

forwarded message:

From: Laurine [REDACTED]
Date: 11 September 2023 at 9:40:32 AM NZST
To: Kate Joblin <Kate.Joblin@whanganui.govt.nz>
Subject: Maori Wards

Hi Kate

25 people out of a population of 48,000, is not representation.

Why wasn't it on the front page of the Chronicle, 2 days before the event, not after. I wonder why?

Also, what's the results of the written poll the Council did.
Nothing?

This election is solely a crossroads election for NZ.

Are we for tribalism and apartied, a two tier system, already started with Health and 3 Waters, or democracy, one person, one vote.

The bleatings of those moaning about no Maori representation doesnt really hold water.
Look at Labour's Maori caucus.

Is the local body candidate Firman Maori. If so why didn't all Maori in Whanganui vote for her along with all those who did.?
Surely if they did, she would be on the Council.

It's not democratic to "give" our representation as a nation away.
It needs to be lwgally and democratically done.

Council maybe needs to wait and see what the October 14 results are as to what the people really think, not just having legislation or wishy washy local models thrust down our throats that no one before the 2020 election had ever heard of, being he puapua, and calling everything and everyone who doesn't agree "racist", is a poor cousin to debate.

Regards

Laurine Currin

On 11/10/2023, at 1:03 PM, Barry Nelson [REDACTED] > wrote:

To:-

The WANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Maori Wards are not and should not be a consideration. Maori wards serve only to increase racism and feed division in the community.

Aderns / Labours Maorification of New Zealand policy, clearly confirms this.

Media reports support that NEW ZEALANDERS are fed up with having all things Maori rammed down their throats and as a consequence, it will play a massive role in ousting Labour in the October election.

**Maori wards are undemocratic, and
inclusion should be put to a *rate
payer vote.***

If Maori want a voice at the council table, then they, like all candidates, should run and campaign and be **voted in by the community.**

They should not be given the right of access based purely on their race. **Gifted NOT earnt.**

The fact that there are currently no maori councillors speaks volumes. None elected, none wanted, none required.

We believe that there is absolutely no link to Maori wards in the Treaty and any suggestion that there is, is total rubbish.

There is no denying that Maori are trying to rewrite the treaty on a daily basis, and placing more personal interpretations on its content in order to satisfy their own racist agenda.

Please think about your responsibility as paid employees of the community and do not leave a legacy that your successors will struggle to deal with once you leave office.

**VOTE NO TO MAORI WARDS AND
BE PROUD OF YOUR DECISION**

Kaipara District Council, and Mayor Craig Jepson may be able to provide some additional information should you wish to get some first hand detail.

Maori ward council member Ms/Miss/Mrs Paniora pushes her own racist agenda, and strives to knobble the council at every opportunity. There have been several media articles to confirm this.

In June of this year, Invercargill Mayor Nobby Clark received opposition to his stance on using non-maori building names.

Please also check out the MSM article of the 18th August 2023, on the Western Bay of Plenty District Council Maori wards. If you are unable to find this article please let me know and I will forward it to you, confidentially. Over two hundred against the decision and over 50 comments. Well worth the read.

Today I read an article regarding Mayor Andrew Tripe pening his own karakia. Shameful and disgusting that this is happening in council. It is not welcome in the public sector / mainstream business. If Mr Tripe wants to dabble in this, then he should do it in his own time and before meetings start. It is personal and should not be inflicted on work colleagues. **Arrogance** to say the least. Rate payers do not wish to be paying for this type of offensive behaviour. According to social media he has become a joke across NEW ZEALAND. Tragic.

I would suggest that some of you do not support this karakia rubbish. I would be interested to receive your feedback on this. Total confidentiality is guaranteed.

Regards
Baz

----- Original Message -----

From "Terry Coxon" [REDACTED]
To "Andrew Tripe" <andrew.tripe@whanganui.govt.nz>
Date 4/10/2023 9:44:57 am
Subject Re[2]: Matters Maori

Hi Andrew,

Appreciate your good grace. Totally admit my Boat Shed information was hearsay but from more than one source, but good on you for trying! The topical issues with Maori and the Treaty are fraught at the present time, yet clearly need better resolution. Do you realise that the 3 Ps, including "Partnership" did not enter the debate until Lange set up the Royal

Commission on Social Policy in 1986, published in 1988, which was controversial upon issue and has been much criticised since then!

For your further edification I will send you a very recent article by Dr Elizabeth Rata, Education Professor at Auckland University and someone who early on developed kura kaupapa but walked away from it as a failure, and more latterly was a signature to the famous Listener letter by academics criticising the addition of mautarangi (Maori) science in school curriculums, that set the Royal Society of NZ into a spin and drew the wrath of The Royal Society !

Food for thought & Cheers, Terry Coxon

On 13/09/2023, at 2:49 PM, Colonel Blimp [REDACTED] wrote:

Greetings,

The striking bold heading, “Maori wards supported but push for local model” in the 11 September issue of the Wanganui Chronicle, had me puzzled as to whether the writer was making a statement of fact asking a question about an opinion for change. Had the Chronicle not abandoned punctuation long ago it may have been clear, but alas, I was condemned to read the article to establish which was the intention.

A sub heading “Meeting backs change amid calls for wider reforms,” might have been a clue but immediately abandoned when I found that the writer failed to count the number of attendees at the meeting. Instead I was offered an opinion, (which is never desirable from those who purport to be reporters and who should constrain themselves to supplying facts and let the readers reach their own opinions), when I found that the phrase “about 25 people” attended. **About?** Has the writer numeracy skill problems I wondered, as no great skill is required to count to 25.

However, as the area known as Wanganui has “a population of 42,600 as of June 2022”, (a link to my source, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whanganui>) a gathering of 25 people is an insignificant number and one which IMHO hardly justifies a front page placement along with an image of 4 people in a local news paper. Moreover, it then subsequently appeared that the bold headline was not about 25 people supporting an action when I read “ appeared overwhelmingly in favour of introducing Maori wards ..”

Again the writer appears to lack numeracy skills as no mention is made of what the “overwhelmingly” number was. As 13 would be a majority number, then the “overwhelmingly” number floats somewhere between 14 and 24, as 25 would be totally in favour.

So the claimed “about” 25 overwhelmingly in favour” now could be as low as 14, and 14 out of 42,600 is diddley squat.

It then occurred to me that surely a larger number of views than 24 on the matter of a Maori Ward would have been made by ratepayers following the council setting up the facility for a

survey on the Council web site. As this operated from 7 August and has now closed for submissions, when can the ratepayers of Wanganui, expect to be informed of the numbers of submissions and the views submitted by ratepayers such as I?

Further I do hope that results of that survey, numbers and views, will be given as much publicity on the local newspaper as was given to the small gathering on 7 September and that all Councillors will give serious consideration to the outcome of the publication of those views.

Vernon Ballance,

[REDACTED]

On 9/09/2023, at 3:04 PM, Timothy Stubbs [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Councillor,

I see that formal submissions closed on 8 September but I must let you know personally that I view Council wards based on ethnicity fly in the face of New Zealand's democratic system. I did not vote for you to represent me to undermine our democracy by unilaterally changing our local voting system. If you vote for Maori wards I will take that as a personal betrayal of the trust I invested in you.

I have forwarded with this Karen Williams comprehensive arguments on the matter which I urge you to properly read and give due attention to.

Further, I ask that you respond to this email and indicate how you will be voting.

Regards,

Tim Stubbs.

----- Forwarded message -----

On Fri, 8 Sep 2023 at 1:54 PM, Karen Williams [REDACTED] > wrote:
September, 8th 2023

Dear Councillors and Mayor

Few in our community recognize the personal cost to yourselves, the unique challenges this election term brings. But I do. Thank you.

Many believe the outcome is predetermined, consultation purely an exercise and hasty at that.

I share this concern, particularly with regard to Councillors who openly hold views that an individual's race should be the determining factor in selection for leadership. In my opinion an archaic viewpoint which evolved (egalitarian) societies do not hold.

Apologies for my lengthy submission but it is a sad day when New Zealanders must provide sufficient inarguable reasons to retain racial equality for all citizens.

October 24th 2023, 13 people - without public mandate & support - can impose democratic change which cannot be overturned by community majority.

I oppose the introduction of Māori wards - which blatantly denies the right to full seat representation for all citizens - both in Whanganui and throughout New Zealand for the following reasons:-

Te Ara <https://www.teara.govt.nz>

Online dictionary established 2001 NZ Government's Ministry for Culture and Heritage
"The Royal Commission on the Electoral System, established 1985, gave considerable thought to the future of the Māori seats. It's 1986 report concluded that separate seats had not helped Māori and that they would achieve better representation through a proportional party-list system. The commission therefore recommended that if it's favored mixed member proportional (MMP) system was adopted, the Māori seats should be abolished."

1993 following a national referendum. MMP adopted.

Māori seats retained through lobby groups.

At each election different campaigns promise to remove seats. 2023 is no exception.

The public are NOT informed

I have canvassed throughout Whanganui District, both rural and city, people from all walks of life. Despite the best efforts of our Democracy Officer few people, other than Iwi, are aware Council are asking for submissions. You saw my letter to the Chronicle.

With referendum denied, unless unquestionable data proves otherwise, Council members must assume that voters expectation is for elected Councillors to honor and retain the status quo ensuring Whanganui citizens retain their individual, equal right, to vote for ALL 12 seats and Mayor.

Of the few informed most stated submissions were in their experience pointless, consultation token. Disillusioned.

Announcements, predominantly online, have excluded too many of our foundation members who over decades have paid for and maintain our infrastructure.

However targeted groups, Iwi, Hapu, Kaumatua Kaunihera, etc are fully informed.

Democratic rights of the individual

It is ironic that Councillors in exercising their own democratic power will remove the right of others. Forever changing the rights of every member in this community both Māori and non Māori.

Your personal vote as a Councillor cannot be overturned by public referendum, forever recorded in this country's history.

Due to Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies)

Amendment Act 2021, Minister for Local Government Nanaia Mahuta,

A public referendum cannot overturn Council imposing Māori Wards. Few submitters will know this.

At last election Council were not given the mandate to alter local democracy

Māori Wards were not on the table. Therefore Councillors and Mayor have not been given the mandate to alter local democracy.

On that basis Councillors who vote October 24th to implement Māori Wards will be expressing their personal view - not that of this community.

Mayor Andrew Tripe campaigned to protect and retain local democracy. That expectation must be honored.

Co governance was discussed with many elected councillors pledging to uphold democratic selection rejecting race determined appointments or systems.

Councillors who mistakenly believe that Māori are not elected to Council due to racism reflect their own unsubstantiated personal bias

This view is insulting to past and current Councillors and Mayors, elected without the benefit of Wards. Both Māori and non Māori alike.

Views like this diminish the contributions of all Māori Parliamentarians, Acting Prime minister James Carroll (1909 & 1911), Ralph Love, Sir Apirana Ngata, Moko Tepania, Tory Whanau amongst many Māori elected who have worked and strived for their communities.

People of profile and calibre, irrespective of race, are elected to lead communities, demonstrated by history.

Mostly it is a slur on this community. Offensive to people like myself. At each election I have chosen Māori candidates - not because of race - but because of confidence in that candidate's suitability.

Finally, look to your own voting papers at the last election and determine what your own selections were based on.

It is of concern that Councillors who hold views about racism might seek to appease their conscience by voting in support of Māori Wards unaware they are acting in a paternalistic manner.

Paternalistic because Māori Wards manipulate outcomes by reducing competition and full democratic right of Māori roll voters from representation of 12 seats down to only 2, with corresponding reduced candidate choice.

Councillors who believe Māori will never be elected without Māori Ward manipulating voting outcomes should look to history.

1893 suffrage

1919 Women can run for Parliament- many believed women would not be elected.

1933 Elizabeth McCombs - first

1949 Iriaka Rātana - first

2023 women make up 61% of Parliament, Party leaders, Governor General,

Descendants of Māori who prefer representation - only by their own race - must stand.

Māori who demand same race representation - need to exercise their vote

It is as simple as that. We do not hobble horses in races so why should Māori lose 10 seat representation to reduce competition for candidates?

Data reflects that Māori descendants have (historically) poor voting rates. **Our aim should be to increase engagement not limit selection further.**

To say that Māori residents have no voice here in Whanganui is false

Councillors believing that by taking 12 seats leaving 2 they are giving a voice to Māori should acknowledge these voices

Te Awa Tupua a world first and of national significance - Te Pou Tupua, Gerard Albert

Our district recently boasted nationally of Te Pūwaha collusion

Nga Tangata Tiaki O Whanganui

Tupoho

Kaumatua Kaunihera

Māori Women's Welfare League

Tamaūpoko (TCLT)

Whanganui Land Settlement Trust

Pahia Turia until recently a leading figure at Whanganui & Partners

Harete Hipango, Tariana Turia, Adrian Ruruwhe, amongst many

Rātana church members

Other groups of equal significance

And Individuals who, like myself, have full access to a dedicated Council team

I have every confidence that this Council strives to enhance and improve cohesion and dialogue with ALL members of this community including Māori who whakapapa to this District. All are served equally by each one of the elected Councillors without regard to race, sex, age, religion etc.

Central government initiative not community initiative

Māori Wards are a central government party policy delivered by LGNZ and the LG Commission, a statutory body.

Not community initiated.

Policy not law. Therefore not compulsory. We have our systems in place.

Hasty timeframe suggests central government majority party are utilizing local government to implement and embed a political party policy 'interpretation' of Te Tiriti - not universally held or agreed to.

LGNZ (without consultation of members) were signatory to a HOA with Nanaia Mahuta to not oppose 3 Waters - now mandated against overwhelming opposition (800,000 in opposition). Along with other breaches of democracy.

No public referendum offered or allowed with few aware of the 2021 Act amendment -
Outrage is guaranteed - Intensified by it being subsequent to the event.

It is imprudent, bordering on destructive, for 13 people to impose race based seats given the lack of community knowledge, lack of expected referendum and limited time frame for consultation.

Councillors will lose public trust.

Due diligence, education and comprehensive consultation seeking community support prior to the next elections will retain community harmony not intensify existing public distrust of government due to mandates and other perceived breaches of democracy.

Distrust and disillusionment will increase lack of engagement

46% at last election. Data supports Māori voter turnout is extremely poor.

Wards are tangible evidence of racial division. As are the two flags which have been (recently) flown daily outside Council.

Should Council impose Wards, then incoming government remove, there will be unnecessary community conflict, disharmony, resentment, loss of faith in local government. Rifts which may take years to heal.

Amongst Māori roll voters there is confusion that it is similar to Te Tai Hauāuru. General roll are mostly oblivious.

Successful election of candidates to Council is based on

Candidate having an existing voting base & support - family, friends, associates

High public profile - social, business, cultural, religious & group affiliations

Election time enhanced voter familiarity

Personal promotion, cost, billboards, online etc

Known & past performance

Perceived suitability & competence - public meetings, newspaper, etc

Ratepayer vested interest

Religious and ethnic association - Ratana, Iwi, community mana, community affiliations

Data shows poor Māori descendant voter turn out

Apathy - Do not attribute more to any apathy you may have observed than what it is - not inter-generational grief, it is simply people getting on with their lives, concerned about cost of living etc - assured others have the helm,

Disinterest - also expressed in general population by 46% turnout last election

Tribal love - Te ao Maori is a traditional whakapapa lineage system, Ariki and Rangitira rule with majority living as noa Māori within a class system

Youthful population- Statistics show those descended from Māori have a higher percentage of youthful population - ineligible to vote

Eligible youth - often less engaged

Disheartened - shared by general population expressed by poor voter turnout and Council engagement

Many not enrolled - youthful, transient, tenant, etc

Poor Voter confidence reflected in low vaccine rates amongst Māori reported by government resulting in lockdowns, business mandates, resignations and dismissals, etc. increased distrust.

Māori roll is a subset not inclusive of all Māori descendants

As in my own family, many prefer the general roll because it offers increased choice.

Smaller subsets created by Māori Ward seats include

Iwi affiliation

Hapu affiliation

Local and outside Māori descendancy

Lobby groups

Political party affiliations

Religious affiliation e.g. Rātana

Partial loyalty or full loyalty to affiliations will impact on voter selections risking lobby rather than true representation

Conflicts and differences in tikanga reflect there is no one “Māori lens” just as there is no one “pākehā lens”

Māori Wards introduce race based inequity and inequality of representation

Just as I do not speak for my own demographic neither does one Māori representative speak for all Māori. To believe otherwise is naive bordering on racism

Māori on the Māori roll - reduced from 12 seats - to only 2 (loss of 10)

Non Māori on general roll - reduced from 12 seats - to only 8/10 (loss of 2/4)

Māori descendants on general roll from 12 seats - to only 8/10 (loss of 2/4)

Both Māori and non Māori on general roll condemned to NEVER have right to vote for Māori (unless candidate standing on general roll)

Māori roll condemned to never vote for non Māori on general roll - law does not allow (despite personal preference and confidence)

History shows we are regressing not progressing

1893 NZ women first in the world to vote. Māori women can only vote for Māori seats. Men only.

Laws 1893 and 1896 completed almost full separation of Māori and European election systems

1893 to 1919 James Carroll (Māori) held a general seat / 1909 & 1911 acting Prime Minister NZ

1919 women able to run for Parliament - 3 candidates stood, Ellen Melville placed 2nd out of 5 in Grey Lynn

1933 first woman in parliament Elizabeth Mc Combs
1949 First Māori woman, Iriaka Rātana, elected to Parliament
1967 Māori able to stand in general election
1993 MMP chosen in general referendum.

2023 Māori Wards = Māori women on the Māori roll can only vote for Māori

In just 130 years our women return to Māori only selection possibly **men only unless women stand.**

Māori women will no longer have full representation of 12 seats. Nor will Māori men. Council would be reintroducing an archaic election system embedding a race based roll system into local government.

Under the current democratic system Māori women, regardless of roll selection, have the right to vote for all 12 seats.

That right must remain.

Individuals should not have to choose between rolls, 2 or 8/10 seats

2023 Māori women must have full representation at local government level. As must Māori men.

Māori Wards at local government are Labour Party undeclared policy

2021 Te Mana O Te Wai (Iwi only consultation) in place dictates to Taumata Arowai, water entities now under co governance

2021 Local Amendment Act by Nanaia Mahuta stops public referendum overturning Māori Wards,

2021 June LGNZ - without consultation - signed HoA with Nanaia Mahuta to not oppose 3 Waters.

2021 July Cabinet Papers #1 , # 2 and #3 “Protecting Māori / Iwi Rights & Interests in Freshwater Delivery services” written by Nanaia Mahuta

2021 September All Councils & Mayors receive attached email x3 Cabinet papers by Nanaia Mahuta sent by a member of public

2021 October 3W (4 days before questions closed) Mandated. New RMA reform, local government review underway.

2023 Local Government reform delivered by LGNZ. 3 Water legislation passed, RMA.

2023 Government policy of Māori Wards at local government level in action

2023 Polls indicate a change of government pledged to remove Māori Wards

Whanganui District no longer own or have control of our water infrastructure.

Regardless of which roll, citizens will have unelected others at the table

Unelected responsible for debts incurred which ratepayers must pay, infrastructure and finances, long term plans which impact on everyone.

How can New Zealanders equal in law sharing same rights and duties (Article 3) be denied by law a public referendum by those who claim ownership of freshwater using their 'interpretation' of (Article 2) to substantiate their claims?

See (attached) Cabinet Paper #3 June 2021 “Protecting Māori/ Iwi Rights and Interests in Freshwater Delivery Services, Nanaia Mahuta (ex Minister Local Government)

I view denial of a referendum on Māori Wards as a breach of Article 3 the same rights and duties of citizenship = all citizens equal in law

Lobby groups, Intertribal rivalry and conflict over economic interests will not diminish with the introduction of Māori Wards

Denial of referendum is based on a false view that Pākehā majority are racist and would intentionally deny Māori descendants governance

Progress including suffrage, blended families, increased education are reflected in our laws, our schools, our homes.

The majority of homes in NZ share descendency and whakapapa to multiple races.

Amongst Māori there is rejection of Māori wards. They too are denied voice.

Democracy and equal rights under one law are in the bill of rights. The alternative is we return to tribal rule. Or employ a dual system of governance and economics suggested in He Puapua.

Council would be well advised to

- 1. Retain local democracy status quo**
- 2. Ensure racial equality by guaranteeing individual voters full rights and access to all 12 seats and Mayor representation - in perpetuity**
- 3. Encourage public trust in Councillors & Mayor - retain local government by the community for the community**
- 4. Increase education and promote full understanding with determined measurable outcomes prior to next election**
- 5. Better utilize community networking systems**
- 6. Increase community engagement with Council**
- 7. Improve consultation methods and responses**

It is morally wrong to tolerate racism, irrespective of how well meaning it is. I hope that my beliefs are shared by you too.

Finally, I hope our community leaders will lead the way to ensure community harmony, tolerance, love, kotahitanga and whanaungatanga by retaining equality for every individual against external pressure which is based on vested political and economic interest.

I welcome that my submission be shared with other Councils considering Māori Wards.

Thank you for your consideration and patience in reading this lengthy document.

Karen Kiriwai M Williams (née McKay)

Whanganui

Begin forwarded message:

From: Andrew Tripe <[REDACTED]>

Date: 22 August 2023 at 8:13:18 AM NZST

To: karenred1 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: !Councillors <Councillors@whanganui.govt.nz>

-----Original Message-----

From: Karen Williams <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 August 2023 7:56 am
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Why Chronicle front headline for Dead cat not Māori Ward submissions?

Dear Zaryd Wilson, Sue Dudman and Mike Tweed,

Our District Council has asked for public submissions on Māori Wards closing September 8th.

Implementation would be a historical change to governance in this District. Māori Wards would reduce the vote choice for the general roll from 12 seats to 10 or 8 and limit those on the Māori roll to potentially 2.

Whilst I was sorry to read on the front page about the death of Rodney, a stray cat from Marton, surely informing the public about intended changes to local body governance is more worthy of a front page headline in the Chronicle?

The indecent haste on this history changing decision which - due to Nanaia Mahuta's 2021 Act cannot be overturned by a poll / referendum - is driven by central government via LGNZ and the LG Commission, a statutory body. All occurring during an election year with the likelihood of a change of government.

Can we expect this week a front page, impartial, newspaper article to inform those who rely on the press? Foundation members of this community often do not use social media. Most rely on our local paper the Chronicle.

Advising the public they are able to respond to this change in local democracy is not just news it is a public service for our community to keep them informed and encourage them to be engaged in local government democracy.

Respectfully
Karen Kiriwai M Williams
[REDACTED]

