



Media Release

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Art at Archives

Archives New Zealand, home to the Treaty of Waitangi documents, will work with young Wellingtonians to create a three-part mural to commemorate Waitangi Day 2007.

“This is an exciting venture for us and the young people involved,” Dianne Macaskill Chief Executive of Archives New Zealand said.

“Three groups of young people will work with multi-media artist Tai Kerekere, to develop the piece, during the week prior to Waitangi Day,” she said.

“The mural will represent their understanding of the Treaty and what it means for them as young New Zealanders – and it will be the centrepiece for our Archives New Zealand Waitangi Day celebration on 6 February.

“We’ve chosen this approach because of the Treaty’s relevance to all New Zealanders.

“On completion the mural will be hung in the foyer of our Wellington office in Mulgrave Street.”

Dianne Macaskill said Tai Kerekere has been working in the creative arts industry for more than 10 years, as a mixed media artist, curator and tutor. He is currently working in Wellington as a graphic designer and an active member of the Wellington Potters’ Association.

Some of Tai’s mural work can be seen at Te Papa, at Rotorua’s Centra Hotel and he’s also worked on murals for previous Kapa Haka festivals.

“People can call in to Archives to see the youngsters in action or come in on Waitangi Day to see the mural and experience the original 1840 Treaty of Waitangi which we have on show in our Constitution Room.”

“Visitors are always welcome to Archives New Zealand.

“Besides the Treaty we also have on show the 1835 Declaration of Independence of the Northern Chiefs and the 1893 Women’s Suffrage Petition.

“On Waitangi Day guided talks through the Constitution Room will give people the opportunity to hear about the history of the Treaty and its preservation. We have some great books on the Treaty available to young visitors and we will be showing some historical films about Waitangi Day from our film archive.”

Archives New Zealand will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm on Waitangi Day. Regular opening hours are from 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday and Saturday 9.00am to 1.00pm.

People can see the mural being worked on from 10.00am to 2.00pm on Wednesday 31 January and Thursday and Friday 1 and 2 February in the Living Room, one of the exhibition rooms on the ground floor of Archives.

Archives New Zealand Wellington Office is located on Mulgrave Street, a short walk from the Railway Station and the city bus station.

Ends

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About Archives New Zealand

Archives New Zealand is the official guardian of New Zealand's heritage documents. We gather, store and protect an extremely wide range of material. Our holdings include the originals of the Treaty of Waitangi, government files and records, maps, paintings, photos and film.

Archives New Zealand's two main roles are:

- to ensure governments' activities are recorded and the records are kept permanently; and
- to provide access to these records.

Many different people and organisations use the materials held at Archives New Zealand. They document rights and entitlements and provide evidence of government activity. The materials also record history and document the relationship between Māori and the Crown. The archives are often used to research Treaty of Waitangi claims or trace whakapapa and ancestry.

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Bill Hamilton

Bill Hamilton is a manager at the Human Rights Commission and will present an overview of the Treaty of Waitangi at the young people's workshops, and to those who gather at Archives New Zealand on 6 Feb.

Bill has facilitated Treaty workshops around the country. Some of the themes that have emerged during these workshops are:

- Migrant communities are concerned about where they fit in to a Treaty-based society. They also believe it is everyone's right to have good information about the Treaty
- Some Pakeha participants are uncertain about their position in relation to the Treaty
- The Treaty is an important part of who we are as New Zealanders and shapes our behaviour and views towards one another
- Using Māori phrases and symbols is legitimate because it determines who they are as New Zealanders

"At the end of the day, most of the people we have engaged in dialogue see themselves in the Treaty somewhere. It's a document that has relevance for all peoples who live here." Bill says.

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**Tai Wiremu Kerekere,
Artist and Mixed Media Designer**



Tai has been working within the creative arts industry for more than 10 years – as a mixed media artists, curator and tutor. Tai is currently working in Wellington as a graphic designer and active member of the Wellington Potter’s Association. He is also working towards a new exhibition in 2007.

“There has been a real movement in Māori art over the last few years, and we now see much more use of colour, contemporary symbols and new materials. We’re going to work with the young people to create something vibrant and modern.” Tai says.

The Treaty of Waitangi

Te Tiriti o Waitangi



The Treaty of Waitangi - The Waitangi Sheet

The Treaty of Waitangi is not a single large sheet of paper but a group of nine documents: seven on paper and two on parchment. Together they represent an agreement drawn up between representatives of the Crown on the one hand and Rangatira representing iwi and hapū on the other. The Treaty is named after the place in the Bay of Islands where it was first signed on 6 February 1840, but it was also signed in a number of other locations around the country in the following months.

The Drafting of the Treaty

Captain William Hobson drafted the initial English version of the Treaty with assistance from his secretary J.S. Freeman and James Busby. It underwent several revisions before being translated into Māori by the missionary Henry Williams and his son Edward Williams. The nine Treaty sheets displayed in the centre of the Constitution Room are all Māori translations, except the Waikato sheet, which is in English.

New Zealand Government Online provides transcripts of the Treaty of Waitangi, including the English version as signed, the Māori version as signed, and a modern English translation of the Māori version.

The signing of the Treaty

There was a day of heated debate about the Treaty on 5 February at the house of James Busby, the British Resident. The influential chief Tamati Waka Nene turned the debate in favour of the Treaty. The Treaty of Waitangi was signed at Waitangi in the Bay of Islands on 6 February 1840 by Captain William Hobson, several English residents and approximately forty-five Māori chiefs. The first Māori to sign was Hone Heke; three other chiefs placed their signature above his later that day. The document signed at Waitangi was then taken to various other Northland locations to obtain additional Māori signatures.

To extend Crown authority over parts of the North Island that had not yet been covered, and the South Island, a further seven copies of the Waitangi document were sent around the country for signing. The Church Missionary Society press at Paihia, near Waitangi, printed copies of the Treaty and one of these was also used to obtain signatures. At the end of this process, a total of over 500 chiefs - including some women - from thirty-nine areas of the country had signed the Treaty. The Treaty was not taken to all parts of New Zealand and some chiefs refused to sign.

A printed list of the signatories to the Treaty of Waitangi, including a history of the signing, is available in the archives of the Legislative Department [LE 1, 1865/139]. This was also published in *The Journals of the Legislative Council and House of Representatives* 1869, pp.67-78.

The Documents

In 1841, only a year after the Treaty of Waitangi was drawn up and signed, the documents were saved from a fire at the government offices in Official Bay, Auckland. Early record-keeping practices also led to the Treaty being damaged by both water and rodents. After a series of different conservation treatments, and different homes, the Treaty was finally brought to National Archives in 1989, where the documents are now on permanent display in the secure, stable environment of the Constitution Room, Archives New Zealand.