

NETWORK



OTAUTAHI

Report to the 2008 AGM for the period 1 May 2007 to 30 June 2008

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. During the last year we were granted charitable status under the new Charities Commission. 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.

Early this year Helen Gibson, who has long been associated with our work, joined the Organising Group so the Group now has five members and meets approximately fortnightly for two hours. The membership of NWO is now 46 (at last year's AGM it was 32) and members have continued to receive email news.

Since our last AGM we have set up a website <www.nwo.org.nz>.

We continue to distribute posters of the Declaration of Independence and the Treaty of Waitangi. To date 33,000 of each have been distributed. We are about to print a further 10,000 Declaration posters.

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 publication imminent. Our role in the editorial group for that publication has been a major commitment this year. Another national role has been as a member of the Holding Group for planning nationwide independent Treaty Educators' conferences.

NWO continues to be represented at bimonthly meetings of Te Runaka ki Otautahi o Kai Tahu, which was established in 1936. We support Hui Whakamana Tiriti set up by the Otautahi Runaka. These meetings provide an opportunity for sharing information and for conversation on key issues. We have been blessed by the attendance of Aunty Kiwa Hutchen at these hui.

Mark Solomon, Kaiwhakahaere of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu (TRONT) is kept informed of our work and we have appreciated access to their resources. Relationships with Sacha McMeeking, TRONT General Manager Strategy and Influence and with Andrea Lobb, General Manager of Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd - a company owned by the six Runaka in and around Christchurch - have also been much appreciated.

In the period of this Report we have made a presentation to the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Deletion of Treaty Principles Bill - we were delighted this Bill was rejected. Also successful was the return of references to the Treaty in the School Curriculum - our submission on the Draft of that Curriculum was among many on that topic. We also submitted to Select Committees on the Immigration Bill, the Treaty of Waitangi (Removal of Conflict of Interest) and the Gambling Amendment Bill (No 2). We have continued to critique the *Treaty 2 U Exhibition* in dialogue with Claudia Orange at Te Papa who is responsible for further work on the Exhibition. We made a submission on the Draft Race Relations Statement of the Human Rights Commission (HRC) and recently attended a discussion they organised - the next iteration of that Statement is due in August 2008.

In our last Annual Report we referred to Chief Justice Sian Elias's statements about how the sovereignty of the British Crown was qualified by the Treaty. Because of the position she occupies, we have found this statement very useful in helping people understand the ramifications of the Treaty.

Our advocacy of this position over the years led to an invitation to write an article for the Christchurch Press *The Treaty is about Rights of all New Zealanders* (which is on our website). This was timed to meet widespread misinformation about the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We had written to the Prime Minister about our concerns and are deeply disappointed that our Government is one of only four (the others being Canada, USA and Australia) to vote against the UN Declaration. We are pleased that the Human Rights Commission (HRC) is making the Declaration part of its works plan and we organised a public meeting in early December where Bill Hamilton of the HRC and Sacha McMeeking explained more about the implementation of the Declaration. This was followed up in May with an overview and update from Sacha. We have also been grateful for the constructive work of Zheela Vokes in the local HRC.

Our work in relationship to the development by Statistics NZ of a Satellite Account for Non-Profit Institutions highlighted the extent of work being done in our communities (particularly by Maori) in the Non-Profit Sector that is not included in data for those Institutions. We have followed this up with submissions on the proposed Time Use Survey and hope that this Survey will produce useful data to demonstrate the extent of this activity. (Details of this work are available on our website.)

We were pleased to see recognition of NWO as a "story of success" in the *Baseline Report of the Christchurch Community Outcomes*. Our promotion of the relevance of the Treaty to the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy, the Strengthening Communities policy of the Christchurch City Council (CCC), the Long Term Council Community Plans of both CCC and Environment Canterbury has continued. We are included as one of the Community Group Training Providers by the CCC.

Although Introductory Workshops with groups as diverse as Stepping Stone Trust, the final year of Natural Resources Engineering at Canterbury University, Vision College, The Women's Centre, Trade Aid are still undertaken, most work is involved in linking with and supporting groups and individuals around the city such as Healthy Christchurch, Community Law, Sarona Community, Newell House, Relationship Services. Other sessions / workshops have been Refresher, Working in a Treaty-based Way, Making the Treaty Real. Contacts have been established with the Tamaki Brothers in relation to their presentation at Ferrymead. A new development was a session with new migrants. 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 genuinely multi-ethnic Tiriti-based future.

Involvement in the Christchurch Inter-Cultural Assembly continues and this year we have strengthened our links with the NZ Federation of Ethnic Councils. Dialogue with staff at the local Office of Ethnic Affairs followed our attendance at the National Identity series run by the Christchurch Art Gallery. The *Tangata Tiriti - Treaty People Workbook* produced in Auckland has been really useful for these networks.

Local and national efforts to build cohesion in the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector have been considerable. The Christchurch Council of Social Services has been pivotal in encouraging this and in monitoring the Statement of Government Intent (SOGI) towards the Sector. We have continued to support the Treaty Relationships Framework which emerged from the work of the Community Sector Taskforce. We especially value our involvement in the Association of Non-Government Organisations in Aotearoa (ANGOA), particularly their Research Fora, and are pleased they are providing some continuity from the work of the TaskForce. The Research Clearing House for the Sector is also welcome. Membership of the Australia New Zealand Third Sector Research Association (ANZTSR) and involvement in the International association for Public Participation (IAP2) has further assisted in our work. Links have been maintained with the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector (OCVS). We have been involved in their Project organised jointly with Philanthropy NZ and Volunteering NZ "Promoting Generosity". Having our office in *Te Whakaruruhau ki Otautahi Christchurch Community House* has provided further networking opportunities. The Structural Poverty Group which is based there enabled Treaty-related statistics to be provided.

Participation in the national Treaty People Network and attendance at the national Treaty Educators' conference, this year in April, are vital. Sharing new thinking at these conferences is their value. In particular this year the distinction between Treaty-based development and equity initiatives was elucidated. The recent production of the DVD *Te Whare The House* by Richard Green in association with the Treaty Resource Centre (see links on our website) is another example one example of the value of national networking. The collective wisdom from these gatherings sustains us for the year to come.

Other linking roles are through issues of sustainable development – working, in particular, with the Living Economies Forum, Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch (SOC) and Sustainable Aotearoa New Zealand (SANZ). The SOC initiative to promote Transition Communities has been adopted by the Community House Tenants Trust, demonstrating the way networks overlap. As a member of the Adult and Community Education Association (ACEA) we provided a workshop at the national Adult and Community Education conference on *Treaty-based Development, Sustainable Development and the Local Government Act 2002 - Making the Links*. The resources produced have been very useful in our work this year. Our involvement in the WEA, locally and nationally, in ACEA Adult Learners' Week and in the ACE Professional Development Strategy have also strengthened the networks. The Regional Facilitation Forums led by the Christchurch Polytechnic have given us the opportunity to profile emerging educational needs and gaps. This was particularly assisted by our participation in the Kotare Research and Education for Social Change workshop on the Language of Hope and Change.

Finances

The financial year covered by the accompanying audited accounts is 1st July 2006 to 30th June 2007 – a full 12 months ago. As reported in last year's annual report this arose as a result of our registering as an incorporated society in December (2004), as we slowly aligned the legal with the financial year – next year this alignment will be completed and we will hold our AGM in about September, when we will present 2 years' accounts, both audited.

The accompanying update covers the year just ended, but only in a very preliminary way, and this is presented just to give a rough flavour of how the accounts stand today as there are accounts still to be presented to us and hopefully some koha etc still to be received that relate to the 2008 year's activities.

In 2006-7 we operated at a surplus of \$368. The half of the nett workshop income for that year that we share with kaitiaki amounted to \$2861.07, of which we are still holding \$922.12. Our office has continued as per last year; the sharing is working well and is reflected in reduced rent.

At the start of the year we were holding \$2547.27 of the leftover moneys from the closing of the national Network Waitangi Inc, and part of this was spent towards producing the Questions and Answers booklet, as agreed at the final NWInc meeting, with the balance of \$2350.40 being returned to the group it belonged to (see note 3 of the accounts), as flagged in last year's report.

We have \$11,048 in the bank accounts at 30th June 2008, including about \$3300 in Grants and Funders' Donations remaining. We are currently waiting to hear the result of an application to the City Council for a grant towards reprinting 10,000 of the Declaration of Independence posters, and it is time to apply to COGS and the Canterbury Community Trust again in the next 6 weeks or so. So you can see that we continue to be ok for money.

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

NWO Organising Group