

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 1988

Most of our plans for 1988 were made and discussed at the National Meeting at the end of last year.

At present the main areas we are concentrating on are : Funding; 1990; Information service; Networking; Training; and a Youth Project.

This newsletter is a brief up date on some of these areas and also other things that have happened nationally.

Sorry there are no cartoons. Mary.

1990

1990 is the year to commemorate the Treaty of Waitangi which pledged equal partnership between Maori and Pakeha. The 1990 Commission should reflect this partnership in its composition, method of working, projects and distribution of resources.

Dispite this the Commission announced earlier this year consists of seven Pakeha, three Maori and one person from the Pacific Islands:

Dr Michael Bassett (Chair)	Minister of Internal Affairs
Hon Jim McLay	Farmer National Party Leader
Dr Bruce Gregory	MP for Northern Maori
Ms June Mariu	President Maori Women's Welfare League
Mr Rangi TeMaiharea	Maori Elder
Ms Louisa Crawley	Past President PACIFICIA
Ms Sharon Crosbie	Media Personality
Sir Keith Sinclair	Historian
Mr William Steel	Chairman Cable Price Downer
Sir Ronald Scott	Sports Administrator
Mr Peter Boag	Secretary Internal Affairs

Membership of sub-committees is expected to be announced after the Commission's February meeting.

The Secretariat has been established within Internal Affairs, Wellington.

The official commemorations will begin with New Year's Day 1990 and end with ANZAC Day. The Queen or some member of the Royal Family is to visit.

Dr Michael Bassett is currently calling for submissions and ideas about what should be included in the year. Project Waitangi has sent in a submission to Dr Bassett with suggestions about the composition of the commission, basis commemerations, and possible events and actions. Copies are available from Project Waitnagi. We also suggest that other groups make submissions.

The address for submissions is:

1990, Freepost No.914, Dept of Internal Affairs, PO Box 805, Wellington.

PROJECT

Waitangi

PAKEHA DEBATE THE TREATY

P.O. BOX 825, WELLINGTON

FUNDING

The funding of the national office is at an all time low. If we do not find funding the office may have to close at the end of March.

We have approached the Justice Department for funding and are yet to hear whether they will support us.

If there is anything any group can suggest or do to help, please contact us. We understand that you are probably all in similar situations so we have no expectations on your time or resources.

We will keep you informed on developments.

WAITANGI 88

This year's withdrawal by the Government from national celebrations can be seen in two ways: a progressive move away from celebrations or opting out rather than addressing the actual issues and diffusing the focus of protest.

Whatever your opinions the move highlighted several issues and can be used to advantage. The short notice given to local councils highlighted the lack of thought most councils have given the Treaty of Waitangi. Few were prepared to plan commemorations or even take a position on the Treaty of Waitangi.

Waitangi Day 88 saw antiracism groups focusing regionally - raising local issues and increasing local community support and understanding. Rather than dissipating protest the regional move has and could allow the anti-racism movement to consolidate and build up its regional base. (An aim which was identified at the National Gathering in Waiapara).

HAMILTON WAITANGI ACTION

In Hamilton about 50 people wearing black sashes stood silently outside the entrance to the civic service at Te Whare Taonga, the Waikato Museum of Art and History.

Organising this action had been a dilemma for the coalition of local Pakeha groups working against racism.

On the one hand they did not want to be disrespectful to Te Arikinui (The Maori Queen), Te Atairangikahu and other Maori people involved in the service. But they also wanted to make clear their concerns about the lack of action on the Treaty to David Lange and other Pakeha officials attending, and to the community through the media.

The dignified silent gathering in black sashes, identifying with South African protests against apartheid was chosen as the best solution.

The group felt supported by many Maori people who attended the service. One kaumatua told them they were continuing a necessary tradition of protest about the Treaty which had been started last century by Maori representatives who travelled to Britain to see the Queen.

Statements were made to the media about the reasons for the action but predictably very little of them were used.

Earlier in the week a Pakeha delegation visited the Mayor of Hamilton, Ross Jansen, expressing concern about the way in which the service was organised and about the need to acknowledge the lack of action on the Treaty. consequently before his prayer reading in the service he acknowledged past mistakes.

The process of working out by consensus an appropriate action of Waitangi Day, in consultation with various Maori people was very unifying for the Pakeha concerned.

4. Project Waitangi asks that the Pakeha concept of democracy based on British constitutional law, be recognised as monocultural and institutionalised racism as practised in Aotearoa.

A fullcopy of one full submission is available from Project Waitangi for \$2.00 (postage and photocopying).

BASTION POINT

May 25th, 1988 marks the 10th anniversary of the eviction of over 200 people from the land at Bastion Point.

The Waitangi Tribunal findings state that some of the land should be returned to the Ngati Whatua and in addition that \$3 million compensation be paid.

The government is not bound by the Tribunal's findings so public opinion is needed to encourage the government to implement the recommendations.

Each region is encouraged to take some form of action on 'Bastion Point Day' linking Bastion Point to the Treaty of Waitangi.

AUSTRALIAN BICENTENIAL

This year Australians celebrate 200 years of colonial oppression. Throughout the year the conquest of Koori (Aboriginal) land will be celebrated. The history of Aboriginals on the Australian continent spans at least 40,000 years. As a direct result of white occupation, their population has been reduced from over a million people to around 300,000 people in 200 years.

For the Koori people, the bicentennial is a time of mourning underlined by their theme, 'We Have Survived'.

The New Zealand government is playing an active role in the Bicentenary celebrations and has established a committee to oversee its participation. Approximately \$5 million has been allocated to support bicentenary activities e.g. Expo 88, Akarana. This involvement condones continued white Australian rule and is a failure to recognise Koori sovereignty.

NFIP, Australia are currently seeking support for a declaration in solidarity with the Australian Aboriginals.

Copies of this declaration are available from Project Waitangi or NFIP, PO Box A391 Sydney South 2000, Australia.

TAIHAPE

There is a public meeting in Taihape on March 28th with a view to starting a Project Waitangi group there. The meeting is at the R.E.A.P. centre, Tui Street near the Railway station. For further information contact Elizabeth Mortland, PO Box 86, Taihape, 0658/80109

PAKEHA NETWORK

An informal network of Pakeha anti-racism groups was formed at the national gathering 'Towards Aotearoa' in November. This network agreed to meet regularly and to exchange information and ideas through a newsletter.

The newsletter is being produced by AFIA in Christchurch, but they need input from everyone. If you have any information or people/groups who should be receiving the newsletter contact: AFIA, PO Box 453, Otautahi (Christchurch).

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON SOCIAL POLICY

Project Waitangi was asked to contribute to the Royal Commission's phase on the Treaty of Waitangi.

We prepared a paper 'The Treaty of Waitangi : A Pakeha Perspective' plus people took part in hui in Auckland, Rotorua, Wellington and Christchurch.

Some of the areas covered were:

- : Legal status of the Treaty
- : Partnership, good faith and mutual trust
- : Relationship between the status of tangata whenua and equality of all citizens
- : The pursuit of Maori autonomy
- : Adequate electoral representation of Maori
- : Social well-being : and the outcomes of social and economic processes
- : The position of Pakeha as determined by the Treaty of Waitangi

Copies of Project Waitangi's paper are available for \$2.50 (postage and photocopying).

PORTS REFORM BILL

Project Waitangi (National) has made a submission on the Ports Reform Bill. We see this Bill as a continuation of the failure of the Crown to recognise Maori claims to the foreshore and fisheries of New Zealand.

Project Waitangi recommends that this Bill takes account of the possible (and past) Maori claims over reclaimed land and other land vested in the Harbour Boards before they are handed to the Port Companies.

A copy of the full submission is available from Project Waitangi for \$2.00 (postage and photocopying).

TREATY OF WAITANGI (STATE ENTERPRISES) BILL

This legislation reinforces the standing of the Waitangi Tribunal and puts in place a mechanism whereby major land claims arising from past breaches of the Treaty can be properly dealt with.

It will determine the future shape and role of the Waitangi Tribunal, a body which we believe is showing the way forward to a bicultural society.

Overall Project Waitangi (National) believes that this legislation will go some way towards remedying past injustices. We have criticisms however about specific weaknesses and we also acknowledge the urgent need to guarantee the Tribunal's autonomy.

A copy of the Project Waitangi submission is available from Project Waitangi for \$2.00 (postage and photocopying).

ELECTORAL REFORM

Project Waitangi has made a submission to the Electoral Law Committee.

The main recommendations in this submission were:

1. Project Waitangi recommends that the Treaty of Waitangi must be constitutionally acknowledged as the basis on which the governing of Aotearoa is founded.
2. Project Waitangi recommends that in accordance with the Treaty of Waitangi partnership be implemented in Government and that practical application be given to Maori structures to participate in building a bicultural Aotearoa.
3. Project Waitangi recommends that constitutional reform be based on the Treaty of Waitangi and consultation with Maori people precede electoral reform.

Tribunal findings buried in bureaucracy

He kehua te mea nei?
He whaikiko tonu ranei?
Is this just an apartment?
Or something of substance?
EXACTLY what has been done as a result of the various Tribunal findings so far? There've been six major reports but few results at the roots level. Government committees and task forces have been set up. They've made investigations and produced their own reports but many of the claimants have yet to see practical results. The Court of Appeal has said it may well be a breach of the treaty and illegal if the Government fails to act on the recommendations of the Waitangi Tribunal. Here's a summary of results so far in five cases.

Te Ati Awa and Motunui (1983)
The tribunal found that the fishing reefs near Waitara and near the synthetic petrol plant at Motunui were under threat from pollution. They recommended: That the proposed outfall at Motunui be stopped. The National government rejected this at first but then agreed to stop it. That the effluent from the Motunui plant go through the Waitara outfall. This has been done. A regional task-force should look at replacing the damaged Waitara outfall. Little progress has been made. The task force should also look at providing land-based treatment. No specific work has yet been done on this. The reefs are still polluted by effluent from the Waitara outfall. A government committee should look at the whole issue of Maori fisheries. The committee did so and shortly the Law Commission will produce a detailed report. **OVERALL:** a lot of committee work has been done but effluent is still flowing over the reefs near Waitara. Te Ati Awa claimants say they are in despair after a 10-year fight to protect their traditional fishing grounds.

Te Arawa and the Kaituma River (1984)
The Rotorua council wanted to discharge effluent into the Kaituma River. The tribunal found: This was against the treaty and the proposal should be abandoned. It was. That research be done into land treatment. It was. That land treatment get a subsidy. It has. By mid-1990, Rotorua should be stripping out three-quarters of the phosphorus and nitrogen in the effluent which will then be piped and sprayed on a forest park. That the law allow Maori values to be taken into account over water rights. A review of planning and resource laws is under way. **OVERALL:** a successful conclusion, though further downstream the Maketu estuary has other problems.

Ngati Te Ata, Tainui and the Manukau Harbour (1985)
The claim was about the pollution of Manukau Harbour and the loss of lands of Manukau tribes. The tribunal said it was appalled by the events of the past and made 15 recommendations. They were all accepted by government and action requested. The Ministry for the Environment put out an action plan in 1986. Its first goal is to start cleaning up the harbour by the end of 1988. It also wants a co-ordinated management system in place by the end of 1990. Local bodies are also working on the issues but the sheer number of different bodies with an interest in the Manukau and the lack of legal backing makes for slow progress. Toxic chemicals are still pouring into the harbour. Recommendations concerning the airport and New Zealand Steel have run into different problems. The air-

port is being made into a company and New Zealand Steel is now privately owned so neither is directly accountable any more. The idea of kaitiaki (guardians) is being investigated. Fishery rights are being negotiated on a national level. wahi tapu (sacred sites) on Crown land will be protected, planning laws are under review. But the marae site hasn't been returned, the claim to land in the Waikato State Forest isn't settled and mining goes on around their sacred sites. The airport extension poses another threat. **OVERALL:** a lot of committee work has been done and also public pressure is strong to clean up the Manukau. But in the water and on the land and the mud-flats around the Manukau things are probably worse than before the tribunal hearings. Claimant Alec Kahau says, "It's been a non-event for us. The Government has been asking us to compromise 100 per cent in every case. The slurry pipe was completed before the tribunal's findings were released. Forestry are asking us to buy our land back. We've had 50,000 tons of tailings dumped on top of a cemetery." Ngati Te Ata are seeking justice through the United Nations.

Nga Kaiwhakapumau i Te Reo and Te Reo Maori (1986)
The tribunal found the Crown hasn't kept its promise to recognise and protect the language. "If the language dies, the culture dies." They recommended: That Maori be an official language with the right to use it in court and in dealing with government departments and other public bodies. The Maori Language Act does make Maori an official language but allows it to be used of right in court only. This merely puts it alongside other languages (Japanese, Samoan, Greek...) which were already acceptable in court. That a Maori language commission be set up. This has been done. An inquiry be made into the way Maori children are educated. This has not been done and the Education Department has also come under fire for not moving fast and far enough to support children who've come through from Kohanga reo. Broadcasting policy should recognise the need to protect the Maori language. A Maori radio board has been set up but its budget progressively cut. Bilingualism in Maori and English should be a pre-requisite for some government jobs. This is still not the case. **OVERALL:** Dr Richard Benton of the Council for Educational Research says token changes have been made but nothing substantial enough to prevent the death of the Maori language for east for around the year 2000. The claimants feel cheated. Huirangi Waiterepuru of Nga Kaiwhakapumau says, "The Government pre-empted our claim by introducing its bill and not waiting for the report. The Maori Language Act is a great disappointment and an insult to Maori culture and to Maori people. The group have made a new claim to the Tribunal."

Ngati Whaitua and Orakei (1987)
The tribunal said "this group of Maori people suffered at the hands of the Crown one of the worst cases of cultural genocide this country has known". The Ngati Whaitua people have become landless refugees by the connivance of the Crown and the town of Auckland. The tribunal recommended that the Government return Bastion Point and certain other parts of Orakei to the Ngati Whaitua tribe along with a \$3 million payment for tribal development. The Government is giving the findings "sympathetic consideration". The Prime Minister said he'd be surprised if the Government disagreed with returning the land but the payment would have to be considered further. **OVERALL:** it appears the claimants in this case are waiting for action.