



# TOGETHER FOR A FLOURISHING AOTEAROA

*TE TIRITI O WAITANGI EXPLAINED*

TE TIRITI O WAITANGI CAN ENSURE ALL OF US  
ARE RESPECTED AS PART OF A VIBRANT,  
CONNECTED COMMUNITY AND COUNTRY.

A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE FEELS A SENSE  
OF BELONGING AND HAS WHAT THEY NEED TO  
THRIVE.

By working together, valuing each other's unique experiences, and embracing Māori knowledge and leadership, we can reach more solutions and opportunities that benefit all of us. We can have a flourishing Aotearoa together.

We've designed this booklet to answer your questions about Te Tiriti o Waitangi and help you to talk about how Te Tiriti can bring about this future in homes, schools, workplaces, marae, churches, and all other community, education, and recreation spaces.

*Who are we?*

We are a group of citizens, both Māori and tangata Tiriti (people of the Treaty), who are working toward a united and equitable future for Aotearoa, New Zealand. We are researchers, Treaty educators, parents, whānau members, and students.

*In this booklet, we cover:*

- *Why is Te Tiriti important for all of us?*
- *What does Te Tiriti o Waitangi say?*
- *Why do we have a treaty?*
- *How can I talk with friends, whānau, and workmates about Te Tiriti?*
- *Resources to support further learning...*

# Why is Te Tiriti important for all of us?

1

## **Te Tiriti is the foundation for ongoing peace and mutual benefit in Aotearoa.**

It provides for a society in which all can flourish – where Māori have authority over the things of importance to them – lands, language, and everything they treasure, and tangata Tiriti have the ability to have systems that work for and reflect their diverse people. Within this relationship, there is a space in between for negotiating issues of shared interest and concern.



2

## **The authority of the New Zealand Government rests on Te Tiriti.**

Te Tiriti is one of our key constitutional documents and gives our government the authority to make laws and policies for tangata Tiriti (non-Māori).

3

## **Māori continue to lead for us all, despite the significant harm caused to Māori by our Government since signing Te Tiriti.**

Across Aotearoa, Māori continue to lead innovative solutions to some of our biggest collective challenges, such as climate change and global pandemics. Honouring Te Tiriti and resourcing tino rangatiratanga means that more solutions will be available to all of us.




4

## **Te Tiriti provides a framework for taking the best care of each other and our environment.**

Te Tiriti, as an agreement to work together and share decision making, means that we can draw on all of our unique skills and experience to ensure the best care of all people and the planet.



## TE TIRITI-LED FUTURE:

 PLACES THAT ARE SPECIAL TO US ARE ABUNDANT WITH PLANTS AND WILDLIFE.

 WE ALL HAVE ACCESS TO FRESH AND PLENTIFUL FOOD AND WATER.

 WE HAVE EQUITABLE HEALTH CARE THAT MEETS EVERYONE'S DIFFERING NEEDS.

 OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN HAVE QUALITY CHILDCARE AND ENVIRONMENTS FOR THEM TO THRIVE.

AND SO MUCH MORE...

**IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE JOIN TOGETHER,  
LEARN ABOUT TE TIRITI, AND SHARE  
RESOURCES WITH THOSE NEAR AND DEAR TO  
US.**



# Te Tiriti o Waitangi

What does it say?

*TE TIRITI O WAITANGI IS A COMMITMENT TO A RELATIONSHIP OF PEACE AND MUTUAL BENEFIT. IT ALLOWED FOR OTHERS TO COME HERE WHILE AFFIRMING THE AUTHORITY OF MĀORI.*

Te Tiriti o Waitangi was signed in 1840 by over 500 rangatira (chiefs) of the hapū and Captain William Hobson on behalf of the British Crown. It was signed in 38 locations throughout New Zealand. Before signing, there was extensive discussion and debate of Te Tiriti o Waitangi – the text in te reo. In 1840, Māori were over 97% of the population.



# Te Tiriti o Waitangi

## PREAMBLE

The Queen wants Māori people to keep their lands and independence and she wants all peoples to live together in peace. This agreement is to make a government for her people who are now in New Zealand and for those who will come in the future.

## 1 - KĀWANATANGA

Māori give to the Queen of England the right to establish a government in New Zealand.

## 2 - TINORANGATIRANGA

In addition, the Queen agrees that Māori will keep their independence and keep control over their lands and everything that is important to them. They give to the Queen the right to buy land, if they want to sell it.

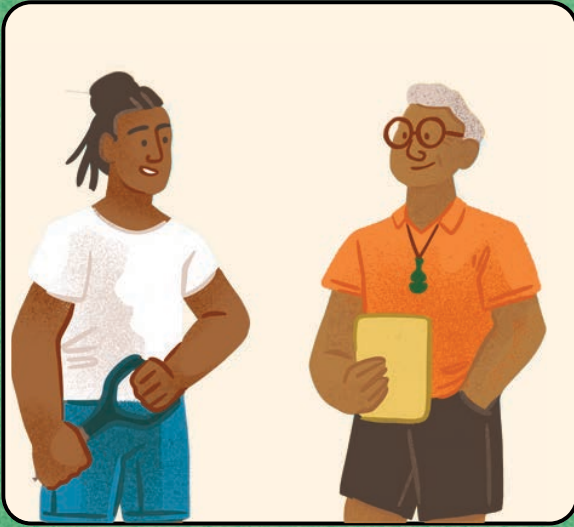
## 3 - ŌRITETANGA

The Queen gives Māori people the same rights as British people.

## RITENGA MĀORI/WAIRUATANGA

The Governor promises to protect Māori customs and the different religions in New Zealand (a spoken promise).

# Why do we have a Treaty?



*A treaty is an agreement between two (or more) independent nations.*

*Te Tiriti o Waitangi is an agreement between Māori rangatira, the leaders of hapū (nations), and the British Crown (now the New Zealand Government).*



*Hapū in Aotearoa have a long history of strategic alliances. Negotiation of formal treaties, tatau pounamu or peacemaking, between hapū was a regular practice prior to the arrival of Europeans.*

# Events that led to Te Tiriti

**In the late 1700s and early 1800s sealers, whalers, and missionaries came here and lived amongst Māori.** Māori travelled extensively and had trading relationships, particularly with Australia, England, and North America.

**In 1835, the authority and independence of Māori in New Zealand was declared and recognised internationally.**

He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tirenī (the Declaration of Independence) stated that mana and rangatiratanga (sovereign power and authority) in New Zealand was held by hapū. Any foreign authority (kāwanatanga) could only be established with their permission. The Declaration was initially signed by rangatira in the northern regions and later in other areas. It was officially acknowledged by the British Crown in 1836.

**The lack of control over increasing numbers of settlers was a concern for the British government and Māori in some areas.** A private enterprise, the New Zealand Company was leading large-scale immigration, having sold rights to nearly 100,000 acres of Māori land in Britain before any agreement with Māori. These factors and general lawlessness by settlers meant the British government wanted to ensure control over their own citizens and to protect the sovereign nations of Aotearoa.





In present day Aotearoa, Te Tiriti o Waitangi is the foundation for a relationship of peace and mutual benefit.



Image: parliament.nz

“We all stand to benefit from relationships which share responsibility ... We must be interested in, and talking about, the substance of power-sharing to make sure that we are continually breathing life into our Treaty and our agreements.” *Chris Finlayson (former National Party MP and Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations from 2008 to 2017).*



Image: Whangārei District Libraries

“The seed I would like to plant in your heart is a vision of Aotearoa where all our people can live together in harmony ... and share wisdom from each culture” *Dame Whina Cooper.*



Image: olympic.org.nz

“I’m here to make New Zealand great. I’m a Kiwi. I honour the Māori side of Aotearoa. I am a New Zealander and I’m proud, and Māori culture is part of my country’s culture, therefore it’s part of what I’m representing, so I respect and love that too.” *Ruby Tui.*

# HOW CAN I TALK TO FRIENDS, WHĀNAU, AND WORKMATES ABOUT TE TIRITI?

It is important to share what we have learned about Te Tiriti with those we know. Many of these conversations are likely to be about guiding people to resources (like this one) or discussing questions they may have. However, if things get tricky, we've included some helpful tips.



# ANSWERING SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

## Why should we focus on Te Tiriti – the te reo text?

It is important that all of us honour the commitment made to a peaceful relationship of mutual benefit through Te Tiriti o Waitangi. 500 Māori leaders and the Queen's representatives signed Te Tiriti. It was what was discussed and agreed to.



## What does tino rangatiratanga mean?

Tino rangatiratanga means Māori making decisions together about things that are important to them. This includes decisions about their people, lands, waterways, natural environment, language, etc. Tino rangatiratanga is a collective process of decision making specific to Māori, and is guaranteed by Te Tiriti o Waitangi.



## How does Te Tiriti work with democracy?

Most of us want to make sure that we all have a say on things that matter to us. Democracies exist all over the world and are unique because of the cultural and political context of the places they are developed in. Te Tiriti is the foundation of New Zealand's unique democracy, which ensures that everyone can have a say within our government systems, and that Māori lead on decisions that are important to them.



## What are the treaty principles?

Treaty principles have been designed by the government to work like a bridge between Te Tiriti o Waitangi (in te reo Māori) and The Treaty of Waitangi (in English). The phrase "the principles of the Treaty" now has a specialised meaning through its use in law and government. There is a significant body of law around this concept, and so, like many legal terms, it carries a particular, technical meaning that guides how government applies Te Tiriti in our laws and decision making.



## Are there any examples of Te Tiriti relationships in our communities?

There are so many positive and uplifting examples of people working together, Māori and tangata Tiriti, to ensure the best care of each other and the environment. See these websites for more examples: [Me Tū-ā Uru](#), [Exploring co-governance](#), [Human Rights Commission](#).



# TIPS TO GUIDE TRICKY CONVERSATIONS

💡 Take a deep breath – start with listening and reflecting on feelings and experience

*"I can see/sense that's making you feel worried"*

*"I hear what you're saying."*

👁️ Approach the conversation with curiosity to compassionately clarify

*"What makes you feel that way?"*

*"Where did you hear about this?"*

❤️ Let them know why you care

*"I care about... us all being valued for who we are. Where our unique and complementary strengths are what unite us."*

*"I value... learning from others and being open to different perspectives. Working in partnership with Māori ensures care for all people and the environment"*

🌱 Do the learning to plant the seeds – introduce alternative stories of hope and unity

*"Have you considered..."*

*"Do you think it's possible that..."*

*"I heard about..."*

👐 Keep the conversation open if you want to. We can come back to this another time!

*"Just wanted to let you know why it is important to me. I'm here if you want to talk about it another time."*

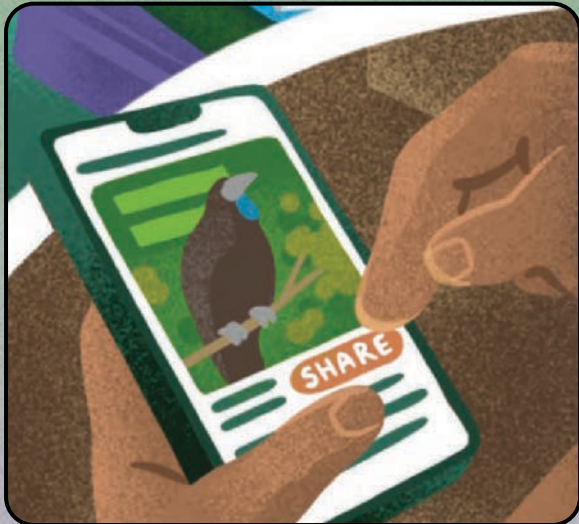
*"What are you getting up to for the rest of the weekend?"*



# RESPONDING TO MISINFORMATION

As conversations around Te Tiriti become more frequent, you may notice people and organisations sharing untrue or manipulated information about Te Tiriti o Waitangi or Māori.

If you notice this harmful information beginning to take hold in your home, workplace, or community spaces (online and offline), you may like to consider how you can best respond.



## *Avoid repeating the misinformation*

Repeating false information, even to disprove it, will only reinforce that information for other people, especially for those who may not have been exposed to it yet.

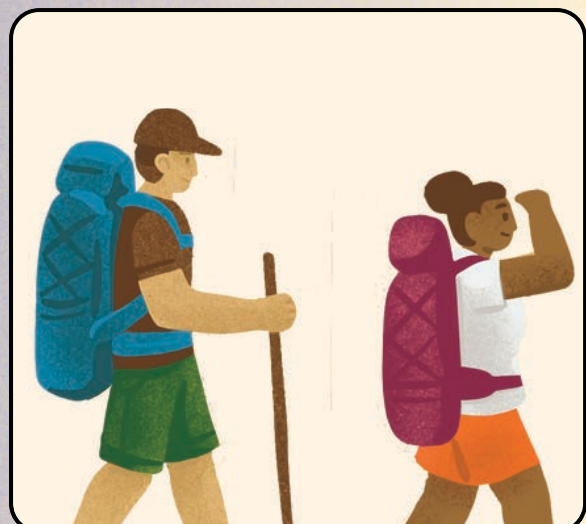
You can minimise the spread of misinformation by reporting fake accounts or pages and domains repeatedly sharing misinformation using the Help Centre on the social media platform you are using. You can also contact NetSafe for advice. Email [help@netsafe.org.nz](mailto:help@netsafe.org.nz), call toll-free on 0508 NETSAFE (0508 638 723), online report at [netsafe.org.nz/report](https://netsafe.org.nz/report), text 'Netsafe' to 4282.



## *Stop the spread*



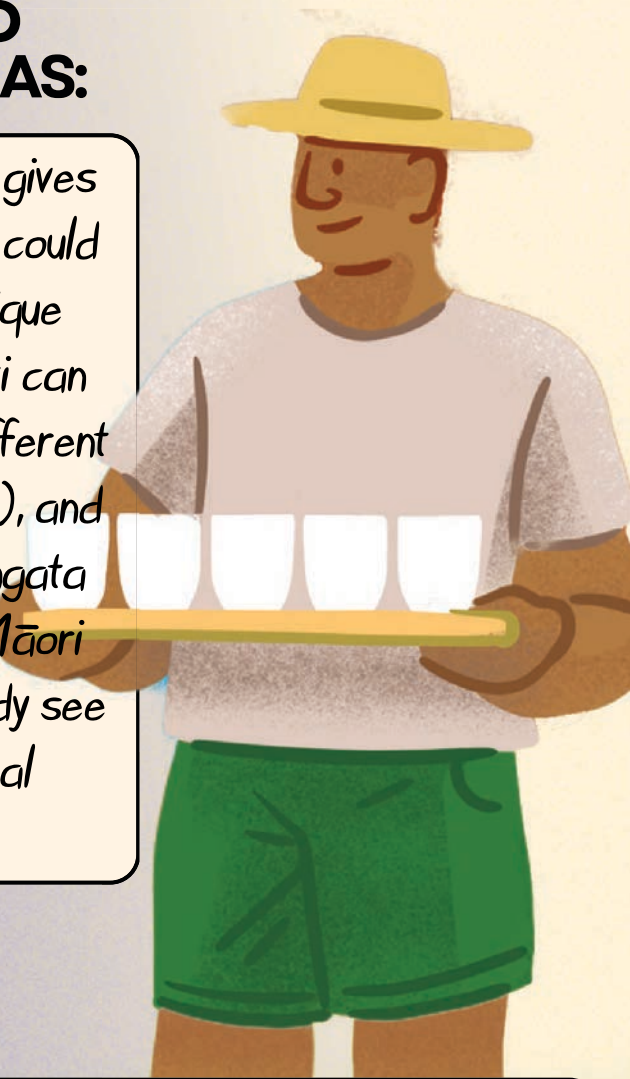
## *Have reflective conversations*



## *Present alternatives*

## FOLLOW THE GUIDANCE AND PRESENT ALTERNATIVES SUCH AS:

*"Have you considered that Te Tiriti o Waitangi gives us all the opportunity to belong in Aotearoa and could guide us to build a future where everyone's unique cultures and contributions are valued? Te Tiriti can help us to better understand and respect the different roles of the people of this land (tangata whenua), and those who have arrived here more recently (tangata Tiriti). I'm excited by the idea of what more Māori leadership would mean for all of us. I can already see examples of what it might look like in our local Matariki celebrations."*



*"I can see the potential that learning from our past, healing the harms of colonisation and bringing reciprocity and balance to our relationships as envisioned in Te Tiriti o Waitangi holds. I think that much like in our personal relationships, when there's a tension or conflict that hasn't been properly addressed and healed, it stops us being able to work effectively together."*



Resources to support further learning...

Learn more about Te Tiriti and everyday actions you can take:

<https://groundwork.org.nz/resources/readings-actions/>

Learn more about supportive online and offline conversations:

<https://www.taiiwitautoko.com/>

Learn about examples of groups working together for the benefit of us all:

<https://www.tiritibasedfutures.info/exploring-co-governance>

<https://www.metuauru.co.nz/>





# **TAKE ACTION**

**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!**

**SHARE WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED WITH THOSE NEAR AND DEAR TO YOU.**



# NOTES





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*Ngā mihi ki a koutou katoa - we thank you for your commitment to a united and flourishing Aotearoa.*

