

NETWORK

Waitangi

ŌTAUTAHI

Annual Report

24th October 2024

**TREATY-BASED
MULTICULTURAL
FUTURE**

Understanding the Treaty as a framework
for the future for all of us

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Network Waitangi Ōtautahi (NWŌ) is a Third Sector Organisation (TSO) with members who cover a wide range of expertise, including educational, scientific, technical, ecological and sociological.

A cornerstone of NWŌ is developing educational resources in response to current issues relating to honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi. To say the last fourteen months has been busy would be an understatement. The pace and extent of the current coalition government's approach to Te Tiriti, tangata whenua and social structures has seen a groundswell of response and resulted in pressure on many levels, including within NWŌ.

The pinnacle has been the proposal to take the Treaty Principles Bill to Select Committee as part of the coalition agreement. Coupled with many other government changes, such as the dismantling of Te Aka Whai Ora Māori Health Authority, the removal or diminution of te reo Māori names within government, the review of Māori wards, the repeal of section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act, the proposed changes with marine customary title under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act and changes in the disability sector, have created seismic ripples in the social fabric of the nation. These have resulted in acute impacts on tangata whenua and the heart of Te Tiriti.

Te Tiriti is effectively being undermined by the Crown/government, creating inherent strains in the Treaty relationships. The coalition government's withdrawal of government funding from public services has increased the workload of many local groups and Third Sector Organisations, creating more strain in the wider community. In addition, the coalition's continual focus on growth of the market economy alone directly sidelines how important it is to develop in-depth policies for the survival of future generations. The ability of groups to be able to address how decision-making in the wider community can become more Tiriti-based will address a longer term approach.

In response to this, tangata whenua have strengthened kotahitanga through the Kīngitanga - initiated hui-ā-motu which were held around the country starting at Tūrangawaewae, followed by Ōmāhu Marae and more recently in the south with Ngāi Tūāhuriri hosting at Tuahiwi. Waitangi Day and Rātana celebrations were important focal points to air the ideas and sentiments from both iwi Māori and the coalition government. Tangata Tiriti individuals, groups and organisations have also responded in support of Te Tiriti. Many hikoī have been held throughout the motu with tangata Tiriti and tangata whenua aligning to voice their concerns over the proposals and actions initiated by the current government representing the Crown which are the antithesis of honourable Kāwanatanga.

The non-formal support and mentoring aspects of NWŌ work have particularly increased through individual queries, and through interest from organisations wanting to increase knowledge of Te Tiriti and understand how they need to pivot to deepen their understanding. There have also been increased hui and events providing opportunities for NWŌ engagement which led to further dialogue. We continue to collaborate with other organisations – our relationship with Ka Puta Ka Ora Emerge Aotearoa has been particularly significant and we welcome the gift of their presentation at our AGM on the meaning and importance of their journey to becoming a Tangata Tiriti Organisation.

Contrary to the government's statement in parliament this year that Māori ceded sovereignty, NWŌ supports restoration of Tino Rangatiratanga as the context for relational politics in this country. We are committed to supporting those taking responsibility to build honourable Kāwanatanga for our sake and the sake of all who come after us. Such a move beyond reliance on monocultural, majoritarian decision-making processes inherited from the Westminster system of government during colonisation requires a focus on building honourable Kāwanatanga. Nourished by our understandings of whanaungatanga, manaakitanga and kaitiakitanga we appreciate more clearly a shift from individual self-interest alone to a society based on generosity. Such a values-based, place/hapū-based society could enhance the collective and individual wellbeing for all.

Importantly, this shift to focus on what we value aligns with how we see Te Tiriti o Waitangi as fundamentally a covenant of peace with honour on both sides. As Rahui Papa of the Iwi Chairs Forum states, "*Te Tiriti o Waitangi is sacrosanct in our view*".

What follows in this Annual Report is a more detailed description of our work during this last period. We look forward to continued interaction with our members and the opportunities the year ahead brings.

Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiora

As this whakataukī reminds us, it is important to keep connected, maintain relationships and dialogue so that we can keep moving forward together.

Archie Hunter, Fay Brorens, John Peet, Katherine O'Brien, Katherine Peet, Kelly Dorgan, Laura Muir and Victoria Elworthy - the NWŌ Organising Group.

*NWŌ recognises the text in te reo Māori as the Treaty.
No English language version was signed at Waitangi on 6 February 1840.
Any NWŌ references to the Treaty/Te Tiriti are to that text in te reo Māori.
A modern, accurate expression in English of its text in te reo Māori is
available on the NWŌ website [here](#).*

MANA WHENUA/TANGATA WHENUA

Since our inception in 1984 as Project Waitangi Ōtautahi, we have always had connections with and the support of mana whenua.

We supported Ngāi Tahu when they took their claim to the Waitangi Tribunal and were involved with the Hui Whakamana Tiriti which was established by the Ōtautahi Rūnaka in 1990 to provide opportunities to converse with people from many different organisations about key Treaty issues.

After Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRONT) was established, we have valued ongoing relationships with them. An example is when, through our connections with Arihia Bennett, TRONT Kaiwhakahaere Lisa Tumahai forwarded our contribution to the Iwi Chairs Forum call encouraging people to share their vision for this country post-Covid-19. (We still refer to our image - see below).



NWŌ values the public statements from the newly elected (November 2023) Kaiwhakahaere Justin Tipa and warmly acknowledges the service of Lisa Tumahai who held the role for the previous six years as the first wahine elected as Chairperson.

We have appreciated the regular updates through [Te Pānui Rūnaka](#) and [Te Karaka](#) from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRONT).



It is a privilege to keep in touch with Helen Brown, Co-Manager Ngāi Tahu Archive and to access their newsletters and resources on their website [kareao](#). We enjoyed having our NWŌ display alongside the TRONT stall at Okains Bay on Waitangi Day and look forward to following up the invitation to work with the Museum staff and Board.

We were pleased to be included in the 2024 WORD Festival presentation *Te kākahu huruhuru o te Tiriti* by Helen Brown on the largely unknown story of the Kāi Tahu signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in Te Waipounamu – the associated book will be published early in 2025.

NWŌ is most grateful to Ngāi Tūāhuriri for their ongoing support of our mahi. The support and engagement with Amber Clarke and Te Maire Tau, who have provided wise guidance throughout an eventful and changing year, is pivotal. It was humbling to receive a letter of support for our Rātā funding application from Dr Liz Brown, Kaihautū Matua, University of Canterbury, Office of Treaty Partnership. We continue to seek guidance on how best to maintain local relationships.

We were interested to learn that the Christchurch City Council (CCC) has recently re-established their Treaty-relationships team and record our appreciation of Environment Canterbury's decision to choose to retain the two Regional Council seats as set out in the Ngāi Tahu Act.

In acknowledging the passing of King Tūheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero VII we highlight how his leadership, dignity and ability to dialogue has played a pivotal role with his call for and strengthening of kotahitanga particularly over the past year. NWŌ is heartened by the passing of the mantle to his daughter [Kuini Nga wai hono i te po](#) who ushers in a new dawn of leadership within tangata whenua and the nation. We acknowledge the added significance of her first major national engagement being at the hui-ā-motu Te Pūnuiotoka hosted by Ngāi Tūāhuriri.

In recognising the profiling of connections between tangata moana and tangata whenua over the previous year, NWŌ records here with sadness, the untimely passing of Fa'anana Efeso Collins who was an advocate, among other things, for a Te Tiriti-based Aotearoa as noted in his maiden speech.

NWŌ Activities

Network Waitangi Ōtautahi (NWŌ) continues to provide:

- Responses to email enquiries which are often from users of our website - detail of website usage is below*
- formal learning opportunities to institutions, organisations, groups and members of the public
Details of engagement are on our website. Our opportunities are designed for those with limited or no knowledge or as a refresh regarding current approaches and thinking.
- hard copy resources for distribution around the motu, as well as for displays at events (see later list)
- on-line resources which are open access under the Creative Commons Attribution International 4.0 Licence
- support and mentoring to people wanting one-to-one support
- focus on the Treaty as a whole and as a framework for the future for us all
- support to organisations making Treaty-based changes to their policies and processes, establishing values-based, place-based approaches
- networking in organisations and in the wider community

New opportunities to connect and educate have included:

- attending and providing captions for all sessions at the national Te Tiriti-based Futures organised event
- attending the Designing our Constitution event held at Waipapa Taumata Rau Auckland University
- attending a presentation by Chris Finlayson organised by Te Raranga (a network of churches in Ōtautahi)
- attending a Future Climate Scenario University of Canterbury workshop re UN Sustainable Development Goals
- discussions with Dee Dahl on the indigenising of University of Canterbury
- attending a webinar by Hana O'Regan on equity
- attending the Salvation Army State of the Nation address
- engaging with the new ACE Association new Director Hana Pia Barrall on recognition of societal needs
- contributing to the Path to the Future event organised by Environment Canterbury

- attending and critiquing a four-session CWEA New Zealand history course
- attending ActionStation webinars, including the recent one the Treaty Principles Bill

Events that NWŌ have provided displays at over the past year include:

- several Te Pūtahi Centre for Architecture and City Making events
- Christchurch Agricultural Show - 15-17 November
- Waitangi Day at both Okains Bay and New Brighton - 6 February
- Culture Galore - 17 February
- AKO ki Ōtautahi Learning Days - 15 May
- Matariki at Rehua - 29 June
- Selwyn Culture Festival - 15 September



SHARING NWŌ RESOURCES

NWŌ uses different channels to continue to resource people’s aspirations to honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi as a whole and as a framework for the future. Our implementation work recognises organisations’ mahi in becoming Tangata Tiriti Organisations and that this will mean being an exemplar in taking responsibility for building Honourable Kāwanatanga and respecting and acknowledging Tino Rangatiratanga of Tangata Whenua. Tangata whenua involvement in the organisation supports and enables it to become a great organisation – thereby to support tangata Tiriti to build Honourable Kāwanatanga, where Māori succeed as Māori, Pacific peoples thrive, and relationships, lived experience and diversity guide our mahi.

SNIPPETS

In our [NWŌ newsletter Snippets](#), we share recent developments impacting on a Treaty-based future. Snippets is available to NWŌ members and to Treaty workers around the country on request. Currently there are 147 ‘*Snippeteers*’, 124 of whom are NWŌ members. NWŌ Organising Group members contribute to and circulate *Snippets*, with 11 editions per year.

NWŌ FACEBOOK PAGE

In January 2020, the OG launched the [NWŌ Facebook page](#). Our aim has been to use this platform to connect with a wider audience to share educational resources. Facebook posts are now updated regularly with topical items throughout the year. We have increased our followers to 341, an increase of 85 from last year.

NWŌ WEBSITE

We continually update resources for our courses and shorter sessions and these updates are reflected in resources we make available to download from our website e.g. [Who are Tangata Tiriti?](#) In the 14 months from August 2023 to October 2024 we have had over 55,000 visitors to our website and 424,000 page views. The three most viewed resources are “Matike Mai”, “Who are Tangata Tiriti?” and “What led to the Treaty?” All content on this website is subject to a [Creative Commons Attribution International 4.0 Licence](#).

The NWŌ website update has been a major project in 2024, with a renewed and refreshed interface. We record here our warm thanks to NWŌ member Marcie Evans, Director of Yoobee College, for encouraging the Organising Group to take this step. We are grateful to John Russell who undertook the transfer from the previous site and to NAIA for their assistance with the upgrade. We look forward to further work with NAIA as this an important component of NWŌ and is the home of many quality references and resources. We look forward to continue to refine it to provide a more user-friendly, new and improved home for these resources which we have obtained over the years and continue to do so. We are most grateful for the financial and staff support of the Rātā Foundation who made this work possible.

Our website is constantly accessed and users will often make contact by email and phone to clarify a point or seek other ideas to address their learning needs. NWŌ has over 120 members and opportunities are provided to them to give feedback on NWŌ's work. We learn from these exchanges about updates needed and what new resources need to be created. We continue to receive a large volume of requests for courses, session, mentoring and resources (hardcopy and online).

HARD COPIES

Hard copies of some of the resources are available to order from NWŌ by sending an email to office@NWŌ.org.nz indicating how many are needed and supplying a postal address. These can also be collected by arrangement with NWŌ from Te Whakaruruhau ki Ōtautahi *Christchurch Community House*, 213 Lichfield Street, Christchurch 8011:

RESOURCES	PRINTED IN 2023/2024	PRINTED TO DATE ^a	COST TO ORDER
1835 Declaration poster	10,000	95,000	koha
NWŌ Te Tiriti and Treaty posters	5,000	97,000	koha
Decolonisation Poster – Tauīwi	Nil	3,500	koha
Decolonisation Poster – Tauīwi-Led Organisations	Nil	3,500	koha
NWŌ Question and Answer Booklet	1,500	14,080	\$5each + p&p
Briefing Paper on National Action Plan Against Racism	-	-	\$5each + p&p
UNDRIP (provided by HRC) ^b	-	-	Koha
South Island Signings of Treaty (provided by TRONT) ^b	-	-	Koha
Alternatives to Anti-Māori Themes in the Media ^b	-	-	\$2each + p&p
Passage of Māori Land into Pākehā Ownership ^u	-	-	\$2each + p&p

^a Hard copies printed since distribution by NWŌ began

^b resources provided from other groups and available from NWŌ

Hard copies of posters and booklets are requested via email by individuals, businesses, community centres and of course Treaty workers. The majority posted go to the North Island. As well as arranged courses, we have stalls locally and many people are pleased to take a scroll with He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti home with them. Detail on some of these resources is outlined below:

NWŌ TE TIRITI, TREATY AND 1835 DECLARATION POSTER

NWŌ has been producing posters of the 1835 Declaration of Independence He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tireni, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Treaty of Waitangi, each with some

comment and explanation, for well over 28 years. The posters are also available to [download](#) from our website (and in hard copy, as above). For the record (as is on our website) the current (2018) 'expression' in English of the text of the Treaty in te reo Māori is the result of our receipt of input from te reo Māori speakers over many years and was worked on with Professor Margaret Mutu, Professor of Māori Studies at the University of Auckland.

THE TREATY OF WAITANGI QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS BOOKLET

This handbook can also be [downloaded](#) from the website and continues to be widely distributed. The current edition is in the process of being revised and updated. This is a joint responsibility of the publishers - Network Waitangi Whangarei (NWW) and Network Waitangi Ōtautahi (NWŌ). We look forward to the new and improved edition which will add to the historical narrative and reflect the evolving landscape of what Te Tiriti/the Treaty means today and for our future. We are grateful for those who are working on the revised edition, including Moea Armstrong (Network Waitangi Whangarei) and Pauline McKay (NWŌ member).

DECOLONISATION POSTERS

The two decolonisation posters were originally gifted for distribution by Tāmaki Treaty Workers with a request that we distribute these on the same koha basis as our other posters. We carry on as requested and are pleased to report that they continue to be one of our most well-used resources. One of the posters offers a set of ideas for individuals and the other a set of ideas for organisations.

UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

We are really grateful for the currently ongoing supply from Human Rights Commission of hard copies of this United Nations Declaration.

RESOURCES DEVELOPED THIS YEAR

We have updated the title of the NWŌ resource [2014-2023 Changes in the Social Context](#) from the previous title *Recent Changes in the Social Context* to reflect the new Coalition Government's withdrawal from upholding the original promise of the Treaty.

Captions are now available on the Bastion Point video shown at learning opportunities.

We have updated the resource [Who are Tangata Tiriti?](#) particularly the section on *A Treaty-based way of working towards a Treaty-based future within organisations*.

We have included a new paragraph to introduce our [NWŌ Treaty Implementation Chart](#) which highlights our focus on taking responsibility to build Honourable Kāwanatanga

The [Treaty in our Languages](#) resources developed by Treaty People are available on NWŌ displays at locally attended events. Treaty People order many copies of our hard copies.

We have expanded the list of [Related Organisations](#) on our website as we are part of a wider national network of groups and individuals and one of a number of similar organisations operating in this country. We are proud to walk alongside these entities on our journey to uplift and embed the Treaty of Waitangi in our country.

An example which relies our relationships with the wider network of our new resource - TREATY PRINCIPLES UPDATE September 2024 - see [attached file](#).

NETWORKING

This involves local, regional, and nationwide organisations in all three sectors – government, commercial and the Third Sector and has been a dominant focus this year as groups have collaborated, and commentary on Treaty-related issues has heightened interest in learning more from both tangata Tiriti and tangata whenua alike.

NWŌ signed the [open letter to King Charles III](#) instigated by Ngāti Kahu and also the [350.org open letter](#) asking the government to honour Te Tiriti. NWŌ also supports the ActionStation initiative [Together for Te Tiriti](#).



LINKS WITH TREATY EDUCATION GROUPS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Remembering Mitzi Nairn: Mitzi, who died early in 2024, was the director of the CCANZ (Conference of Churches in Aotearoa New Zealand) Programme on Racism for many years. She was and still is an inspiration to NWŌ and many others. Her expertise and generosity in sharing was exceptional.

NWŌ acutely values our contact with, and generosity of, other Treaty workers around the country. Our ongoing relationship with [Network Waitangi Whangarei](#) remains strong and we have recently shared educational resources including those that are not on-line, with Asians Supporting Tino Rangatiratanga. We continue to value relationships with Treaty People and with Stop Institutional Racism (STIR).

NWŌ were pleased to be a sponsor of [Te Tiriti-based Futures + Anti-racism](#) (TBF) conference in March 2024. TBF organises bi-annual conferences on decolonisation, the Treaty and anti-racism. It is a rich and broad exploration of topics relating to Te Tiriti presented over ten days. Webinars are available to view from previous conferences [here](#).

These nationwide links provided many opportunities over the year to engage with fellow Treaty educators in response to government proposals and actions. These have become increasingly important due to the continuous changes in the political landscape throughout the past year. The [Exploring Co-governance](#) site (which is hosted on the TBF website) is another avenue that addresses the lack of information, misinformation and the fearmongering by some parties about how co-governance works. The [Tiriti Work and Activism Interactive Map](#) also provides a useful list of groups around the motu who provide Treaty education and resources.

There have been several on-line collaborations as well as hui of Treaty workers - for example, an update on *Wayfinding, Calls to Action* initiated by Tāmaki Treaty Workers, initiatives from Tauīwi Tautoko and petitions from ActionStation. There is also increasing interest in networking and organising together as a result of the changes in the social context.

LINKS WITH THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS (TSOs)

National Links

Apart from the nationwide links with Treaty education groups around the country referred to above, NWŌ has links with several national TSOs.

We are a member of:

- HuiE! Community Aotearoa
- Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Research Centre which is often referred to as “Community Research”- their webinars have been particularly useful
- Adult and Community Education Aotearoa (ACEA) whose AGM we attended.

We hope this year to work with ACEA, as a TSO, to influence resourcing the statutory responsibility in the Education and Training Act 2019 which directly references “honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi”. ACEA is a member of the Adult and Community Education (ACE) Steering Group and is funded by the Tertiary Education Commission. ACE providers include several TSOs such as NWŌ.

For readers’ information, ACEA is the country member of the International Council of Adult Education (ICAE). ICAE links countries in Festival of Adult Learning each September. ICAE also has a regional presence – the Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE). In this country ACEA supports a broader ACE conference in which the National Centre for Tertiary Teaching (known as Ako Aotearoa and based at Massey University) is currently influential. Relationships between ACE providers, Ako Aotearoa and Te Wānanga o Aotearoa are still to be clarified.

In addition to Hui E!, Community Research and ACEA we have nationwide links through the general initiatives from ActionStation, Community Networks Aotearoa, Volunteering NZ, NZ Council of Christian Social Services, Transparency International, Inclusive Aotearoa Collective, Environmental Defence Society, Environment and Conservation Organisations (ECO), Wise Response, Sustainable Energy Forum, Engineers for Social Responsibility, The Royal Society, Fabian Society, Institute of Policy Studies, Peace Movement Aotearoa, Parihaka Committee, United Nations Association, Kōtare Research and Education for Social Change, Federation of WEAs, Save West Papua campaign, Palestine Solidarity Network, Child Poverty Action Group, Living Wage campaign, Council of Trade Unions and Gen Zero.

Ōtautahi Christchurch Links

NWŌ is a member of Te Whakaruruhau ki Ōtautahi *Christchurch Community House* (CCH) Trust. We are also a tenant in CCH and have our office base there. This has been a vital resource for our work and we record with warmest thanks our appreciation of the willing assistance on so many fronts of Mike Asmussen and Lynette Crestani. Their provision of reception services has been invaluable. It is with sadness that we acknowledge Mike Asmussen’s resignation from his role as Manager at Community House. He has been a strong support for NWŌ over the years. We look forward to establishing working relationships with the new management at Community House.

Other local TSO connections are enhanced by our resourcing of six weekly One Voice Te Reo Kotahi (OVTRK) Organising Group meetings. They provide regular networking with Social Equity and Wellbeing (SEWN), Sustainable Ōtautahi Christchurch (SOC), EnviroHub and Te Pūtahi (Christchurch Centre for Architecture and City Making) and include updates on the funding eco-system of our Third Sector.

We also regularly engage with Climate Action groups, the Canterbury WEA, local ACE/ACEA/ Ōtautahi Learning Cities initiatives, the local Palestine Solidarity Network and local Save West

Papua campaign, EcuAction meetings, Christchurch Resettlement Services, Christchurch Multicultural Council, Kia Ora Academy and Shakti. This year our interview about [NWŌ on Plains FM](#) established future communication channels for our mahi. Our understanding of the Treaty as a Treaty of peace and friendship drew us to attend events at the Peace bell in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, Parihaka commemorations at Lyttelton and Rāpaki and the WEA Lincoln Efford lectures.

Recognition of the role of the Third Sector *within* the wider community is pivotal to enhancing informed conversation. Confusion is often created by the way this sector is referred to as the Community Sector – government and commercial sector organisations are also part of the wider community. The Third Sector comprises organisations (TSOs) that form around common interests, identities, issues, or places. According to Statistics NZ, there are well over 100,000 in this country and only 10% have any paid staff. These organisations are also referred to as NGOs, Civil Society Organisations, Non-Profit Organisations, Community-led groups. They complement and are not limited by statutory obligations or commercial imperatives and can be the source of wisdom and direction in troubled times.

Locally and together with [One Voice Te Reo Kotahi](#) (OVTRK), as referred to above, we advocate for connections across the Third Sector, based on Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This provides opportunities for people to connect in an organised, holistic way, aligning ecological and indigenous approaches. In this way, NWŌ continues to nurture connections between tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti, and across the Third Sector, with a focus on Te Tiriti o Waitangi as a unifying document.

While we are involved in many Third Sector Organisations (TSOs), particularly to build understanding of the Treaty in 2024, we also, for the same reason, maintain some links to organisations in both the commercial and statutory sectors.

We value support of the Christchurch City Council in their resourcing of the regular meetings of the Interagency Network for Refugees and Migrants (INFORM) and the newly established Multicultural Recreation and Community Centre. We record here our appreciation of the resources from the INFORM associated Community Languages Information Network (CLING). Other interagency contacts are enhanced by representation of OVTRK the Waka Toa Ora (formerly referred to as Healthy Greater Christchurch) Advisory Group.

These interagency groups are also inter-sectoral in that they involve local, regional and central government as well as TSOs.

LINKS WITH GOVERNMENT

We are pleased that [this link](#) is still available on Te Akomanga and connects directly to the Ministry of Culture and Heritage website. Their encouragement, written in the introduction recommending access to our website, includes reference to: *“teaching resources and ideas to support units of work relating to Te Tiriti o Waitangi”*.

We encourage readers to note this recommendation so government agencies can be referred to the value of not using substitutes for the Treaty, as is still the case in some government departments. The “three Ps” still continue to be understood as the principles of the Treaty. Like other substitutes for the Treaty, as described in the [NWŌ Basic Summary](#), we seek to educate wherever possible that substitutes detract from a focus on understanding Te Tiriti o Waitangi as a framework for the future for all of us as highlighted by King Tūheitia at Tūrangawaewae, *“There's no principles, the Treaty is written. That's it.”*

This issue remains front and centre in 2024 with the proposal by ACT to scrap the current principles established by the courts, and replace them with new principles that fundamentally misrepresent Te Tiriti. The complexities and contrasting approaches to the principles are highlighted in [Morgan Godfery's article](#) on the subject.

Last year's report highlighted encouraging developments with the launch of [Te Aorerekura](#), the National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence and the creation of [Te Pūkotahitanga](#), a tangata whenua ministerial advisory group, including Tā Mark Solomon from Ngāi Tahu. In contrast, it was disheartening to see the dismantling of Te Aka Whai Ora Māori Health Authority plus the many changes over the past year to government departments and reduction of staff across the board which has created unease and uncertainty. The National Action Plan Against Racism is under review by the Ministry of Justice. The Iwi Chairs Forum withdrew from the working group due to a reduced focus on institutional and colonial racism against Māori.

NWŌ will continue to monitor developments and contribute where we have the opportunity. Our engagement with other TSOs in the Third Sector's contribution to the Open Government Partnership has not yet led to any positive developments with the current government. We were heartened to learn last year that schools are to begin to teach more local and Māori history in the roll-out of the new history curriculum, and are hopeful that the current government does not renege on educating young people about our country's past.

LINKS WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

We were saddened to learn of the departure of Paul Hunt as Chief Commissioner and note that three new commissioners, appointed by Minister of Justice Paul Goldsmith, will take up their roles in November 2024. Dr Stephen Rainbow is the new Chief Human Rights Commissioner, Dr Melissa Derby (Ngāti Ranginui) has accepted the role of Race Relations Commissioner, Dr Gail Pacheco is appointed to the role of Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner. These incoming commissioners will join Disability Rights Commissioner, Prudence Walker, and Rongomau Taketake, Dayle Takitimu (Te Whānau-ā-Apanui, Ngāti Porou).

We look forward to following up with the relevant people in the Commission on the presentation Professor Claire Charters shared with us at our 2023 NWŌ AGM and note that the work of Julia Whaipooti as Tatau-Urutahi in a shared leadership model based on Te Tiriti o Waitangi with Meg de Ronde as Tatau-Uruora Kāwanatanga continues. In particular, we value Julia Whaipooti's address to the [17th session](#) of the UN Human Rights Council's Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples this year.

ORGANISING COURSES AND SESSIONS

We focus on understanding Te Tiriti as a framework for the future for all of us – upholding a strongly sustainable multicultural future where the indigenous status of tangata whenua and the role of everyone else as tangata Tiriti is understood - everyone has a place to belong. Participants are encouraged to develop a plan of action based on understanding Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its closely-related precursor He Wakaputanga o Nu Tireni in the light of their historical context and relevance to the future.

We do not set fees for our courses and sessions, but ask that our expenses be covered and invite koha in relation to provision of the education (receipts will be sent). Invitations to work outside Ōtautahi are considered.

Feedback forms we provide to participants in our formal two-day courses and shorter sessions include very positive comment, both in terms of the process and the content, and in assisting participants to see the relevance of the Treaty to them and their organisations and wider society. Further unsolicited comment from participants include requests for more information and follow-up sessions. We offer ongoing support and mentoring along with the open access to online educational resources on our website.



SUMMARY OF COURSES AND FORMAL SESSIONS HELD SINCE LAST AGM

	Hours	Participants	ORGANISATION
COURSES 2023			
29 August	8.5	16	Emerge Aotearoa Leadership Group
4, 18 & 25 September	22.5	30	Cerebralfix (gaming)
28 October	7	8	Irish Society
23 November	4	30	Christchurch Resettlement Services providers
COURSES 2024			
19 January	3	20	Skillwise Staff
7 February	1	120 est.	Ernst & Young online
5 April	1	27	Kris Tynan Active providers to disabled and elderly
9 & 11 April	14	22	Canterbury WEA hosted course (for public)
12 April	4	20	EnviroHubs South Island
15 April	1	18	Skillwise hosted at Ōnuku
22 April	1.5	7	St John of God National Leadership Group
28 May	1	19	Te Wananga o Aotearoa
9 July	2	9	Shakti migrant women & providers
29 July & 5 August	7	33	Waipuna Trust
24 & 26 September	14	17	Canterbury WEA hosted course (for public)
7 October	2	7	EnviroHubs national Board
15 October	7	16	Salvation Army housing

SUPPORTING THOSE DEVELOPING THEIR TREATY WORK

NON-FORMAL SESSIONS

This year, probably because of the changes in the social context, there has been a noticeable increase in sessions which are not formal or informal but are structured (i.e. non-formal) to meet the need for mentoring of and support. Some participants have participated earlier in NWŌ courses and session – many have not. We note here how useful the simplicity of our ‘handshake model’ is in summarising the Treaty as a whole, i.e. all five aspects (preamble, fourth article, and then articles one, two and three). This non-formal mahi often leads to sessions on exploring the implementation of the Treaty and developing what Dr Pita Sharples referred to in 2006 as *“a shared view of this political document called the Treaty of Waitangi, as our shared frame of reference, then and only then, can we perhaps say he iwi kotahi tātou.”*

As an example of the range of our work Skillwise CEO, Board, staff and kaimahi have engaged with us before this year and that work has continued – a highlight this year was our involvement in the visit, organised by their now in-house Treaty Group, to Ōnuku Marae. The NWŌ session there, in which mana whenua participated, was very moving and consolidated the importance of the Treaty as a framework for the future for everyone in the country. Many people with disabilities and migrants are engaged in Skillwise as well as those whose ancestry is from Britain. They, with their whānau, are engaged in all walks of life. Experiencing with them the importance of the Treaty as a cloak for everyone to be able to hold on to their values and understand their place that they stand on this vulnerable planet was palpable.

Another example is that NWŌ’s focus on exploring how to build Honourable Kāwanatanga is included in the terms of reference of an interagency group in Christchurch with whom NWŌ has worked.

There are also numerous times where members of NWŌ working with other people in non-formal mentoring relationships has led to those people taking a more active role themselves in promoting Treaty work within their spaces. Often these connections are ongoing over many years, and the changes may be seen well after first involvement with NWŌ, reflecting our focus on the importance of relationality, long-term thinking, advocacy for Te Tiriti to be centred as the framework for a safe, inclusive and non-racist future in this country in order to expose the monocultural dominance, exposure of the effects of colonisation particularly on tangata whenua, emphasis on the way decision-making based only on majority-thinking often contributes to oppression and silences minorities and encouragement of relationships that help address the effects on those experiencing multiple dimensions of oppression.

NWŌ was pleased to engage with Dani Pickering this year as part of their research on their PhD thesis. Several members of the OG were interviewed as part of his research.

We have been extremely fortunate recently to have Annie Broughton with us for more than two months as she explored her research topic: *Grappling with belonging on stolen land - towards alternative models of white settler identity and belonging*. She grew up locally (Lincoln, Canterbury) and is currently a Global Studies MA student at the University of California Santa Barbara engaging on this research topic in both this country and in Turtle Island Canada. Part of her research involved interviewing OG and other NWŌ members, plus others in the Treaty education field and government workers. Annie immersed herself in NWŌ including a short involvement in the NWŌ Organising Group (see below) and her warm, professional approach in this dual role was most appreciated.

NWŌ MEMBERSHIP

Once a course or session has been completed, we offer membership to NWŌ. The current membership stands at 124, an increase of 9 from last year. Members receive *Snippets*, our regular update with news and views on the Treaty referred to earlier in this Report. New applicants can now complete a membership application electronically via a [Google form online](#). We record here our appreciation of input from members. We note here the work one such member whose regular production of podcasts *Speak Up* Kōrerotia! continue to resource our mahi.

NWŌ ORGANISING GROUP UPDATE

Regular fortnightly OG meetings have been alternately held in person at Te Whakaruruhau ki Ōtautahi Christchurch Community House or via Zoom. These are a combination of discussing the issues of the moment, of which there have been plenty in a fast-moving political and social environment over the past year, plus dealing with the matters at hand in relation to attending events, networking, practical issues such as legislative changes and educational work.

The Organising Group has seen some changes in personnel in the past year.

We welcomed Andrena McPhillips as Treasurer and a little later as our paid Projects Coordinator Contractor from June 2023 to January 2024. Her passion and initiatives as well as her technical and people skills were a valued asset in the OG.

We have been very fortunate to have had the excellent input from Fiona Deehan who joined as Treasurer in March 2024. Her vision, expertise and leadership skills have been much appreciated for the clarity and streamlined approach she brought to the Treasurer role. She will be sorely missed as she moves on to greater work and family commitments.

Jackie Ward continues in her role as our paid Bookkeeper Contractor and though she does not attend OG meetings she is pivotal by bringing her financial skills and knowledge of Xero to keep things flowing on the financial side and is much appreciated.

Laura Muir was co-opted onto the OG in August 2024. Her warmth, passion and knowledge of Te Tiriti issues along with her administration and technology skills including with Google Drive are greatly appreciated and we are sorry to have to farewell her at our AGM to take up a new position.

As mentioned above, Annie Broughton with an academic background in public policy came to OG meetings in August as she engaged with us for more than two months as part of her research. Her work with the OG was greatly appreciated and we wish her well for her thesis.

We were really pleased to welcome the return of Kelly Dorgan from a sabbatical from the OG from September 2023 to August 2024 to complete her masters in strategic communication. Her social media and web skills are greatly appreciated as well as her passion from her work in the field of health and associated academic knowledge.

We also are pleased to report that we have just co-opted Victoria Elworthy who recently participated in our NWŌ 'Understanding The Treaty In 2024' course organised by the Canterbury WEA. She is also involved with a group called Kiwis for the Treaty set up to focus on the Treaty Principles Bill. As a former teacher and then in running her own food business, we are most grateful that she has agreed to be our Treasurer and liaison between the OG and our Bookkeeper.

The four ongoing members of the Organising Group have been pivotal to providing continuity during this year.

Archie Hunter with their librarian background and commitment broader social justice work takes responsibility for drafting our agenda and facilitating OG meetings as well as overseeing work on our legal status as we move to re-register as an Incorporated Society.

Fay Brorens with her experience of working with people with special needs and engagement in climate justice brings a wise presence to our meetings and her overseeing of the NWŌ resources and networking at various NWŌ attended events.

John Peet's scientific and engineering background provides valued input as our past Treasurer and with his knowledge of ecological economics and systems thinking.

Katherine O'Brien deep contemplative approach and stenographer expertise, including captioning, updates posts on our website, coordinates contributions from OG members for our newsletter Snippets and expertly presents each edition; records our minutes and collates material for our Annual Report.

Katherine Peet (OG Convenor), with her background in science teaching then as an adult education practitioner, continues to filter large volumes of correspondence, maintains associated broad networking and focuses on developing and providing learning opportunities in response to a wide variety of requests; always upholding our kaupapa.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The changes to the [Incorporated Societies Act 2022](#) and the [Charities Amendment Act 2023](#) have required NWŌ to make changes to its constitution. As already circulated to our members, such a revision gives us the opportunity to include a refined primary aim which better reflects the essence of the work of NWŌ.

At the moment our primary aim reads:

"To provide educational opportunities to work, as part of a wider network of groups and individuals, towards a society based on Te Tiriti o Waitangi, with a particular focus on Pakeha responsibility under Te Tiriti."

The NWŌ Organising Group has drafted this proposal for a new primary aim:

"To promote, encourage and provide educational opportunities to work, as part of a wider network of groups and individuals, towards a society based on Te Tiriti o Waitangi with a particular focus on the responsibility for building honourable Kāwanatanga."

We will continue to invite feedback from members on all proposed changes, including those needed to comply with the new Acts referred to above, and a final proposal of changes will be brought to a Special General Meeting of members in 2025. We are doing this work in association with Stephen Moe, Annemarie Mora and others from Parry Field Lawyers with whom we have a paid contract to assist us.

This AGM addresses minor technical changes to remove the need for a formal audit of accounts while maintaining external oversight of our finances, as recommended by our Accountant *Community Capacity Accounting*.

NWŌ has been very fortunate with both koha and funding grants this year. Special thanks go to the organisations who gifted koha. These very much appreciated and have allowed NWŌ to continue its multi-faceted mahi, especially in such important times.

NWŌ is also extremely grateful to the Rātā Foundation for its ongoing support including grants and staff time. We are most grateful for the respite this support it provides. It is invaluable.

CONCLUSION

As we have reflected on the past fourteen months and turned our attention to the future, we are encouraged by the way more people have been looking to the past in order to understand the present and build a better future for all - where Māori succeed as Māori, Pacific peoples thrive, and relationships, lived experience and diversity guide our mahi.

We are encouraged by the Te Tika Kahui Human Rights Commission [Horizon Research on Te Tiriti o Waitangi](#) in late 2023 which indicated 70% of New Zealanders believe it is important for Māori and non-Māori to decide together on an equal footing how Te Tiriti is honoured. The Treaty Principles Bill now starts its six-month select committee process culminating in a report in May 2025. 440 church leaders, over 230 community organisations, 26 of our most distinguished te reo translators, opposition parties, multiple iwi and the Waitangi Tribunal have all clearly told the Prime Minister that the Treaty Principles Bill should not be progressed. NWŌ anticipates the strengthening of such sentiment and greater engagement and education about Te Tiriti will result in greater awareness of the importance of the foundation of Te Tiriti within the body politic.

The creation of an Aotearoa in which decision-making is Tiriti-based will be key to long-term, strong sustainability of our country and its peoples and NWŌ fully supports the Moana Jackson-inspired momentum for constitutional transformation by 2040.

As a TSO without party-political affiliation, NWŌ continues to advocate for the restoration of Tino Rangatiratanga and building *Honourable* Kāwanatanga. Our work continues to be underpinned by the report of [Matike Mai Aotearoa](#) with its approach to an inclusive Aotearoa based on tikanga and kawa, He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tireni of 1835, Te Tiriti o Waitangi of 1840, and other Indigenous human rights instruments which enjoy a wide degree of international recognition.

We are committed to supporting the growing strength of kotahitanga and building connections with those who are taking responsibility to build *Honourable* Kāwanatanga. Contributing to this understanding will, we believe, lead to a better future for all who live in this land and beyond and for all who are to come. The challenge is strong for Tangata Tiriti – to be brave, to step up, be open to the potential to make mistakes, and stand strong in support of, to use Helmut Modlik’s words, “strengthening democracy by repelling its unjustly tilted foundations, resume our journey of truth and reconciliation that has been attempted to be reversed over the past year” and courageously move into the future.

*E hara taku toa i te toa takitahi, he toa takitini – success is not as an individual,
but as a collective*

This Annual Report will be available on <https://NWŌ.org.nz/annual-reports/>