

Tihei Mauri Ora!

Commit yourself to do well

Tau mahi e te ringa whero
Fit work for the hand of a chief



Sir Wira Gardiner considers his personal journey from high school failure to success as a public servant and businessman was underpinned by the skills he gained from 20 years in the Army; and that where one door closes, another opens. The former Army lieutenant colonel, and founding director of the Waitangi Tribunal says, "it happened that every door that has opened has presented a challenge that's been exciting, stimulating and worthwhile". But, he says, there is no reason other Māori young men who are struggling at school can't do the same. "I think the simple message is to have some determination, and set some objectives. They don't have to be 10-year visions, just get up in the morning and ***commit yourself to do well***. It's surprising what will happen."

It's never too late to become a leader and be recognised by your peers and others as such. For Sir Wira, the new Chair of the Tertiary Education Commission, the old adage is true - life is what you make of it. It's also true that each of us have our own strengths and weaknesses, habits and understandings. Used wisely, they help us work through life's many challenges that may befall us. Regrettably, many of our individual traits are often kept hidden under the proverbial "bushel", kept from the sight of people and the world that surrounds us. Exercise within yourself the ability to lead in whatever your sphere of influence might be, and take your organisation, family, even yourself, to new heights and new opportunities. *Kia pai tō wiki!*



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