**SIR TĪMOTI KĀRETU (KNZM QSO CRSNZ)**

**TĀ TĪMOTI KĀRETU**

Iwi: Ngāi Tūhoe, Ngāti Kahungunu

Sir Tīmoti Kāretu (KNZM QSO CRSNZ) has been a pioneering force in the revitalisation of te reo Māori and a towering figure in Māoridom for over four decades. Raised in a Māori-speaking environment, his career reflects a commitment to ensuring that te reo thrives as a living, everyday language. As the first Māori Language Commissioner from 1987 to 1999, Sir Tīmoti laid the groundwork for re-establishing Māori as a core part of education and media in Aotearoa. His efforts directly influenced the development of Māori-medium education curricula, which remain a legacy of his tenure.

Sir Tīmoti also served as the Executive Director of the Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust from 1993 to 2003, championing Māori-language immersion for tamariki. In 2004, he co-founded Te Panekiretanga o te Reo, the Institute of Māori Language Excellence, alongside Sir Pou Temara and the late Professor Te Wharehuia Milroy. This institute was pivotal in elevating language standards for over 350 graduates, producing leaders fluent in te reo Māori who have continued to shape the language's future in various domains.

His influence extends beyond education into kapa haka, where his compositions and judging roles at Te Matatini have deeply enriched Māori performance arts. Sir Tīmoti’s literary and translation work also reflects his versatility. In recent years, he translated songs into Māori for the Waiata/Anthems album and contributed to Six60’s track “Pepeha” and Lorde’s “Hua Pirau/Fallen Fruit”.

In the 1993 New Year Honours, Sir Tīmoti was appointed a Companion of the Queen's Service Order for public services, and in the 2017 Queen's Birthday Honours he was named a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the Māori language. He has been conferred honorary doctorates by Victoria University of Wellington in 2003, and the University of Waikato in 2008. His impact is internationally recognised, with many citing Aotearoa’s Māori-language revitalisation as a model for Indigenous language renewal globally.

**TE REO MĀORI**

Ko Tā Tīmoti Kāretu (KNZM QSO CRSNZ) te poutokomanawa o te whakarauoratanga o te reo Māori, ā, he pou whakarae o te iwi Māori i roto i ngā ngahurutau e whā. I pakeke mai ia i tētahi taiao kōrero Māori, ā, e whakaata ana tōna aramahi i te whakamomori ki te whakaū i te tōnuitanga o te reo Māori hei reo ora, hei reo o ia rā. Ko ia te Kaikōmihana tuatahi o te Reo Māori i 1987 ki 1999, nā Tā Tīmoti te tūāpapa i whakatakoto kia hoki ai te reo Māori hei wāhanga matua o te mātauranga me ngā mahi pāpāho i Aotearoa. I whakaawe āna mahi i te whakawhanaketanga o ngā marautanga mātauranga Māori, koinei tonu tētahi o ngā whakareretanga o āna mahi.

I tū hoki a Tā Tīmoti hei Ringatohu Matua o Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust i 1993 ki 2003, e āki ana i te rumakitanga o ngā tamariki ki te reo Māori. I 2004, ko ia tētahi o ngā kaiwhakatū i Te Panekiretanga o te Reo, i te taha o Tā Pou Temara rāua ko Ahorangi Te Wharehuia Milroy ka riro nei. He wāhi waiwai tō te whare nei i roto i te whakarewatanga o ngā paearu reo mō ngā ihuputa 350 neke atu, e whakaputa ana i ngā kaiārahi e matatau ana ki te reo Māori e whakaahua tonu ana i te anamata o te reo i ngā whaitua huhua.

Hōrapa noa atu tōna awenga i te mātauranga ki te kapa haka, nā āna titonga me ōna tūranga kaiwhakawā ki Te Matatini i whakarei ngā toi whakaari Māori. E whakaata ana ngā mahi mātātuhi me ngā whakamāoritanga a Tā Tīmoti i tōna raka. I ngā tau tata nei, nāna i whakamāori ngā waiata mō te kōpae Waiata/Antehms, ā, i whai wāhi hoki ia ki te waiata a Six60, ko “Pepeha” me tā Lorde “Hua Pirau/Fallen Fruit”.

I ngā Tohu Hōnore o te Tau Hou i 1993, i kopoua a Tā Tīmoti Te Tohu Hapori (mahi i te motu) i ngā ratonga tūmatanui, ā, i ngā Tohu Hōnore o te Huritau o te Kuīni i 2017, i whakawhiwhia ia ki te Tohu Tā i āna ratonga ki te reo Māori. Kua tukua hoki ki a ia ētahi tohu hōnore nā Te Herenga Waka i 2003, me Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato i 2008. Mihia ana tōna pānga puta noa i te ao, me te aha, he huhua te hunga e tohutoro ana i tā Aotearoa whakarauora i te reo hei tauira whakahou reo Taketake huri i te ao.