

NEWSLETTER

PROJECT *Waitangi* PAKEHA DEBATE THE TREATY
P.O. BOX 825, WELLINGTON
April 1988

Funding Letter from Geoffrey Palmer 25 March 1988 " I am pleased to inform you that as a result of the proposal I put to the Cabinet on Social Equity, the Department of Justice will be making a grant of \$50,000.00 to Project Waitangi in 1988/89. I fully support Project Waitangi in its efforts toward creating a genuinely bicultural society by increasing understanding of Pakeha commitments under the Treaty of Waitangi.....Past and current funding indicates my support for Project Waitangi. However, it is the sort of undertaking where success depends on the support of the community. Ultimately that should be shown through a willingness by community organisations to provide a measure of financial support. Once again I would like to express my appreciation for the work done by the Project Waitangi organisation and wish you well in your continuing endeavours."

The core group is now in a position to extend my job until 1989 and we may be employing another full time person to work specifically on 1990 planning and a Youth Project. This has yet to be decided by the core group. What this grant does mean is that the national office is able to continue its support of the eighteen Project Waitangi regional groups around the country through resources, training skills and other assistance.

A number of national organisations supported our application to Mr Palmer and the core group wish to express their appreciation for this.

Maryanne L'Estrange

WHENEVER I COME TO
A TURNING-POINT
IN MY LIFE,



I GO
STRAIGHT ON.

Almost one thousand proposals, submissions and ideas have been received by the 1990 commission. Our latest information is that the commission has had meetings to work out a process for the planning of the year. Currently, there have been two standing committees formed - 1) Maori 2) Finance. Under these there will be five advisory groups dealing with different themes. The five broadly are:

- 1) New Zealand cultures including arts, recreation sport, etc
- 2) Resources - primary, secondary, environment
- 3) International events happening here and also how NZ is perceived internationally
- 4) People and Community Services
- 5) Education and History

Commissioners will be assigned to the different groups and bring in people from the community to be part of them.

The Maori standing committee will be made up of the Maori Commissioners plus other Maori people nominated from the community. This standing committee will be able to initiate its own programmes and will also monitor some of the work of the others.

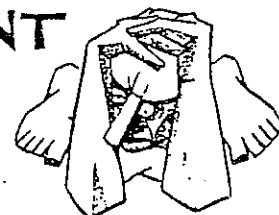
When these committees are established, the submissions and proposals will be processed.

There will be a major public launching in May this year of these committees and themes for the year.

All this has been reported to me from Internal Affairs. It is difficult to assess what all this means in terms of the Treaty of Waitangi. However, from public statements of Mr Bassett and from some of the letters going to national organisations about 1990, the year is being seen as a "celebration" and the Treaty is buried among many other events. All the networks need to keep a close eye on this situation over the next few weeks and start making plans and strategies for the year.

POW in Auckland is organising a hui to discuss plans for 1990 on the 7th May. For further info on this contact POW.

**THERE OUGHT
TO BE
A BETTER WAY
THAN
GOVERNMENT
TO RUN
THE
WORLD.**

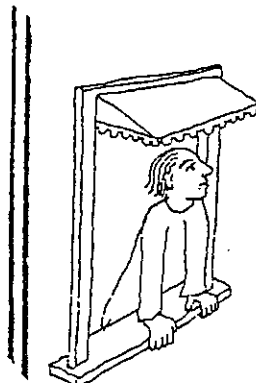


DARGAVILLE, WHANGAREI, KAIKOHE 7th, 8th and 9th March 1988

Wellington airport was closed on the morning of the 7th so I drove up to Dargaville for the public meeting to be held that night. Mary Richardson was already in Auckland so she went on ahead to Dargaville for the daytime meetings. She was diverted through back roads and flooded streets but made it in time for a newspaper interview, a meeting with the local group and people involved in the case with the Waitangi Tribunal, and started the public meeting. There were over forty people there which considering the bad weather (the beginnings of Cyclone Bola), was very heartening. The meeting was very positive with several people keen to join the Project Waitangi group. One man said he had come to the meeting for a fight but instead after the meeting he was willing to put work into doing something about the issues. Contact for Dargaville is Jacoba Puharich, Box 416 Dargaville, Phone 7356.

Mary and I travelled onto Whangarei that night as it looked as if the weather was going to get worse. The hours' trip between Dargaville and Whangarei was an experience we wouldnt want to repeat with trees on the roads, overflowing river banks and high winds. When we got to Whangarei, we were escorted through town by police as the central city streets were car-door deep in water. The next day we had newspaper and radio interviews, a meeting with the local people and a public meeting. Considering the area was in the middle of Cyclone Bola, there was a good turnout at the meetings with a number wishing to join the Project Waitangi group. Contact for Whangarei is Elisabeth Vaneveld, Whangarei Community Arts Council Box 1369 Whangarei, Phone 481-195.

The next day, Mary, Joan Cooke (from Project Waitangi Whangarei and Northland Rural Urban Mission) and I travelled on to Kaikohe to meet other Project Waitangi people. However, because of a mix up about closed roads, weather and phone lines out, the meeting had been called off. However, we did meet with Ros Simich who filled us in on the training work she has been doing and we gave her some resource material. For more info contact Roz Simich, Whakatahu Road, Waimate North, Ohaeawai.



WE GET
SOME KIND
OF WEATHER HERE
NEARLY EVERY DAY.

People from Dargaville, Whangarei, Kaikohe, Ohaeawai, Ahipara, Herekino and Kaitaia will be having a Project Waitangi Regional Meeting on the 14th May 1988. Among other things, they will be discussing the possibility of getting a regional coordinator for the north, mid-north and far north to work on Project Waitangi and related areas. For further information on this meeting contact any of the above people.

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CHRISTCHURCH

Christchurch Project Waitangi have appointed a new coordinator- Kath Rushton to work part-time. Jim McAloon has gone to work for the Ngai Tahu Trust Board as a researcher full time now. He is still involved in Project Waitangi as part of the core group. The Christchurch group are applying to Roy McKenzie for funding to pay Kath over the next few months and their application is being supported by the National office.

Their third Resource kit which is entirely on the Ngai Tahu claim to the Waitangi Tribunal and history of Ngai Tahu is due out shortly. For further info on this contact Kath Rushton PO Box 453 Christchurch.

NAPIER

Napier Project Waitangi ran a public seminar on the Treaty for Waitangi Day this way. About twenty people attended with a good age range and lots of discussion. The day was put in the context of 1990 being the 150th anniversary of the Treaty, and what it will mean for Pakeha living in New Zealand. There was lively discussion particularly on the area of "separate development". If you would like to be part of the Napier/Hastings group or need speakers or information contact Judy Mills, 5 Maderia Street Napier, or Karen Kenrick Phone 850748 Napier.

ROTORUA

The Rotorua group has five new members and there group is going well. Posters were put up around Waitangi Day - there was nothing organised by the Rotorua City Council to commemorate the day.

Project Waitangi Rotorua have raised a number of issues at the Rotorua Boys High School about the decision to build a Whare Maori being reversed because of a feared "backlash" from Pakeha parents.

Contact for Rotorua Lynne Dempsey 3 Tatai Street Rotorua phone 70125.

TAIHAPE PUBLIC MEETING 28th March 1988

Project Waitangi held a successful public meeting in Taihape recently. The aim of the meeting was to raise awareness of the issues and to get a Project Waitangi group up and going in that area. About twenty five people attended and many were interested in continuing to work together. The Palmerston North Project Waitangi group came over to Taihape in support. For further info or if you would like to join this group contact Liz Mortland, REAP centre, PO Box 86 Taihape, Phone 109.

In the week before Waitangi Day, Project Waitangi Wanganui organised a public meeting on the theme: The Treaty of Waitangi and the Wanganui River. There were three speakers - Keith Chapple of Wanganui River coalition talking about the case against Electricorp, Russell Marshall M.P. talking about implications of the National Park and river bed claim, and Patrick O'Connor, Community health doctor and author of the report on pollution in the lower river.

Return of riverbed to Maoris 'inevitable'

By JOHN GIBB

The bed of the Wanganui River will inevitably revert to Maori ownership, possibly within two years, Wanganui MP Russell Marshall said yesterday.

Mr Marshall, a former Conservation Minister and now Minister of Foreign Affairs told the *Chronicle* in Wanganui a claim on behalf of the Wanganui River tribes was expected to be filed with the Waitangi Tribunal within days.

Depending on how quickly the tribunal was able to deal with its workload, the Wanganui River case could be decided within two years.

Mr Marshall said that for the past 60 to 70 years claims made by the Maori people in respect of the river had not been directly and fairly addressed and the claimants were still dissatisfied.

Asked whether he believed ownership of the riverbed would be returned to the Maori river tribes, Mr Marshall said: "I think that

we're on a path that makes it inevitable in one form or another."

"I think that the journey which is about to be started will inevitably resolve the matter satisfactorily. It might take a couple of years. It's an issue that will not go away."

Mr Marshall said that the Pakeha were still not fully aware about what the riverbed issue was about as far as the Maori people were concerned.

"There's a sense of grievance there which is deeply felt which has to be redressed," he said.

Mr Marshall spoke in support of restoring ownership of the riverbed to the river tribes and agreed such a move would raise the mana of the river from the Maori perspective and could improve race relations.

Asked whether conflict could arise between tribal requirements and the wishes of other river users once ownership was restored, Mr Marshall said he believed common sense would prevail and the Department of Conservation would be able to continue to play a mediating role

Mr Marshall's comments came after he addressed about 80 people at a public forum on the Wanganui River and the Treaty of Waitangi organised by the Wanganui branch of Project Waitangi and held in the city's David Lecture Theatre.

In his address Mr Marshall considered the history of Maori claims to the river and looked at the way in which claims had been sidelined by successive courts and governments.

He said one former Appeal Court had consisted of "elderly Pakeha men".

However, he noted a healthy refurbishing of river marae in recent years, progress which would be added to by eventual restoration of Maori ownership of the riverbed.

Keith Chapple, chairman of the Wanganui River Flows Coalition and Dr Patrick O'Connor, Wanganui Area Health Board acting medical director (community and environment), also spoke at the meeting.

● Cont'd P3

● From P1

The future of the Wanganui River has been sharply highlighted in recent weeks by the activities of the river flows coalition and demands by the Tairāwhiti-based Te Tīkanga Tribal Authority.

The coalition late last week launched a national, "Speak Up for the Wanganui" petition designed to rally support for the holding of a formal water right hearing at which the Electricity Corporation would apply to continue to divert the headwaters of the Wanganui River and water from six other of its

tributaries into the Western Division of the Tongariro Power Development Scheme.

Authority chairman Hikia Amohia has given commercial boat owners who operate on the Wanganui River until February 15 to come to an agreement over joint river operations or risk having their boats confiscated.

After the three addresses, a member of the audience spoke strongly in support of Mr Amohia.

Mr Marshall said that despite the moral force of Mr Amohia's argument, his reading of a 1939 Maori Land Court decision was mistaken in law.

Department of Conservation Whanganui district Conservator John Ombler said he had been contacted by several commercial and recreational river users concerned by Mr Amohia's comments.

Mr Ombler asked Mr Marshall if there was a possibility the river could be limited in public access under Maori control.

Mr Marshall said he believed any problem could be resolved.

In his address, Mr Chapple spoke strongly of the need to restore the former vitality of the Wanganui River, much of which he said had been lost through excessive draw off for hydro-electric power generation.

"Two-hundred years ago, the Wanganui River was a vibrant living thing," he said.

"It supported along its banks a self-sufficient society of probably over 30,000 people.

"A people who, over hundreds of years, had achieved a oneness with nature. Not a perfect union perhaps, but certainly a union where people

natural resources, rather than abuse them.

"For the people of the river, the beheading of the upper Wanganui is a tragedy - regional asset stripping on a grand scale.

"For the Wanganui River, the loss of its headwaters represents an act of mindless vandalism. Its spirituality, its mana, its chemical make-up, its ability to support life, its recreational potential and scenic values are dramatically downgraded.

"The people of the river, whether they be from the King Country or Wanganui, or the places in between, have only the problems to contend with and a legacy of resentment.

Dr O'Connor, who last year helped to prepare an important area health board report on pollution levels in the lower reaches of the Wanganui River said last night the river near the city was still heavily polluted from 55 sewer outfalls, making swimming there undesirable from a health point of view.

Bathing at Castlecliff Beach was generally safe, although shellfish caught in the river or estuary should not be eaten.

Dr O'Connor said the motivation in trying to clean up the river was not purely a health one in any narrow sense of the term.

"We're not spending money to prevent gastroenteritis, but so we can have full use of our river and feel proud of it," he said.

The lower reaches of the river were part of a river which was a national treasure and was of great symbolic and spiritual significance to the Maori people.

Close consultant with the Maori people would be necessary in the future development of the city's

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Posters: Treaty of Waitangi "Its the Putting Right that counts"	\$3.00	
Bastion Point 1978-1988 - we have a few in office, further available from AFIA Box 453, Christchurch	4.50	
Aarn Fund 10 left in this office otherwise 231 Ponsonby Rd Auckland	10.00	
Folders: The Treaty of Waitangi - Its the Putting Right that Counts	4.00	
Resource Kit Parts One, Two and Three study kits on Treaty of Waitangi, Pakeha Culture Racism, and Ongoing Issues	3.30	each
Pakeha Culture kit	2.20	
Submissions on Legislation:		
Treaty of Waitangi SOE Bill Ports Reform Bill Electoral Reform Bil	2.20	each
Project Waitangi 1990 submission	2.20	
Town and Country Planning Act review submission	2.20	
Court of Appeal precis	2.20	
Project Waitangi submission to Royal Commission	2.20	
Project Waitangi Annual Report Leaflets	free	

For resources write to PO BOX 825 WELLINGTON