KIA MATAARA

Chapter 4

te mauri
o te maori
The Treaty of Waitangi was first signed on the afternoon of the 6th of February 1840, in the Bay of Islands at Waitangi. It did not arise from warfare, as a Treaty of surrender, but was signed in a spirit of goodwill under the reigning conditions of Peace. The Treaty was a Declaration of the traditional Maori rights of absolute authority over Aotearoa. Within this authority the signing Chiefs generously permitted the Crown a role. The Treaty document is a statement of this concession and forms the fundamental constitutional basis of the Nation. The Treaty was signed by the representative Chiefs, in the belief that it documented the natural and inalienable Maori rights of land and resource ownership, self determination and the Maori way of life. Simultaneously the Treaty assured Maori of continuing authority and unrestricted access, over all natural resources of Land, Sky and Sea, including Forests, Lakes and Waterways. Additionally, the Treaty guaranteed to Maori the same protection and rights as British citizens. It permitted the Crown to act as the sole agent in land dealings. It also required the Crown to establish a lawful and just system of shared Governance, in compliance with the Treaty conditions. The Treaty of Waitangi re-stated and re-inforced the position and authority of the Chiefs. It confirmed their right to exercise shared control over the powers of Governorship granted to the Crown.
Quick Nan—ring a Doctor! Hema’s hurt himself!

Owww! It’s sore, Nan. I’ve cut my leg open—yeowww!

Tirituri, tama! Haere mai—I'll fix it.
What are you doing, Nan?

I’m chewing this leaf till it’s all mushy—see? Then I’ll put it on the wound. That will clean it.

Gee, that’s pretty simple!

Didn’t hurt either...

...and it’s cheap!

My Nan taught me how to use leaves, berries, roots and bark to fix cuts, toothache, upset puku... it was marvellous!!
What about tohunga—weren't they healers as well?

How come so many of our people died of diseases when the Pakeha came and brought the measles, V.D., chickenpox etc?

Our people had no resistance or cures for new diseases.

Many Maori died from the common cold...

Of course! They used karakia, herbs, massage and other means to draw out the sickness from the body and mind.

Hundreds died after the arrival of Captain Cook's ship—wiped out by an epidemic called 'TE UPOKO O TE REWHAREWHA.'
It seemed like a new disease arrived with every new ship. Our tohunga were powerless to treat them...

The Pakeha missionaries knew what to do...

'Cos we'd seen it all before!!!

They were quick to use the epidemics as proof that the Tohunga were quacks.

Later on the Government even tried to outlaw the Tohunga altogether.
You know they even introduced diseases, pests and poisons like rabbits, deer, rats, D.D.T, 2,4,5T etc., as part of Pakeha development - never mind what it did to the land and water.

But we Maori belong to the land - we nurture the land 'cos we are also part of Papatuanuku - the rocks and trees, mountains and rivers. We have a duty to make sure the animal, spirit, plant and human worlds are kept in balance - it was up to us to keep the order.

They believed the land was the property of humans, who could do what they liked with it.

The guidelines were laid down by our Tupuna - there have always been certain Tikanga and we've tried to remain true to the old way of thinking.
We also drew our strength and well-being from the land. Our spirituality—our mauri, wairua, mana and tapu are all drawn from the land. There has always been a very strong relationship between our people and the spiritual realm. (See Chapter 3.)

You see, we believe that it is critical to feed our spirituality...

If our spirituality is healthy, our bodies will be too. All these things must be in total harmony with each other. Each dimension must be in good working order.
Wow—so many special parts. Must be why we’re so special!

And tapu. Once any of these parts are harmed, the whole of our well-being suffers.

It would take too long to explain all of it here. But you remember we talked about the ways the land was taken? All of those took their toll. The wars were obvious—people were killed and imprisoned. And the land, which had sustained life, was given to others. So the people no longer had a place with the links the whenus were ripped away.”

The Courts took more land and they forced people to live away from their turangawaewae.

And shopkeepers and pub owners deliberately got our people into debt to make them sell up.
As the land came under Pakeha control, the settlers worked hard...

Strip the bush...

Drain swamps

Fill in the coastline

Bring in pests like rabbits and deer.

Ooh—look at that mess!!

Land and forests were destroyed along with the people's sources of food.

Maori weren't just battling to keep what was theirs—
it was a fight for survival.
That explains how whenua and mauri fit in with our well-being. What about the whanau?

Whanau and whakapapa are central to everything. Our whanau are there to comfort, support and provide a watchful eye over us...

Like when someone dies, we can make sense of what happens 'cos we know they've gone to join our tupuna.

It's still a shock, but we can let our grief out.

"Some of my Pakeha friends haven't even seen a dead body. They don't even like talking about people when they die. It's all so quick and cold."

We sleep beside our dead, entertain them, and tangi. All our relations are there, in good times and bad.
In the whanau, everyone had a place and a role to play—grandparents cared for the young.

We tried to pass on our knowledge...

Everyone was responsible for what happened to our tamariki—children were and still are our most precious taonga.

... and wisdom!
How come things have changed?

Only some things. The Pakeha idea of the family being two parents and 2-5 kids, was imposed on us—through the legal system, schools, churches and television.

Lots of other government policies tore the whanau apart—like when they forced Maori to move from their turangawaewae into the cities to make up a cheap workforce.

But I thought, Uncle Sam and them decided to go to Auckland—did someone make them?

Uncle didn't have much choice...

The rates were so high, Uncle couldn't pay... and the banks wouldn't lend on communally-owned land, so the council took the land...

...that's why he and Auntie had to go to the city.

After WW2, housing loans were available to Maori only for city houses. They call it the urban drift—sounds more like a push to me!!!
Gee—so our people lost land AND whanau support? That's right.

Life was hard in the city...

...and lonely.

And in the 1960s, this guy Hunn (Whanaunga of the one who wrote the famous Green Paper) wrote this report about the 'state of Maori life'. One of Hunn's ideas was to help our people 'integrate' faster by what he called pepperpotting.

Families didn't even have any other Maori in their whole neighbourhood. State housing was 'into this in a big way.'

Yeah—spot the Maori!!
Of course, houses weren't designed for whanau...

No, we've only got two-bedroom houses left.

How could they get away with it?

They said it would be good for us - becoming more like brown-skinned Pakeha.

Many Maori parents and kids have been brought up in the city - not knowing who they are, where they're from, and isolated from the whanau.

...or even for Maori...

Where are you, Koro-a-Nan?

Ugh yuck! The wharepaku is right next to the kitchen!!!
So many people out of work—more and more laid off every day... and it's getting worse.

So are problems like suicide, hopelessness, truancy, unwanted pregnancies.

How can our politicians blame Maori parents?

Not exactly helpful—mind you, lots of people think like that. They forget about the past and blame the victims—yet another of the gifts of Western civilization.

Nan, it says here that 82% more Maori died of heart disease than Department of Health figures said!

Makes you wonder what else they got wrong!!

How come we seem to miss out on the benefits of the Pakeha Health System, Pakeha technology and hygiene?
We have to understand what colonisation is all about, to understand what is happening today.

The theft of land and the attack on the whanau aren't the only ways that weakened our well-being. The way the government worked to stamp out the reo was another way of destroying Mana Maori.

That explains a lot. I thought it seemed too much of a coincidence that... More of our babies die... More of our young people die.

More of our babies die... More of our young people die... More of us die before we get to superannuation than the Pakeha.

More of us are in prison... More of us end up in 'mental' hospitals.

It was another way of destroying Mana Maori—It all goes back to the Treaty of Waitangi—To Rangatiratanga, the Maori right to control whenua, kainga, taonga and ritenga....

Our own way of life, reo, our land, our wairua, our laws, through iwi, hapu and whanau. Taking away our Rangatiratanga is what has helped destroy the minds and bodies of so many of our people with suicide, alcohol, violence, child abuse, drugs, and unwanted pregnancies.

No one can be that unlucky.
Hema-Pakeha see 'health' as different from 'overall well-being'. To them it's more your health if you're not sick...

if you haven't got lung cancer or...

heart failure...
or diabetes or arthritis
or stomach ulcers.

We Pakeha just wait till a disease shows up and treat the physical symptoms.

Geez—don't bother looking at the whole person and their own reality.

Dumb!!

Anyone can see that a ten-minute visit to the doctor and a few pills can't solve the real cause. How come they can't see that?

I think some Pakeha can see that...

Yep, some Pakeha have realised that their ways of dealing with health and illness aren't working at all. That well-being for our own.

But the people who control the money and decisions—either don't know, or don't care.

Hey! We don't care!!

Keeps the Doctors in Work, doesn't it?!!
How can they not care, Nan?

Some of the reasons lie in the past.

The Pakeha Health System goes back to England in the Eighteenth Century. Mmm.

You can stay healthy if you're rich!!

If you're poor and sick—well, tough!!

It was a closed shop even then...

In Europe women who offered natural or herbal cures and remedies...

Were branded as witches and thousands were murdered.
Was there no Social Welfare?

Ha! Remember that film Oliver Twist?
The children all lived in that hole
called the 'workhouse'.

Yes, that's right—the poor
had to depend on
the charity of the
rich—and they
were expected to
be grateful.

We doctors gave our
time and skills
for free.

We got a few pats
on the back.

...and even got
knighthed.

...and got to
practise on a
few poor people

Hospitals for
the poor were set up
by the rich too.

These places were
the pits and were
kept that way to
stop the 'undeserving'
from bludging on
the kindness of
their 'betters'.

How did they work all that
cut out?

'Without much difficulty!! It's like this..."
UNGRATEFUL BUNCH AREN'T WE!

Those poor laws were done away with in the nineteenth century but the thinking behind them remained in England...

... and we bought it over here.

ROLL UP FOR THE POVERTY BOARD GAME!
So they didn't really care whether our people lived or died! Not really - but these were people whose ancestors had had lots of practice "bringing the best of Western civilization to the rest of the world."

"Didnt occur to us that our way wasn't the best for everyone."

As soon as these 'ignorant, superstitious childlike' Maori either die, or get like us - the better it'll be for everyone.

We even dreamed up this 'dying race' theory,

They don't mention who's holding the pillow over the faces of maoridom in the first place.

People are on record talking about 'SMOOTHING THE PILLOW OF THE DYING RACE'..."
IN 1900 there was a plague scare around the world, so...

Has it always been like that?

Just most of the time!!

...they set up a health department in that year, to control the spread of diseases, lunatic asylums, vaccinations, look after pregnant women, etc.
But the new Labour Government system in 1938 made health care ‘free and universal’...

Good news for working class Pakeha.

No mention of Maori.
So bad news for us, eh?

...and who did all the defining???

(That wasn't today and you're accused of supporting apartheid.)

Pakeha Expert

What is health?

Pakeha Expert

What is sickness?

Pakeha Expert

What are the cures?
The Health system was put together from a Pakeha point of view - we Māori just had to be fitted in!

It's the same today - They just don't or won't see that we have our own ways, that work for us.

It was, and still is, the same - with Plunket pushing Pakeha ideas about childbirth and bringing up our tamariki as if theirs is the only way.

There, there, dear!! We don't need to worry about all those Māori things...
Doctors don't really understand us, eh?

"... and when our people don't go to the doctor, they say it's 'cos we're 'lazy' or don't care about our health or our children."

Our local one gets all hooah when he wants to examine me 'cos I get all embarrassed...

Hey, it never occurred to us that WE were the problem!!

You have to undress Mrs Rangi!

What on earth would you want keep the placenta for? It's just not done.

Yeah - and it costs a packet too - unless you're rich enough to join a private scheme.
It's getting worse too. Remember when that businessman Alan Gibbs set out his scheme to make hospitals into efficient businesses - with not a word about the Treaty?

Yes - bit strange that. He was a good pal of Roger Douglas and had all sorts of jobs from the government.

It makes you wonder what someone who helps run Caralco Freightways, NZ Couriers, and Forestoarps - knows about HEALTH!

Pretty predictable! Run down the public services, get private businesses involved and let people 'choose' what they want. The more money you've got, the more choice you get!
Sounds like the nineteenth century all over again!!

But didn't they dump that Gibbs report—I mean, the Government?

Only some of its extreme ideas—and even those have slipped back in.

But in Thames they're selling off their X-ray unit...

Going cheap X-ray unit for sale

And Auckland is looking at private companies running accident and emergency units!!

With all the government cuts, the public health systems going downhill even further.

There's no money for Kaupapa Maori, prevention and education—even if the Health boards agreed to it.

Doctors' fees, hospital costs, medicines, Kaupapa Maori, prevention, education

Not likely, 'cos they're all run by Pakeha!!

You think this is scary?....
all the other scandals that keep coming to light make it even scarier!!

Michael Watene, killed at Oakley in 1984 by shock treatment, drugs, and violence. Royal Commission says...

There's been a much higher percentage of Maori male suicides in Paremoremo than for Pakeha. The Masau report stated that the majority were not mentally disturbed when they went in.

The Report said that eight out of thirteen could have been committed.

Ken Mason's report on special patients censored because the Hospital Board objected to its expose...

Wharepaia investigated

Five Maori sentenced to a total of 33 months in prison.

No action taken?

No action taken.

No action taken.
Womens' health...

All the young Maori women who have been given hysterectomies or had their tubes tied, or who were injected with the dangerous depo provera birth control drug...

Girl Babies and women were given vaginal snips without consent just being given... at National Women's Hospital...

Women with cervical cancer, who were left without treatment as an experiment, had to prove the doctors had done something wrong.

Women were fitted with faulty IUDs which left them unable to have babies.

It was too late of course for the poor women who died. Doctors and media tried to make it look like Dr Creen was the victim of a radical feminist plot.

Ten years later – they’re promised peanuts in compensation.
DSIR.

Hey! Why pick on us! We're studying traditional medicines!!

'Cos you'll end up patenting Maori remedies and well end up paying for our own skill and knowledge.

Medical school hardly makes a token nod in our direction—they train Pakeha doctors to play god with our lives, and don't even recognise we exist.

DSIR.

Who can enter the club... doctors say...

And like all powerful Pakeha professions...

And when they should get kicked out.

... Unaccountable, just like police, lawyers etc...
EVERYWHERE—FROM THE MINISTER, HEALTH DEPARTMENT, HEALTH BOARDS, DOCTORS, NURSES, MEDICAL SCHOOLS—THROUGH ALL THOSE INQUIRIES INTO THE HEALTH SYSTEM, UP TO THE NEW POLICIES BEING PUT INTO PLACE NOW...

THE TREATY HAS BEEN IGNORED, DENIED OR SIDELINED. BEYOND THE ODD CONSULTATION THERE HASN'T EVEN BEEN A TOKEN EFFORT TO RECOGNISE KAUPAPA MĀORI.
Cripes! It all sounds pretty desperate!!

Well... yes and No. The Pakeha haven't had it all their own way. Maori people have always been willing to use services which are helpful - on our own terms.

In 1913-14, the people took advantage of smallpox vaccines.

Te Puea tried to set up a hospital in the Waikato...
THE MAORI WOMEN'S WELFARE LEAGUE HAS BEEN PERSISTENT IN PROMOTING MAORI HEALTH ESPECIALLY THE HEALTH OF MAORI WOMEN, ENCOURAGING AN ANTI-SMOKING CAMPAIGN...

AND A CHANGE OF DIET ON THE MARAE...

Me too!!

No - salad for me, thanks!

Boil up?
Health initiatives have been set up on various marae including marae in Ruatoki and Tauranga.

- Funding for iwi-based programmes
- Hui to help educate Pakeha Health 'Professionals'
- Waananga to pass on learning

The Rapiura research produced Maori Health centres for clinical/social/health activities and a campaign for innoculation against Hep. B
Te Ara Hou and the Maori Alcoholic Advisory Council provided counselling and education programmes.

The Kua Makona campaign used music, video, posters, stickers and t-shirts—to press home the idea of 'drinking in moderation'.

It was a great example of a Maori-run and controlled project aimed at Maori people—primarily at Rangatahi and Tamariki.
Te Kakano o Te Whanau Trust deals with sexual abuse, incest and violence.
Waiora was a popular organisation which allocated half of its budget to producing music programmes... The idea was to use original Maori music, Maori musicians and vocalists...

...Aimed at rangatahi Maori, the idea was to promote Maori role models.
Waiora’s programmes were important in promoting the reo, taha Maori and health.

“I remember seeing the video on toilet training for tamariki – it was neat!"

What about other Maori groups who had their own ideas on health?

The rest of the Waiora budget went to support those kinds of efforts. Remember that Maori health needs to be looked at in a total or holistic way - that the reo, our traditions, our music and our pastimes all contributed to our well-being and health.
Waiora was typical of excellent initiatives set up by Maori people which were underbudgetted and knocked back by the government.

Its mandate to address Maori Health came through the Hui Taumata in 1984...

the Waiora Trust was set up to facilitate access to funds for Maori authorities - and to distribute funds to groups working on Maori Health Initiatives...

... so what's new?
Maori women's welfare strongly emphasises that the health of Maori women is a foundation for developing a sense of esteem. They say it's impossible to study either physical health of women or their social and economic well-being in isolation. They have paved the way.

The Royal Commission on Social Policy drew a strong link between land conservation, and human reproduction, and human life as a nourishing environment, and the protection of human health as a natural way as possible. The World Health Organisation adopted the 1978 Alma-Ata Declaration which said it was necessary to recognise culture as a basis of good health. It was accepted that one's culture is intertwined with emotional stability.

The ability to look at identify and care for all areas of Maori health - as is only proper. And now national and international bodies are supporting what Maori have been saying all these years.
WHAT'S THE KAUPAPA?

NGA ORANGA O TE IWI — IT TALKS ABOUT ECONOMICS — ABOUT OUR PHYSICAL SURVIVAL, AND THE PAKEHA NOTION OF INDIVIDUALISM, PRIVATE PROPERTY AND USER-PAYS!! SOUNDS BORING BUT JUST WAIT TILL YOU SEE WHAT THEY'VE BEEN UP TO!!!
KIA MOHIO KIA MARAMA TRUST
P.O. BOX 5826, WELLESLEY ST, TAMAKI-MAKAU-RAU