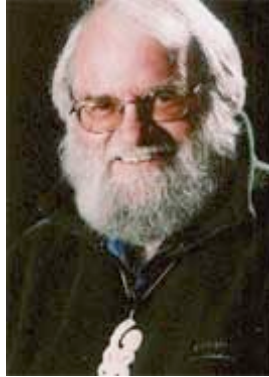


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**Barry Brailsford**, New Zealand, graduated MA (Hons) in History from Canterbury University, was a member of the NZ Archaeology Association Council and a Principal Lecturer at the Christchurch College of Education. In 1990 he was awarded an MBE for his contribution to education and Maori scholarship. His work is a journey through the wisdom traditions of indigenous Pacific peoples. His books, *The Tattooed Land* (1982, new edition 1997), *Greenstone Trails* (1984, new edition 1996) and *Song of Waitaha* (1994) record histories of the Maori and pre-Maori peoples in New Zealand, while *Song of the Stone* (1995) details the inner journey that his research evoked. His series of five novels, *The Chronicles of the Stone* (1996–98) based on ancient navigation trails are both historical and mythological; they explore the peaceful resolution of conflict and the power of good. *Wisdom of the Four Winds* (1999) is a set of path cards based on the old concept of kaitiaki or guardians who guide us. *Song of the Old Tides\** (2004) shares ancient Maori lore that takes us back to the creation of the universe, to eternal tides that shape our lives, to old philosophies that say the land and the people are one. Through their eyes we see that there are issues that go far beyond race and there are wisdoms of long ago that still have a vital place. *In Search of the Southern Serpent*, to be launched at Plymouth University, United Kingdom, May 2006 is a co-authored book by Barry Brailsford and Scottish blacksmith, dowsing, and writer, Hamish Miller. *In Search of the Southern Serpent* brings together the old lore of the sacred places of New Zealand and the ancient art of dowsing. In all his work, Barry has ever responded to the directive laid down by the elders who shared their stories with him to 'take them to the world'. Hence his work, while founded in the lore of Aotearoa/New Zealand, is written for, and appeals to, an audience far beyond this country. He has travelled New Zealand extensively in the last fifteen years giving talks throughout the country. In 2000 he was invited to USA, Canada, UK and Finland for four months where he gave 50 talks, including one to the annual conference of the Scientific and Medical Network, UK and to the Institute of Noetic Sciences, USA, both international associations that explore the relationship between science and the metaphysical. . In 2002 he was invited to join Neil Donald Walsh, highly

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successful author of *Conversations with God* as co-speaker at an all day seminar in the Aotea Centre, Auckland. In 2003 and 2004, he and Hamish Miller, an author and dowser from the UK, gave a series of talks in New Zealand. Barry speaks of the old wisdoms that have relevance in today's world, he speaks from the scientific mind that meets with the compassionate mind and sees hope for the future. \**Song of the Old Tides* while still at the manuscript stage, inspired Maaka Tipa, a sculptor, to create twelve Pouwhenua, a contemporary expression of an old Maori art form. (Pou means a post and whenua means the land, so Pouwhenua are tall posts raised in the land to make a statement to the world. In the past a Pouwhenua might be saying, 'Hunting birds in this forest is forbidden in the nesting season', or today, 'We have issues about the foreshore of Aotearoa that need to be discussed.')

These Pouwhenua stand nearly three metres high, and each in turn tells the story of one chapter of the book. So in a sense there are two books — the book to read and the book to walk through. At present the exhibition is being prepared to travel throughout New Zealand (2006-07) and then out beyond these shores. A smaller exhibition, which also evolved from *Song of the Old Tides* will be on display at Plymouth Arts, Plymouth University May & June 2006. This exhibition is an introduction to the ancestors of us all, a new way at looking at where we come from.

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