

Report to the 2012 AGM for the period 5 November 2010 to 30 March 2012

Network Waitangi Otautahi's particular emphasis is on encouraging those who do not have Maori ancestry to understand the Treaty of Waitangi. We promote Strong Sustainability <www.phase2.org> and are committed 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 currently has five members and meets approximately fortnightly for two hours.

The membership of NWO is 57 and members continue to receive email news. Our website is <www.nwo.org.nz>.

We begin this report by recording the sad passing in May 2011 of one of our members, Dr Murray Parsons. Murray was a constant support to NWO and lived the whakatauki he brought to the mahi of his co-convenorship of Hui Whakamana Tiriti :

*Ko au te Tiriti, te Tiriti ko au
I am the Treaty and the Treaty is me*

We were most fortunate in his involvement in NWO. Thank you Murray. We miss you.

This report is for a longer period than previous ones because of the effects of the demolition of *Te Whakaruruhau ki Otautahi* Community House following the February 22 2011 earthquake. We kept trying to gain access to the House until after the demolition occurred in October 2011. All our records and resources including the Treaty DVDs from the NZ Film Archive which we had promised to care for, were destroyed in the demolition. Needless to say this has made our recovery after the earthquake difficult, very time consuming and painful. We contacted our members who approved the delay of our AGM (which should have been held by January 4 2012) so that we could gather resources as much as possible as the Organising Group members have continued to work from our homes. We await access to the new interim Community House at 113 Tuam St which has just been approved (on 15 March 2012). We would like to place on record our thanks to the Tenants' Trust and particularly the House Manager, Mike Asmussen, who has continued to support our organisation from the House's temporary home in Probation Services. While our website has been very useful, face to face

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educational opportunities are still the most valuable. We really miss meeting people interested in our work at the House and the networking amongst organisations in the House. Those networking opportunities provide non-formal but vital educational opportunities for sharing our resources. We are really pleased new premises for the House have been found.

Since our last AGM the focus has been on networking widely and responding to requests from individuals, groups and government, commercial or non-government organisations on the basis of their available time and expertise and the outcomes they wish to achieve. The range of our involvement in direct formal education includes supporting Awawhenua Consultants, delivering a lecture to a Canterbury University Political Science class, organising introductory sessions at the Christchurch Polytechnic Students Association, SuperGrans (board and staff) and Citizens Advice Bureau (board and staff) as well as several one-to-one tuition sessions with new migrants and for students at the Polytechnic and Vision College who missed classes due to illness and bereavements. In addition we have been asked to brief visitors from Britain, Finland, South Africa and Canada about our approach. A number of longer workshops were postponed because of the disruption to organisations from the earthquake. Vision College continued with their 16 hour workshops for Counselling students, while Stepping Stone Trust after several years of calling on us has taken responsibility for their own continuing Treaty education. We see this as a very positive outcome from the years of involvement we have had with that organisation.

During this period we printed a new version of our descriptive poster of the Treaty of Waitangi. To date 52,500 of these Treaty posters have been printed. We distribute these with descriptive posters on the Declaration of Independence, of which 50,000 have been printed.

Follow-up enquiries from readers of the Network Waitangi handbook *The Treaty of Waitangi Questions and Answers* continue. Since our last AGM we have distributed (at \$5 each) 1600 hard copies, bringing the total we have distributed so far to 6300. Many enquiries to which we respond come initially by email as it is also available to download free from our website. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive both for those for whom it has provided an introduction to the Treaty as well as for others who have done previous work on the Treaty.

Local and nationwide links have both been maintained and new ones established through the distribution of these resources. Our slogan *Understanding the Treaty* has assisted in clarifying our educational role.

Our checklist of what Treaty-based development is not the same as has also assisted in clarifying this educational role. All of them are important and need to be understood for Treaty-based development, but they are not substitutes for the Treaty itself - the Treaty is the Treaty.

- Equal/equitable development
- Culture, cultural differences, cultural safety and intercultural development
- Biculturalism
- Understanding history and colonisation
- Treaty settlements
- Principles of the Treaty e.g. Partnership, Protection and Participation
- The English Version of The Treaty which was not present on 6 February 1840.

These points are reviewed at the end of our workshops and shorter sessions. They

encapsulate current key challenges. Critical to this work is the understanding of history prior to 1840, both in this country and in relation to colonisation around the world. We take the view that the 1835 Declaration of Independence of this country, which was recognised by Britain at the time, is pivotal to understanding the Treaty.

5 aspects of the Treaty, taken together, both as a whole and also as a follow-on to the 1835 Declaration of Independence form a framework which we suggest for implementing the Treaty in our lives and organisations:

Preamble: Upholding peace with justice for all peoples

Article 1: Practising KAWANATANGA for all peoples

Article 2: Promoting TINO RANGATIRATANGA for tangata whenua

Article 3: Expecting Maori participation in ways determined by Maori in relation to tikanga

Article 4: Upholding everybody's belief systems

We present each of them as a basis for thinking through implementation plans for Treaty-based action and then consider them as a whole package. All 5 aspects have action opportunities.

We continue to participate in the national Treaty People Network and were very pleased that Professor of Law at Auckland/Tamaki Makaurau, David Williams, agreed to talk and lead a conversation at our 2010 AGM on *Embedding Maori and Treaty Rights in our nation's constitution – what can each of us do?* We also attended the Constitutional Transformation meeting in Wellington on 25&26 March 2011. At that meeting we were fortunate to receive a briefing on the *Constitutional Review* which had been recently announced by the Crown. We concluded that our work needed to be wider than the Terms of Reference of that Review which essentially consider how the institution of Parliament might be changed. We discussed how we settle as settlers and what we wanted to *constitute* our way of life. We resolved that Papatuanuku is the basis of what we want to "*constitute*" our way of life - and that this does not separate the environment for special attention but embraces nature, justice, equality and fairness. Central to this are relationships in the framework of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and our particular responsibility for Kawanatanga.

Sharing of new thinking through these national Treaty networks develops our collective wisdom and helps sustain us for the year to come.

We are also inspired by attendance at conferences in related areas. The Sustainable Economy conference at Parliament in November 2010 highlighted the possibilities of dialogue between political parties. In particular the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy hosted in January 2011 in Whakatane by Te Runanga o Ngati Awa with Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi and Victoria University provided a range of rich resources for our work. The journey home enabled us to visit Parihaka and we were delighted to learn of the use made there of our *Treaty Questions and Answers* handbooks. The NZ Council of Social Services' national conference in Dunedin in November 2012, the Adult and Community Education (ACE) annual conference in Wellington June 2011 and the Not-For Profit annual conference in Wellington in February 2012 provided an opportunity to distribute our Treaty and Declaration posters along with a flyer about our *Treaty of Waitangi Questions and Answers* handbooks. An invitation to participate in an ACE Association workshop to develop ACE Outcomes, the Federation of WEAs annual meeting, and in the final meetings of the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector Task Force Treaty Work Group also gave us a nationwide perspective.

Other national networks are also vital in both providing the opportunity for us to share our resources and to contextualise our education. We particularly value our membership of the Association of Non Government Organisations (ANGOA) which continues to provide useful newsletters from their monthly Round Tables and their Research Fora. The NZ Council of Christian Social Services *Kete Kupu* and *Policy Watch*, Peace Movement Aotearoa regular bulletins, the Australia NZ Third Sector Association and the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector Research Centre all provide useful background for groups such as ours who do not operate in Wellington or Auckland. This information is vital for our understanding of the nationwide context in which we work, for example, in following up the Community/Government Relationship Accord *Kia Tutahi Standing Together* which has as its first principle *We will respect Te Tiriti o Waitangi*.

We would like to express sincere thanks to our donors - the Christchurch City Council, Community Organisation Grants Scheme and The Canterbury Community Trust - for funds to cover expenses of our work.

In the Human Rights Commission locally we have valued engagement with both Zheela Volkes and Reihana Haggie in his new position and we have continued to maintain our relationship with the HRC national Race Relations Commissioner Joris de Bres. We were also given the opportunity to make our resources available at the national Human Rights Commission Diversity Forum in Hamilton in August.

Involvement in Third Age networks, including University of the Third Age has revealed the lack of understanding of Te Tiriti amongst many older Christchurch citizens. Other local groups with whom we have worked not mentioned elsewhere in this report include Christchurch Adult and Community Education (ACE) Network, ACE Aoteaora ki Otautahi, Barnardos, Canterbury WEA Council, Programme Advisory Committee and Centennial History Project, the Christchurch Disabled Persons Assembly and the Christchurch International Association for Public Participation. The Healthy Christchurch network has continued to provide valuable networking opportunities. Following on from the work we did through the Department of Labour Settlement Services the new Migrant Centre and their Inter-Agency Forum has been a valuable addition to the Department of Internal Affairs Refugee and Migrant Forum and the Ethnic Affairs work. These fora enable us to resource these migrant networks face-to-face. The Kotare Research and Education Centre of which we are a member organised two Christchurch workshops - *Union and Community* - and - *Building Resilience Community Organising Now in Otautahi* - both providing valuable networking opportunities to share our educational resources.

We support the Christchurch Council of Social Services (COSS) and in particular the work of Sharon Torstonson and Helen Gatonyi in creating opportunities for collaboration. Our direct involvement in Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch (SOC) is vital for making the links between Strong Sustainability <www.phase2.org> and Treaty-based development that are inherent in our NWO educational approach. These links were usefully explored at the Sustainable Cities Research Forum run by Lincoln University in April 2011. SOC has supported the Transition Initiatives Forum which has brought together a number of locality initiatives for example community gardens and Time Banks. These locality connections proved to be vital for the initial period after the earthquake. One important development for further collaboration has been the support of COSS and SOC in the establishment of *One Voice Te Reo Kotahi* (OVTRK) which provides a register for those organisations not formed by government or commercial interests. This independent voice, alongside that of the Canterbury Communities

Earthquake Recovery Network (CanCERN), which is comprised of the local residents' groups, has the potential to be key in identifying needs and gaps in the rebuilding of Christchurch. The visit by James Hansen speaking on Climate Change highlighted the urgency of making these links and of collaboration and relational politics. One project that has emerged from collaborative networking is the Avon Otakaro Network (AvON). The AvON proposal of a River Park from city centre to the sea on land that has been red-zoned has attracted commitment from a wide range of individuals and organisations. Their advocacy of the need for a corridor of indigenous plants while keeping other plants from peoples gardens in the red zone has received wide support. The indigenous birds are already returning to the city as a result people are "learning by doing" the potential of Treaty-based collaboration. Healthy Christchurch's support of AvON in its River of Flowers event to commemorate one year on from 22 February 2011 widened further the networks of collaboration.

NWO continues to be represented at meetings of Te Runaka ki Otautahi o Kai Tahu. Our relationship with this Runaka, which was established in 1936, began in 1984 and has been pivotal in our work. Their hui continue to draw a number of practitioners together and they resource and inspire us. We are very grateful for the ongoing support of Upoko Maurice Manawaroa Gray and his willingness to provide us with expressions in English of Te Reo. 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 Treaty education matters.

Mark Solomon, Kaiwhakahaere of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu (TRONT) is kept informed of our work. He has been very supportive in our exploration of the links between Strong Sustainability and Treaty-based development. Relationships with others involved in TRONT have been most helpful in preparation for follow-up with Environment Canterbury (ECAN) following our submission on the use of our Treaty handbooks with ECAN, with the support of Rachel Puentener. Commissioner Couch was most helpful in identifying what support ECAN could give OVTRK when their brief was presented to the Commissioners. Te Karaka and other resources from TRONT have also been much appreciated in keeping us informed of their mahi. We have also been invited to He Oranga Pounamu AGMs and look forward to developing closer working relationships with that organisation. Our warm relationship with the General Manager of Mahaanui Kurataiao (MKT) Ltd - a company owned by the six papatipu Runaka in and around Christchurch - has continued.

We made a submission on the Central City Plan in which we called for leadership from the Council in further developing city-wide participatory initiatives while developing understanding of the Treaty. We noted the importance of ensuring that the voices of the Third Sector are heard alongside those of government and commerce as a basis of relational politics. We took the view that making links between Strong Sustainability and Treaty-based development would enable much greater social cohesion towards a sustainable, multicultural, Treaty-based future where the status of all other citizens is understood alongside the indigenous status of Maori. We referred to the importance of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002) in facing this challenge. Its purpose currently sets out a legal imperative to uphold the four wellbeings (social, economic, environmental and cultural), taking a sustainable development approach, in relationship with Maori. We sought their support in advocating for an overriding parallel legal imperative in the purpose of central government's approach and argued that this lack needs to be urgently addressed. The changes recently proposed to the LGA to remove the imperative for local government to uphold the four wellbeings and instead to apply a

test of *public good* provides a further challenge. Without achieving coherence between local, regional and central government policy direction disengagement by citizens is highly likely. The ten point plan recently announced by the government presents an educational challenge in making the connections between the hopes and aspirations gathered in CCC-led *Share an Idea* process and this ten point plan with respect to developing a shared clarification of *public good*.

We set up a display of our Treaty and Declaration posters as well as the Treaty *Questions and Answers* handbooks during Adult Learners' Week at Christchurch Polytechnic in October, at the Lincoln Multicultural Festival in March 2011 and at Culture Galore on 10 March this year (last year this event was cancelled due to the earthquake). On Waitangi Day 2011, we made these available at the Christchurch Art Gallery, whereas for this year's Waitangi Day were based at Kaiapoi with the Waimakariri District Council. Many people ask questions when they visit these displays and express gratitude for our clarifications. Also this year Katherine was invited to write the Joan Cook Memorial Essay on *The State of the Pakeha Nation* for Waitangi Day.

We conclude by noting that our role in NWO is to help deepen understanding of the Treaty. Provided that it is honoured we see the Treaty as the foundation upon which those of us who are not of Maori descent can justly have a place in this country. Judge Edward Durie has referred to such people as tangata Tiriti - people of the Treaty - who have been invited to share this country with tangata whenua. Pakeha, together with others who are not of Maori descent, work alongside tangata whenua within the framework of the Treaty. At the moment the Treaty is still understood by most people as being about Maori alone. In our experience, new migrants (especially those who have themselves experienced colonisation) find it straightforward to take a multicultural, Treaty-based approach, as do those who call themselves Pakeha. But this is not yet familiar to many others. The Treaty is both an invitation to share this land and the basis of our nationhood. This poses a particularly critical challenge to the state of the Pakeha nation in 2012. This is because Treaty relationships with tangata whenua are rooted in the recognition of mana whenua where the local context becomes critical for developing ways forward. There may be an opportunity to face this challenge in Canterbury. In the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu (TRONT) is recognised alongside the territorial local authorities (TLAs) and the regional council Environment Canterbury (ECAN). We are currently awaiting the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority's (CERA) final strategy. We expect the Strategy to indicate how the territorial local authorities and our regional council will relate to each other and to CERA with respect to decision-making for the next period of recovery. How the Strategy includes collaboration with TRONT will be interesting. The challenge will then be to see what opportunities there are for all citizens of Canterbury, including all Maori, to participate. Will the Treaty be named as a framework for the future?

Finally may we thank all our members for their encouragement and on-going commitment.

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

NWO Organising Group