

From: Bill Wright shinerw@zoho.com
Subject: Co-Governance
Date: 20 June 2023 at 11:32 AM
To: tomoconnor tom.oconnor@waimatedc.govt.nz
Cc: mayorcraigrowley mayorcraigrowley@waimatedc.govt.nz, brookeblack brooke.black@stuff.co.nz
Bcc: stopcogovernance@gmail.com

BW

Dear Mr O'Connor

I read with interest your confused comments as reported in the Timaru Herald on 16 June. I was at the meeting and what I saw and heard bears no resemblance to what you suggest. The report reads as if you have nothing of import to say and that you seek merely to smear the organiser. Did the Herald contact you, or did you contact the Herald?

Does it matter that the organiser is reputedly a Christian evangelist, or "He seems to have very little understanding of Māori social or political structures". The meeting was about the moves by the present government to enact unmandated and undemocratic legislation to separate this country by race.

Mr Batchelor expounded a detailed and accurate analysis of the Treaty of Waitangi, its intent and consequences for the Maori supplicants. The Maori chiefs had repeatedly asked for the protection of the British government from their own internecine intertribal warfare and the French. A learned Maori commentator, Sir Apirana Ngata, in 1940 suggested that but for the intervention of the British there would remain no Maori race.

You take issue with the use of the word "War" in relation to the issue of co-governance. Mr Batchelor carefully explained that he did not mean physical conflict, but rather a war of words.

Your opinion of the organiser of the Stop Co-governance meeting contains some strong words; "personal, ill-informed, opinion" – "a tirade of ill-informed bigotry". Might I suggest that you return to the Herald and explain which part of Mr Batchelor's exposition justify those descriptions.

Incidentally, I noticed that when the three discourteous Maori protesters were shown the door, you left with them.

I too have studied New Zealand history for 50 years and found nothing in Mr Batchelor's delivery with which I could take issue. I was too, once manager at Waitangi.

Graham Wright