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- with love!

# NETWORK *Waitangi* OTAUTAHI

414A

Report to Te Runaka ki Otautahi o Kai Tahu

18 October 2002

Three of us went to the national Treaty Conference "Walking the Talk" held from 3-6 October at Te Tari Matauranga Maori, Manukau Institute of Technology. This conference was for anyone who has at least a basic knowledge of the Treaty and wanted to strategise towards a Treaty-based Aotearoa. The focus was tauwi.

This national gathering followed a hui kaiwhakaako Tauwi for Treaty educators which was held in Napier immediately after a hui for Maori Treaty educators (Mereana Pitman coordinated both these events). The suggestion made at the Napier hui, that a Federation of Treaty educators with Maori, Pacific and Pakeha caucuses, was discussed at the national Treaty conference.

An understanding that Treaty work must be based on relationships with mana whenua was really developed. NWO has been working on acceptance of this position over many years!

A commitment to develop protocols and a code of ethics for the national or regional dimension of our work was made. One such practice adopted was that any group hosting a national conference will need to be able to demonstrate that they have mana whenua links. This will clarify that local protocol is to be followed – there was some argument about whether or not Pakeha should use Te Reo especially when being hosted on marae.

There was implicit (we hope it will soon be explicit) resolution that the Treaty must be understood as the Maori text and as being the pre-amble, three articles and the fourth protocol; not any substitute set of principles. It was also understood that the Treaty is within the framework of Tino Rangatiratanga and that we need to work in ways that care for each other. These might all seem obvious but we have not been able to report such outcomes from previous conferences.

There was much discussion about the Pakeha focus of this work. A decision was made to canvass Pakeha / Tauwi to ask what they want to happen next in moves towards a Tiriti-based future. This includes questions around Treaty Education and Constitutional Change. In particular "grass-roots" access was discussed, acknowledging the way much of the work is going on in institutions. One of our older members reminded us that transfers of power for the women's movement, civil rights, anti-nuclear campaign, etc, were initiated outside the institutions (which include political parties). One researcher's presentation "Journeys away from Dominance: Dissonance, struggle and right relationships – the journey to accepting indigenous authority" was very useful. Visions of Kawanatanga included discussion about working out right relationships from the local – and only then to regional and national, a new economics, sustainable livelihoods with real consideration of what is "enough". In addition to the planning for a national conference, nationwide lecture tours were proposed, the making of stickers and hoodies with slogans, presence at "One Love" (Bob Marley's birthday) as well as at Waitangi and local Treaty signing commemorations. A particular call was for us to advocate against Government initiatives to undermine Wai 262 – relating to Maori rights over indigenous plants.

We were all very moved by Mitzi Nairn's historical presentation. Mitzi's position as the Programme on Racism Director for the Conference of Churches has been disestablished. She explained why she had worked so hard during her term as Director to have antiracism as the focus of her work and noted that Maori had been clear that the Treaty, as a *political* rather than cultural document, was the appropriate response to racism in this country. She quoted from the tangata whenua caucus of a workshop she was co-leading in 1985

When the inevitable end is the killing of the wairua  
We are dead living  
Racism means to kill us living  
Racism is death

Mitzi asked us to thank Maurice for his greetings to her on the ending of her years of work in the Programme on Racism.

There was enthusiasm within the Treaty Conference for broadening this national network beyond the focus on Treaty education and many ideas on how we can do this. Te Tari Maturanga Maori at MIT has set up a Treaty Resource Centre as part of its Treaty Unit. This is open to anyone to access or deposit Treaty resources. Te Tari also offered to do the administration for the next annual conference e.g. developing a newsgroup, website and noticeboard, with good preparation for the next conference. This enthusiasm, Te Tari's support, the suggestion from Napier meetings of a Federation for Treaty educators and the commitment to see Treaty work stemming out of relationships with mana whenua were all behind the decision that NW Incorporated (the national network) will wind up its national dimension over the next year in order to support a diversity of Treaty and antiracism networks which are working towards a society based on Te Tiriti o Waitangi and are supporting Tino Rangatiratanga.

NWO would appreciate feedback on its intention to become incorporated locally as NW Whangarei and NW Whanganui a Tara have done.

Finally from this national level we report that Tania Rangiheuea-Rei has been leading a development of a Treaty Research Unit at Victoria University on whose Advisory Board Rosemary du Plessis from University of Canterbury will sit. In addition, there are three developments which give hope for the development of a more honourable kawanatanga. The first is the establishment by Government of a "Future of Work Unit". Volunteering Canterbury is involved with a local research proposal associated with this unit, which is addressing how voluntary work can be recognised and resourced as sustainable livelihoods are developed. The next is a comprehensive report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment "Creating Our Future. Sustainable Development for New Zealand", which documents many positive local initiatives and challenges the Government to develop an all-embracing policy. The last is the upcoming Australia-New Zealand Third Sector Research Conference, to be held in Auckland, 27-29 November. Kuni Jenkins is giving the inaugural keynote address, Katherine and John Peet are giving a paper "Stolen From Future Generations? The Need to Move to a Political Economy of Generosity".