**EMERITUS PROFESSOR WALLY PENETITO TO RECEIVE NATIONAL IWI CHAIR’S AWARD AT RAUNGAITI MARAE THIS WEEKEND**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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On Saturday 29 April, the National Iwi Chair's Forum will travel to Raungaiti Marae to present the Emeritus Professor Wally Penetito with their Te Whare Pūkenga Award. This living taonga award is bestowed by the over 70 Iwi that make up the Forum, on Pūkenga who have significantly impacted the lives of whānau, hapū and iwi across Aotearoa.

Te Whare Pūkenga was established by the Iwi Chairs Forum in 2021 to recognise rangatira who have enhanced the lives of all whānau in Aotearoa through their activities. Specifically the award is given to those whose actions contribute significantly to the revitalisation of the Forum’s values including: Rangatiratanga, Whanaungatanga, Manaakitanga, Kaitiakitanga, Tikanga and Pono. Te Whare Pūkenga is an honour that was conceived by, is managed by, and is completely funded by the 86 Iwi that make up the National Iwi Chairs Forum.

Wally’s work in education has helped impact whānau, hapū and Iwi development. His research alongside iwi-based researchers has supported whānau to exercise passion and integrity, when researching and writing their tīpuna histories.

Wally is a prolific writer and published his book “What’s Māori About Māori Education?” in 2010. Through his writing, teaching, and mentoring leadership interrupting racism in education, he has upheld the value of mātauranga Māori for us all.

Wally has worked for decades to challenge education policy and change practice. In 2017 Wally was recognised by Ngāti Hauā with an award for Excellence in Education. More recently he became the First Māori to be appointed Professor of Education, Victoria University and was awarded Emeritus Professor.

At 83 years old he is still guest lecturing in institutions globally and continues to write. Wally’s educational career has been dedicated to equity for Māori in education. His contributions to this space will continue to shape the educational outcomes of future generations of Māori throughout Aotearoa.

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