

Spring 2008

## Our proudest day



When Corporal Willy Apiata VC was welcomed to the Treaty Grounds by a crowd of several thousand on Saturday 3rd May, a rare spectacle burst across television screens and pages nationwide. As the hero, his whanau and supporters neared the top of the Nias track, traditional Maori instruments, wailing chants of Kai Karanga

from around Northland and a triple challenge showed the respect with which he was received home by Ngapuhi, the main tribe of the north.

Waitangi Kaumatua Wiremu Wiremu, a former army sergeant major, drilled his large group of young warriors to give a breathtaking, spine-tingling display on the lawns in front of the Treaty House.



Board members Pita Paraone and Erima Henare shared leading roles in presenting kete to Willy Apiata, hundreds of school children performed songs and haka, and MPs and local leaders spoke of their pride in welcoming the soldier "home".



Among the small army of media was the Advocate's Lindy Laird, who wrote "The soldier struck a chord with the nation because here was an ordinary bloke, who remained as supremely dignified as he was humble. The venue is symbolic. Waitangi is a meeting place that belongs to all people of New Zealand, and was chosen by local rangatira to serve that purpose even before the treaty's signing in 1840."

One of the local MPs summed up the effect of the day, saying "In the end, it's what our tamariki learn from people like Willy that is most important. His achievements tell them what's possible for themselves."

## New energy, new options

October brought new energy to the Treaty Grounds, with the launch of the most ambitious schedule of performances and tours ever envisaged at The Birthplace. Extended opening hours have provided the opportunity to offer our guests more activities both outdoors and indoors.

The Embrace Waitangi guided tours have increased to seven per day, with an augmented guiding team now able to offer Japanese, Mandarin, French, Dutch and German interpretations. Many of the guides are descended from treaty signatories and high profile figures of the time, both European and Maori, and bring personal stories to the researched historical framework of their tours.

Fun workshops in the art of flax weaving have become very popular, with tutor Samantha Tautari welcoming some guests back for their second day of



learning. She teaches the traditions of flax harvesting and the plant's importance in the everyday life of Maori, and enjoys seeing guests leave with a souvenir that they have made for themselves. Depending on weather and numbers, the one-hour classes may take place inside the carved meeting house, on mats under the pohutukawa trees, or by the beach.

Knowing how to say and understand Maori place names is "the essential travel tool" for a New Zealand visitor, says guiding manager Wil Napier. Three times a day classes are available in te reo Maori, teaching common greetings and place names. Those wishing to understand the natural world of the Maori, with its beneficial plants and fascinating legends, are also able to choose from two Talk the Walk tours daily.

New facilities in the visitor centre theatre have literally brightened up our stage presentations, with up to eight live shows now offered during the day. We have also

increased the number of screenings of the informative audio-visual presentation on the Treaty and the times of colonial settlement.



Keen gardeners can benefit from tours of the Treaty House Garden of National Significance, coordinated by head gardener Sharon Evans. Inside the Treaty House itself, the treasures and trials of life in the 1800s are brought to life in a vivid manner (see back

page) with noonday tours Monday to Saturday.

Full details and times can be found at [www.waitangi.net.nz](http://www.waitangi.net.nz) and are also on signboards at the Treaty Grounds car park and Visitor Centre entrance. A summary is also on the back page of this edition.

At Waitangi your conference will sit in history

## Waitangi celebrations to grow



Organisers of the Waitangi Festival are planning to broaden the community celebrations that usually lead up to the February 6th national day of commemoration at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. The festival has grown from its inception four years ago to embrace sports, traditional Maori weaponry and an increasing element of performing arts. It is now part of the draw-card for nearly 60,000 visitors who head to Waitangi for the commemorations.

Next Waitangi Day falls on a Friday, and the Waitangi National Trust plans two days of community celebrations beforehand, and a weekend of events to follow. Chief Executive Jeanette Richardson says to finish the annual birthday celebration on a Friday evening would be just too premature. Jeanette says, "Overwhelming interest in Waitangi Day, and the way families have come to 'our place' over the last few years has really encouraged us to make the nation's birthday celebration at its birth-place bigger and better than ever. The high note on which Waitangi Day itself ends will now usher in more entertainment and a weekend of festivities. As always, the Navy will play a key ceremonial and musical role, and is expected to mount a full Royal

Guard of Honour and Beat Retreat ceremony again."

The Woolf and the Fox (Ray Woolf and the Roger Fox Big Band) have been confirmed to perform on the evening of Wednesday 4th February, and organisers intend to stage at least two further free concerts during the festival that will now surround Waitangi Day.

The cultural component will also widen, and culture and performance groups of all types from all over New Zealand, are invited to contact the Trust if they might like to participate. "We have a wonderful diversity of arts, activities and ethnicity in Northland and throughout the country," says Jeanette Richardson. "Lord and Lady Bledisloe gave the estate for the enjoyment of all New Zealanders, and in 2009 we want to celebrate the diversity of our national family on our birthday."

The themes this year are once again headed by family fun and togetherness, with emphasis on the coming together of two peoples. The broadening of cultural participation through the performing arts adds a new and exciting dimension for those making the pilgrimage to The Birthplace.

## Whare carvings feature

The Whare Runanga, the fully carved meeting house at Waitangi, contains some of New Zealand's best Maori carvings. Comprehensive photography sessions have recently been conducted to prepare a series of "portraits" of the carvings to be used in a large format guide, available for purchase at the Visitors Centre and the Treaty House desk.

The popularity of a previous monochrome booklet (now out of print) has motivated the full-colour update, says manager Gaylene Harris.



## On a Wim and waiata



In a recent edition of Korero we carried the story of the Belgian teacher who took up the challenge of his peers to travel the world

and undertake heroic tasks to raise funds for child cancer. Our website exposure of Wim Beijnsberger's bravery in kapa haka, on-stage at Waitangi, brought a wonderful response: a surprise email from a colleague at the school where he works, in the Belgian town of Zonhoven.

Teacher Gert Maex wrote: "I'm one of the colleagues that posted the challenge for Wim. I accidentally discovered your site and posted it on our digital bulletin board at our school. We watched the video with our colleague pumping his stamina! (Quite a laugh!) He did pretty well so we decided to pay off: we raised 355 Euro for child cancer amongst the colleagues. All the bits help fighting this disease and help the little ones." The donation from Wim's colleagues (around \$700) has been made through the "Make A Wish" Foundation, says the school's website.

The email from Belgium concluded by revealing the nickname of the travelling teacher, although his fearsome gestures on stage quickly dispelled any thoughts that Wim was at all 'Wimpie'.

## Gardens in full flush



Spring has brought brilliant colour to the Gardens of National Significance surrounding the Treaty House. This summer there will be tours of the gardens six days a week, giving enthusiasts the

opportunity to question our gardeners on the propagation of the mainly English flowers, and the history of the gardens back to the time of James Busby and his family, who would have relied on them also for their sustenance.

Busby is acknowledged as the father of viticulture in New Zealand, and the Waitangi guides can point out the location of what is assumed to be our country's first vineyard on the Treaty Grounds.

One of our recently captivated visitors was impassioned and knowledgeable gardener Maggie Barry, seen here with guide manager Wil Napier.

## Songs of Waitangi

Waiata can be heard daily at he Treaty Grounds as powhiri (welcomes) and performances always include song, usually in te reo Maori. Visiting groups often treat our tangatawhenua and other visitors to songs in their own language, and recently we've enjoyed Scottish, English and Welsh melodies.



Members of the European Parliament insisted that their 5-day tour of New Zealand should begin at Waitangi, and delegate Brian Simpson gave a moving rendition of "The Fields of Athenry" at Maikuku / Hobson's Beach in the still of a sunlit Sunday morning. Coincidentally, his birthday is 6th February, Waitangi Day.

"The Birthplace of New Zealand is a good place to start a tour like ours," said Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, the European Member of Parliament for Cyprus. Delegation leader David Martin added: "You never get the feel of a country just by being in the capital city, and with Waitangi in some ways the foundation for modern New Zealand, we thought it an appropriate place to begin, to get a feel of where it all started. The setting is so spectacular, and I got the impression that the greeting wasn't just a ritual; it was a nice way of feeling how Maori and Europeans historically would have met each other.

"You can see why a spot like this would have been picked to sign the Treaty. It gives a nice historical perspective on how both tensions and relations would have developed between the two communities."

David's family come from Edinburgh, home of the Busby family, however the most famous Busby in Ayrshire, he says, is not New Zealand's first British Resident of the Treaty House, but Mark Busby, a Manchester United manager!

Another of the delegates, Hannu Takkula, is the Vice Chairman of the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education. From Lapland, the home of Finland's Sami people, he was especially interested in Maori culture and the multicultural cooperation that Waitangi symbolises. "It seems here that people respect each other and can work together."

Also singing for their welcome were the 1st XV team from Northampton School for Boys. An extraordinary school, they have

raised funds for frequent trips to New Zealand, the latest funded by a dinner which raised 4950 pounds!



Teacher Paul Bryant has been to Northland three times with school teams. "Northampton Saints' captain Bruce Reihana is a local boy and the school has other New Zealand links," he said. "I wanted to show the boys the intensity of the rugby here, the importance of Maori culture in New Zealand, and the friendship of the people, their mana and their beliefs."



School chorister Andrew Hakes sang of England's green and pleasant land as his waiata before waka kaihoe instructor Ngati Kawa Taituha upskilled the team with a robust waka drill!

Hamilton's Southwell School brought their choir to Waitangi especially to sing in the warm acoustics of the Whare Runanga.

The school follows the choral traditions of its English namesake, Southwell Minster, with both choirs' roots in classical music. The girls aged 9-12 years spent two days in the Bay, visiting the Stone Store, singing at St Paul's in Paihia, and in Russell's main street. They even sang inside the Hole in the Rock, says their visit coordinator Janice Lapwood, "and the acoustics were incredible".



Waitangi education officer and teacher, Barbara Brown, says the programmes at the Treaty Grounds tick numerous boxes in the school curriculum. "Science, social studies, history, arts, language and even technology are covered in school visits to The Birthplace. When it comes to motivating education, you just can't beat standing where history actually happened. The Treaty being so woven into our country's fabric today, we really can call Waitangi 'present' history."

"The girls have absolutely loved their visit," says Janice Lapwood. "We have a girls' choir and a boys' choir and neither had been up to the Bay of Islands." The sequel happens next year, when the boys' choir will be ready on cue for their "conducted" tour of Waitangi.

International education and sports groups are regular visitors to the Treaty Grounds, where, among other culture and history aspects, they are introduced to traditional Maori navigation skills and the Treaty of Waitangi.

## Collection on line

Curator Delwyn Walker has been busy ensuring that some of the most interesting items in the National Trust collection of taonga are displayed for the world to see, on the new website: [nzmuseums.co.nz](http://nzmuseums.co.nz)

This leather-bound, gold-embossed bible was published in 1835 and found at the site of the Battle of Ohaeawai in 1845. Other treasures displayed on the website include an 1848 bible written in Maori with annotations



by Rev. William Williams who had begun working on translating the scriptures in 1826.

A beautiful carved walking stick given to Henry Williams by Pitcairn Islanders can be viewed, along with items as diverse as a finely crafted hinaki (eel trap), and an inkstand with decoration carved from the flagpole cut down by Hone Heke at the taking of Kororareka in 1845.

It is the mission of the trust to one day have more of these beautiful taonga on display at the Treaty Grounds, but until new facilities are constructed many remain in secure, specialised care.

The nzmuseums website is a window on the history that is enshrined in Waitangi.

## Christmas Treasure at the Visitor Centre shop

Staff often receive compliments on the artistry and authenticity of the crafts



and arts on sale at the Visitor Centre shop. Some items are on our website, but many are unique items that arrive and disappear quickly. The only way to see many of them is to visit – after all, it costs nothing to look! Carved bone and greenstone (pounamu) are always very personal gifts as they are first worn by the giver to convey wairua.

For impressive personal or corporate gifts, browse the range of beautiful hand-crafted platters, while many local pottery items are more than unique – they are outstanding.

Personal shopping enquiries are welcome: call Glennis Morgan on 09 402 7437 ext 203

## One day is not enough

The increased number of shows and tours this year has prompted an extension to the Treaty Grounds entry validity, with paid admission now giving our overseas guests two full consecutive days. "The price per day has effectively dropped, and in addition we've lengthened the opening hours by over 20 percent," says deputy CEO Andy Larsen. "With up to 23 tours, shows and activities scheduled on most days of the week, it now makes sense to welcome guests back for a second day so they can get tickets to the full range of cultural, historic and entertainment options."



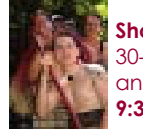
### TOURS AND PERFORMANCES SUMMER 2008/9



**Embrace Waitangi** : 60 min. guided tour with personal stories & historical accounts  
**8:45am, 10am, 11:15, 12:45, 2:30, 3:45, 5pm**

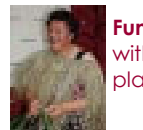


**Talk with Us**: an hour learning place names & greetings in Maori  
**10:45am, 12:15, 1:45pm**



**Showtime Kapa Haka**: Energetic, 30-minute stage show of traditional and contemporary story & song  
**9:30am, 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30pm**

**Talk the Walk**: 60-minute tour of our natural environment and its relationship to Maori society, lore and legend  
**10am & 1:45pm**



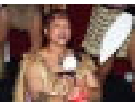
**Fun with Flax**: 60-minute workshop with one of New Zealand's oldest plant species.  
**12:15 & 3:30pm**

**The Nation's Garden**: 45-minute tour of the Garden of National Significance  
**Mon-Sat only 10am & 2pm**



**Treaty House Treasures**: Explore one of New Zealand's oldest homes with a resident historian 45 min  
**Mon-Sat noon**

**Memories of Time**: a storyteller and two performers in song and action unfold our spiritual relationship to land and legend.  
**Tues-Sat 3:15, 4:15, 5:15pm**



**Each activity above:**  
**\$12 adult, \$5 child**  
(Admission not included)  
Visit [www.waitangi.net.nz](http://www.waitangi.net.nz) for special packages.

NZ residents enjoy free admission (ID required)

## Agnes is animated

Northland principals visiting the Treaty Grounds during September were astonished to find Agnes Busby "at home" and opening her Treaty House door to welcome them. In real life, Agnes is education officer Barbara Brown, who brings not only teaching experience to her role but also has a penchant for the stage – or at least the dance floor!

Barbara (or Agnes) will be the main host of Treaty House Treasures, one of the newer special focus activities offered this summer. The lunchtime tour reveals in depth another side of Waitangi says Barbara. "I concentrate on the Busbys, their life and their love story. We go into the small rooms that are usually roped off and examine the things that tell of the hardships and family life here on the estate in the early eighteen hundreds."



Like all tours, this can be booked directly by phoning ahead to the Treaty Grounds (09 402 7437 ext 217) or through your travel agent if you are planning a group visit.

## Sir Graham Latimer's life films at Waitangi



Long-serving Maori leader Sir Graham Latimer, pictured above with Lady Latimer, is the subject of a biography being filmed by Front of the Box Productions, and the Treaty Grounds provided a backdrop for interviewer Derek Fox to nudge memories from Sir Graham.

"It would be around 1954-55 when I first got involved with the Treaty Grounds," Sir Graham told Korero, "and you'd never hear

anybody talking about Waitangi, but then moving into the sixties and seventies so much went on here. I used to come here quite regularly - it's the sort of place that makes you want to sit back and think." Derek Fox says the film programme may be extended into a major documentary, with enough material to run over 90 minutes. "It's a bit like This is Your Life" joked Sir Graham between shoots.

