

**Report to the 2009 AGM** for the period 1 July 2008 to 22 September 2009

*Network Waitangi Otautahi's particular emphasis is on encouraging those who do not have Maori ancestry to understand the Treaty of Waitangi. We promote Sustainable Development and have a strong commitment to taking a Community Development approach, so our workshops and other activities are designed to start where people are at and are non-confrontational.*

*We are a voluntary group, an educational incorporated society with charitable status. We are part of a wider national network of groups and individuals who are working towards a Treaty-based Aotearoa New Zealand.*

*NWO accepts koha in recognition of 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. Apart from relevant legislation, NWO is independent of government, business interests and political parties.*

*The Organising Group has five members and meets approximately fortnightly for two hours. The membership of NWO is now 58 (at last year's AGM it was 46) and members have continued to receive email news.*

*Our website is <[www.nwo.org.nz](http://www.nwo.org.nz)>.*

We continue to print and distribute descriptive posters of the Declaration of Independence and the Treaty of Waitangi. To date 36,000 of the Declaration posters and 39,500 of the Treaty posters have been distributed.

The project that remained after the wind-up of the national Network Waitangi Inc. to rewrite the Questions and Answers on the Treaty is complete and was published in December 2008. Our role in the editorial group for that publication was a major commitment. NWO has printed and distributed (at \$5 each) 2300 of these new Handbooks *The Treaty of Waitangi Questions and Answers* and we have responded to many follow-up enquiries from readers. We have recently had a further 500 printed. The feedback from the publication, which is available to download free from our website, has been overwhelmingly positive. The nationwide links with this project have also been valuable. The Handbook is to be listed in the recent work by the NZ UNESCO National Commission on the Treaty.

We continue to participate in the national Treaty People Network and attend the national Treaty Educators' conference, this year in July where we presented a workshop on *A Framework for Action - NGOs, Local Government and the Crown - who is responsible for what in Tiriti-based development?* Sharing new thinking at these conferences is vital. The value of this national networking develops collective wisdom from these gatherings and helps sustain us for the year to come. We are also inspired by visits to this city from people outside Christchurch, for example, Mitzi Nairn shared her history of the Pakeha Treaty work and Dr Hinemoa Elder spoke on the Treaty as *The Best of Both Worlds*.

Our website has been a really useful tool in our educational work - we have been able to refer individuals and groups to it for specific resources for them to consider. The preparation that this allows makes educational activities more focussed and feedback from those involved is very positive.

While the website has been very useful, face to face educational opportunities are still the most valuable. We have undertaken Introductory Workshops with groups as diverse as Stepping Stone Trust, the Women's Centre, the final year of Natural Resources Engineering at Canterbury University, Waitaki District Council, Vision College, Anglican Social Services, Auckland Regional Transport Authority, Mental Health Foundation. (We only work outside this rohe if invited by groups involved with mana whenua in their rohe.) Most of our face to face work, however, involves supporting individuals and groups to follow up on introductory understanding both from Workshops and from access to the *Questions and Answers Handbook*. We have been fortunate that the NZ Film Archive has allowed us access to their Treaty DVDs as this allows us to be better informed about what is available. This year groups not already mentioned include the Christchurch Adult and Community Education (ACE) Network, Barnados, Community House Tenants Trust, Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch (SOC) executive, Relationship Services, SuperGrans, 198 Health Counselling. Again this year we held a hui through Healthy Christchurch with the Human Rights Commission "Working with each other - Sharing our insights".

NWO continues to be represented at bimonthly meetings of Te Runaka ki Otautahi o Kai Tahu, which was established in 1936. The Runaka's involvement in the World March for Peace and Non-violence, which begins in the Chatham Islands and visits this city on 3 October, is but one symbol of their approach. We wish to record our deep appreciation of Louise Tankersley who has shouldered a lot of the responsibility for following through on much of the mahi during the illness of Upoko Maurice Manawaroa Gray. We continue to support Hui Whakamana Tiriti, which was set up by this Runaka. These meetings provide an opportunity for sharing information and for conversation on key issues.

Mark Solomon, Kaiwhakahaere of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu (TRONT) is kept informed of our work and we were delighted at his support for the World March for Peace and Non-violence. We were deeply saddened by the passing of Nicky Meihana (Walsh) with whom we had a close working relationship. Relationships with Sacha McMeeking, TRONT General Manager Strategy and Influence have been maintained and resources from TRONT have also been much appreciated in keeping us informed of their mahi.

On Waitangi Day, we made our posters available and had a local launch of the Treaty *Questions and Answers Handbooks* at both the Willowbank Family Day and at the Ngai Tuahuriri commemorations organised by Ben Brennan at Kaiapoi where we were also invited to speak briefly on involvement of people who are not of Maori descent. In future years, we will be able to use our newly acquired banner *Understanding the Treaty* to promote the core of our work at such events.

Andrea Lobb, General Manager of Mahaanui Kurataiao (MKT) Ltd - a company owned by the six papatipu Runaka in and around Christchurch - has been generous in contributing to strengthen the links between NWO and those networks involved in promoting deeper understanding of living more sustainably. Her presentation to the Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch (SOC) executive was most appreciated. We made a submission to the Canterbury Water Management Strategy focussing on these links.

NWO involvement in ACE Aotearoa (ACEA), SOC and Sustainable Aotearoa New Zealand (SANZ) led to the Chair of SANZ being a keynote speaker at the national ACE conference in July this year. Our involvement in the Australia NZ Third Sector Association (ANZTSR) conference provided

contacts with Marcus Akuhata-Brown whose role as MC at the national ACE conference was pivotal in developing links between Treaty-based and Sustainable Development. A highlight for establishing those links was attendance at the *Property Rights and Sustainability: The Evolution of Property Rights to Meet Ecological Challenges* conference organised in Auckland by the NZ Centre for Environmental Law. The SOC initiative to promote Transition Initiatives further demonstrates the educational value of networking. Our involvement in the United Nations Association, the Workers' Educational Association (WEA), locally and nationally, and in local ACE Networks, particularly in Adult Learners' Week and the Regional Facilitation Fora led by the Christchurch Polytechnic have given us further opportunities to profile emerging educational needs and gaps in relation to understanding the Treaty. Involvement in Third Age networks, including University of the Third Age (U3A) demonstrates the lack of understanding of Te Tiriti amongst many older citizens.

Local and national efforts to build cohesion in the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector have been considerable. We work closely, locally with Sharon Torstenson and Helen Gatonyi and the Christchurch Council of Social Services and nationally with Dave Henderson and the Association of Non-Government Organisations in Aotearoa (ANGOA), particularly their Research Fora. They have been pivotal in encouraging this cohesion. Our contribution to the review of the Treaty section in the Mana Mahi publication for the Sector is ongoing. We are pleased that the Community Sector Taskforce and The Research Centre for the Sector who have recently received Government funding both retain their commitment to working in a Tiriti Relationships Framework. We look forward to the upcoming Community/Government Forum in November as an opportunity to discern clearer directions for the future. Locally we have become involved in the Sector Training Providers Network.

Links have been maintained with the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector (OCVS). While we have not continued our direct involvement with Volunteering Canterbury we have been invited to work with the OCVS on their joint Project *Promoting Generosity* organised jointly with Philanthropy NZ and Volunteering NZ.

Having our office in *Te Whakaruruhau ki Otautahi Christchurch Community House* has provided further networking opportunities. For example, the *Structural Poverty Group* meets there and this group provides opportunities for connections to be made with Treaty-based strategies. In particular, we would like to place on record our thanks to the House Manager, Mike Asmussen, and his staff for their willingness to support our work. We continue to contribute to the Treaty subcommittee of the Tenants Trust and express our thanks to Ali Brunell and Ken Clearwater for their leadership of that work.

Following the presentation to our last AGM by the then President of the then NZ Federation of Ethnic Councils (NZFEC) Pancha Narayanan, we have strengthened our links with the NZFEC. This work has enhanced our collaborative relationships with the Human Rights Commission locally and nationally. We have made presentations to the NZFEC national executive and recently joined a panel in the workshop that they organised for the Human Rights Commission's Annual Diversity Forum. That presentation is in the *Resources News* section on the Home Page of our website. We have found the expression of the Tiriti relationship being between Tangata Whenua and Tangata Tiriti very useful in explaining what is meant by a Tiriti-based future. The NZFEC has recently changed its name to the Federation of Multicultural Councils and it is pleasing to note that they refer to their operations as a Treaty-based multicultural organisation. Locally, we record the demise of the Christchurch Inter-Cultural Assembly this year due to withdrawal of support from the Christchurch City Council, in spite of advocacy for its continuation by Mark Solomon, TRONT Kaiwhakahaere. As a result, the local Ethnic Council has a challenge to resource NGO involvement in these networks alongside Government Office of Ethnic Affairs - which limits their focus to "ethnicities" not

"mainstream, Maori or Pacific". Nationally we made a submission to Statistic NZ Review of Ethnicity in which we asked that *Pakeha* be an option.

We have continued to keep abreast of party-political developments. We made a presentation to Review of the Foreshore and Seabed Act and have continued to work at increasing understanding of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We are pleased to note the current Government's more positive approach to the Declaration, and look forward to their formal commitment to it.

## **Finances**

*At this 2009 AGM we are presenting 2 sets of accounts because we have been slowly aligning our legal and financial years. This process is now complete and from 2010 on we will present only 1 set. Because the 2007-8 accounts are 14 months old I will restrict this report for 2007-8 but do a fuller one for the more recent year.*

In **2007-8** we operated at a loss of \$3017. The half of the nett workshop surplus that we always share with Te Runaka ki Otautahi o Kai Tahu, or in consultation with them, was \$857 (down from \$2861 in 2007). The reason for these reduced figures was of course the huge reduction in income from workshops (down to \$1960 gross from \$6695 the previous year).

This year the auditor suggested we no longer include in the Financial Performance Statement the value of, for example, end-of-year stocks of consumables such as parking coupons on hand, the value of posters remaining, and the balance of subscriptions paid in advance, but instead treat each year's expenditure on minor consumables discretely because the amounts are so small and the effort, and potential for error, so big. However we will of course continue to bring grants and donations remaining at year end into the accounts via the Financial Performance Statement, and to report on Commitments, Payables and Receivables through the Financial Performance and Financial Position Statements. And we will report in a general way in the Annual Report on the remaining stocks of posters – to that end, at the end of the 2008 year we held about 4000 Treaty posters, a couple of years' supply, and only about 1000 Declaration of Independence posters, but we were waiting to hear from the City Council about an application for a grant towards printing another 10,000 of these. In **2008-9** we operated at a surplus of \$4838 – a huge turnaround from last year (loss of \$3017), due to increased workshop koha (\$5800 gross, up from \$1960 in 2008) and sales of the Questions and Answers booklet (>\$2300 nett). We did not receive a COGS grant in 2008 (due to my mistake about the due date for applications), but we instead got a grant of \$4000 from Community Learning Aotearoa/New Zealand (CLANZ) – this fund has recently been disestablished. The 2009 half share of the nett workshop surplus for Te Runaka ki Otautahi o Kai Tahu was \$2254.

Part of the CLANZ grant was for printing the first 500 Q & A booklets, and sales of these continue to more than cover the printing and postage costs of further reprints. However we do expect sales to slow now as most of our contacts have a copy, but as they cost us only about \$2.63 to print and we charge \$5 plus postage, they will continue to contribute to our coffers and fund the gifting of some copies- over 200 to date. You will notice that these are normally sold and the postage charged for, not given away and the recipient invited to make a koha, as with our posters.

The office sharing with MensTrust is still working well; it ensures our right to continue to occupy an office in the fantastic Christchurch Community House/Te Whakaruruhau ki Otautahi and reduces both our rent and power costs by up to 25%.

At the end of the financial year we had adequate stocks of Tiriti (3000) and plentiful stocks of Wakaputanga/Declaration (9000) posters, having received the \$766 from the City Council towards reprinting the latter as mentioned above. The combined poster stocks remaining at year end cost us over \$1300 to print. We had over \$15,600 (after Payables and Receivables were taken into account) in the bank at the end of June 2009, including \$4200 remaining unspent from the CLANZ grant and Canterbury Community Trust's donation combined - plenty to continue our normal activities for some time even if funders fail to respond positively to our 2 currently-pending requests for grants/donations. This is the money that we are currently spending on our running costs, volunteers' expense reimbursements, etc., and it will run out at about the time we hear back from the funders.

Eileen Shewan, John Peet, Katherine Peet, Helen Gibson, Averil Williams

*NWO Organising Group*