

1986 OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Well it's all starting to happen.

We've got a full-time coordinator for the project - Maryanne L'Estrange starts about the time this newsletter arrives in your mail-box. This means you'll now get regular newsletters, speedy follow-up to your inquiries and maybe a visit.

The funding for the coordinator has been arranged through the Justice Department. They've given a slice and approached a number of other government departments to contribute. Maryanne's contract is initially for six months.

And we plan an action packed six months - take a look at the preliminary agenda that follows. Please feed back comments, suggestions and details of what you're planning in your area or organisation. We'll then be able to make sure everyone keeps in touch and maybe tailor some of the national events to fit local needs.

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1986

- \* Other National Programme interview for project Waitangi will be broadcast on a Wednesday morning - probably 8 or 15 October. They've already broadcast Charmaine Pountney, Wally Hirsh and Richard Campion. This time, it'll be Diana Crossan on institutional racism. Copies of the tapes will be available later.
- \* OFFICIAL LAUNCH on October 31 - by Sir Paul Reeves, Wally Hirsh (race relations conciliator) and Jocelyn Armstrong (sec. of National Council of Churches).

Invitations will go out to politicians, to key media people, to kaumatua, to heads of community organisations; some union and business people. This is very much a public relations exercise and we intend going back to many of these people for resources.

You may choose to organise something locally to coincide with the national launching.

The Governor General has endorsed the project: "I view Project Waitangi as a very important development. It will encourage Pakeha people to see the Treaty of Waitangi as their Treaty. For many that will mean a journey of discovery about themselves and their place within the history and hopes of our country. I trust that everyone will become more sensitive and committed to social justice and effective partnership between the peoples of New Zealand."

- \* "Pakeha Voices for the Future" will also be published in October - by the National Council of Churches.
- \* Resource kits for primary and secondary school teachers will be available through PPTA and NZEI before the end of the year.
- \* A professional research group has adopted us as their community project for the year and they will survey current Pakeha responses to the Treaty.
- \* We will prepare a study/resource kit for the project.

FEBRUARY-MARCH 1987

- \* Two radio documentaries following Waitangi Day - one dealing with Parihaka, the other with the Te Ati Awa claim to the Waitangi Tribunal.
- \* Waitangi Day itself may see Pakeha gatherings organised and again some focus on local issues.
- \* ContEd (Radio NZ) will issue a booklet, a kind of beginners guide to the Treaty - this is in addition to their documentaries and interviews.
- \* Media profiles of organisations that are trying to come to terms with Treaty issues (look at the Broadsheet article on the women's refuge group).
- \* Community ads on radio, television and in the papers.
- \* Lecture series - you can try WEA or universities for setting up a series of lectures on the Treaty. Whakatane have already had Keith Sorenson, Ranginui Walker, Manu Paul and the local anti-racism group.

APRIL 6 to APRIL 12 IS FOCUS WEEK

- \* Television documentary we hope.
- \* Radio talk-backs - organise one locally. There'll also be repeats of the documentaries and interviews on radio.
- \* Schools will be encouraged to use this focus week - you could offer to work with teachers to build on the school resource kits.
- \* News events for the media - can you get well-known local people to front up on this issue?
- \* Community organisations, unions etc. will be encouraged to pick up on the issue.
- \* Government Print will bring out a resource book.

- \* Theatres and art galleries - you could approach your local ones now as they sort out programmes well in advance.
- \* Plus poster, leaflet, badges, stickers, bus tours .....
- \* Plus new suggestions .....

### BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

Project Waitangi got under way late in 1985 in response to an initiative from the NCC Programme on Racism. Upwards of 40 people, representing different community organisations, had a series of meetings in Wellington to consider how best to focus Pakeha debate on the Treaty.

They formed a core group which went on meeting every week throughout 1986, to organise funding, structure the media approach and generally to sort out the whole project. The core group reported back in August.

They had decided to target middle New Zealand and develop the debate on Treaty issues through the media and through community organisations and the churches. The aims stated for the project:

- \* That Pakeha will study and debate the Treaty of Waitangi in order to understand Pakeha commitments under the Treaty.
- \* That Pakeha will recognise Maori as the tangata whenua.
- \* That Pakeha will study the history of New Zealand since 1840 and, by coming face to face with our history, will begin to move towards a genuine bi-cultural and eventually multicultural society.

It's intended to be a broad educational approach to generate discussion - this will of course be at many levels. Some will just be starting to talk, others may work within their own organisations or with the anti-racism movement for substantial change.

We'll need the support of anti-racism groups to follow up people and groups who are seriously committed to sorting out Treaty issues.

We've got some ongoing issues for the project people to debate:

- \* Are we just going to produce better informed racists?
- \* Do we respond publicly on specific Treaty issues (eg fishing rights)?
- \* How can we most effectively network across the country?
- \* How do we ensure the debate continues? How do we support those seeking personal and institutional change?

We're not trying to initiate the debate - that's already well under way. But Pakehas do need a basic awareness and analysis to work through Treaty issues.

We hope to provide resources and focus points to develop the debate and encourage a range of ways of tackling the issues.

NEXT NEWSLETTER IN NOVEMBER

- Please send news about your group and your plans
- Please send feed-back about our suggestions

P.S. You may like to follow up the High Court decision on fishing rights - you could write supporting letters to the paper and to Mr Justice Williamson.

We have been talking to some people involved with the media and they have suggested that during the focus week it might be a good idea for each region to have one of the days of the week as their day of most activity to highlight in the media. If we can spread the days around the country then media coverage will be wider. This would mean that each region chose the day that is most appropriate for your major event for the week. Other events can happen the rest of the week but to make the one day the main event.

It will also make it easier from this office as we can inform National media of the events and plans around the country for the week. Please write if you think this will work for your area.

#### Television

Negotiations are under way for there to be film documentaries screened every night during the focus week on television.

#### Radios

We have contacted Morning Report for coverage during the week and hope to have a few talkbacks going in local areas.

#### WEA

A series of lectures is organised at the Wellington WEA for the focus week.

#### POSTER

A poster is underway and will be sent to all regional groups.

#### EXPLODING MYTHS PICNIC

Bring your own myth and explode it with friends.

#### Lunch Time Lectures

We hope to get some well-known personalities to speak at lunch-time lectures.

WELLINGTON

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IT WOULD SAVE  
SO MUCH TIME,

Ashleigh  
Brilliant

IF WE COULD  
ALL BE BORN  
KNOWING  
EVERYTHING  
THAT'S  
ALREADY  
KNOWN.



