

Welcoming and introductory speech-composed and presented by Karena Way of Project Waitangi Tamaki Makau Rau.

Honourable Kawanatanga Register Launching.

Welcome and Greetings to all of us.

We, Network Waitangi and Associates, Tamaki Makau Rau, welcome all of you from your different backgrounds, lands, ancestries and cultures.

We welcome all of you from the different Pacific and Asian nations.

We welcome all of you from your different organisations and communities, all ages and youth.

We greet those of us who wish to be here tonight and are unable to, and those who have sent messages of support from around the country.

We greet the Tangata Whenua of Tamaki Makau Rau and Aotearoa whose land we stand upon and because of whom we are all privileged peoples.

Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.

We will begin with a blessing.

As the creative spirit nurtures us As the passionate spirit strengthens us

As the righteous spirit guides us As the community spirit supports us

As the fierce spirit of justice lives in us all

Bless us in our gathering Bless the food of our feasting

Bless us in our celebration Bless us in our time in history

Bless us in our commitment to living by the Declaration of Independence of New Zealand and Te Tiriti o Waitangi , to live honourable Kawanatanga within Tino Rangatiratanga.

And so be it.

We will begin at the signing.

We ask that Mitzi Naim, long time advocate of justice, activist, educator, nurturer, artist, poet musician, be the first signature to the register, and those of you who wish, to follow her lead.

We invite you to partake of food and refreshments while this is taking place, as it is a celebration of proaction.

The idea of the Honourable Kawanatanga register came out of discussions we have been having at various anti-racism/Treaty workers meetings this year.

Partly its a response to Mr.Bolger and some of his ministers insisting that they were speaking on behalf of Pakeha in stating that Maori will never have sovereignty here.

So we will be clear where we stand.

In May this year the Prime Minister accused us of "whimpering out"-he said that we, the leaders of New Zealand Society should *speak out about Maori radicalism*-so we are.

We support what the so-called Maori "Radicals" are saying.

We support the practice of Maori Sovereignty/Mana Maori Motuhake or Tino Rangatiratanga as it is written into the Declaration of Independence of New Zealand and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Yes, we have inherited the injustices of our forefathers, yes, we stand face to face with our history and we say ENOUGH!

No more injustice, no more theft from Maori, no more denigration of Tangata Whenua. This is their land, their ancestral home, we are immigrants, we are settlers in their land.

We are here *only* because our representatives agreed to a certain code of behaviour, a process of settlers, they committed us and signed us to these agreed upon documents. Through the Declaration of Independence, Britain formally recognised this nation as a sovereign state controlled by the absolute authority of the Confederation of Tribes in the practice of their Rangatiratanga. It also states that Tangata Whenua, in the practice of Tino Rangatiratanga, will continue to act with friendship and protection towards the settlers (British subjects), who have arrived here.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi confirmed this agreement and contains additional articles which describe what our *agreed settler behaviour* would be- that we would be peaceful, law abiding peoples living with respect to the status (Tino Rangatiratanga) of tangata whenua. Hobson not only signed Te Tiriti-o Waitangi to this effect, but also confirmed this arrangement in his follow up letters to various Rangatira.

That was 1840-this is 1995-we have immigrated to an illegal colonial state, we have inherited an immoral unethical unjust history.

But this is our lifetime and our history we are making now. We are honourable settlers, honourable immigrants and we will honour the role of kawatanga as it was meant to be. We agree with our government when it said in December 1994- There is a case to answer-*we are answering it.* We agree when they said New Zealanders are fair minded and don't hesitate to correct an injustice when they see one, *we are those New Zealanders.*

We know the way to correct that injustice is to ensure Maori sovereignty is the constitutional basis of this nation requiring implementation-that absolute authority belongs with the people who are the land-the Tangata Whenua.

We reject claims of Pakeha/tau iwi who say we are now Tangata Whenua-noticing that they never say "I want to be Maori"-is this because they don't want their language, health, way of life, education, identity, economic base and decision-making powers ripped off them?. They must understand then, that the land really does belong to tangata whenua, or why would they want to be one?

We do not believe, like some unmentionable authors, that superiority wears a pale countenance.

Or that because we have British, Western European ancestry or even a similar colonial history, that our economic needs should be met by the resources and lives of an indigenous peoples in the south Pacific-or that our privilege and wealth and lifestyle and health should be obtained from the resultant poverty, landlessness, illness and incarceration of Maori. We know that the Tangata Whenua are rightful owners and sovereigns of this place and we know that our agreement of settlers and immigration state that.

Honourable Kawatanga ensures Tino Rangatiratanga.

Let us celebrate as we create our history and work to assist this nation into a healthy and just future.

Many have written these things into vision and mission statements-many say these things to each other. The words are great-and *action*, well, its the *living of those words.*

Let us create and live our history.

Thank you.