



Te Puni Kōkiri
REALISING MĀORI POTENTIAL

Aroha ki te Tangata Māori Wardens Newsletter

The profile of Māori Wardens continues to grow in New Zealand rural and urban communities and beyond the marae gates.

Māori Wardens carry out their duties through the philosophy of 'Aroha ki te Tangata' and the demonstration of rangimārie (peace), aroha (compassion), and kōrero (persuasion). When Māori Wardens successfully perform their roles, the advantages are far reaching and transcend race, creed or gender. The entire community experiences 'compassion for the community'.

Madeline Barrow is a Whakatū Māori Warden. Her sub-association voluntarily works up to 30 hours plus per week in the Nelson community, and was just one of several sub-associations from around the motu to support earthquake recovery efforts in Christchurch. She reflected on the memorial and service marking the one year anniversary of the Christchurch Earthquake of 22 February 2012.

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa

A KARAKIA AND A CUPPA



Nelson Māori Wardens: (back row) Trevor Kemp, Corey Heath, Rarney Ross, Ollie Massie. (Front row) NZ Police Iwi Liaison Officer Archdeacon Harvey Ruru, Verna Barrett, David Barrow, Madeline Barrow, Phillipa Ruru.

When he was found by a team of Māori Wardens a bedridden, elderly Aranui man told Warden Madeline Barrow (Te Arawa) he'd been waiting to die.

"He'd been lying there for eight days, his caregiver had been killed in the earthquake. No power for his kidney dialysis machine, no food, no water, just flies everywhere."

The team moved quickly "to help restore his mana and dignity"; cleaning the Pākehā elder up and getting him ready before the ambulance arrived.

"He wouldn't let our hands go. We asked if he would like a karakia or prayer, he nodded and we said one for him in English. He was just crying and sobbing and holding on to us, until we gave him a cuppa, a cup of tea, that's when he started to feel alive again."

"Restoring dignity and mana to those who had lost so much was an emotional task, one that would see many tears shed on both sides," says Madeline.

"That karakia and cuppa was like magic to a lot of people we met, especially the elderly ones, suddenly everything was going to be OK. That old gentleman said we were his dark angels, he had never seen Māori Wardens before and that's what he called us, quite hard case aye."

Madeline and a vanload of Wardens left their Nelson homes hours after the deadly 6.3 magnitude hit Christchurch on 22 February 2011. Leaving around tea time Tuesday night, they "didn't see their beds again until 2am the next day" and for the coming months their days providing "karakia and cuppas" throughout the state of emergency would start just after 4am and end around midnight.

Some of the first to arrive in Ōtautahi, the Wardens were also some of the last to leave after a tour of duty spanning nearly three months. Māori Warden teams worked alongside Police and other emergency workers, checking on an average of 700 people a day.

That old gentleman said we were his dark angels



TE KOKONGA

In February this year, the Government met with Māori to discuss proposed legislative changes considered necessary to proceed with its policy of mixed ownership model for four State Owned Enterprises (SOEs): Genesis Power, Meridian Energy, Mighty River Power and Solid Energy New Zealand.

Māori Wardens were present at all hui held throughout the country. Police Trainers Sergeants Wayne Panapa and Paddy Whiu accompanied Deputy Prime Minister Bill English and Hon Tony Ryall to each hui.

"At several hui there was tension, but nothing evolved," says Wayne. "Common sense prevailed and there were no arrests. Protesters invited in to the hui and listen, leaving their placards outside." Wayne said the smooth running of the hui was achieved through plenty of interagency collaboration up-front work and refreshing relationships ahead of each hui date.

"Paddy and I did a 'recon' the day prior. We met with the New Zealand Police Iwi Liaison Officers, who had already done some pre-work with protesters, Te Puni Kōkiri in the regions, Treasury, and the New Zealand Police".

Wayne said working with Māori Wardens around the motu contributed greatly to the hui. "Māori Wardens understood the pressure points and are the hinges on which community doors open and close," Wayne said.

Wayne says the world within which Māori Wardens operate is changed from when he was a boy. "It's a different world

from when my father was a Māori Warden," Wayne said. "Their role use to focus on care and protection. While that's still the touchstone of the work, now Māori Wardens have a broader brief and do everything from being on marae, walking city streets and taking kids back to their homes. They open doorways to relationships the Police could never open."

"Continued training will assist the Māori Wardens to assert their roles in their communities," said Wayne. Both Wayne and Paddy are looking forward to training more Māori Wardens.

"We have learnt as much from the wardens as we've taught them. It's our privilege."



UPFRONT PLANNING MEANS NO SURPRISES

When the Taitokerau District Māori Wardens Association held their debrief at the close of Waitangi Day in the Bay of Islands, they immediately begun planning for the following Waitangi Day celebrations.

"Planning begins almost immediately after the current one is complete," says Richard (Dick) Shepherd, Regional Coordinator for Whāngarei. "A planning committee is established and monthly reports are made to the Taitokerau District Association, where operational and logistic plans are ratified."

The annual Waitangi Day celebrations at Waitangi continue to grow and attract people from around the country and internationally. Some attend Waitangi Day to challenge dignitaries in attendance, and so some protest activity occurs

at the marae and at the Treaty of Waitangi Grounds. Dick says under section 30 of the Māori Community Development Act 1962, Māori Wardens are able to prevent riotous behaviour by diffusing tension.

The organising committee plan its operational work such as patrols and check-point duties, crowd control, traffic management, and security, as well as safety on the marae and around the Waitangi settlement. The committee also plan catering, accommodation and travel requirements for the Māori Wardens attending over the three days including Waitangi Day.

Dick says Taitokerau Māori Wardens have become efficient planners and their efforts are supported by the Māori Warden Funding Programme.

REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR PROFILE: MARIE-ANNE SELKIRK

Regional Co-ordinator for Auckland Marie-Anne Selkirk joined the Māori Warden Project team three years ago. In that time she has seen the Māori Wardens kaupapa re-energised in communities and felt the excitement of being part of the Rugby World Cup 2011.

"Seeing branches rejuvenated in places like Wellsford in Pukekohe is one of my favourite experiences so far," Marie-Anne says. "It is positive to see new families, new wardens, and young people wanting to participate. Rugby World Cup was another favourite. It was a great experience for Māori Wardens, and me, to be part of an international event, yet feel like we were in the middle of the revellers. I still feel excited."

Before joining the Māori Warden Project team, Marie-Anne worked for the Electoral Office Tāmaki Makaurau team. She also owned a research and evaluation business, and was principal at Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Raki Paewhenua, Northcote.

When Marie-Anne was appointed Regional Co-ordinator, it was initially on a six-month contract in 2009. "I liked the opportunity, and I figured it was a good way to expand on my community networks. The most rewarding part is working alongside of

people with aspirations of their own. My mahi requires work on many different fronts, but I'm mindful that people here are working voluntarily. They do their mahi because of their love for this kaupapa."

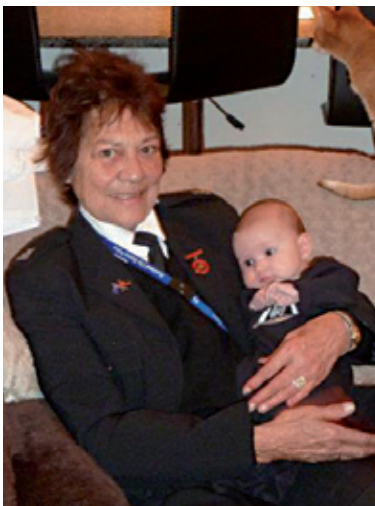
Three years later Marie-Anne has experienced the many and varied roles Māori Wardens play in their communities. She says she is very supportive of helping Warden communities to realise their dreams.

"I enjoy people articulating what they want, then we can look at what's needed and who can help," says Marie-Anne. "In my time on the project so far, I have worked with Wardens, helping them to chip away at achieving goals and dreams."

Marie-Anne can whakapapa to: Ngāti Hine, Ngā Puhī, Te Orewai, Te Aitanga ā Mate, Te Aowera, and Ngāti Porou.



MĀORI WARDEN PROFILE: JUNETTE RIELLY



Growing up Junette Rielly says she never saw or knew anyone who was a Māori Warden. Later this year will mark 26 years commitment by Junette to the Aroha ki te Tangata philosophy and Māori Wardens.

Junette would drive 30 minutes to Waitākere, West Auckland, for meetings and activities. Eventually, Junette found another six Wardens living in the central Auckland area and was able to establish the Akarana Māori Warden sub-association.

In 1995, the Auckland District Māori Council and Safer Cities trialled a night patrol of Auckland's Queen Street. Matapihi Tirohanga was funded for four years by the Auckland City Council, and Junette was made its manager. New Zealand hosted CHOGM (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting) in Auckland, in 1996. "We were given the kaupapa to move street kids out of the city. I wasn't very happy about that. We were only moving them to the suburbs, but doing nothing to help keep them off the street."

Matapihi Tirohanga was restored in 2002 and since then Junette and the Akarana Māori Wardens have continued their close working relationship with the New Zealand Police.

"I think it is positive we're working with the Police," Junette said. "They bring us kids, rather than locking them up and giving them a profile, we can take them home and talk to their parents. We just don't want kids having a profile – that's what we're trying to stop."

Junette (above with her mokopuna Samantha Tia Gussey), who is of Ngāti Hine descent, was raised in Mt Albert, Auckland. "Mum died when I was 13 and she was Māori. But I grew up without Māori," she says.

Later on, Junette has married and raised children. She met Maraea Northcroft, a Waitākere Māori Warden and joined up. "I felt passionate about my Māoritanga. I was in my mid-40s, and I had just become involved in a kōhanga."

There was no sub-association for Central Auckland, and so





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MĀORI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT REVIEW UPDATE

Previously, we've reported on the Māori Affairs Committee Inquiry into the Māori Community Development Act (Act). The Committee's recommendations referred to the shifting roles of Māori Wardens over time, mainly as a result of changing community needs. Today, Wardens provide practical support and liaison in their communities beyond what is currently covered in the Act.

Te Puni Kōkiri is working on material to assist the consultation process with Māori Wardens and communities. This process will involve public hui with an option to make written submissions. We will keep you posted on progress.

If you want to look at the Committee's Report and the government response, they are available on Parliament's website: www.parliament.nz

MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

In this edition of Aroha ki te Tangata, we profiled Māori Warden Junette Rielly, a stalwart of Māori Wardens in Central Auckland. Kei te mihi ki a koe e te whaea Junette. Her contribution in 26 years of service is symbolic of Māori Wardens' commitment across the motu. While we celebrate and value people like Junette, we should also be looking into succession planning: who will take over the leadership? What do we need to do now to build on the good work of Māori Wardens since they were established?

I travel around Aotearoa visiting Māori Wardens and talking to them about the progress of the Project. Our approach so far has been to strengthen regional Māori Warden groups through training provision of resources and regional funding programmes.

Tāmaki Makaurau Regional Co-ordinator Marie-Anne Selkirk says younger members of the community are putting their hands up now because they want to continue the whānau legacy of being involved in the Māori Wardens. Many can remember their Mum, Dad, Nanny, or Koro being involved.

Relationships have always been an integral in the success of this project. This has been tested in recent times.

Police Trainers Sergeants Paddy Whiu and Wayne Panapa describe Māori Wardens as the hinges from which community doors open and close.

We have some work to do with strengthening the governance and management of our sub-associations. Feedback suggests the focus areas are effective financial management, achieving outcomes in meetings, and the elections of officers. We intend to place skilled people alongside sub-associations, such as an accountant or someone experienced in policy development, to help sub-associations to grow their own skills.

We need effective people to lead that growth and strengthen this knowledge base. While we can help to build the ribs of the house, it is people on the ground who are the flesh on the bones.

I'm once again very proud to be a part of this kaupapa and have been witness to amazing results in many areas over the last few months. Ngā mihi kau ake ki a tātou katoa e hāpai ana i ngā hiahia o ngā hapori puta noa i te motu.

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Nā Te Rau Clarke, National Project Manager – on behalf of the Māori Wardens' Project

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