

# First Māori MPs elected to Pa

15 April 1868

MCH, 2016g  
Nation Dates  
FINAL



Page  
52.

The Maori Representation Act 1867 established four Māori seats in the House of Representatives, initially for a period of five years. The act gave the vote to all Māori males aged 21 and over.

This innovation was intended to bring Māori into mainstream political life and ensure lasting peace between Māori and Pākehā. It was also, initially at least, seen as a way of rewarding those iwi who had supported the Crown during the New Zealand Wars.

The first elections were held in 1868, with nomination day in all four Māori seats set for 15 April.

Frederick Nene Russell (Northern Maori) and Mete Kīngi Te Rangi Paetahi (Western Maori) were elected unopposed. In Eastern Maori, there were two candidates and Tāreha Te Moananui was elected after a show of hands. In Southern Maori, there were three candidates and a poll was demanded. This was won in June by John Patterson (also known as Hōne Paratene Tamanui a Rangī).

The experiment was extended in 1872 and, four years later, the Māori seats were established on a permanent basis.

Read more on NZHistory

Hōri Tairaroa – Māori and the vote

Political and constitutional timeline – Political and constitutional timeline

Māori and the vote – Māori and the vote

Pāpāwai, the Māori capital - roadside stories – The Treaty in practice

External links

Maori representation (Electoral Commission)

Ngā Māngai - Māori representation (Te Ara)

∨ How to cite this page

'First Māori MPs elected to Parliament', URL: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/first-three-maori-mps-elected-to-parliament>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 9-Dec-2016