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**Kia ora <<First Name>>,  
Welcome to the latest edition of SNIPPETS  
Treaty news from around the network.  
Issue 2025, No. 2**

**In this resource, we share information about current conversations and issues;  
local, national and sometimes international.**

**Please note, NWŌ is not aligned with any political party.**

**NWŌ does not necessarily agree with all of the content in some articles, but we  
include them because they are current and often just the best online resource we  
could find on particular topics; please feel free to direct us to better ones, including  
to books, articles, podcasts, etc.**

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## **Te reo Māori champion Dame Iritana Tāwhiwhirangi dies aged 95**



Born in Hicks Bay, Gisborne in 1929, Tāwhiwhirangi became involved in the kōhanga reo movement in the 1980s when there was growing concern around the state of te reo Māori — with less than 5% of Māori school children fluent in their mother tongue. Today, there are more than 460 kōhanga reo centres across New Zealand.

**[Read and watch more](#)**

## Parihaka matriarch Maata Wharehoka dies at age 74



Wharehoka (Ngāti Tahinga, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Apakura, Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Kuia) an expert in marae arts, raranga (weaving) and karanga, was the caretaker of the marae at Parihaka for nearly 30 years and a driving force behind Parihaka's focus to be a self-sufficient community. - [Read more](#)

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## What does Ngāi Tahu want as they open their freshwater case in the High Court?

"...Not money, according to papers filed as part of the lawsuit. And not “ownership” of the water, as that term is understood in British or Commonwealth contexts. Rather, the iwi seeks recognition of its “rangatiratanga” over water. That term is defined in Ngāi Tahu’s statement of claim as “sovereignty, chieftainship, right to exercise authority [and/or] chiefly authority...” - Read more [here](#) and [here](#)



Ngāi Tahu tells the High Court the Crown has been a poor Treaty partner, and it should be forced to co-manage freshwater (David Williams) - [Read more](#)

One of the Crown defences is the Treaty of Waitangi settlement, in the 1990s, addressed the tribe’s freshwater rights and interests. But the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (Tront) claims manager at the time, Anake Goodall, told Justice Melanie Harland: “The Crown’s position directly contradicts my recollection of the settlement

Ngāi Tahu witness allays fears over water consents - [Read more](#)

‘Our tribe was made landless in modern times’ (Te Maire Tau). The lead witness in Ngāi Tahu’s freshwater claim says the case raises an existential question for his people. - [Read more](#)

David Ellison, 88, Upoko (traditional leader) of Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki, died on Saturday. At yesterday’s hearing, before Justice Melanie Harland, Ellison’s cousin, Edward, Upoko of Ōtākou, paid tribute in te reo Māori. - [Read more](#)

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### Select Committee Treaty Principles Bill oral submissions hearings



NWW have collated all the oral submission videos so you can easily find any particular submission. When you go to NWW's YouTube channel, click on the day's video you want to see (NWŌ was on 28 February) and in the text below the video click 'more' to view the time-stamped list of submitters. - [Watch here](#)

CTU estimates cost of progressing Treaty Principles Bill has increased by 50 percent Craig Renney estimated the actual cost of the dead-in-the-water Treaty Principles Bill - [Read more](#)

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### Seminar on Kāi Tahu and Te Tiriti

*Are you interested in the early historical events that shaped Te Waipounamu - the South Island? Join Co-Manager of the Ngāi Tahu Archive Helen Brown as she shares insights into how events in Te Waipounamu impacted those at Waitangi (and vice versa) before and since 1840.*

This event is for ages 16 years + and bookings are required. - [Read more](#)

**Thursday 13 March 2025 - 7 pm - 8.30 pm**

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Watch Justin Tipa's speech in full [here](#) and the entire day's speeches [here](#)

significance Luxon's visit added to the 185th anniversary of the Treaty of Waitangi's signing. ... "There were some really strong messages delivered, some strong challenges delivered ... it was provocative and there were no backwards steps taken." - Justin Tipa - [Read more](#).

## What does the future hold for the Kīngitanga and te Tiriti?

Kuini Ngā wai hono i te pō has attended her first Waitangi commemorations as the Māori monarch, continuing the legacy of kotahitanga championed by her late father. Liam Rātana reports: What does the future hold for the Kīngitanga and te Tiriti? - [Read more](#)

## There is unfinished business

*"Celebration is an important part of Waitangi Day, but so is protest. We have unfinished business stemming from the Treaty — and there's no better place to thrash that out than at Waitangi", writes Jamie Tahana. - [Read more](#)*



## Waitangi 2025: A day of kōrero, kaupapa and kotahitanga

Analysis: Waitangi Day belongs to Māori first, as mana motuhake and tino rangatiratanga take centre stage.- Liam Rātana and Lyric Waiwiri-Smith - [Read more](#)

## Tāngata Tiriti for honourable Kāwanantanga

An NWŌ member (Barbara Brown) was spotted on the **Waitangi Day Hikoi in Ōtautahi** -Tāngata Tiriti with Tāngata Whenua





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### Kāwanatanga belongs to Māori too

*What if the intent of the Treaty was neither a partnership, nor that Māori cede sovereignty? Professor Dominic O'Sullivan believes Te Tiriti creates a third possibility — a commonwealth, where government belongs to everybody because it is everybody. - [Read more](#)*

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*"It is extraordinary that this minister is asserting the power to redefine core constitutional principles to govern future politics, just as he did with the 'principles of the Treaty'..... The coalition agreement between ACT and National commits to legislating, not just introducing, a Regulatory Standards Bill." - [Read more](#)*

**Regulatory Standards Bill proposal 'an ideological project that must be stopped' by Emeritus Professor Jane Kelsey**



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### Stop doing the enemy's work for them

*With divisions in the country becoming more heightened in recent times, Heemi Mahauariki offers a message of unity: "Let's put down the fear, the resentment, the gatekeeping, the mana-munching, and the idea that one side has to lose for the other to win." - [Read more](#)*

## Network Waitangi Ōtautahi in Kaiapoi



**Informing the public . . .** Network Waitangi Ōtautahi's Madeleine Burdon, of Waikuku Beach, left, and Erika Wilson, of Christchurch, provide information about Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

(Courtesy of North Canterbury News)

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## We're not here to negotiate our own marginalisation

"The Treaty bill is not just about legal wording — it's about economic power. If Te Tiriti is successfully reframed as symbolic rather than contractual, the Crown will have removed one of the last barriers standing in the way of total economic control."

— Joshua Koko - [Read more](#)

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Three central North Island iwi will gather at Parliament this week to witness the third reading of the bill to settle their claims against breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi. Representing the three iwi, Te Korowai o Wainuiārua Trust says the final reading marks a pivotal step in addressing the historical grievances of Tamahaki, Tamakana and Uenuku (ki Manganui-o-te-Ao, nā Tūkahoro). - [Read more](#)

## Three central North Island iwi to witness 'critical moment' of Treaty settlement



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Toitū Te Tiriti have filed an urgent claim in the Waitangi Tribunal. The claim is asking the Tribunal to inquire into alleged fundamental breaches of Te Tiriti and the principles of Te Tiriti that will occur if the Regulatory Standards Bill (RSB) is enacted.

[Read more](#)

### Encountering the ancestors

“One of the compelling themes that emerges in Toi Te Mana is that art objects are not just physical but spiritual entities, embedded as they are in whakapapa, possessing a life force and spirit that endures through time.”

— Kennedy Warne - [Read more](#)

### My ancestors were colonisers

A stunning essay from Max Rashbrooke examining his ancestors' role in the shaping of Aotearoa, and what that means for his own role in its future. - [Read more](#)

“There is little or no information recording where the taonga came from, who they belonged to, who made them, what their names were, or how they were used.” — Matariki Williams on how the majority of taonga stored in collections have been separated from their stories. - [Read more](#)

### Collecting our loss



## UPCOMING NWŌ 2-DAY OPPORTUNITY

### UNDERSTANDING THE TREATY IN 2025

Network Waitangi Ōtautahi

Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 April 2025

9.30am - 4.30pm

\$70

Venue: CWEA, 59 Gloucester Street, Christchurch

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## What would migration look like if te Tiriti o Waitangi was honoured?

If immigration were underpinned by manaakitanga, manuhiri would be seen as more than just an economic contribution or cost burden. Eda Tang explores the idea of a tino rangatiratanga-based immigration system. - [Read more](#)

"If the Indonesian government has its way, the area we've always called home, where we've lived and hunted for thousands of years, will cease to exist."— Rosa Moiwend - [Read more](#)

"West Papua independence is not only urgent for West Papua, but for the entirety of Planet Earth." West Papuan leader praises people's tribunal ruling as proof of need for freedom [here](#)

## We are not just an empty land



**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](#).**

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