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The fundamental point that the two commentators fail to recognise is that our current democratic system of one person one vote with all votes being of equal worth does NOT exclude a Maori voice. The woman claims for example that because Maori have stood for election and failed— (claiming only one successful to her knowledge which of course is rubbish when she completely ignores the number of New Zealanders in Parliament with some Maori heritage) —that this EXCLUDES Mana Whenua and Iwi to have any input into local ;Regional or National issues particularly those perceived to be directly affecting anything currently or Historically Maori. Elected bodies be they Local Councils or Regional Councils or Government bodies ALL bring in CONSULTANTS to ensure expertise lacking within the elected and Permanent staff is addressed. What is completely lacking is the recognition that all the Nations permanent citizens are NEW ZEALANDERS. 99.9% of people claiming to be Maori are after a few hundred years in reality NEW ZEALANDERS with varying degrees of Maori Genetic heritage. As the decades and Centuries go by the further mixing of ALL the CULTURES will result in an ever Unique Kiwi NEW ZEALAND culture . That Maori Heritage and Culture and Viewpoints should be honoured and promoted is in my opinion universally recognised and accepted and encouraged by everyone just as we recognise Scottish and Irish and Pacific and Asian and Indian Cultures re living and sustaining those customs being integrated into a NEW ZEALAND CULTURE. It is an integral component of what a Country of NEW ZEALANDERS is all about . But as our Country is continually evolving it is far better to consider ourselves as a TEAM NOT as a THEM and US.. It is the constant expressed view by some Maori leadership that Maori are number ONE simply on the grounds that they reckon their forbears set foot in New Zealand first. What they don't understand is that "No Man is an Island" and "No single Culture is an Island" .Everybody needs Every body. To give the Nation's NEW ZEALAND citizens the FEELING and ASSURANCE that they are ALL EQUAL and ALL COUNT no matter what their Station in life is via a True Democratic System One Person One Vote with ALL votes of equal worth. Any Cultural Group who considers that a Cultural Component of their NEW ZEALAND Heritage is not being honoured in anyway has the right to challenge the Democratically elected administration of the time via Consultants and Management and if they don't believe they are getting a fair deal the can call on the rest of their New Zealand citizens to consider the matter and back them up
Stan Randle
Sent from my iPad