The Hon and the Rt Rev Sir Paul Alfred Reeves, GCMG, GCVO, QSO

Governor-General of New Zealand

1985 - 1990

Sir Paul was New Zealand's first Governor-General of Māori descent. He was born in Wellington in 1932, the second son of D'Arcy Lionel and Hilda Mary Reeves and was educated at Wellington College, Victoria University of Wellington (MA), St John's Theological College, Auckland (L.Th.) and St Peter's College, Oxford (MA, Hon. Fellow).


He was chairman of the Environmental Council (1974-76) and president of the National Council of Churches in New Zealand (1984-85).

In 1959, Sir Paul married Beverly Gwendolen Watkins and the couple had three daughters.

3rd is the first churchman and first man of Māori descent appointed Governor-General. He
the Puketapu hapu of the Te Atiawa of Taranaki.

Following the completion of his term as Governor-General, Sir Paul took up a number of rational and international positions, including that of Anglican Observer at the United Nations in New York, a position he held for three years.

In May 2002, Sir Paul was appointed inaugural Chair of Toi Te Taiao: The Bioethics Council.

Biographical information courtesy of NZ Almanack