

2021 Joan Cook Memorial

State of the Pākehā Nation Essay

Treaty education group Network Waitangi Whangārei has commissioned annual reflections on the State of the Pākehā Nation since 2006. Founding member the Rev. Joan Cook died in 2009 and the essays since that time commemorate her pioneering Treaty and anti-racism work. As an Australian she was so intrigued by the racial and cultural contradictions of her adopted country that she learned and then taught us our hidden history over several decades.

The speeches and essays are free to download from the NWW website nwwhangarei.wordpress.com, along with Treaty of Waitangi Questions & Answers. The group co-published with Te Kawariki an independent panel report on Stage I of the Ngāpuhi claim (WAI 1040), called Ngāpuhi Speaks, available as an e-book from meBooks.co.nz or hard copies from reotahi2@gmail.com.

The 2021 author is former New Plymouth Mayor and Maori wards campaigner, Andrew Judd

As I look to the stars, the hills and the sun, the oceans the waves that roll into one
I think of my life and who I've become, the lessons I've learnt of what hides from the sun
For I'm in a waka, a waka called life, a journey it takes me to find all that's right
So here is my story, a story to share
my waka it brought me to challenge my fear
I have been racist
Fear was the way and ignorance was a script for each day
How did I view those different from me
I did not care
I did not see
Nothing you said mattered to me
Pakeha born
I have more rights, the systems we have make sure I'm alright
So what did I see

I looked inside, challenged within, learnt of our past and let it sink in
My ancestors brought their ways from afar
Challenged your rights and changed who you are
Two worlds came together
Two worlds fell apart
How did this happen
What tore us apart
Land was the drug, for he who had come, take it we will we'll take it with gun
If they do not hit the targets we set, new rules will appear which are cruel and don't care
The tragedy was, those guns did increase, the crown was in town, the land grabbing beast
Bullets shattered promises and the nightmare began
But so did resistance, for it was time to make a stand
If this is the way you are here with us, return on your ships with those lies from your lips
Save us
You say
Save us from who
We did not seek
You came here for you
With blood in the ground
Pain all around
When will it end
When will it cease
Out of the flames of war and destruction
And tears of death and despair
Two leaders appear
Te Whiti and Tohu
Great minds of the time
Teaching peace and love
So divine
The messages they left behind
Live on to this day

Standing in peace, those guns went away

They paid a price for speaking such truth

Arrested and chained

Taken away

The crown had achieved what it begun

But time will uncover the sins that were done

So what have I learnt on this journey of mine

I've had a privilege and it's kept me blind

The truth of our past

I was not told

Fear still lives here, it still has a hold

So here is my message, my message to you

Look in your heart, be honest, challenge the fear someone else has put there

Learn of our past, pray for the new

Differences though, should never let go

They will define the strength of our vine