June Mariu CNZM, QSM, JP has long represented Māori aspirations, having been national president of the Māori Women's Welfare League, chairwoman of Te Whānau o Waipareira and a member of the Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission. The long-time physical education teacher at Rutherford College who represented New Zealand in netball, softball and basketball, and tireless community stalwart in Auckland, had a lot of aroha, humbleness and that remarkable quality of serenity in leadership.

Te Ao Māori depends so much on its leaders being everything. They have a disproportionate effect in the lives of many people, and on the events of the world around them. Leaders, like June, make names for themselves because they do something with their lives by being great role models. Action women with a calming influence and a firm resolve to get things done, without undue fuss, commands the respect of others. Having the ability to get people to do things, even when they don't want to, but in the end they like it, is indeed, a gift worth being proud of. Kia pai tō wiki!