



Te Hikoi ki Waitangi

Te Hikoi ki Waitangi swelled to two thousand strong upon arrival at Waitangi this year. From a couple of hundred marchers leaving Turangawaewae about a week before, the hikoi grew in support. Along the road to Waitangi, much korero took place, especially in the sessions at night.

The bulk of the marchers were young Maori with some kaumatua, but pakeha supporters increased towards the end. Each night was spent on marae along the way, with hikoi members carrying their own food to compliment the manaakitanga of tangata whenua.

The hikoi arrived at Waiomio marae near Kawakawa two days before Waitangi Day and prepared for the final stage of the march. Most tribes seemed to be represented on the hikoi

and rosters of the represented groups showed Kahungunu, Ngapuhi, Tai Tokerau, Tamaki, Waikato, Taranaki, Tuhoe, Ati Awa, Ngati Raukawa, Poneke and Kai Tahu. Tribal meetings were held to discuss the implications of the treaty.

Over 500 members of the hikoi camped in a tent city on the marae with Tawai, Riwi, Maihi Kawhiti, the black, white and red flag of Kotahitanga flying in front of the meeting house.

The Waitangi National Trust Board met at this time and the Governor General, Sir David Beattie expressed interest in the possibility of receiving submissions from the hikoi. Trust Board members, Sir James Henare and Sir Hepi Te Heu Heu met with hikoi leader, Mrs Eva Rickard see how this