

# (Māori in Oz, 2010)

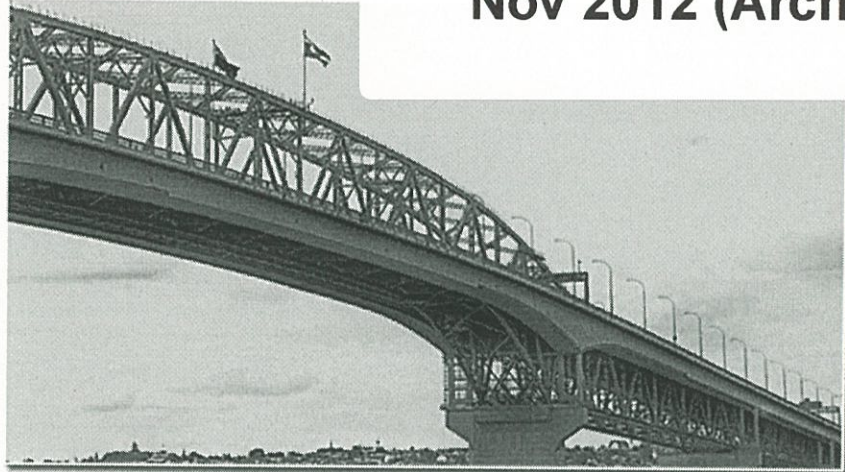
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## Maori Flag AKL Harbor Bridge Feb10

Thursday, 11 February 2010

**As at date of publication  
Nov 2012 (Archive)**



Maori Flag Tino Rangatiratanga flew on the Auckland Harbour Bridge 6th Feb 2010  
Photo Courtesy of Charles Joe (c) 2010.

At long last a Maori Flag was permitted to legally fly on the Auckland Harbour Bridge on Waitangi Day 6th February 2010. For some it may not seem like such a big issue, for others it is a triumphant step forward and is a landmark day to be remembered for Indigenous Maori & all New Zealanders.

Why the 6th of February and not any other day of the year? This important day commemorates the signing of NZ's founding document, Te Tiriti O Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi) in the Bay of Islands in 1840 and is commemorated throughout Aotearoa (NZ). A day that changed the face and history books of NZ and most importantly for Maori, the affects of which are still being felt today throughout the country.



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The next question is why the Tino Rangatiratanga Flag?

In January of 2009, Prime Minister John Key agreed to a request made by Dr Pita Sharples (Co-Leader of the Maori Party) for a Maori Flag to fly on Waitangi Day, on the condition that Pita Sharples find out from Maori which flag would be acceptable. A nationwide campaign was launched soon after with voting papers sent out listing a selection of flags and their meanings with a variety of questions allowing Maori the opportunity to vote.

More than 1200 submissions were received with an overwhelming 80% voting for the Tino Rangatiratanga Flag. Even though it was a unanimous decision, it is fair to say that the campaign could have run longer backed with heightened awareness brought about by intense publicity to ensure that no one had any excuses for not knowing.

The meaning of the Tino Rangatiratanga Flag



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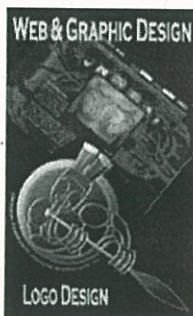
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#### The meaning of the Tino Rangatiratanga flag.

In 1989 a competition was run by a group named Te Kawariki to design a national Māori flag. Most of the entries however, were considered inappropriate because they were designed around a bi-racial rather than a specific Māori theme.

The only flag that met the criteria of recognising Māori history, expressing a Māori purpose and using a Māori design, was one designed by - Hiraina Marsden, Jan Dobson and Linda Munn. Another member of Te Kawariki, Walter Erstich, gave the explanation to the design.

After some revision by other members of Te Kawariki, the final version was eventually approved as the winner of the competition and unveiled as the national Māori flag, at Waitangi, on Waitangi Day 1990. It has since become known as the 'Tino Rangatiratanga' flag.

#### Explanation of design:

Black represents Te Korekore, the realm of potential, the heavens, the long darkness from which the world emerged. Black also represents the male element - formless, floating and passive.

White represents Te Ao Mārama the realm of being, the world of light, the physical world. White also symbolises purity, harmony enlightenment, and balance.

Red represents Te Whei Ao, the realm of coming into being. Red also represents active, lashing, southern, falling, emergence, forest, land, and gestation. Red is the female element, Papatuanuku, the earth mother, the sustainer of all living things. Red is also the colour of earth from which the first human was made.

The Koru (the curling frond shape) represents the unfolding of new life, rebirth, continuity, renewal and hope for the future. Details here.



AUCKLAND SUPERCITY HIKOI  
25TH MAY 2009



A sea of Tino Rangatiratanga Flags,  
amongst many others.

Some would hold to the argument that the Tino Rangatiratanga flag was not appropriate for varying reasons such as being perceived by the general public as a protest flag, due to the fact that many a proud Maori had carried the flag at numerous hiko throughout Aotearoa since 1990, right beside a myriad of other flags and banners. Yet for some reason the Tino flag stands out above all others?

Like it or not this flag, (let alone the majority of global flags) was not designed specifically for protest, the Tino flag has true meaning that many simply have not bothered to familiarise themselves with. Instead and with great ease much bias and ignorance is pushed through by the media and into the unawares to leave gapping comments tinged with racial animosity.

The question that really needs to be asked, 'Is the flag really the issue here or a nations digress towards the ongoing claims made under The Treaty of Waitangi by Maori?

United we stand, divided we fall.

Over a 20 year span from the 1940's to the 1960's race based teams were established by Selectors with no Maori players permitted to play against the Springbok fueling a petition signed by 150,000 New Zealanders in support of "No Maori - No Tour". In the 70's and then again in 1981 global condemnation hit the shores of Aotearoa as thousands of New Zealanders united in protest sparked some of the largest riots in our history against the Springbok Tours, staunchly opposing South Africa's long held embrace of Apartheid.

On the 10th of July in 1985, nationwide outrage prevailed towards the bombing of Greenpeace's Rainbow Warrior and the death of Dutch Photographer Fernando Pereira in the Port of Auckland by French foreign intelligence services.

After several years of protest, the people of NZ stood united in its stance against the 'Big guns of the USA' and in 1987 the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act officially declared NZ a Nuclear Free Zone. We have fought against each other and in latter years fought beside each other in World Wars and consistently proven we are far from a timidly passive nation and do not hold back when it comes to standing up for ourselves - together for many a great cause.

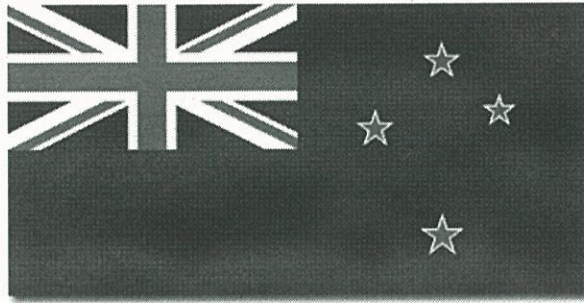
United we stand to oppose many things that have shaped us all and to what NZ on the whole represents today, against apartheid, bombing of the Rainbow Warrior and in successfully becoming a proud Nation that is unashamedly a Nuclear Free Zone are to name but a few. Yet divided we fall over our own internal history, nationwide understanding and acceptance towards The Treaty of Waitangi, acknowledging indigenous Maori of Aotearoa and a flag that holds more water than want. Who would have ever of thought that a flag would make such a profound statement and ruffle more than just a few feathers?

United is such a powerful word, yet for the sake of unity in NZ, how many people can truly state that they support let understand even in



part the historical significance of Waitangi Day and accept a Maori Flag flying on the Auckland Harbour Bridge and other landmarks as a sign of moving forward in unity?

Now that the Tino Rangatiratanga Flag has been officially accepted as the flag chosen by Maori to fly on significant historical days upon landmarks throughout Aotearoa, we are yet again tested towards our so called 'unity' as John Key publicly announced it is time to change the NZ Flag! The outcry is only just beginning, but why stop at the Maori Flag when surely all New Zealanders know what the NZ Flag represents and is designed upon?



CURRENT NEW ZEALAND FLAG

The current NZ Flag embodies on the surface of it the Union Jack (official British Flag) ensign and was first flown after The Treaty of Waitangi in 1869. Upon further research we find beneath the obvious insignia of the Union Jack lays the combination of the St George Cross where history places it around medieval times (1190) and was widely known as a symbol of crusades. The Saint Andrew's Cross or more commonly known as 'The Saltire', depicted the martyr Saint Andrew and patron saint of Scotland, who was crucified on an X-shaped cross at Patras.

What relevance that has to NZ's history can only be based upon colonization by the British in the 1800's and of the early Missionaries who first arrived here. Otherwise it would be the Crux, or more widely known as the Southern Cross Stars that would represent a direct link and connection to NZ.

Would it be unjust to state that no true representation towards indigenous Maori exists within the current NZ flag pre-colonisation and question why that is so and to where NZ stands in the "One People - One Nation debate?" Is it possible that a newly designed NZ flag can represent a coming together of NZ's history that is not blatantly ignorant to indigenous Maori, and in the process speak volumes in 'unity' and make the whole Nation proud?

Ongoing debate has shrouded the NZ Flag since the 1970's and of course is being reignited with John Key's proposal for a new flag. As with the Tino Rangatiratanga Flag, we need to know the meaning behind it to appreciate, accept and fully embrace such for that time has certainly come around again.

For now we have plenty to be proud of as the Tino Rangatiratanga Flag finally flew legally on Waitangi Day and side by side with the NZ Flag on landmarks across the country, a significantly huge and positive move forward for Maori and all New Zealanders.

By Christel Broederlow

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Photos: Auckland Harbour Bridge with Flags Flying Courtesy of Charles Joe (c) 2010

Auckland Supercity Hikoi 25th May 2009 and Tino Rangatiratanga Flags - Maori In Oz (c) 2009

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## Miriam White

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**From:** Charles Joe (WDHB) <Charles.Joe@waitematadhb.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 March 2011 8:46 a.m.  
**To:** Miriam White  
**Subject:** RE: Maori Flag Tino Rangatiratanga

Miriam wher are you located? NZ or Aus?

Charles Joe

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---

**From:** Miriam White [mailto:mw@sustainablefuture.info]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 March 2011 08:45  
**To:** Charles Joe (WDHB)  
**Subject:** RE: Maori Flag Tino Rangatiratanga

Great ☺ sounds like a plan!

---

**From:** Charles Joe (WDHB) [mailto:Charles.Joe@waitematadhb.govt.nz]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 March 2011 8:44 a.m.  
**To:** Miriam White  
**Cc:** G Mail C Joe  
**Subject:** RE: Maori Flag Tino Rangatiratanga

Will do ...tonight ..if my memory doesn't have an 'executive moment'

Charles Joe

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---

**From:** Miriam White [mailto:mw@sustainablefuture.info]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 March 2011 08:11  
**To:** Charles Joe (WDHB)  
**Subject:** RE: Maori Flag Tino Rangatiratanga

Hi Charles,

I definitely didn't receive the email, but sometimes our work emails don't deal well with large files. You could try sending them to [miriamannwhite@gmail.com](mailto:miriamannwhite@gmail.com) as well?

Thanks for trying to send them!

Best regards,

Miriam

---

**From:** Charles Joe (WDHB) [mailto:Charles.Joe@waitematadhb.govt.nz]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 March 2011 7:35 a.m.  
**To:** Miriam White  
**Cc:** G Mail C Joe  
**Subject:** RE: Maori Flag Tino Rangatiratanga

Miriam, I did send it over the weekend ..I sent two fotos..I sent them on Saturday or late Sunday pse confirm if you have received it.



I can only send it from my home computer ..so will hve to wait until later this afternoon.

Let me know ..but have another look.

Charles

Charles Joe

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---

**From:** Miriam White [mailto:mw@sustainablefuture.info]

**Sent:** Monday, 28 February 2011 09:12

**To:** Charles Joe (WDHB)

**Subject:** RE: Maori Flag Tino Rangatiratanga

Hi,

Just a reminder about this image. You said you could send it over the weekend? We would still love a copy, so it would be great if you could send one through.

Thanks

Miriam

---

**From:** Charles Joe (WDHB) [mailto:Charles.Joe@waitematadhb.govt.nz]

**Sent:** Thursday, 24 February 2011 7:58 a.m.

**To:** Miriam White

**Cc:** G Mail C Joe

**Subject:** RE: Maori Flag Tino Rangatiratanga

I will need to do that over the weekend as I will be away from home for two days ..wil that b okay?

Charles Joe

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---

**From:** Miriam White [mailto:mw@sustainablefuture.info]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 23 February 2011 17:12

**To:** Charles Joe (WDHB)

**Subject:** RE: Maori Flag Tino Rangatiratanga

Great!

Thanks so much Charles!

Is there any chance you could provide us with a larger version of the image. Preferable at least 300dpi and at least 1mb as its to be printed.

Thanks,

Miriam

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**From:** Charles Joe (WDHB) [mailto:Charles.Joe@waitematadhb.govt.nz]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 23 February 2011 3:15 p.m.

**To:** Wendy McGuinness

**Cc:** Miriam White; G Mail C Joe

**Subject:** RE: Maori Flag Tino Rangatiratanga

Kia ora Wendy,

I am happy to give permission. Credit as stated ... Charles Joe

Regards,

Charles

Charles Joe

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Mauri Ora! Mauri Kaha!

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**From:** Wendy McGuinness [mailto:wmcg@sustainablefuture.info]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 23 February 2011 14:37

**To:** Charles Joe (WDHB)

**Cc:** Miriam White

**Subject:** Maori Flag Tino Rangatiratanga

Hi there,

We like the photo of the flag on the Harbour Bridge and was thinking of using it in a book we hope to publish on Nation Dates. We are a charitable trust – see [www.sustainablefuture.info](http://www.sustainablefuture.info)  
Could you please advise how best to gain permission?

Many thanks  
Wendy

[http://www.maori-in-oz.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1302&Itemid=233](http://www.maori-in-oz.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1302&Itemid=233)

Maori Flag Tino Rangatiratanga flew on the Auckland Harbour Bridge 6th Feb 2010

Photo Courtesy of Charles Joe (c) 2010.

**Wendy McGuinness**  
**Chief Executive**

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