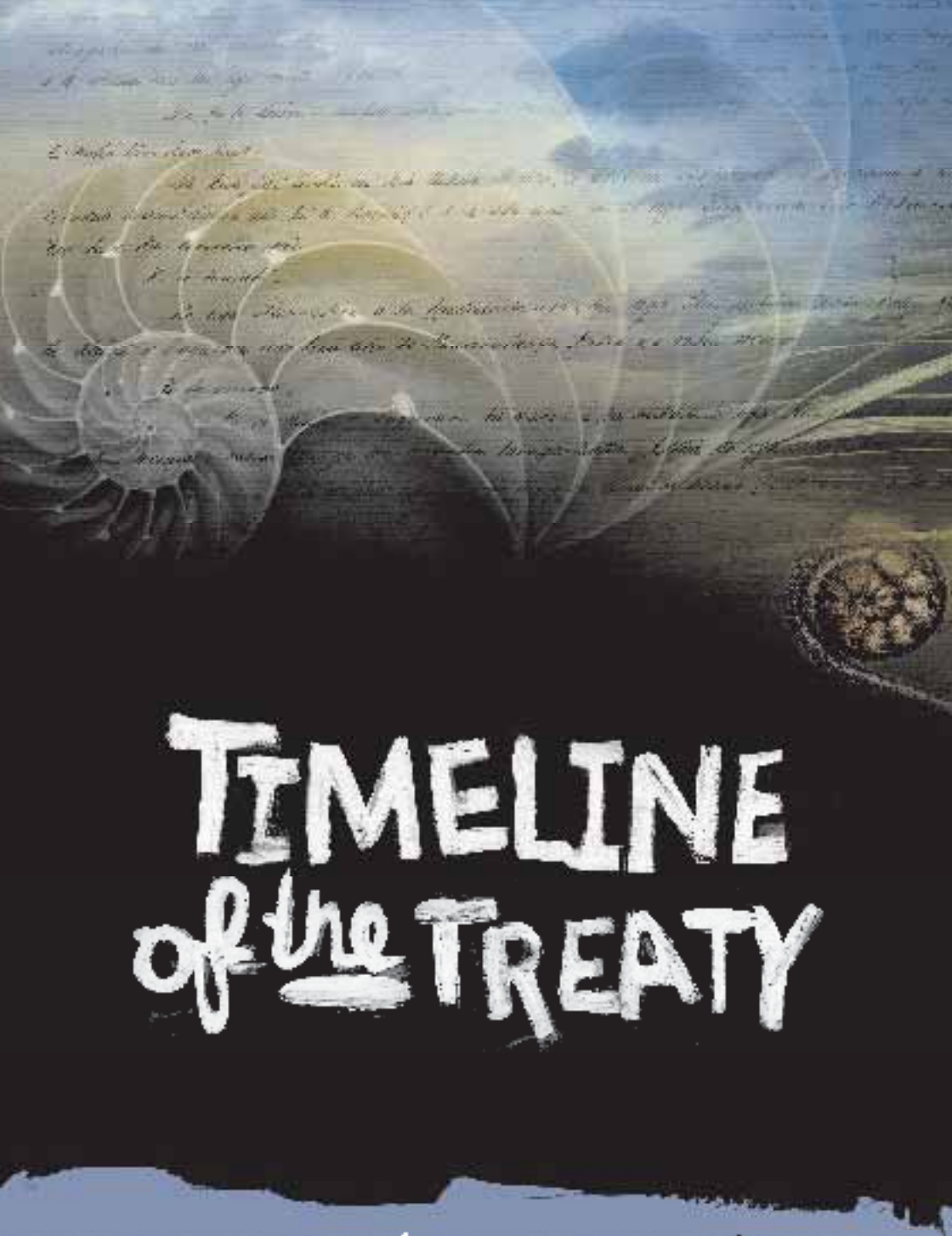

TIMELINE of the TREATY

THE TREATY OF WAITANGI
Information Programme

The Treaty of Waitangi is New Zealand's founding document. Over 500 Mäori chiefs and representatives of the British Crown signed the Treaty in 1840. Like all treaties it is an exchange of promises; the promises that were exchanged in 1840 were the basis on which the British Crown acquired New Zealand. The Treaty of Waitangi agreed the terms on which New Zealand would become a British colony.

This is one of a series of booklets on the Treaty of Waitangi which are drawn from the Treaty of Waitangi Information Programme's website **www.treatyofwaitangi.govt.nz.**

Many historians have contributed to the material in these booklets to ensure it is as accurate and balanced as possible. Their contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

Further copies of this booklet are available from:

The Treaty of Waitangi Information Programme
State Services Commission
PO Box 329
Wellington, New Zealand

Note:
ATL = Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mätauranga o Aotearoa

Archives = Archives New Zealand, Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga.

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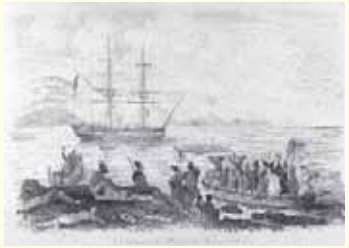
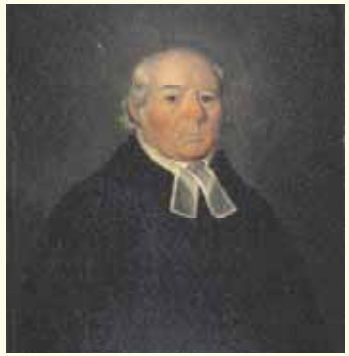


An imaginative reconstruction of the capture of the ship Boyd in Whangaroa Harbour.
ATL: PUBL-0034-2-390.
Artist: Louis Auguste de Sainson.

C1800 Early Mäori and European contact

A pattern of contact was established between Mäori and early whalers and sealers. Europeans (or Päkehä) numbered barely a handful in any one place, and they often lived as guests of the estimated 100,000 Mäori in their distinct and independent tribal regions. Early interaction with ships visiting to trade or take trees (for ships' spars) sometimes led to misunderstandings and violence. Crewmen sometimes broke local tapu or mistreated Mäori, and occasionally openly plundered, for which Mäori sought utu (satisfaction) by attacking the ships. This occurred with the Fancy in 1795, the Royal Admiral in 1801, the Elizabeth, the Seringapatam and the Parramatta in 1808 and culminated with Her Majesty's Transport the Boyd in Whangaroa in 1809, where the ship was attacked and burnt. The subsequent massive retaliation, however, fell on the wrong village.



Revd. Samuel Marsden (1764-1838), first missionary to New Zealand.
ATL: G-620.
Artist: Joseph Backler.

1814 Marsden's mission

The Revd. Samuel Marsden, the Anglican Chaplain to the British penal colony in New South Wales, was one of the first missionaries in New Zealand. Despite an earlier visit in 1807, a Church Missionary Society (CMS) mission was not established at Rangihoua until December 1814. Three lay missionaries, William Hall, Thomas Kendall and John King, accompanied Marsden, who preached a sermon to Mäori on Christmas Day. This was interpreted for them by local chief Ruatara, who had earlier met Marsden in England. Marsden purchased a supply ship for the mission (the Active), and this was sent on a preliminary voyage in June 1814.

At the same time, offences committed against Mäori, whether on land or on board ships, led to Thomas Kendall being appointed as Resident Magistrate in the Bay of Islands by New South Wales Governor Macquarie. This was New Zealand's first judicial appointment.

Eruera Maihi Patuone, one of the chiefs who signed the 1831 petition.
ATL: PA3-0197. Photographed by G W Redfern.

1831 Mäori Chiefs petition British government

Lawlessness by sailors, escaped convicts and adventurers from New South Wales began to increase and there were growing fears of French annexation of New Zealand. Therefore, at the suggestion of New South Wales Governor Darling, missionary William Yate assisted 13 northern chiefs to prepare a letter to King William IV, asking for his protection and signed with their moko. The fear of unscrupulous sailors had increased after the Elizabeth affair, when her captain allowed the vessel to be used in a Ngäti Toa raid from Kapiti on Ngäi Tahu in Akaroa. The British Crown acknowledged the petition and promised protection.

James Busby.
Private collection, courtesy ATL: NON-ATL-P-0065.
Artist: Richard Read.

1832 Busby appointed British Resident

In order to protect Mäori, the growing number of British settlers and its own trade interest, the British Government appointed James Busby as its official Resident (a sort of junior consular representative, without effective powers because New Zealand was not within British jurisdiction). He arrived in May 1833 and built a house on land he bought at Waitangi. Described as a "man-o'-war [naval warship] without guns", he was unable to exert much control over British subjects beyond mere persuasion nor much influence over Mäori.

1835 The Declaration of Independence

In response to a perceived threat of French annexation, Busby drew up, without authorisation from his superiors, a Declaration of Independence, which was signed by 34 northern chiefs. Additional signatures, including some from further south, were added over the next four years. This group referred to themselves in the Declaration as the Confederation of Chiefs of the United Tribes of New Zealand, although there is no evidence that the confederation was ever convened again, except at the time of the signing of the Treaty in 1840. It received a puzzled and rather lukewarm reception at the Colonial Office in England, which was well aware that New Zealand was not a British possession and did not want to take responsibility for it. The Colonial Office, advised by the missionary societies, was by no means convinced that there was a viable political authority in New Zealand with which it could form diplomatic relations. The Declaration was, however, acknowledged by the British Government. Some historians suggest it was not taken seriously until it proved to be an impediment to the annexation of New Zealand. It is thought that for this reason the document was used for calling up chiefs to sign the Treaty of Waitangi on 6 February 1840. Other experts view the Declaration as an embryonic expression of Mäori nationhood which, in conjunction with other events in the 1820s and 1830s, shows that the Treaty of Waitangi was part of a negotiated relationship and not the beginning of European power and the end of Mäori sovereignty.

Mäori women working on a kümara plantation. In the background two Mäori talk to French sailors.
ATL: PUBL-0034-2-387.
Artist: Louis Auguste de Sainson.

Church Missionary settlement at Kerikeri.
ATL: PUBL-0031-30.

1835-40 Concern over Mäori welfare

In the late 1830s, following on from the report of the Select Committee on Aborigines (1836–1837) and the House of Lords inquiry into the "present state of the islands of New Zealand" (1838), many humanitarians became concerned about the harmful effects to Mäori of exposure to the various groups of Europeans that arrived here. Missionaries intervened to discourage land sales, sometimes buying land themselves, at least partly in the role of trustees, to

enable Mäori to retain access. They and others from New Zealand, Australia and England pressured the British Government to prevent the spread of immoral behaviour as well as the introduced diseases that were causing the population to markedly decline. Given Busby's inability to act, the preference was eventually for annexation and direct government.

The landing of New Zealand's first Governor, Captain Hobson, Bay of Islands, 1840.
ATL: A-109-018.
Artist: Arthur Herbert Messenger.

1837 Britain to establish colony

From its experience in other parts of the world, the British Government had found that colonies involved great expense and difficulty. As a result it had initially tried to avoid assuming responsibility in New Zealand. Instead it had tried to influence the interaction of Mäori and British settlers through the missionaries and by sending Busby to try to work with the rangatira (chiefs) in the north. Busby reported pessimistically on his efforts and on the increasing number of land transactions that British settlers and New South Wales speculators were making with local chiefs. British settlers at Kororäreka (now called Russell) petitioned King William IV in March 1837 for protection and expressed their disapproval of Busby's proceedings. Officials at the Colonial Office agreed that "the state of New Zealand is shewn (sic) to be lamentably bad, and Mr Busby has long been regarded as unfit for office". In December 1837, understanding that colonisation "to no small extent" was already happening in New Zealand, the British Government, led by Lord Melbourne and Lord Glenelg, decided that it had to intervene to ensure that colonisation was regulated and that land transactions that defrauded Mäori were stopped. By mid-1839, the British Government had decided to annex at least part of New Zealand to New South Wales.

Settlement of Wellington by the New Zealand Company. Pioneer ships in Port Nicholson, 1840, as described by E.J Wakefield.
ATL: C-033-005.
Artist: Matthew Thomas Clayton.

1838-39 Landsharking peaks

Purchasers raced to buy as much land as they could. Apart from the few who wanted relatively small areas for their own settlement, large-scale speculators were putting pressure on Mäori all over the country to enter into the flimsiest of deals, often for huge areas. Missionaries petitioned London to intervene to protect Mäori. Some of the largest alleged purchases included: W.B. Rhodes, who claimed to have bought Kapiti, Banks Peninsula, Wellington and most of Hawke's Bay, the last for £150; Daniel Cooper, who claimed to have purchased 133,000 hectares of the Hawke's Bay, Cape Turnagain and Table Cape districts for £383; and especially the New Zealand Company, which claimed to have bought some 20 million acres, effectively the middle third of New Zealand from New Plymouth to Banks Peninsula, within only a few months.

1839 William Hobson appointed

Captain William Hobson, R.N., first Governor of New Zealand.
ATL: A-044-002.
Artist: James Ingram McDonald.

With the New Zealand Company in the process of despatching colonists from London, the British Government decided to appoint naval officer Captain William Hobson as Consul. Hobson left England shortly after the New Zealand Company's first ship, the Tory. He was instructed to obtain sovereignty over all or part of New Zealand with the consent of a sufficient number of chiefs. New Zealand would come under the authority of Sir George Gipps, Governor of New South Wales, and Hobson himself would become Gipps's Lieutenant-Governor. Land-buying agents continued swarming over New Zealand in anticipation of purchasing opportunities being cut off by Hobson. It was later calculated that their combined claims amounted to more than New Zealand's total land area.

1840 Prohibition on land purchases

Mäori bargaining with a Päkehä, 1845 or 1846.
ATL: A-079-017.
Artist: John Williams.

Hobson travelled first to New South Wales to confer with his new superior, Governor Gipps. As Hobson left Sydney on 18 January 1840, Gipps, relying on his authority over British subjects at least, proclaimed a prohibition on any further private land purchases from Mäori and that no existing claims would be recognised until they had been investigated by the authorities. Hobson repeated the proclamation in the Bay of Islands on 30 January 1840, soon after his arrival there. William Colenso of the Church Missionary Society printed both proclamations for Hobson, as he was the only printer at the Bay.

1840 Treaty of Waitangi signed

The signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, 6 February 1840.
ATL: C-033-007.
Artist: Marcus King.

As soon as Hobson arrived at the Bay of Islands he met with Busby on the Herald, and Busby organised an invitation to the chiefs of the "Confederation" (which had not actually met before) to meet Hobson, "a rangatira [chief] from the Queen of England". The meeting was to take place on Wednesday, 5 February. Meanwhile a draft of the Treaty was prepared in English and a copy of this text was provided to Henry Williams so that he could translate it for the meeting. At the meeting, the text, in both languages, was discussed before about 500 Mäori and 200 Päkehä. Most of the speakers were suspicious of what was intended, but the speech of Tamati Waka Nene is thought to have swayed the chiefs towards acceptance. Hobson expected several days of discussion and lobbying by those in favour and those opposed, and discussion did continue overnight at what is now Te Tii Marae. On the following day, 6 February, the meeting was hurriedly reassembled, the text read again, and signing commenced with Hone Wiremu Hene Pokai (Hone Heke), one of the signatories to the 1835 Declaration.

Some 40 chiefs signed on the first day. The Herald fired a 21-gun salute to mark the occasion. By September, more than 500 chiefs in different parts of the country had signed (including more than five women). Almost all of the chiefs signed copies of the Mäori text of the Treaty. A number of districts were not approached and some notable chiefs refused to sign. For example, Te Heuheu from Ngäti Tüwharetoa (located around Taupö) refused "to consent to the mana of a woman [the Queen] resting on these islands".

1840 May Sovereignty proclaimed over New Zealand

H.M.S Herald in Sylvan Cove, Stewart Island, 1840. The Herald was at Stewart Island to obtain signatures on the Treaty of Waitangi.
ATL: A-083-005.
Artist: Edward Marsh Williams.

In early March, while heading down the eastern coast to obtain further signatories for the Treaty, Hobson suffered a paralytic stroke and so he deputised a number of men (including seven missionaries) to collect more signatures from around the country on copies of the Treaty. Hobson wished to have signatures from the Cook Strait area (particularly that of Te Rauparaha) and so Henry Williams was despatched to get these, while other copies were sent to the Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Tauranga and Kaitaia. Major Bunbury, on the Herald, was sent to get signatures from the South Island, Stewart Island and Hawke's Bay. On 21 May, while this was still under way, Hobson proclaimed sovereignty over all of New Zealand: over the North Island on the basis of cession by the Treaty and the southern islands by right of discovery. Some historians suggest that he wanted to declare the Crown's authority over the whole country because he had learned of possible moves by the New Zealand Company to set up its own administration around Cook Strait. His second-in-command, Major Bunbury, also made proclamations of sovereignty over Stewart Island by right of discovery on 5 June, as no Mäori could be found to sign the Treaty, and over the South Island on 17 June by virtue of cession.

1841 Chief Protector of Aborigines appointed

Sir George Grey.
ATL: G-623.
Artist: Daniel Louis Mundy.

In April 1840, while he was recuperating at Waimate, Hobson approached the CMS lay missionary George Clarke to take the position of Protector of Aborigines, initially a temporary position, which he accepted. When the new colony was established in 1841, Clarke filled the position as Chief Protector of Aborigines. Clarke and his staff were also given a second, conflicting, role as land purchasers for the Crown. Hobson was recorded in April 1840 as saying to Clarke: "It may be necessary to appraise you that, in the discharge of your duties, you may be called upon to make journies into the interior and to negotiate the purchase of lands from the natives." Although Clarke managed to persuade the Governor to free him of the land purchasing responsibilities, which clearly conflicted with his protective role, his sub-protectors still retained their dual