

Te Tari Mātauranga Māori

TIME-LINE OF SETTLEMENT TO 1840

around

- 800^{AD} One or more groups of East Polynesian explorers discovered and settled in New Zealand.
- 1000 All of the coastline and some of the inland areas had been explored.
- 1200 All of the country had been explored by this time, with the main resources for tools and ornaments discovered. Complex communication networks existed up and down the country.
- 1500-
1800 Majority of population live in the northern part of the North Island.
- 1642 *December 18-19*, first recorded contact with Europeans – Abel Tasman.
- 1769 *October 6*, arrival of Capt. James Cook on the Endeavour. There is some speculation that New Zealand was visited by European explorers between Tasman and Cook.
French discovery and exploration by Jean Francois Marie de Surville.
- 1772 *June*, arrival of French expedition under Capt. Marion du Fresne.
- 1773 *April*, second visit by Cook.
- 1790 Epidemic of what was probably influenza – wiped out two thirds of the population in the southern part of the North Island.
- 1792 Forty men dropped at Dusky Sound to set up a shore base for sealing. They were picked up eight months later.
- 1793 Visit by Spanish navigator Malaspina.
- 1803 First visit by Danish whaler Hans Felk Tapsell.
- 1806 Arrival of NSW convict George Bruce – considered to be the first permanent European settler. He married the daughter of Te Pehi, a powerful Northland chief. (Also described as a marine surveyor.)
- 1814 Establishment of the first of the Church Missionary Society's stations – at Rangihora in the Bay of Islands.
December 25, Samuel Marsden gave his first sermon in New Zealand in English to a Maori congregation.
- 1824 First Scotsman, Gilbert Mair, settled at the Bay of Islands to trade.
- 1826 First of the New Zealand Company's expeditions arrived. It was later abandoned because of Maori hostility and most migrants settled in Australia.
- 1829 Ex-convict Irish Catholic Thomas Poynton set up a timber trading company on the Hokianga.
- 1830 Tapsell set up a trading post in the Bay of Plenty.
First Jewish settler, Joel Polack, settled at Kororareka and started the first brewery.
- 1833 *May*, arrival of James Busby, British Resident, in the Bay of Islands.
French Baron de Thierry arrived at Hokianga.
- 1839-
1843 Master of a French whaling ship, Jean Langlois, settled on Banks Peninsula.
Arrival of first British settlers.
Beginning of land purchases.
- 1840-
1850 Auckland developed into a cosmopolitan community of 3000 including 400 Irish Catholics.

Development of Maori anti-land selling movements in the Waikato and Taranaki.
- 1840 *January 22*, arrival of 1000 English settlers at Petone Beach in the first wave of New Zealand Company settlers.

February 6, signing of the Treaty of Waitangi.

August, sixty-three French settlers arrived to settle on Banks Peninsula.

September 18, foundation of the city of Auckland.
First Plymouth Company ship arrived at New Plymouth, followed by five more bringing the population to at least 900 in 1843, most of whom came from Devon and Cornwall.

(a) A BRITISH RESIDENT AND A
NATIONAL FLAG

James Busby arrived in May 1833 at the Bay of Islands, where there was a small settlement of Europeans; he and his family settled at Waitangi. Busby's main duties were to protect 'well-disposed' traders and settlers, to check 'outrages' on the Maori, and to apprehend escaped convicts. Busby, however, had no means of enforcing his authority in such matters, for neither the British nor the New South Wales authorities were willing to provide him with adequate support. Europeans in the Bay of Islands, quick to see the shortcomings of the Resident's appointment, became increasingly exasperated. They petitioned for more effective official support and, in 1837, set up a citizen vigilante association to protect themselves – very often from each other.

Busby, however, did try to introduce what his instructions called 'a settled form of government' among the Maori. He started by holding a great gathering at Waitangi on 20 March 1834. Twenty-five northern chiefs, accompanied by their followers, were invited to choose a national flag, so that ships built in New Zealand could be recognised, according to the law of the sea. Three flags were displayed on short poles and voted on, the winning one hoisted and a 21-gun salute fired. From then on Busby arranged for New Zealand-built ships to be registered in the name of the independent tribes of New Zealand and the ships flew the flag. It was also flown on shore in the 1830s, especially at the Bay of Islands. Maori saw it as official acknowledgement of their separate identity.

(b) THE DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE

Busby called a second meeting at Waitangi when he heard that a Frenchman, Baron de Thierry, was planning to set up his own independent state at Hokianga. On 28 October 1835 he persuaded thirty-four northern chiefs to sign a Declaration of the Independence of New Zealand. Calling themselves the Confederation of United Tribes, they asked the British government to recognise the country's independence and to extend Crown protection; the government agreed to both. Chiefs from further south were invited to join the Confederation of United Tribes and an annual congress at Waitangi was proposed. However, even though Busby went on collecting signatures, continuing inter-tribal competition and war prevented the congress from ever meeting.

C. Orange, *An Illustrated History of the Treaty of Waitangi*, pp 7-8