

**THE ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF
LIEUTENANT-GENERAL THE RIGHT HONOURABLE**

SIR JERRY (JEREMIAH) MATEPARAE,

G.N.Z.M., Q.S.O., K.St.J.,

Governor-General of New Zealand

31 August 2011 - 31 August 2016

The design of the Armorial Bearings alludes to Sir Jerry Mateparae's family, Maori or Iwi heritage, military and vice-regal roles. (Hereinafter Sir Jerry is referred to as the Grantee.)

Letters Patent

Personal Grant of Armorial Bearings, with Life Supporters.

Earl Marshal's Warrant dated 18 March 2014.

Letters Patent issued under the Seals and Signatures of Thomas Woodcock, CVO, Garter Principal King of Arms, Patric Laurence Dickinson, LVO, Clarenceux King of Arms, and Timothy Hugh Stewart Duke, Norroy and Ulster King of Arms, and dated 9 April 2016.

Blazon (Technical description)

Vert on a Fess inverted Argent a Fess per fess indented of three points Gules and Sable thereon a Wave crested of three points each in the form of a Koru Argent all between three Whalebone Clubs or Kotiate bendwise sinister also Argent in the centre chief a Royal Crown proper.

For the Crest, Upon a Helm with a Wreath Argent and Vert a Fantail or Piwakawaka wings extended fesswise the head lowered and the tail displayed upwards proper thereon five Mullets in cross Gules fimbriated Argent Mantled Argent Doubled Vert.

For Supporters on the Dexter A European Woman proper vested in a long evening dress and wearing slippers Vert gorged with a cord also Vert pendant therefrom a greenstone pendant or Pounamu Kuru and holding in the dexter arm its head to the sinister a ginger and white Cat proper.

On the Sinister A Maori vested in the uniform of a Lieutenant of the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment with collar badges wearing a Service Dress shirt and tie with a Sam Browne Belt hanging to the sinister therefrom an Infantry Officer's Sword on his head a Khaki Lemon Squeezer Hat proper the Puggaree thereon Khaki Gules and Khaki and worn over the shoulders a Maori Cloak or Kaitaka proper.

Motto: He Tāngata He Tāngata He Tāngata.

NOTES ON SYMBOLISM

Colours and Metals

Green and Red are Army colours.

Shield

Grantee's surname means 'Field' or 'Battle field' and this is represented by the green colour and the Kotiate.

The whalebone Maori club or Kotiate, a weapon, was the basis of the design of the New Zealand Distinguished Service Decoration (DSD) awarded to military personnel. The Kotiate in this instance are based on one from the Whanganui region. (see *Comparatively Speaking: Studies in Pacific Material Culture 1921-1972* by Dr Henry Devenish Skinner, CBE, DCM, Otago University Press, 1974, page 157.)

The central portion or the Fess was inspired by the ceremonial Sash worn by The Chief of Army and the Chief of Defence Force which is based on a Maori Taniko weaving pattern.

The Grantee's tribal affiliations are Ngāti Tuwharetoa, Ngāti Kahungunu and Te Atihaunui a Pāpārangī. The Ngāti Tuwharetoa land is dominated by the three volcanic cones of Mounts Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngauruhoe which on the Fess are represented by the three waves of Koru.

The Grantee's forename, 'Jeremiah' is a name from the Old Testament prophet. The recognised symbol Jeremiah is three rocks. It may be speculation to say that in this instance the three rocks are represented by three mountains.

The Grantee was born in Whanganui which is dominated by the Whanganui River symbolised by the Fess inverted or the wavy edges to the Fess.

The Royal Crown (St Edward's Crown) indicates that the Grantee was Governor-General of New Zealand 2011-2016. It may also represent his long service to the Crown as a New Zealand Army officer. He is the first Maori to attain the rank of Lieutenant-General.

Crest

The Grantee's favourite bird is a Fantail or Piwakawaka (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*). The bird is shown in its proper colours with wings outstretched and on the tail feathers five Mullets (five-pointed stars) red edged white.

The outstretched wings alluded to the winged badge of the New Zealand Special Air Service (SAS) in which the Grantee served. The five Mullets allude to the Constellation of the Southern Cross and are similar to those on the New Zealand Flag. The five Mullets allude to his five children.

(For the Fantail see *Reader's Digest Complete Book of New Zealand Birds*, C J R Robertson, Consultant Editor, Reader's Digest and Reed Methuen, Sydney and Auckland, 1985, page 280.)

Supporters

The Dexter Supporter is a European woman wearing a green evening dress and from the neck a Maori greenstone pendant or Pounamu Kuru and holding in the dexter arm its head to the sinister (right) a ginger and white cat. The cat is based on the Mateparae family pet known as 'Boots', who was a common sight about Government House.

The Sinister Supporter is a Maori in the uniform of a Lieutenant in the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment wearing over his shoulders a Maori cloak or Kaitaka. The latter is the style of cloak worn by the Grantee. (see *Te Aho Tapu: The Sacred Thread, Traditional Maori Weaving* by Mick Prendergrast, Reed Publishing Ltd., Auckland, 1987, reprint 1994, pages 95-98.)

The Grantee was first commissioned in and later was a Commanding Officer of the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (RNZIR).

The officer is wearing the distinctive or iconic headgear is officially known as a 'Lemon Squeezer'. (see *Oxford Dictionary of New Zealand English*, OUP 1997 and *Oxford Companion to Military History*, OUP 2001.)

This is believed to be the second occasion the 'Lemon Squeezer' has appeared in Armorial Bearings. General Sir Alexander Godley (1867-1957) who commanded the New Zealand Forces 1910-14, including the early period of the Great War, on being made a GCB in 1928 selected a New Zealand infantry soldier *circa* 1914-18, wearing a Lemon Squeezer, as the sinister Supporter to his Armorial Bearings. (see Alexander John Godley, *Life of an Irish Soldier: Reminiscences of General Sir Alexander [John] Godley, GCB, KCMG*, London, 1939, page 306; *Oxford Companion to Military History*, OUP 200, pages 202-203.)

The Supporters resemble the Grantee and his wife, Lady Janine Mateparae, QSO (2016), CSTJ (2011).

Motto

The Motto is: 'He Tāngata He Tāngata He Tāngata' [Translation: 'It is the people' 'It is the people' 'It is the people'.]

Insignia

The Shield is encircled by the Collar of The New Zealand Order of Merit with Badge appendant, a distinctive piece of insignia worn only by the Sovereign and the Chancellor who is the Governor-General. The Grantee as Chancellor was the Principal Knight Grand Companion of the Order (GNZM) to which he was appointed in 2011. Also displayed is the Badge of a Companion of The Queen's Service Order (QSO) conferred on the Grantee in his own right in 2011. As Governor-General the Grantee is Principal Companion of this Order.

Also displayed is the Badge of a Knight of Justice of the Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem (2011).

(On ceasing to be Chancellor of The New Zealand Order of Merit the Grantee is permitted to display the Collar of the New Zealand Order of Merit in his Armorial Bearings.)

Phillip O'Shea
New Zealand Herald of Arms
Extraordinary

20 September 2016