

City for Peace Declaration

In recognition of the International Day of Peace 21 September 2007 - by Marion Hancock

The Waitakere and Auckland City Councils are working to promote and progress their Peace City status. The declaration below was formally adopted by the Waitakere City Council at a ceremony on September 21st, the UN Day of Peace. A similar declaration was made by the people of Auckland City, at an

event on September 23rd, to reflect and honour the decision made in May by their council to declare Auckland a Peace City.

The wording provides a good answer to all those people who ask what it means to be a peace city.



City for Peace Declaration - The City of Waitakere ...

Acknowledges that peace is created through the actions of individuals, families and neighbourhoods and whānau, hapu and iwi;

Is determined to protect and enhance the safety, security and well-being of all people living in and visiting Waitakere;

Affirms that the well-being of all citizens is advanced by the peaceful resolution of conflict and the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence;

Celebrates the diverse backgrounds of all citizens and encourages their participation regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnicity, culture, sexuality or religion;

Actively supports the importance of education for the development of peace, inter-cultural awareness, tolerance, human rights and conflict resolution;

Acknowledges the unique relationships between tangata whenua and tau iwi (those who have settled more recently in Waitakere) and the place of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in our city;

Encourages all people to treat whenua (the land), with respect;

Assists those who have settled in Waitakere due to conflict or human-rights violations in communities overseas, and supports the promotion of human rights and the resolution of conflicts in those communities;

Confirms the special role of Waitakere as an Eco City in fostering peace nationally and internationally;

Honours the United Nations International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010) and will maintain this commitment for future generations;

Continues to endorse the United Nations Resolutions on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation through public education to abolish war and nuclear weapons;

Embraces the United Nations recommendation that municipal leaders, working with citizen groups, are encouraged to establish peace cities;

Hereby declares itself to be a City for Peace dedicated to the promotion of, and respect for, peace, tolerance and non-violence.

Mourning a Secret Australia

by John Pilger

How many days of mourning have I attended? Vivid in the memory are wreaths thrown on to Sydney Harbour, and men in crumpled hats and women in loose frocks standing on foreshores where their forebears saw the first ships carrying white men. On 14 February, there was a day of mourning for T J Hickey, an Aboriginal boy who was chased by police three years ago and ended up impaled on a spiked iron fence in The Block, a ghetto within sight of Sydney's banks and corporate towers. Commemorative silences were held for "TJ", and his violent death was likened to Australia's many Aboriginal deaths in custody, such as that of Mulrunji Doomadgee on Palm Island.

Palm Island is one of the most beautiful islands on the Great Barrier Reef, yet few outsiders take the short flight from Townsville. Established in 1918 as a detention camp for Aboriginal men, women and children convicted of the crimes of homelessness, rebelliousness and drunkenness, it has changed mostly on the surface. When I first went there in 1980, an epidemic of gastroenteritis was deemed life-threatening. Two years later, researchers discovered in the records of the Queensland Health Department that Aboriginal deaths from common, infectious diseases were up to 300 times higher than the white average, and the highest in the world. In the cemetery, overlooking waves breaking gently on the coral reef, many of the headstones bear the names of children.

On 26 January last, a date known as Australia Day by whites celebrating their "settlement" (Aborigines call it Invasion Day), something very unusual happened. It was announced that a police sergeant, Chris Hurley, would be charged with the manslaughter of Mulrunji Doomadgee. In 2004, Hurley arrested Mulrunji for swearing and drunkenness; once in police custody, Mulrunji had his liver torn in two. "These actions of Sergeant Hurley," said the deputy coroner, "caused the fatal injuries." However, Queensland's

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director of public prosecutions decided not to lay charges. This is standard practice. In 1989, a royal commission enquired into more than 100 deaths in custody, many of them demonstrably murder or manslaughter. "I had no conception," wrote the chief commissioner, Elliott Johnston, "of the degree of ... abuse of personal power, utter paternalism, open contempt and total indifference with which so many Aboriginal people were visited on a day-to-day basis."

So spoke the voice of Australian liberalism and justice. Of the 339 recommendations made by the royal commission, not one called for criminal charges. The prosecution of Sergeant Hurley is the first of its kind, and it happened only because the Queensland government was virtually dragooned into seeking the independent opinion of a retired chief justice of New South Wales.

Of all the great Australian pastimes, silence is currently the most popular. This is largely due to a fear of speaking out, described in a rare book, *Silencing Dissent*, by Clive Hamilton and Sarah Maddison. The authors' fellow Australian academics and writers say little if anything publicly that might upset the all-controlling Bushites of John Howard's government and its inspectorate in the media. Trial by media of Australia's domestic victims, be they Aboriginal or Muslim, is standard practice. Officially approved platitudes pass

as news and commentary, along with weary stereotypes of much of humanity, from heroic Aussie cricketers to whingeing Poms and mad mullahs. True Australian heroes go unrecognised, such as Arthur Murray, a former Aboriginal union organiser who has fought unremittingly for 25 years for justice for his son Eddie, killed in police custody, and for all his people. Few white Australians will have heard of Arthur, whose dignity and courage evoke a secret history, described by the historian Henry Reynolds as the "embarrassment of bloodied billabongs" (lakes).

Australian "values" and national pride are political distractions of the moment in a nation witlessly at war in Iraq and Afghanistan

– a nation with up to 43% youth unemployment at home and, in some places, the majority of its black youths in custody. "Australian patriotism," says the cultural historian Tony Moore, "should be first and foremost based on taking the piss, of laughing, not just at one's self but at the powerful ..." He calls this "bullshit detection". Terrific idea, Tony, but I suggest you first run it by Arthur Murray and the people of The Block and Palm Island; for until we whites give back to black Australians their nationhood, we can never claim our own.



Australians speaking out against institutionalised racism.

Biofuels: a Danger for Latin America

by Marie Trigona

Renewable fuels, in particular biofuels – energy sources derived from agricultural crops – have suddenly won the support from the United States. This is partly due to George Bush's recent five-nation tour of Latin America to wedge out unity and push through ethanol accords. Development funds and corporations hope that Latin America, especially refining sugarcane into fuel in Brazil and soybeans in Argentina, can spur the United States' booming biofuel-industry demands. Corporate experts and financiers held the First Biofuels Congress of the Americas in Buenos Aires in May to promote biofuel production in the region. Former US Vice President Al Gore addressed investors, NGOs and soy producers at the congress to spearhead renewable fuel production in Argentina.

Inexpensive land, cheap labour and plentiful bumper crops of soybeans make Argentina a prime target for the production of ethanol and biodiesel. Argentina is already offering tax incentives to step up investments for the biofuels market, which is expected to triple by 2015. The South American nation wants 5% of its fuel supply to be biodiesel or ethanol-based in three years. The government has eagerly pushed through pro-biofuel policy, but has ignored worries over food supply, the environmental effects of mono-agricultural production and the social side-effects of biofuel production on the rural population.

"We are completely convinced that alternative biofuels will convert Argentina into a global leader in renewable energy," said Scioli at the Biofuels Congress. Investors and institutions attending the First Biofuels Congress of the Americas paid \$500 a head to attend the event, which was closed off to media outlets not allied to biofuels.

A study published by the National Academy of Sciences found that neither ethanol, which is corn-derived, nor bio-diesel, which is soy-produced, can replace petroleum without having an impact on food supply. However, biofuel proponents brushed off any criticism of the renewable-energy industry during the First Biofuels Congress of the Americas.

Argentina is the third-largest soybean producer in the world after the United States and Brazil. Topsoil erosion and pollution caused from pesticides and fertilisers have been just some of the side-effects to soybean plantations, which have expanded at a rate of 10% annually.

Many foreign financiers have been eager to invest in the booming biodiesel industry. Dynamotive, a Canadian biofuels developer, will invest up to \$120 million in six plants in Argentina that would use lumber and paper-industry waste to make biofuel. The Spanish-Argentine oil-and-gas company Repsol YPF has already invested \$30 million in a biofuel refinery in the province of Buenos Aires, expected to produce 100,000 tons a year as of 2007.

Shortly after Al Gore's visit to Buenos Aires, seven small-scale farmers were arrested for resisting eviction from lands in the northern province of Santiago del Estero. The farmers form part of MOCASE, a provincial grassroots movement of campesinos that promotes sustainable agriculture to build community. Their land will be cleared for soy production. The Santiago del Estero provincial government, which ordered the arrests, co-sponsored the First Biofuels Congress of the Americas, which paid Gore

\$170,000 to give a 40-minute presentation derived from his award-winning film *An Inconvenient Truth*.

Goodbye, food sovereignty. Local environmental groups and farmers held a parallel event to shed light on the dangers of biofuels, especially the effects on food production and prices. They also held a protest outside of the hotel where the Biofuels Congress of the Americas was held.

With surgery masks and megaphones on hand, they chanted "Food sovereignty, yes! Biofuels, no!" Soledad Ogoliano, from the Assembly for Food Sovereignty, said that multinationals like Monsanto and Repsol YPF, a Spanish-Argentine petroleum company, speculate large profits while putting Argentina's food production at risk. "The immediate effect of this kind of production is the massive deforestation like we are seeing now in the forests in Chaco, the Amazon, and other areas that are large sources of biodiversity that are destroyed for mono crops, only one agricultural crop, generally transgenic – like soy." She added, "We are talking about production that is highly concentrated because it requires large amounts of capital and investments in technology. It is no longer agricultural food production in the hands of local communities, but simply large-scale production of commodities."

Food prices have already been affected due to soy and corn production for export. Economists worry that plant-based fuels will cause food prices to soar in Argentina, where food inflation continues to rise over 15% annually. The nation has unsuccessfully imposed export limits on certain foods like milk and beef, where production is plentiful but supply for the domestic market scarce and expensive for consumers.

A drive in food prices will hit the nation hard, with over 30% of the population under the poverty line. The policies promoting biofuel exports over domestic food production in developing countries could be an ecological and social recipe for disaster. In addition to Argentina, small farmers in Brazil and Paraguay have been pushed off lands cleared for soy production at an exponential rate. In Mexico, consumers are fighting a tortilla war, a battle over increased prices in tortillas partly due to the nation's increase in ethanol production.

Groups will have to fight an uphill battle against corporations that have a tight hold on growing biofuel production in Latin America promising to quench the North's thirst for energy at the cost of food sovereignty and biodiversity.



Pou Korero: a Journalist's Guide to Maori and Current Affairs

by Carol Archie

Published by the NZ Journalists Training Organisation (NZJTO)

While written primarily as a guide for journalists, *Pou Korero* is an excellent resource for anyone with an interest in how Maori are portrayed by the Pakeha media and how this affects the way Maori are perceived by other New Zealanders – and, most importantly, how this can be improved.

As well as practical guidance for journalists, such as reporting Maori occasions and including Maori perspectives in news rounds, *Pou Korero* contains reflections and ideas which are valuable for anyone wanting to move beyond the dominant mono-cultural ways of thinking and behaving. It provides useful insights that are applicable in any profession or area of work.

It is 23 years since author Michael King produced *Kawe Korero*, his straightforward and accessible guidebook on how journalists could best interact with Maori and report their stories.

His work has endured. But it has been apparent for some time something more comprehensive was needed to keep pace with the Maori renaissance and its impacts, which the so-called mainstream news media has at times struggled to report with any measure of confidence or competence.

Carol Archie has put together just such a book. She has employed her extensive experience and knowledge as a journalist covering Maori stories over several decades to write and edit *Pou Korero: a Journalist's Guide to Maori and Current Affairs*.

It is a seminal work that not only updates advice on protocols, the use of te reo and how best to approach news involving Maori, but also traces the historical development of Maori media, Maori journalists and the culture which formed them.

- Jim Tucker, Executive Director, NZJTO

Pou Korero has nine chapters, with the first eight providing information on the Treaty of Waitangi and some relevant history, reporting Maori occasions, local knowledge and making contacts, Maori media, good practice, the media arbiters, news rounds, te reo Maori in New Zealand English (and glossary), and a concluding

chapter which looks at the future of journalism in Aotearoa New Zealand and how reporters can shape our sense of identity in an inclusive way. A te reo Maori pronunciation CD is included with the book.

Pou Korero was launched by Auckland University of Technology Chancellor Sir Paul Reeves on Monday 27 August, at Nga Wai O Horotiu marae (AUT); and discussed by a panel including Sir Paul, Whai Ngata (TVNZ), Wena Harawira (Maori TV), Carol Archie, and Jim Tucker (NZJTO). Links to coverage of the launch and interviews with Carol are available at <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/poukorero.htm>

Pou Korero can be purchased from the NZ Journalists Training Organisation: \$56.25 to NZJTO members and currently enrolled journalism students (plus postage \$3 for each copy), \$67.50 to non-members (plus postage \$3 for each copy) - the order form is available at <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/poukorero.htm> If you are in Wellington and would like to pick up your order from the NZJTO Wellington office, please contact Bronwyn@npa.co.nz

Copies of Carol Archie's previous book *Skin to Skin: Intimate True Stories of Maori-Pakeha Inter-marriage* are now available at a special reduced rate. See <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/skin2skin.htm> for details.



Carol Archie has put her extensive journalistic experience to good work in producing this resource for the New Zealand media

rethos.com:

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