Dr Rapata Wiri

Dr. Rāpata Wiri has strong whakapapa links to Ngāti Whakaue through his grandfather, Hori Tait. He holds a PhD from Auckland University and a Master of Laws from Victoria University of Wellington. He is currently the Chairman of the Tauranga committee of the New Zealand Māori Council and a trustee for Ngāti Rangiteaorere Koromatua Council (NRKC). Rāpata is also a trustee of the Whare Ora Development Trust, a social housing provider in Te Whāiti/Minginui and is the founding director of the Ngāti Ruapani ki Uta ki Tai Co-operative Society which was establsihed to promote the cultural, social and economic development of his lands and iwi at Waikaremoana.

Rāpata has over 30 years of teaching, research expertise in Māori language, culture and society in universities and wānanga. He is a Treaty of Waitangi historian and was a researcher for Ngāti Whakaue's mana whenua research project for the Central North Island (CNI) forest. Rāpata currently runs an online Te Reo course, www.reoora.com, based in Rotorua and has published several books and apps to promote Māori language and culture in New Zealand and China. Rāpata is an experienced trustee, dedicated scholar and iwi advocate who enjoys whānau time at the beach in Mount Maunganui.