



# Literature, Identity & Culture

RESEARCH GROUP

## SEMINAR SERIES Session 2 2010: Poetry

### At the Interface of Maori/Pakeha Communication: An Inquiry Into the Significance and Impact of Hone Tuwhare's Work on New Zealand/Aotearoa (And the World)

Associate Professor Anne Collett  
University of Wollongong

Hone Tuwhare's first volume of poetry, *No Ordinary Sun*, published in 1964, was reprinted ten times during the following thirty years and is claimed as 'one of the most widely read individual collections of poems in New Zealand history' by the *Oxford Companion to New Zealand Literature*; his last volume, *Oooooo...!!!*, was published in 2005. Tuwhare died in January 2008, and although I was unable to buy his work in bookshops in Sydney, I had (with hindsight rather naively) assumed that I would be able to buy his work in any 'good' bookshop in New Zealand. On a recent trip to New Zealand earlier this year, I was shocked to discover that Hone Tuwhare's poetry was out of print. Not only was Tuwhare's work out of print only a year after his death, I could only find two volumes of poetry in all the second hand bookshops through which I trawled – the earlier Collected volume, *Mihi* of 1987, and the later Collected volume, *Deep River Talk* of 1994 - in both cases the price was prohibitive (\$250): I was informed by one bookshop owner that Tuwhare's work had become much sought after – sought after, I asked myself, because of the value of the poetry itself, or because of a value attached to the rarity of work 'on the market'? This paper will examine the impact and significance of Hone Tuwhare's work in and on New Zealand (and the world), and will inquire into the possible reasons for the rapid disappearance of a life's work to which so much accolade attached during that life. What does this tell us about the place of poetry, of indigenous or 'minority' writers, of publishers, of scholarship, of (postcolonial) literature in a 'glocal' world?

**Tuesday September 14, 4:30pm – 5:30pm**  
**Room 19.1003 Faculty of Arts University of Wollongong**  
**Contact: Guy Davidson (guy@uow.edu.au)**