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Cover image: On 7 February 2004, the day after Waitangi Day, Joan Metge (right) joined members of the Māori community of Ahipara and a large and diverse crowd of visitors attending a daytime gathering hosted by Te Rarawa and Te Aupōuri iwi on the Ahipara foreshore of Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē (Ninety Mile Beach). The highlight of this gathering was a ceremony in which the *iwi kāinga* ‘homefolks’ and visitors joined in holding a *taura whiri* ‘woven rope’ stretching northwards for two kilometres from Ahipara. In this ceremony Te Rarawa and Te Aupōuri affirmed their customary rights in relation to Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē and declared that these rights included sharing the seaside and its resources with others, not denying them access. Photograph by John Miller.

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Joan Metge was awarded Dame Commander of the British Empire (D.B.E.) in 1987 for services to anthropology. Her contributions were further recognised in 1997 by award of the Royal Society Te Apārangi's inaugural Te Rangi Hiroa Medal; in 2006 they further created the Metge Medal for "excellence and building relationships in the social science research community". Her life's work on cross-cultural awareness has also been internationally recognised by the Asia-Pacific Mediation Forum Peace Prize in 2006. Dame Joan decided she wanted to be an anthropologist early in life but found the subject was not yet taught in Aotearoa New Zealand universities. This saw her go offshore to train as a social anthropologist under Raymond Firth at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where she completed her PhD in 1958. Her first book, *A New Maori Migration* (1964), drew from her doctoral studies, tracing the shift from rural communities to urban Auckland. Nine other books followed, including *Talking Past Each Other!?: Problems of Cross Cultural Communication!* (1978, with Patricia Kinloch), *In and Out of Touch: Whakamaa in Cross Cultural Context* (1986), *New Growth from Old: The Whānau in the Modern World* (1995) and *Tauira: Māori Methods of Learning and Teaching* (2015). She once likened the relationships of contemporary New Zealand society to "a rope [of] many strands, which when woven or working together create a strong nation".