Te Papa, n.d. [a]

Kao, kao, e hoki! No, no, go back!

E noho, noho mai, Kawana! Stay, remain here, Governor!

The making of the Treaty

A treaty in the making

The British government appointed William Hobson as consul to an independent New Zealand. It sent him here with one goal - to get Māori to sign over sovereignty of all or part of New Zealand to Britain. Hobson would then become lieutenant governor over those areas.

Hobson sailed into the Bay of Islands on Wednesday, 29 January 1840. James Busby, British Resident, met him, and the two began planning a treaty that would carry out their government's intentions.



No te 30 o aga ra o Hexaue, 1840.

Tesei eso taku ki a kee; us, tesei aso ea kun u mei usi, us tetaki Rengatiru ano si o Legarani ia, kei Kawama koki mo tateu. a heikuin katestiu nesi ugu Rengatiru o te tensi kuluinga. He Rungatira koki koe no taun Waka a taki. Hesi ano, ka untu taku,

Na te PUHIPI.

Invitation to the Wortangi thirsty meeting sent by James Busby to Tamati Woka Nene, Auckland Vuseur Tamaki Paengo Hira (Ref. C21,784)

Working fast

Busby sent these invitations to local rangatira (chiefs) to come to his house at Waitangi on 5 February. Meanwhile Hobson, with no legal training, struggled to write the treaty he wanted the rangatira to sign.

Unimpressed with Hobson's efforts, Busby redrafted the treaty, adding an all-important promise – that Māori would retain possession of their lands, forests, fisheries, and other

Finally, the missionary Henry Williams translated the treaty

The first meeting, 5 February 1840

Early on Wednesday 5 February, waka (canoes) streamed across the bay to Waitangi. Settler vessels joined them. flags flying. A marquee was set up on Busby's lawn, while stalls sold refreshments – pork, bread, pies, ale, and spirits - to the gathering crowds



Hobson explained the Treaty and urged the rangatira to sign it He stressed that it would give the British Queen the authority to control British subjects and protect Māori and their lands.

Throughout the day, the rangatira debated. Some saw the Treaty as the best way forward. Others said the Treaty was unnecessary.

'Let the Governor return to his own country ... We are not whites, nor foreigners ... This country is ours ... we are the Governor – we,

'O Governor! Remain for us - a father, a judge, a peacemaker.

Still others thought it was dangerous. By nightfall no one had signed. The meeting was adjourned for two days.

The words of the rangatira

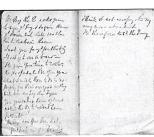
the chiefs of this our fathers' land.'

night. No one knows just what was said, but by morning most ngatira had decided they should sign the Treaty after all. And they didn't want to wait until the meeting was reconvened in a day's time.

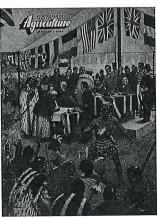
Caught by surprise, Hobson said he could not discuss the Treaty that day, but would accept signatures. Over forty rangatira signed with their names, mark, or moko (facial tattoo). But this was just the beginning.

The signing - 6 February 1840 Māori groups camped nearby and continued talking into the









made of ... stripes of black and white hair; others ... in ... new woollen cloaks ... of crimson, blue, brown, and plaid, and, woollen cloaks ... of crimson, blue, brown, and plaid, and, indeed, of every shade of striking colour ... while soom were dressed in plain European and some in common Native dresses ... here and there a ... talaha ... was seen erected, adome with the long (lowing white hair of the tails of the New Zealand dog and crimson cloth and red feathers:

VERN CROWN, The Lances and Genue heavy of the Featy of the Genuel Prop., March 1991 (1991).

Felton Mathew, Acting Surveyor-General, described the Waitangi meetings in his journal, shown here by Eamonn Bolger. Mathew noted that among the chiefs were 'many female chiefs of importance, who were distinguished by white feathers in their hair and ears, sometimes by the entire wing of a bird suspended from the ear."
(Day of Falson Matter, Museum of New Zasland Te Page Tongareum)





Hakiro, Waka Nene, and Rewa - three of the rangatira who debated at Wartangi, W Bambridge, W C Cotton Journal, vol IX, Disson Library, State Library of New South Wales (ML Ref. MS 41)