

**NETWORK**



**OTAUTAHI**

**Report to the 2007 AGM** for the period 1 January 2006 -30 April 2007

*NWO is an educational incorporated society with charitable status.*

*We are a voluntary group and are part of a wider national network of groups and individuals.*

*NWO is independent of government, business interests and politically partisan bodies.*

*We accept koha for our work on the basis of what individuals and groups can afford, while taking into account the need to ensure that any amounts paid to us will not disadvantage mana whenua planning and will not put people off engaging in the workshops and other activities.*

*The Organising Group has four members and meets approximately fortnightly for two hours.*

*The membership of NWO is now 32. Since our last AGM, members have been receiving email news.*

Network Waitangi Otautahi's particular emphasis is in encouraging those who are not of Maori ancestry to understand the Treaty of Waitangi particularly in relation to sustainable development. We have a strong commitment to taking a Community Development approach. Our workshops (including implementation workshops) and other activities are designed to start where people are at and are non-confrontational.

We continue to distribute posters of the Declaration of Independence and the Treaty of Waitangi. To date 25,000 have been distributed. A recent reprint of a further 10,000 of the Treaty posters allowed us the opportunity to refine the translation that we use of the Maori text into English, and our commentary.

The project that remains after the wind-up of the national Network Waitangi Inc. to rewrite the Questions and Answers on the Treaty is administered by the Organising Group.

NWO is committed to supporting bimonthly meetings of Hui Whakamana Tiriti set up by Te Runaka ki Otautahi o Kai Tahu (which has been in existence since 1936). The conversation at those meetings is very valuable and key issues are reported to the Otautahi Runaka.

Mark Solomon, Kaiwhakahaere of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu is kept informed of our work.

In the period of this Report we have made submissions on the relevance of the Treaty to the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy, the Community Development Strategy of the Christchurch City Council (CCC), the Long Term Council Community Plans of both CCC and Environment Canterbury as well as on the Deletion of Treaty Principles Bill (which is still to be reported to the House of Parliament) and the Draft School Curriculum, on which a recent productive meeting was held with the Ministry of Education Project Leader.

Concerns on which we are currently working to produce educational resources include the content of the recent Treaty of Waitangi Information Unit material sent to schools and the absence of important information from the State Services Commission series of booklets on the Treaty. In consultation with Jean Brooks in the Anglican Constitutional Change network, questions were devised for people to be

able to critique the *Treaty 2 U Exhibition* when it visited Christchurch. This led to dialogue with Claudia Orange at Te Papa who is responsible for further work on the Exhibition.

Work continues on the relevance of the Treaty to the ramifications of Chief Justice Sian Elias's statements about how the sovereignty of the British Crown was qualified by the Treaty, to the UN Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to the proposed Review of Landcorp, Conservation and Crown Land.

Although Introductory workshops with groups as diverse as Psychiatric Consumers, Project Port Lyttelton and the final year of Natural Resources Engineering at Canterbury University are still undertaken, most work is involved in linking with and supporting groups and individuals around the city. One particularly effective network has been Healthy Christchurch. Most sessions / workshops have been either Refresher, Working in a Treaty-based Way or Making the Treaty Real.

We also supported the local National Council of Women's educational work on the Foreshore and Seabed legislation and the younger Anti Racism Coalition (arc) members by again contributing to the lecture series for Peace Studies at Canterbury University.

Local efforts to build cohesion in the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector have been considerable.

Participation in the national Treaty People Network and in the Association of Non-Government Organisations in Aotearoa (ANGOA) Research Fora has been very valuable. Membership of the Australia New Zealand Third Sector Research Association (ANZTSR) has further assisted in our work. Links have been maintained with the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector (OCVS) and the Human Rights Commission (HRC), including their seminars and work on Race Relations.

Involvement in the Christchurch Inter-Cultural Assembly (in which the Ethnic Council participates) and the Christchurch Mayor's initiative *Time to Talk* has led to supplying an explanation of the Treaty in Chinese and Korean and dialogue about the Treaty with many people in those networks. The recent publication of *Tangata Tiriti - Treaty People Workbook* has been really useful for these networks. It has also proved valuable for all adults interested in self-help education on the Treaty. We are grateful to the City Council for gifting us a copy of this workbook, which many people have borrowed to determine whether they wish to purchase. Everyone who did has informed us that they intend to.

Other linking roles are through issues of sustainable development – working, in particular, with the Living Economies Forum, Sustainable Otago Christchurch (SOC) and Sustainable Aotearoa New Zealand (SANZ). We were given a subsidised place at the Social Policy Research and Evaluation (SPRE) conference - this proved particularly valuable in discerning the links between sustainable development, Treaty-based development and government (local and central).

Through our involvement in the local Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) Network and the local branch of Adult and Community Education in Aotearoa (ACEA), we nominated SOC for an Adult Learners' Week Award, which they won. We participated in the ACEA national Treaty seminar and were invited to write an article on *The Relevance of the Treaty Today*, which was published in their national *Adult and Community Education Newsletter April 2007*. We have contributed to the ACE Professional Development project and were invited to give a workshop on The Practical Treaty at the recent Community Learning Association in Secondary Schools (CLASS) national conference.

Work on the development by Statistics NZ of a Satellite Account for Non-Profit Institutions has proved a time-consuming initiative. The support of the Otago Runaka, the Council of Social Services, the

Canterbury WEA, the Christchurch Third Age Forum and Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch has been encouraging. Follow-up highlights work being done in our communities in the Non-Profit Sector that is not included in Institutions. (Details of this work are available.) This has resulted in an invitation to contribute to the Australia and New Zealand Not-for-Profit Network conference to be held in Christchurch in May 2007.

## Finances

The financial year covered by the accompanying Annual Accounts is 1st July 2005 to 30th June 2006, which overlaps the period covered by this Annual Report by only 6 months (we are gradually aligning our legal year [initially January to December, but January to June in this report] with our financial year).

This last year we operated at a loss of \$814. The half of the nett income from workshops that we share with kaitiaki each year amounted to \$1594 in 2005-6. We still do not employ paid staff, but continue to reimburse costs incurred in the course of doing our Treaty work. A compatible not-for-profit group (Mens Trust) has been found to share our office space and costs, and this is working well and means our rent has reduced by 25% and power by about 50% since 1st April 2006. Due to this office sharing our tenancy in the Chch Community House/Te Whakaruruhau ki Otautahi is now secure.

As we reported at last year's AGM, at the beginning of the 2005-6 year we were holding \$4647 of (what we thought were) funds of the defunct Network Waitangi Inc national body, which the NWInc's winding-up AGM had entrusted to NWO to administer in order to a) reimburse any costs incurred in archiving the national body's records, b) reimburse any costs incurred by the Treaty Resource Centre's hosting of a Treaty website, with c) any residue going towards a new version of *The Treaty of Waitangi; Questions and Answers*. As those doing the first 2 jobs had not kept records of their costs, we made koha of \$500 in recognition of the archiving and \$600 in recognition of the website hosting then paid \$1000 for an initial editing of the booklet. However (but this event happened after the end of the financial year of this annual report) we were then informed that half of the money actually belonged to an Auckland group which was used by NW Inc as a holding bank account! Luckily we had not spent their money and we were able to refund it in full, so now none of that fund is left. The \$2547 appears in these accounts as a liability. The former NWInc people intend to continue with the booklet project but now need to find other funding.

Therefore we (NWO) had just over \$7000 in the bank at the end of the 2005-6 year, which was adequate for our activity level, particularly as the 2006 Canterbury Community Trust, CCC Community Development and COGS funding rounds were more or less imminent. In the 2005-6 year we received grants of \$2000 from COGS (towards some volunteer and administration costs), \$500 from the City Council's Community Development scheme (to attend the annual Tangata Tiriti gathering), 100 stamped envelopes from NZ Post's Community Post scheme (valued at \$45 in our accounts) and a donation of \$1000 from the Canterbury Community Trust (towards some volunteer and administration costs).

Once again we can say that we ticked along fine financially because of low overheads and no staff wages, although with a level of reimbursements that is significant due to the nature of the work. Where possible we try to work on the basis of koha, and generously, e.g. where invited we will pay a subscription at a sustaining level to an organisation with a Treaty focus / contribution, rather than at just the basic cost-recovery level. Once again, we can say that money is not the primary concern, rather, we are limited by the lack of willing and able people with the time, skills and interest.

Eileen Shewan, John Peet, Averil Williams and Katherine Peet  
NWO Organising Group