

Whatarangi Winiata

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Whatarangi Winiata has been a champion of Māori self-determination for most of his life.

In 1957 he graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce from Victoria University, and followed that with an MBA and PhD completed at the University of Michigan. He married Francie Aratema (Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Awa) in 1961, and they had four children who were born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA and Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. By 1975 the family had returned home to New Zealand, and amidst the general climate of Māori political activism, embarked on a project of restoration and revival of their marae – Ngātokowaru in Levin. Themes of self-determination, economic independence and cultural revitalization were formulated by Whatarangi into a 25 year tribal developmental plan known as “Whakatupuranga Rua Mano: Generation 2000.” The purpose being to advance iwi and hapū economically, socially and educationally culminating in the establishment of Te Wānanga-o-Raukawa in 1981.

Whatarangi served as Tumuaki for Te Wānanga-o-Raukawa from 1994-2007. His advocacy for Māori political representation was translated into a bi-cultural model of constitutional reform, adopted by the Anglican Church of New Zealand in its administrative arrangements. Whatarangi has been appointed to many boards and organizations and has been instrumental in progressing a number of key Treaty of Waitangi claims against the New Zealand Government including the Fisheries Claim, Radio Spectrum, Broadcasting and others. Whatarangi continues to progress aspirations of Māori political self-determination as the President of the Māori Party.