

Opinion piece/letter to editor.

Re the article and letters Hibiscus matters 3rd April.

I attended the stop co governance meeting out of curiosity and to compare the reality of the meeting with often criticized “woke” mainstream media reporting.

What I saw/heard/experienced was and is very concerning .

The protestor’s actions were based on their perceived entitlement of their free speech to **sabotage/destroy** other members of the communities right to assembly and listen to matters of great importance to the Orewa community.

I assume by the name calling and banners “Fascists,Racists,Nazi’s” that the protestors categorised the attendees as “somewhat less than human” and therefore not subject to human rights. Let alone common decency.

This idea was confirmed by the statement published by Hereama Nathan of the Te Herenga waka o Orewa “I thank the many protestors that sabotaged the meeting”. “The meeting should not have been allowed in the first place” shows protestors intentions and the belief that **they alone should hold the authority** on what is discussed in Orewa and Orewa conform to their views.

Having my privacy invaded and offences under the criminal code of intimidation and obstruction by one of the principal protestors Mikalea Matenga and others, is clear unequivocal evidence that the protestor’s model of co governance is to stand over and bully anyone that may have a differing view.

It is difficult to understand how Mr Nathan reconciles his statement “we understand our model is based on common respect” with the actions of the group led by him at the meeting.

The protestors from the Orewa marae that according to Mr Nathan “runs on a “co governance model” demonstrated with total clarity that “co governance” means **only their voices will be heard**.

A model of “partnership” where one side is prepared to abuse all the community values of common courtesy ,respect and human rights to achieve their agenda.

The symptomatic blindness, vehemence and bigotry that accompanies entitled victimhood is one explanation for the protestor’s total lack of empathy for the violation of the human rights of the attendees.

Of more concern were the statements of Jake Laws (Hibiscus bays board member).

Mr Laws in my opinion crafts his media statements to suit his agenda. Pouring fuel on the existing tensions by labelling Mr Batchelor as a “White racist” in Waatea maori news inflaming hatred.

Mr laws media statements on Tova Fm. Also on TV 3 in conjunction with Mickaela Matenga (a principal protestor/agitator, provoking then filming the attendees) were **obviously silent** on the aggressive, intimidating behaviour of the protestors .

Thus providing tacit endorsement of the protestors abusive violence.

This raises real questions over the confidence the community vests in council representation in respect of the code of conduct rules regarding trust and respect.

As we approach Anzac day to reflect on the sacrifices made for the freedoms we enjoy. What would those who served and fought real Fascists think about the attendees - members of the Orewa community being labelled as Fascists by the protestors?

Perhaps the statue at cenotaphs hangs its head not only in remembrance but in shame that the freedoms they fought for were so eagerly destroyed by the protestors.

P Brooks

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