

Other — Graphic Design and Te Tiriti

Jackson Vogt

Jackson Vogt is a primary school teacher with a passion for social justice and art and design. He is an active member of Tiriti o Waitangi networks - Tamaki Treaty workers and Auckland arc.

After an explanation of graphics and symbolism for Tauīwi we looked at examples from 1970s, incorporating images representing partnership from around the world and some images of Treaty in use in Aotearoa/New Zealand today. The current state of the Treaty of Waitangi document reflects a lack of regard for this as a taonga by Pākeha.

These questions were asked:

- What symbols and imagery is it inappropriate to use?
- How do we use Treaty of Waitangi in publications?
- What are the issues generally with the appropriation of symbols in art?
- What are the parameters of creating/ using images?

Key points from discussion:

The shape of Te Tiriti (as kept in the Archives) is prominent - could it be made iconic in of itself?

There is a tension between keeping the document sacred and promoting and deconstructing it.

An example was given of young students not being able to identify images about the Treaty that were not linked to iconic images and symbols of Māori culture.

Is it important to both acknowledge Māori and get their permission to use Māori symbols?

Matthew Palmer's book on the constitution was recommended as thought provoking.

Notes by Natasha Hofmans