

WELLINGTON > EDUCATION



Challenge to Te Papa about its Te Tiriti exhibition

December 17, 2023

News from Te Waka Hourua Following the redaction of the English draft of the Treaty of Waitangi at Te Papa, we have seen an outpouring of support from the public. People are visiting and taking photos, sharing thoughts online, creating memes and posters, and even getting tattoos of the artwork. Videos of the action have been watched hundreds of thousands of times, and more than \$10,000 has been donated to support those arrested.

Most importantly, this action has encouraged a nationwide conversation about Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the way the English draft is used to distort our history.

As the misleading nature of the exhibition is exposed, more people are expressing support for the demand that the English draft be removed and replaced with an accurate translation of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This request has also been made by academics, the National Iwi Chairs Forum, Network Waitangi Whangārei, and other experts.

"We've seen support from a variety of ages, genders, ethnicities, socio-economic conditions, professional and artistic backgrounds, and community-based and civil society groups. We've also seen lots of international news coverage – from Manila to France. Eyes are on what Te Papa's next move is going to be." Said Te Waka Hourua spokesperson, Catherine Murupaenga-Ikenn.

Unfortunately, Te Papa and mainstream media continue to mislead the public by referring to the English draft as a "translation" or the "English version".

We urge them to listen to the experts and tell our history truthfully. The English draft is not a translation, has no legal standing, and its conflation with Te Tiriti causes real harm.

The challenge now is for Te Papa to honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi by urgently implementing the following actions:

- Tell the truth about Te Tiriti o Waitangi by engaging with Māori experts
- Apologise to the public – Māori in particular – for creating an exhibition which, contrary to their own expert advice, has been misleading the public for over 25 years
- Urge police to drop the charges against the artists involved in the action
- Develop a free Te Tiriti public education programme led by Māori experts
- Before the upgraded artwork is removed or altered, Te Papa needs to publicly articulate a plan of action about how it is going to address this going forward. Te Waka Hourua intends to deliver our challenge to Te Papa at 12pm on Wednesday, and we invite everyone to join us.

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- Metlink resumes 59 suspended bus services; councils plan priority for bus lanes
- Four nominations for WCC by-election
- Freshwater experts urge PM not to make a “terrible mistake” about clean water
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- Second tunnel won't stop peak-time traffic jams – Green MPs
- Homicide investigation continues after man shot dead at Stokes Valley birthday party
- Death of veteran photographer Peter Bush
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Recent comments

- Traveller: SH1 also needs to be tunnelled under the intersection with Taranaki Street - with government support...
- Simon Marsh: Fast track delivered Memorial Park and the cut n cover Arras Tunnel beneath ... well done Chris Finl...
- Shelly: It would be a fine thing to see WCC councillors all working as a team for the benefit of the city in...
- Shelly: How lucky is Wellington to have Sir Peter Jackson and Dame Fran Walsh. Thank you both....
- Badger: Imaginary hubs, endless next-stop bike lane bottlenecks, PM shifts in mid shift block, no result in ...
- Jaden Sears: The Greens and Labour councillors are the most petty and vindictive round the table. The sooner we g...
- Batman: What a wonderful gift! Much respect to Peter and Fran. Thank you and Merry Christmas to you and your...
- Batman: Phil, I don't think the majority of Wellingtonians are aware of what is going as they are working ...
- Dave B: Stephen, there was a proposal circa 1970 to extend regional rail via the Terrace and Te-Aro-Flat rou...
- Cr Daran Ponter, Chair, GWRC: Frustrated Bus Drivers - I've been advised that increased payments (including back pay) are coming t...

Wellington Theatre Reviews

- 'Thank you whoever you are there in the dark'
- Nativity improv rollicking good laugh
- A smart and witty production that interweaves biblical belief and fun fiction
- The premise, that the only consistent thing in life is change, is thoroughly and entertainingly explored
- A fun evening out! Go see it!
- Young and optimistic mood
- Classical season: a joy to see their talent
- Celebration of young dancers and choreographers
- The art of Waiting for Godot
- Profoundly entertaining. Don't wait, book now.

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