

New Zealand - The Fair Colony Author: Bruce Moon

With the revision of the NZ Education Ministry Schools New Zealand History curriculum in 2021 there is a need for students to have access to accurate information in relation to the nineteenth century history of New Zealand.

Of special importance is an understanding of The Treaty of Waitangi, Te Tiri o Waitangi.

The author explains how in the week leading up to the signing ceremony that the text of the Treaty was drafted by James Busby in the English language under instructions from Governor Hobson. The text was then translated into the Ngaphui dialect of the Maori language by the Christian missionary Henry Williams and his son Edward who was fluent in the Ngapuhi dialect. The Maori version of the Treaty was signed on 6th of February 1840 at Waitangi, but not before vigorous debate where Hobson insisted that no Chief should sign without clearly understanding what he was agreeing to.

Unfortunately the wording and intent of the Treaty has been progressively revised by certain academics and others over the past fifty years in order to gain economic and political advantage. This fully referenced book by Bruce Moon restores the original and correct wording and intent of the Treaty, and furthermore sets the record straight regarding certain false myths which have been quoted repeatedly by motivated parties in order to discredit the history of colonization. The book includes an uncomfortable but faithful "warts and all" account of pre - Treaty early history of the inhabitants of these remarkable South Pacific Islands.

About the author.

Bruce Moon has enjoyed a distinguished academic career. He was a wartime schoolboy in Bluff, Southland. He developed and maintained a passionate interest in New Zealand history. He studied mathematics at the university of Otago and graduated MSc (Hons). As a rocket scientist in Australia and England he was an early pioneer in mathematical modelling with a computer. On returning to New Zealand he continued such work and installed the first university computer at Canterbury in 1962. A co-founder of the Canterbury branch of the NZ Computer Society, now Information Technology Professionals, he was National President in 1978-79 and is an Honorary Fellow. He also holds an MSc with Distinction from the University of London and is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics (UK).

In later life he has taught at a mission school in Vanuatu, and, with his wife, collected and published wartime reminiscences and songs of Vanuatu people. As a volunteer, he taught physics at the Institute of Buddhist Dialects and the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives Dharamshala, India, and taught English to Tibetan Refugees from Chinese oppression. He has likewise worked with disabled people in Dehra Dun, India and Britain.

He served for many years in the Royal New Zealand Volunteer Reserve and was awarded the Volunteer Reserve Decoration.

Professor Emeritus Martin Devlin ONZM, ED declared that "Bruce Moon is a consummate Treaty authority".

He became a victim of the 22nd of February 2011 Christchurch earthquake after which he eventually survived debilitating spinal injuries.