

# *Tihei Mauri Ora!*

## *Building relationships*

**E kimi ana i ngā kāwai i toro ki tawhiti**

*Seeking the shoots that stretch far out  
(someone seeking to establish relationships)*



Sir Eddie Taihakurei Durie, KNZM, of Ngāti Kauwhata and Ngāti Raukawa, was the first Māori appointed as a Justice of the High Court of New Zealand, and was also Chief Judge of the Māori Land Court, Chairman of the Waitangi Tribunal, and Law Commissioner. As an expert of the Treaty of Waitangi the eminent jurist spoke often about the importance of building relationships and the main Treaty message for our time – that good order, peace and co-operation between peoples must continue to depend upon the manifestation of respect and goodwill between them.

Our lives are defined by the relationships we keep. Whenever two people meet and associate together, you've got a "relationship". Finding, developing, and maintaining sound, lasting relationships is sometimes a pretty tricky dance but it can work to your advantage in the long run. It isn't something that just happens – it's something you work on. It's about treating the "other" as the most important person in your world. So, in order to keep a good relationship, we have to practice win-win in all we do – we have to give more value than we get in return. As Sir Eddie attests, respect and goodwill are two powerful, positive steps to building the type of relationship we all need. Kia pai tō wiki!



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