

Report to the 2014 AGM for the period 30 April 2013 to 12 May 2014

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 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 multicultural future in Aotearoa New Zealand where the indigenous status of Maori is understood

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 six members and meets approximately fortnightly for two hours. The membership of NWO is 67 and members continue to receive email news.

Our website is www.nwo.org.nz

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Introduction

At our last AGM on 30 April 2013 the topic *The Treaty of Waitangi and New Zealand's Constitutional Arrangements* was addressed by Professor John Burrows, Co Chair of the Constitutional Advisory Panel. After outlining the role of the Panel, which was appointed by the Government, he then noted that he hoped for feedback to the Panel from people present. He asked that we take into account key questions relating to the Treaty of Waitangi:

- Thinking of the future, what role do you think the Treaty of Waitangi could have in our constitution?
- Do you think that the Treaty should be made a formal part of the constitution? Why?
- Treaty settlements will end – then what about the Treaty?
- How to include the Treaty in Law?

This last question elicited several responses which proposed that views about how to include the Law in the Treaty framework should be also considered, and emphasised the need for sound education about the Treaty.

We note that in January this year the Panel recommended that Government

- continues to affirm the importance of the Treaty as a foundational document
- ensures a Treaty education strategy is developed that includes the current role and status of the Treaty and the Treaty settlement process so people can inform themselves about the rights and obligations under the Treaty
- supports the continued development of the role and status of the Treaty under the current arrangements as has occurred over the past decades
- sets up a process to develop a range of options for the future role of the Treaty, including options within existing constitutional arrangements and arrangements in which the Treaty is the foundation
- invites and supports the people of Aotearoa New Zealand to continue the conversation about the place of the Treaty in our constitution.

We continue to address the educational aspects of these matters. In particular we have been resourced in this thinking from our commitment to supporting Non Government Organisations (NGOs). In Greater Christchurch a current opportunity to do this has been through *One Voice Te Reo Kotahi (OVTRK)*, where *A New Way of Working* as tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti <onevoicetereokotahi.blogspot.co.nz> has been put into practice. Treaty-based development with its possibilities of achieving the best of both the indigenous and western world views is enhanced in such NGOs by the independent thinking made possible by lack of limits and constraints from statutory or commercial imperatives.

This year our AGM topic on *The Changing Face of Co-Governance in NZ* is a further exploration of related educational aspects that we need to develop.

Treaty Education Outreach

Our focus continues to be on networking widely and responding to requests from individuals and groups as well as from government, commercial or non-government organisations on the basis of their available time and expertise and the outcomes they wish to achieve.

Our regular emails to members update them for their educational work. Much of the information we share is not available through the mainstream media.

Requests for workshop sessions vary widely – for example, SuperGrans, Open Home Foundation, VIVA! Project, Green Party, Statistics NZ in Christchurch and Wellington, Health Promotion Forum in Wellington, Human Rights Commission Diversity Forum with NZ Federation of Multicultural Councils, Canterbury University Tertiary Education Summit, Paparua Prison, Rosebank Hospital and Rest Home in Ashburton, Migrant Leaders, Healthy Day at the Ngai Tuahuriri Pa.

Several one-to-one tuition sessions for those who need to be prepared for admission to professional organisations have also been a significant part of the work, as many such organisations no longer make such tuition available.

We have been asked to brief visitors from France, England, USA, Canada, Australia, Samoa, Finland and Germany about our approach. In particular we were pleased to be interviewed by visiting French journalists who produced a documentary film on Te Tiriti o Waitangi. They have made their production available for viewing via our website.

We continue to distribute, on the basis of koha, our NWO posters of *He Wakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tireni* and *Te Tiriti o Waitangi*.

The handbook *The Treaty of Waitangi Questions and Answers* is available to download for free from our website, or we can supply as hard copy for \$5. We are pleased to be involved in supporting the current updating of the handbook. The report *Nga Puhi Speaks* (see our website) is providing concise documentation for that update, particularly in relation to the history prior to 1840, which we see as pivotal to a fuller understanding the Treaty itself. Feedback to the current edition continues to indicate the value of the handbook, both as an introduction to the Treaty and as a continuing resource for those who have done previous work on the Treaty.

The handbook is just one resource on our NWO website, which we continue to maintain and update. We often receive follow-up enquiries from readers who use our website, as well as much positive feedback about the ease of access to these resources.

Finally, we are aware that the provision of collections of information is not necessarily sufficient for developing an understanding of the Treaty and for this reason we emphasise the value of a workshop process. We endeavour to maintain that process even in shorter educational sessions.

The Treaty

The five aspects of the Treaty (the Preamble and four Articles) taken together, both as a whole and also as a follow-on from the 1835 Declaration of Independence, form a framework which we put forward as a basis for thinking through implementation plans for Treaty-based action in our lives and organisations. This year we have focused on developing this into a presentation - *A Handshake Approach* - which has proved widely useful, including when working with those whose English is not fluent.

Policy work with the Federation of Multicultural Councils has been summarized in a new resource - *Treaty-based Multicultural New Zealand* - which both we and the Federation have made available on our websites with a view to assisting other organisations to develop their own Treaty policies. The Human Rights Commission's *Race Relations Report 2013* (page 36) refers to this development. We would like to place on record our thanks to Henning Borchers, based locally in the HRC, who has been very supportive of our consideration of the human rights aspects of Treaty-based development.

We continue to participate in the national Treaty People Network, though there have been few opportunities to gather nationally, other than as subgroups at other conferences. Since the learnings from the Ngapuhi claim we agreed for the need to reword the English translation of the 1835 Declaration of Independence but we have not been through the necessary but, no doubt, difficult process. Sharing of

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

Publications & Resources

To date 52,500 of our *Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi* posters have been printed (with a new version produced in 2011). We distribute these on the basis of koha with descriptive posters on *He Wakaputanga o Te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tireni/Declaration of Independence*, of which 55,000 have been printed. This year we supplied these to national conferences of the NZ Association of Environmental Education conference *Shake Up!*, the *Adult and Community Education* conference and to the local *EthnicA!* organised by the Department of Internal Affairs Office of Ethnic Affairs. Middleton Grange School recently distributed copies to their staff.

Since our last AGM we have distributed (at \$5 each) 530 hard copies of *The Treaty of Waitangi Questions and Answers* handbook, bringing the total we have distributed so far to 6364.

We find hard copy resources of our Treaty and Declaration posters as well as the *Treaty Questions and Answers* handbooks very useful when we set up a display - for example during Adult Learners' Week, at the Lincoln Multicultural Festival and the recent Youth Fest organised by the Refugee Council. On Waitangi Day this year we supplied Otakou marae, Okains Bay, Rapaki marae, Rehua marae and Kaiapoi (with Waimakariri District Council). Many people ask questions when they visit these displays and express appreciation of our clarifications. Treaty workers from around the country also ask for our hard-copy resources – for example in Dunedin, Nelson, Kapiti, Wellington, Palmerston North, Hamilton, Auckland and Whangarei.

Our slogan and banner *Understanding the Treaty* has continued to draw people's attention to our educational approach. This year our displays have profiled the policy resource *Treaty-based Multicultural New Zealand* that we developed with the NZ Federation of Multicultural Councils, referred to earlier.

A significant outcome from contact with those using these resources and those accessing our website is that several people in organisations are liaising with us as they study how to update their Treaty policies.

As reported last year, our entire library of books, pamphlets, dictionaries, magazines, dvds, videos, audio tapes, posters, etc. was destroyed in the earthquake. Most of these are irreplaceable as they were historic and out of print, so we are asking anyone who has anything you think we might find useful, either for our current work or for the archives, if you would lend/donate/sell/allow us to copy/etc. them. Please talk to one of us tonight, or phone or email us later.

NWO and Tangata Whenua

Since 1984 NWO has maintained its relationship with Te Runaka ki Otautahi o Kai Tahu which was established in 1936, and we continue to be represented at their hui. In the absence of these hui we continue to uphold the purpose of *Supporting the kaupapa of the restoration and enhancement of Tino Rangatiratanga and recognising*

the need to continue the discussion by working through the Treaty to achieve this collective vision to lay the foundation for the future.

We have been pleased to establish closer ties with Ngai Tuahuriri through contacts with the Maori Women's Welfare League, our educational work at Paparua Prison and more recently with the preparation for working with the Ministry of Education.

Our relationship with Rehua marae Manager has strengthened this year as have relationships with Rapaki marae particularly in relation to Parihaka Day and follow up after the Environment Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee meeting that was held there.

Sir Mark Solomon, Kaiwhakahaere of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu (TRONT) is kept informed of our work. He has been supportive of our exploration of the links between Strong Sustainability and Treaty-based development. The TRONT Newsletter Te Karaka and other published resources from TRONT have also been really valuable in expanding our thinking as well as in keeping us informed.

Relationships with He Waka Tapu and several other kaupapa Maori NGOs have been enhanced through the commitment we made to *One Voice Te Reo Kotahi* (OVTRK) <onevoicetereokotahi.blogspot.co.nz>, mentioned earlier as a forum for discussion.

OVTRK uses the framework of Tangata Whenua and Tangata Tiriti caucuses and NGOs committed to its kaupapa have worked together in a number of fora related to the recovery of Greater Christchurch during the year. Recently the OVTRK Forum met with Roger Sutton and Benesia Smith from CERA. OVTRK is one of the networks represented on the Pan NGO Support Panel which has representation on the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) Community Wellbeing Planning Group and its Psychosocial subcommittee.

Our direct involvement with OVTRK thus gives us a close working relationship with other members of that Panel - the Council of Social Services, the Youth Network, Older Persons Network and Social Service Providers Association.

The visits to Christchurch by Professor Peter Gluckman the Prime Minister's Chief Scientific Advisor and Dr Rob Gordon a psychologist working in the aftermath of the Australian bush fires both highlighted the fact that secondary stressors for citizens must be addressed by making clear the steps for progression to the future. This begs the question about the existence of frameworks able to accommodate engagement by all citizens including tangata whenua. Ministry of Social Development NGO Forums do not provide the opportunity for such questions to be addressed.

The launch of the Environment Canterbury (ECAN) Natural Environment Recovery Programme has provided some opportunities for further networking with tangata whenua, but in general links between NGOs and ECAN, as well as with Territorial Local Authorities Christchurch City, Selwyn District and Waimakariri are barely at the fledgling stage. Moana Jackson's September presentation in Christchurch gave

much food for thought about ways forward. OVTRK may be able to continue this discussion. Treaty education will be vital for productive relationships to develop.

Other Networks

We have continued to be a tenant in *Te Whakaruruhau ki Otautahi Christchurch Community House* whose premises are now temporarily at 575 Colombo St. We would like to place on record our thanks to the Trust and particularly the House Manager, Mike Asmussen, who has continued to support our organisation.

We have particularly enjoyed a close working relationship with the Christchurch Migrants' Centre, the Refugee Council and the Christchurch Multicultural Council.

The Healthy Christchurch network continues to provide valuable links. Relationships with Canterbury Communities Earthquake Recovery Network (CanCERN), the Avon Otakaro River Network (AvON), the University of the Third Age (U3A) Network Canterbury and the Canterbury WEA and its associated nationwide Federation of WEAs are maintained. Close involvement with the National Council of Women both locally and nationally has been another source of creative networking. Involvement in the work of the Child Poverty Action Group, the Living Wage campaign and the Twigger Women's Endowment Collective also give insights into the lack of attention being paid to challenges for women and children in the rebuild.

We have supported the work of the Keep Our Assets campaign to identify metropolitan and regional strategic assets to be held in continued public ownership, as in a Treaty-based future we envisage these assets would be protected for future generations thus enabling whanau, hapu, iwi to regain local control of their lands and waters, and an honourable Kawanatanga realised.

We continue our local membership of Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch (SOC) and value its links with Wise Response, Gap Filler, Generation Zero, the Viva! Project, Sustainable Aotearoa NZ, Environment and Conservation Organisations (ECO) and the Environmental Defence Society. The work done on the *Rights of Nature* by some members of these groups is particularly relevant to the recent Tuhoe and Whanganui River Waitangi Tribunal Treaty Settlements.

We continue to value our membership of Adult and Community Education Aotearoa (ACEA) and are pleased to record that ACEA selected our Organising Group member, Katherine Peet as recipient of their inaugural Tangata Tiriti Annual Award.

Kotare Research and Education For Social Change, the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Research Centre and the Association of Non Government Organisations (ANGOA) monthly Round Tables and Research Fora all provide useful newsletters which enable us to keep up to date with their work.

The upcoming Australian and NZ Third Sector Research Association on *Resilience, Change and the Third Sector* in November will provide opportunities to discuss the proposed national strengthening of the NGO sector in NZ through amalgamation of some national bodies. Volunteering NZ and ANGOA with Social Development Partners are in the process of formalising closer relationships and are liaising with

the NZ Council of Social Services which is considering a change of name to Community Networks Aotearoa. Overlap with the New Zealand activities of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) will be interesting to explore.

The NZ Council of Christian Social Services and its publications *Kete Kupu* and *Policy Watch*, and Peace Movement Aotearoa regular bulletins all provide useful background relating to the nationwide context in which we work. In particular the moves to strengthen national networks raise questions about how to maintain hapu-driven, Treaty-based development. The international body to which ANGOA belongs, CIVICUS, in a recent presentation provided useful detail in learning to “measure what we treasure” in this context. In addition the Aotearoa NZ Evaluation Association presentation by Nan Wehipeihana on *A Vision for Indigenous Evaluation* gives insights into possibilities for the future.

All these networking opportunities provide non-formal but vital educational opportunities by sharing resources amongst NGOs.

Conclusions

Those of us who are not of Maori descent who wish to support a way to justly have a place in this country have been referred to by Judge Sir Edward Taihakurei Durie as Tangata Tiriti - people of the Treaty. They have been invited to share this country with Tangata Whenua. The Treaty is both an invitation to share this land and the basis of our nationhood. This poses a particular challenge because Treaty relationships with Tangata Whenua are rooted in the recognition that the local context becomes critical when developing ways forward.

We have reported this year on our Handshake Approach to Treaty education. We look forward to any feedback from those interested in this approach.

In addition we are aware that the Constitutional Advisory Panel, referred to at the beginning of this Report, recommends education about the Treaty and we appeal to readers to ensure that such education is **not** limited to education on

- 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 at Waitangi on 6 February 1840).

Regrettably, we continue to find that the Treaty is still understood by most people as being about Maori alone. For this reason we think it is more essential than ever, that sound education about the Treaty is undertaken. Our vision is for Pakeha, together with all others who are not of Maori descent, working as Tangata Tiriti alongside Tangata Whenua in a multicultural, Treaty-based approach where the indigenous status of Maori is understood. This approach is vital for future decision-making by and for all of us living in this country, so that we can take responsibility to clarify what opportunities there are for all citizens of Canterbury and beyond, including all Maori, to participate.

Will the Treaty be named as a framework for the future – *For us and our children after us?*

Acknowledgements

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

Averil Williams, Eileen Shewan, John Peet, Tatjana Parsons, Helen Gibson and Katherine Peet

NWO Organising Group

12 May 2014