

About Beatrice Piatarihi Tui Yates QSM, BA, JP

Born in Rotorua NZ 11 September 1939

A proud Te Arawa girl brought up at Mourea, home and playground was the Te Takinga Marae and Ohau Channel.

Her ancestry is Maori, Scottish, Irish and Fiji Indian.

Beatrice listened to the stories told to her by her Tupuna and from a very young age was a storyteller and entertainer.

A teacher for 50 years in and around Rotorua only taking time out to have her 3 babies, and still teaching at Rotorua Lakes High School 3 days a week.

In the 1970's Beatrice was invited to become the first Maori Itinerant teacher in the Rotorua region introducing te reo to the children of Rotorua.

As there were no resources for this new position she was expected to provide her own. "One Day a Taniwha" is just one of the many stories and songs she wrote, inspiration for the stories often coming to her in the night. She has had eight children's books published by educational publishers however for this series of books the Ihenga Charitable Trust was formed to publish and market them.

Beatrice has been recognized for her charity work, teaching and entertaining with many local and national awards.

She has performed with some of the best NZ entertainers and for famous dignitaries. Her own "Tina Tuna" (Tina Turner tribute show) has traveled to many cities in NZ with most of her fee donated to her favourite charities.

A few years ago Beatrice was disturbed at the thought of her whanau traveling to Waikato Hospital for dialysis 3 times a week, a journey of one and half hours each way. She organised some supporters and established the Whakaponu Trust.

- 1 Since then they have established the "Mahoro" Dialysis Unit and Rotorua Hospital.
- 2 A chemotherapy Unit at Rotorua Hospital
- 3 "Paimarie" an accommodation unit for whanau and friends visiting loved ones at Rotorua hospital
- 4 Mobile Hearing Clinic to visit country schools and Marae.

Beatrice has been a performer and teacher of Maori culture most of her life; she has her own cultural group performing most nights at the Distinction Hotel.

Beatrice is most grateful to Owen Glenn, Ma te Reo and T P K Wellington for the generous sponsorship of "One Day a Taniwha."

Look out for her next book ""Hoha te Taniwha."

If you would like to assist with sponsorship please contact Aunty Bea.