



Dame Joan Metge



1943-1947

Dame Joan Metge set out to do the work she thought needed doing. As a white pakeha girl living in Pukekohe with a close Maori friend, she easily recognised a gulf between the Maori and the Pakeha cultures. A gulf she wanted to eliminate.

She started high school thinking she ultimately wanted to do archeology but she soon realised she would rather work with people who could talk back to her and so she began studying social anthropology. She thinks that you should take every single opportunity life gives you - you never know where it could take you.

She ended up writing a number of books; one of which she is especially proud of: *Talking Past Each Other*. This book highlights the hidden reasons and elements of the divide between Pakeha and Maori. She thinks her purpose in life is to be useful and helpful to others; her achievements - especially that book - have definitely helped her in attaining that goal.