

**DR JANET M. DAVIDSON ONZM FRSNZ**

Janet Davidson is an archaeologist and prehistorian.

Most of her early research was in the tropical Pacific. With Roger Green, she was involved in a major research programme in what was then Western Samoa, concentrating particularly on settlement patterns. In 1965, on the small isolated island of Nukuoro in the Caroline Islands, she pioneered the archaeology of coral atolls in the Pacific.

As archaeologist at the Auckland Museum from 1966, her research was mainly in New Zealand; this period culminated in her 1984 book *The Prehistory of New Zealand*.

As Curator of Pacific Collections at Te Papa from 1991 she developed a new research interest in historical and contemporary material culture of Pacific island peoples.

At the same time she maintained her primary interest in archaeology, co-directing with Foss Leach a programme of research in the Cook Strait region and focusing increasingly on economic aspects of Maori prehistory.

Since retiring from Te Papa in 2002 she continued with the Cook Strait research, including a collaborative project with colleagues at the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand on the experimental growing and storage of pre-European Maori cultivars of kumara. She has also reviewed aspects of the archaeology of Auckland and the Coromandel Peninsula.

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