organisations, community networks and policy ministries. She had an amazing networking capability: she enabled links to be established across disciplines and organisations, and she brokered numerous positive relationships through her enthusiasm, sharp critical intelligence, willingness to think outside the square and boundless energy. She will be remembered by many scholars who were encouraged and mentored by Raewyn. She always had time for people and looked for opportunities to encourage and enable them in their work. Her work in creating best practices for research and the guidelines she helped to develop for Māori and Pasifika, as individual participants and as communities, were major contributions to both local practice and to the UNESCO sponsored conference on the Ethics of Knowledge Production in 2006.

Raewyn will be severely missed by all who knew her as she was a warm and inclusive person with great foresight and commitment to the growth of social science with Aotearoa New Zealand. She drew from her research and policy and community engagement background to help us focus on those whose lives were often most difficult and encouraged us to think about how New Zealand might be different. The need for evidence informed debate and a focus on the possibilities and strengths within the community. She touched all our lives in so many ways. Her challenge and presence will remain as we seek to continue to work for what mattered most to Raewyn: the future shape of our society.

David Thorns

I first met Raewyn when I was at the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology, and on an interview panel at the then incarnation of the Ministry of Social Development. The job we were recruiting for was big and very difficult to define, requiring someone to "network" and help develop the capability of the social sciences for supporting policy development. I was in my best suit and Raewyn (an applicant) gave me a bit of a lecture at one point. But it was obvious that she had some rare attributes and was the only candidate who had any chance of filling the role. Once in the job, Raewyn threw herself into making it work. She forgave me my suit, and indeed we collaborated on a couple of projects as she help to set up Social Policy Evaluation and Research (SPE&R).

Later she convened a "best practice" working group and was part of organising the biennial series of research conferences which have contributed so much towards building the social sciences in New Zealand. Raewyn and ASSK were virtually synonymous. Now we have the Building Research Capabilities in the Social Sciences (BKCSS) network, and the field of social policy research is light years ahead of where it was in the early 1990s. Raewyn Good was a key figure in the field's progress and I will always remember her cheerfulness and selfless dedication to the cause.

Malcolm Menzies

He whakamaharatanga ki a Raewyn Good.

I remember Raewyn as one of the most promising and rewarding students it was my pleasure to teach. At the beginning of 1971 she walked into my study in the Anthropology Department at Victoria University of Wellington, seeking to find out what anthropology was all about. She told me that she had come to Wellington for personal reasons, knowing nobody, was working as live-in help in a home for the elderly, and was looking for intellectual stimulation. She enrolled in Anthropology and took to it like a duck to water. She was quick to appreciate its emphasis on face-to-face encounter and the way its comparative perspective casts light on our own society. She took courses with me every year up to BA Honours. A mature student with considerable life experience, she was an asset in tutorials and seminars. I remember the assignments she wrote for me with pleasure for their ethnographic grounding, original insights and clarity of expression. Raewyn had a particular empathy for the disadvantaged and marginalised and relished breaking down the barriers erected by conventional thinkers.

Having a flat and then a house within walking distance of the University, I often invited students home, and Raewyn and her husband became regular visitors. Raewyn was a lively contributor to the discussions that went on there, but reticent about her private life. I admired the loyalty and patience with which she supported her husband through many difficult years but, knowing something of the cost, I appreciated her need eventually to establish her independence. Raewyn loved making things. In 1972 she made a fabric bear with a little leather jacket and a personality all its own which she gave me as a thank you for my mentoring. It is currently much loved by visiting mokopuna, as I told her at our last meeting.

It was typical of Raewyn that when she could not get a professional job with a BA Honours degree, she trained and worked as a bus-driver -- the first woman to do so in Wellington -- then used that experience to champion the lot of bus drivers and to persuade the Department of Transport to employ her as a researcher and planner. From that base she did an MA in Public Policy, moved up through the ranks of the public service to a senior position in the Ministry of Social Development, and in her turn mentored the next generation of social science researchers.

After I moved to Auckland in 1996 I did not see a great deal of Raewyn, but I enjoyed catching up with her at annual conferences of the Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa New Zealand, and supported her nomination as our representative on the Royal Society of New Zealand Social Sciences Advisory Committee. I was moved when I learnt that she was one of the prime movers in the establishment of a social science medal in my name, and delighted to see and talk with her at the Royal Society of New Zealand Science Awards Dinner, when the medal was presented for the first time. With all her family and friends, I was devastated by news of her unexpected death shortly afterwards. I remember Raewyn with warm affection and pride in her achievements.

*Haere, e hine, haere ki ou tupuna, ki tou moengaroa, haere, haere. He mihi nui, he mihi aroha tenei ki a koe
na tou hoa mairatano.*

Na

Joan Metge

He Mihi Aroha.

On 24 November 2008 I sent Kaewyn an email headed 'He Mihi Aroha'. We had been together at the Royal Society's Science Awards Dinner a short while before this, on the night that the inaugural Dame Joan Metge Awards would be presented. Kaewyn had taken photos of our group, and in characteristic Kaewyn style, copies of the photos my daughter and I were in appeared on my office desk courtesy of herself just days after the dinner! My email was to say thanks and to ask how much I owed her for them.

Kaewyn was thrilled to see Joan that night, her routinely big smile even brighter as a consequence. She counted Joan as a dear friend, and special mentor, and had worked in her usual dedicated way with the Royal Society's Social Sciences Advisory Committee on the conception of the award and its implementation. She was so chuffed to see the award materialise and to share the company of people she had journeyed with through the social science research community over so many years: Rosemary Du Plessis, Peggy Dunlop Fairburn, and Tricia Lāing wine and dined with Kaewyn that night.

It was a very happy night, if a little noisy. Ours was one of the noisier tables, judging from some of the looks directed at it through the night! It was also arguably one of the proudest and happiest. A group of feminist researchers celebrating what they do so well: making women visible, enabling their stories to be shared and creating a means of their being honoured. Kaewyn was positioned right in the middle of all of this – in so many ways I had taken my daughter Floriana along that night because I wanted her to meet and be in the company of a group of wahinetōa. I am so glad that I did.

I can't remember when I first met Kaewyn. I know I'd heard of her before I met her. Her name is synonymous with social science research and her reputation that of a totara, a giant in the forest.

We have lost a treasured friend, a vocal and active Treaty partner, a champion of Māori Development and an advocate for social justice and equity. So many times I sat a little calmer knowing that the aspirations of our ancestors, and the traditions they lay down for us to continue, in this context through Māori research and scholarship, would be honoured and respected if Kaewyn was in the room.

In the people she mentored, her vision will be carried on.

*E te wahinetōa,
Haere, haere, haere atu ra.*

Kathie Irwin

It was very moving to attend Kaewyn's funeral, and see so many people and hear so much testimony to her character, works, and good will. I met Kaewyn a few years ago through Building Research Capabilities in the Social Sciences (BKCSS), which was one of her brainchildren connecting government and academia across sectors. Although she was thoroughly comfortable with her role as the Senior Research Analyst in Social Policy Evaluation and Research (SPEAR), the role was never all she was. She had a great wry sense of humour as she taught me to write in "governmentese" — putting everything important in bullet points at the very top, never explaining the theoretical reasons behind things as a good academic should, and always keeping it short. I never detected any impatience or derision in Kaewyn, even though I continued to write in my normal way for quite some time. She was more bemused and amused. I think she thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of connecting these disparate worlds with their own internal jargons and inscrutable logics, but more, she enjoyed working with people who wanted to learn.

She had a vision of government and academia working outside the bureaucratic silos they are so comfortable with, and she carried this vision out by valuing, teaching and nurturing people who could make a difference as connectors. I'm sure many of you have shared the experience I had of sitting outside having lunch or a coffee with Kaewyn (even her smokes were connectors), and in the course of 15 minutes to half an hour or an hour, meeting one to three new people through Kaewyn.

I'm going to miss her: that wry smile, that indefatigable energy, that dedication. I don't know that anyone can replace her, but I do know that one way to honour her memory is to continue carrying on the work that she did best: connecting people to a vision of bettering ourselves and our communities by sharing knowledge and values. She was a great mentor, but I'm sure that for all of us whom she mentored, she would agree that what we should do is "pass it on". BKCSS's formal funding ends this year, but certainly the Centre for Applied Cross Cultural Research (CACR) at Victoria University that I am part of will continue to nurture New Settler researchers, and continue to bring their work to the attention of people in government who need to be aware of what is happening in New Zealand's ethnic communities. It is the best way I can think of to keep her memory alive.

James H. Liu

Kaewyn — we miss you, i miss you. At the start of another academic year i yearn to talk at "ground level" and not be caught up in the word-wanking of administration rules and regulations. You cared — so, so much and still managed to straddle numerous boundaries — political and those with a capital P as well: social, intellectual, you were a "one-off" and i was prepared to pay the cost of sitting with you smoking while we caught up. ASSK — VUW — the world of social research and social action, is still shuddering from your death, and mourning that you will never again be here with your common sense, smile, and wry questions. Thank you for being you.

marg gilling

I first met Kaewyn in 1999 when I did a placement with what was then the Social Policy Agency (SPA). At the time, Kaewyn was one of the three advisors to SPA. I was based in the Evaluation unit, but began spending more and more time in her office, which included frequent visits to the rear of the Charles Fergusson building. A lot of work and networking took place out there! Kaewyn became my supervisor for my Masters in Social Science Research. She supervised three of us from that course, as well as students from other universities. Our supervisory sessions were always held outside, at the Ministry of Food, and she often recited poetry. I'm sure there was a message in those poems, but somehow it eluded me. I would compare notes with Sue Buckley, also a recipient of Kaewyn's wisdom, and we decided she was a visionary operating on a different plane from us. She often spoke in riddles as well. On one occasion I received a formal letter from Kaewyn's office which I took at face value. It wasn't until a few days later that I learned that embedded within the letter was a message to ring, which I promptly did. When Kaewyn said do something, you did it.

While her own workload was heavy, her commitment to building Māori research capability never wavered. She is one person who was completely comfortable with Māori, Pakeha and Pacific researchers using their own cultural approaches in one project. She lobbied hard for funding for Māori initiatives, such as the 2008 Building Critical MASS conference, from the various social science committees she was involved with. Kaewyn was a mentor and friend and flagged when scholarships, courses and books relevant to my studies were coming up. She brokered my access to MSD records. She was also my advisor on the policy aspects of my PhD.

Kaewyn was one of the most sincere people I have ever met, and once the relationship with her was established it was deep and real and it never wavered. Once at a conference in Adelaide, she came in to my presentation to "taukoko you" as she put it. An enduring memory of that conference is of Kaewyn, dressed in her trademark purple and black. Tuan Tauri and I chewing the fat and doing what we enjoyed! I heartily approved of her choice of "colours" as they are my tribal colours.

Gone but not forgotten.

Tai Walker

YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jy-BpRsYNFA>) hosts a seven-minute video recording of Kaewyn Good providing the job description of an entry-level policy advisor. The footage, originally shot for a Sociology Association promotion on career pathways for sociology graduates, was unusable. Being true to herself, Kaewyn wanted to promote Social Anthropology instead. Kaewyn's candid description of the government research sector weaves together her own academic pathway, her colourful work history and an eloquent description of working in a government department. Kaewyn firmly corrects the perceptions of new university graduates: "where you think you will start researching will be achieved in about fifteen years". She also reminds academics that the priorities of the taxpayer always take precedence over academic freedom or autonomy. Kaewyn was always cheerful and straight shooting.

Martin Tolich

Raewyn was to me a mentor, a one-time thesis survival kit, and a friend.

Ours was a chance meeting in the former Ministry of Social Policy in 1998. I was doing a Masters practicum, and looking for a learning curve; she was looking for help with an organisation climate survey. It was a win-win, one of many more that were brewed up in the ensuing years over countless bowls of chips, cups of coffee and cigarettes at another important institution, the Ministry of Food.

Raewyn has had a profound influence on my professional and my personal development, and it was serendipity to have crossed paths with her. It's difficult to capture her wairua in words without sounding sentimental or long-winded – neither of which would impress her much. I imagine.

However, I recently stumbled across a quote that resounds. For me it captures the essence of Raewyn's unique leadership quality, one she shared generously with others:

'A good leader inspires other men and women with confidence.

A great leader inspires them with confidence in themselves.'

Keed Markham


Paula White

I first met Raewyn about the time she became convenor of ASSK. Over time our relationship expanded into other areas. We worked in neighbouring buildings, and Raewyn's network of fellow smokers meant she often knew as much, or more, about what was going on in my department than I did. I would often see Raewyn at the Ministry of Food or outside smoking. If she was on her own, I would usually be expected to stop for a chat. Our conversations were wide-ranging, covering ASSK, ethics, work, politics, social issues and family matters. I remember the number of cigarettes she would smoke one after another, the frequent hitching up of her scarf as it slipped off her shoulder and her triumphant "aha!" when she came up with a solution to a problem she was mulling over.

Raewyn was passionate about many issues, particularly social issues. She related well to people in all parts of society and was genuinely interested in the people she met. She did her best to help people and to put them in touch with others who could help. Her ability to sort out problems was impressive. Depending on her target, it could involve coffee, a glass of wine, or even a bottle of wine or meal for serious matters. It was not always clear how Raewyn managed to fit everything in, and inevitably she pushed herself hard, working late at night and through weekends to get things done. Raewyn's most important legacy has been her impact on so many lives.

Rest well, my friend.

Pam Southey



My first encounter with Raewyn was at a seminar on population dynamics in the Royal Society's lecture room around the mid-1990s. She was sitting cross-legged on the floor, legs perfectly flat on the ground like someone sitting in a Samoan fale, with a scowl on her face. She did not seem to be happy with what the speaker was saying ... indeed she was not very happy with what most of the speakers had to say that day, it seemed. That was before I found out that Raewyn's frown did not always mean she was unhappy with what she was hearing ... she was concentrating ...

I got to know Raewyn much better following my appointment as chair of the Social Policy Evaluation and Research (SPEER) committee in 2004. She and Paul Honeybone, who was the secretary to the committee at the time, were the drivers of SPEER. They made an impressive team. They were fun to work with. They taught me a great deal about the real world of policy making in Wellington.

Raewyn and I shared some common interests, especially interests in promoting greater respect for the contributions made by the social sciences both within and outside Government, as well as a deep affection for Pacific peoples and their challenges in the islands as well as in New Zealand. We spent many hours outside the Ministry of Food reflecting on these things while Raewyn indulged in her passion for cigarettes – a passion I was prepared to put up with, having lived with parents who smoked all their lives.

We traversed a great deal of ground relating to many subjects in these M&F discussions – they became a regular feature of my weekly trips to Wellington to further the work of the Building Research Capability in the Social Sciences (BRCSS) Network (Raewyn was one of our strongest champions) and SPEER. Her commitment to her very diverse networks of friends, colleagues and organisations was unstinting. I am missing those discussions very much.

My abiding memory of Raewyn will be of a woman sitting cross-legged, often with a frown – a frown that belied the extremely supportive and generous person she was.

Richard Bedford

While I first met Kaewyn when I was a contract researcher doing population projections for Women's Refuge, my main involvement with her has been through her support for students, especially those from the MA (Applied) in Social Science Research. Kaewyn strongly believed in fostering emerging social science researchers. She had been known to question the value of some university education and how well it prepared graduates for subsequent jobs; however she specifically excluded the MA (Applied) from this questioning. Over the years she provided a lot of support for the social science research students, including suggesting opportunities for practical placements and where grant monies might be available, supervision of theses, and more general mentoring. She encouraged students to present at ASSR meetings, which meant that their research was made available to a wider audience, as well as giving them the experience of presenting to an interested collegial audience. Kaewyn kept an ongoing interest in those students she had been involved with as their careers developed. We will miss her energy, enthusiasm, commitment to the social sciences, incredible networking ability and that wicked laugh.


Jenny Neale

I will miss Kaewyn, and her talent for bringing people together, sharing information and advocating in the social sciences. Yet I know that her passion for the social sciences will continue to be expressed through the work of social science research communities.

Sarah Talboys

Kaewyn once described herself to me as a court jester — someone who was prepared to raise and pursue the questions that others found too difficult to accept. She was prepared to and actively did support individuals who shared a vision of a society that better met the needs of its members. She was also a loyal and committed friend and mentor. Sorely missed.

John Waldmann



I worked with Kaewyn for several years at MSD, where I found her to be consistently supportive and available with her knowledge, expertise and time. Whatever I asked of her, Kaewyn never said "no". She never seemed to let work get to her like many of the rest of us — she just kept going, making her contribution and sticking to her principles. She was truly a remarkable woman and she, and her work, will be greatly missed.

Joan Sykora

There is no doubt Kaewyn was a uniquely talented woman who was such a gentle spirit and left far too soon. I was shocked to hear of her passing and although I knew her for a short time I worked closely with her and will forever remember that she did indeed truly care about others and was always willing to give of her time to help anyone in need. She will surely be missed by many and I will try to take a lesson and carry on that spirit of generosity of time for others.

Ianah K. Hake

I met Kaewyn many years ago when I first joined ASSK. Kaewyn was always a friendly face and very welcoming to all at the meetings I attended. Over the intervening period, while my life has gone down other paths, I appreciated receiving the newsletter as it has kept me up to date with research events and people, and I could see there was huge amount of work going on by dedicated people such as Kaewyn, making the organisation so effective. At the meeting I was at last year, about election time, part way through I noticed Kaewyn giving her apologies and departing the meeting for the airport, armed with a very large suitcase!

That was the last time I saw her.

Lois Wright



Dear Raewyn

I always looked forward to receiving the ASSK newsletter. It was as if you were writing to me, and many others, every month. I got to know something of you through this means of communication over several years, and particularly from your personal commentary. Meeting you at the occasional conference was added enjoyment. It was a shock to hear of your death. You will always be remembered for the wonderful contribution you made to social science and research.

With kind wishes to your family,

Julie Meade Rose

Mo Raewyn

Raewyn has been an invaluable mentor, supporter and a real friend to Pacific researchers and especially students, making sure our "Pacific" voice was heard in forums where often we weren't even seen to have a place. Raewyn has opened the doors and helped many Pacific students grasp these opportunities, and then provided endless practical support to help our ideas become realities. We always knew we could rely on Raewyn to present a challenging perspective at any research meeting we held. Simply put, she never said no.

E tasi laiti o Raewyn - there is only one like you

Manuia lou Malaga

Tagaloatele Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop



Raewyn, Trisha Iaing and Joan Metge

Contributors

- Richard Bedford** Chair of SPEaR (2004-2008) and Director of BRCSS (2005-2009)
- Sue Buckley**
- Margaret Geddes Chartres** Raewyn was a mentor, friend, social science sector colleague and voluntary sector colleague.
- Diana Dallas** independent researcher. Raewyn was a professional colleague and friend/mentor
- Carl Davidson** Director, Research First Ltd.
- Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop** Foundation Professor of Pacific Studies, Institute of Public Policy, Auckland University of Technology. Worked closely with Raewyn as Inaugural Director of Vaaomanu Pasifika, Victoria University. Had links through regional and national ethics of Pacific knowledge production forums and through her support for the post graduate research forums. And, a friend and colleague
- Marg Gilling** Work colleague in the Department of Social Welfare, ASSR committee member in earlier years, and friends for nearly two decades.
- Alison Gray** Gray Matter Research Ltd, Wellington. Long-time research colleague
- Lanah K. Hake** LanahLink Strategic (Social Change) Consulting, USA. Worked with Raewyn at the Social Policy Evaluation & Research (SPEaR) Committee at the Ministry of Social Development when she was the Senior Policy Advisor/Analyst.
- Anne Kerslake Hendricks** Principal Policy and Research Analyst, Families Commission ASSR member, and former work colleague at the Ministry of Social Development.
- Paul Honeybone** Colleague of Raewyn's in the SPEaR Secretariat at the Ministry of Social Development
- Kathie Irwin** Director, Hope Brokers Inc Ltd, Specialists in Research and Development, Rakaipaaka, Ngati Kahungunu, Ngati Porou. Member of: IOD, RSNZ, MWWL, ASSR, Te Awe (Wellington Māori Business Network). Knew Raewyn through her research networks. Sat on the RSNZ Social Science Advisory Committee together and also on a FRST Funding Panel.
- Marlene Levine** Editor, Social Policy Journal of New Zealand. Senior Analyst, Centre for Social Research and Evaluation, Ministry of Social Development.
- James Liu** Deputy Director, Centre for Applied Cross Cultural Research Victoria University of Wellington, and Coordinator for the New Settlers Group of Building Research Capabilities in the Social Sciences

- Sheila Macam** Former colleague at the Ministry of Social Development and worked closely with Raewyn at SPEaR (as a Project Advisor).
- Kristen Maynard** Principal Policy Advisor, Alcohol Advisory Council of Aotearoa/New Zealand (ALAC).
- Malcolm Menzies** Divisional Manager, Accent Learning.
- Joan Metge** Former Associate Professor of the Anthropology Department at Victoria University of Wellington, former teacher of Raewyn through her career in anthropology and a friend over the years
- Robyn Munford** Professor, Massey University. Worked on various committees with Raewyn over the years and also had connections with her over social science research.
- Boutros Nam** Centre for Social Research and Evaluation (CSRE), Ministry of Social Development, Wellington.
- Jenny Neale** Associate Professor and Programme Director, M.A.(Applied) in Social Science Research, Victoria University of Wellington.
- Julie Meade Rose**
- Marie Russell** PhD student at Department of Public Health, University of Otago, Wellington
- Pam Southey** ASSR Committee Member
- Joan Sykora** Minnesota, USA. Former work colleague at the Ministry of Social Development (CSRE) and ASSR member.
- Sarah Talboys** ASSR Committee Member.
- Aliitasi Tavila** PhD Candidate, Victoria University of Wellington.
- David Thorns** Vice President Social Sciences, Royal Society of New Zealand.
- Martin Tolich** Associate Professor, Sociology Programme Coordinator, Department of Anthropology, Gender and Sociology, University of Otago.
- Samson Tse** Former Associate Professor and Director of Centre for Asian Health Research and Evaluation, School of Population Health, University of Auckland.
- John Waldmann** Friend and colleague
- Tai Walker**
- Paula White** Social researcher and evaluator (MAAPPL Social Science Research, PGDip SSER). Committee member, ASSR and Royal Society of New Zealand Social Sciences.
- Lois Wright** ASSR member and work colleague in the Department of Social Welfare.





