



Te Puni Kōkiri
REALISING MĀORI POTENTIAL

Aroha ki te Tangata Māori Wardens Newsletter



POLICING BY CONSENT

■ A VISITING CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE WRITES ABOUT THE SPECIAL EVENING HE SPENT IN THE COMPANY OF HAMILTON MĀORI WARDENS. CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT FRED TRUEMAN WROTE ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE ESPECIALLY FOR *AROHA KI TE TANGATA*.



Visiting Chief Superintendent Fred Trueman from South Australia Police experienced 'Aroha ki te Tangata' alongside the Hamilton Māori Wardens. Back: Murray Edwards, Linton Sionetali, Chief Superintendent Fred Trueman, Hannah Edwards. Front: Phyllis Campen, Raewyn Taputoro, Gloria Dornan, Joyce Williams.

While on holiday as the guest of Senior Sergeant Wayne Panapa, Senior Sergeant Paddy Whiu and their families, our conversation turned to their involvement in the Māori Wardens Project training programme.

"All very nice Wayne, but what are you training these people to do?" I asked as I grappled with his enthusiasm and involvement in this 'police-related' exercise. Wayne replied: "Helping our people make our people safe, mate".

I was presented with a copy of the Maori Community Development Act 1962 and given a run-down of the "Prevention of Unruly Behaviour" provisions within it; and so it was arranged that I would spend my Friday night shift with the Hamilton Māori Wardens.

At the Māori Community Development Centre, I was warmly received by a dedicated band of volunteer Wardens. Introductions completed, briefings conducted, and operational safety

equipment provided, we divided into two vehicles and began the nightly patrol.

Warden Linton Sionetali was driving. As he checked the "regular" spots, he apologised that it was a quiet night. We soon came upon a group of about 30 youngsters leaving a party in a youthful but orderly way. Warden Joyce

Williams came up on the radio. She had about seven teenagers on board, and was having trouble getting a "straight answer" from two young fellas. We joined forces, divided the group, and began dropping them home to their parents.

It was well after midnight as I joined Joyce in her vehicle. This lovely grandmother was not happy commenting, "These kids are too young to be out alone at this hour." We arrived at a house in total darkness. Warden Murray Edwards and the two girls approached the house as Joyce awakened its adult inhabitants. A grandfather emerged from the house; he had no

*"Helping our people
make our people
safe, mate".*

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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa



idea the girls had "snuck" out and was not happy either. We were about to leave when the girls ran over to the car to apologise and thank Joyce for bringing them home. Grandfather has spoken.

Later in the morning, we joined the Police who were clearing the streets as the licensed premises closed. They ran their lines along the street. The Māori Wardens were quietly present, there to support but not as Police.

Joyce and I walked around the block. It was about 3am and cold, though the young were warm and supercharged from their night of socialising. Ahead of us, one Māori youth was overcome by the urge and about to urinate onto a main street window. Joyce intervened, firmly and good naturedly, and off he went to a more appropriate place.

Around 4am the "night" is done. A street worker takes a group photo. We prayed, thankful we were all safe, thankful for the safety of the Police, and for the safety of "our people". Before Joyce dismissed everyone, she reminded Wardens they were needed back to do the same Saturday night.

There is a quiet collective apology to me because, "it's been a quiet night". Maybe, but I participated in a pretty remarkable

experience. These Māori Wardens, volunteers who also have lives and whānau to support during the day, come out every Friday and Saturday night to support the Māori and New Zealand community in terms of the Maori Community Development Act 1962. On these nights, they are specifically engaged in citizen-based crime prevention, collaborating with Police, and they are effectively diverting potential offenders from the criminal justice system using a combination of social, cultural and legal authority.

A quiet night maybe, but no less a profound one. *Aroha Ki Te Tangata* in action - practical, relevant, and timely.

Kia ora. Thank you for the experience and the hospitality shown to me by the Hamilton Māori Wardens - Joyce Williams, Gloria Dornan, Hannah Edwards, Linton Sionetali, Murray Edwards, and Raewyn Taputoro.

I wish every success to the Māori Wardens Project, and I thank every Māori Warden for the contribution they are making to the safety of their communities.

MG (Fred) Trueman APM, *Chief Superintendent, South Australia Police.*

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KI WIWI, KI WAWA - WĀTENE NEWS FROM AROUND THE MOTU

MAŌRI WARDENS ON THE JOB AT \$400M TREATY SETTLEMENT.

Rotorua Regional Co-ordinator Ruka Hughes says that for Wardens on duty at the historic Te Arawa settlement at Owahata Marae, it was just "another day at the office".

In June, Māori Wardens from Aotea, Turangi, Taupo and Rotorua associations lent their support at an official hand-over by the Crown of more than \$85 million in cash and assets. Te Arawa's settlement formed part of the Central North Island \$400 million-plus Treaty settlement.

From the crack of dawn, Māori Wardens worked alongside the hau kainga to ready the marae for the day.

The Māori Wardens twice foiled efforts by protestors to disrupt the arrival of the official party, which included the Deputy Prime Minister Bill English and later the Minister of Māori Affairs Dr Pita Sharples.

"This settlement will provide our people the ability to focus on



Claire Matthews of Rotorua Māori Wardens and Christine Kidwell of Taupō Māori Wardens flank former Race Relations Conciliator Gregory Fortuin with the Te Arawa Settlement cheque.

the cultural, social and economic needs of our iwi, hapū and whānau and to move from a grievance mode to one of focussing on future potential. As a Regional Co-ordinator, I would hope that (their focus) includes community issues that wardens encounter on a daily basis," Ruka says.

Ruka went on to say "the only downer for the day" was that co-ordinator Celia Boyd was so engrossed in her work, she forgot to put on her Warden's uniform. "Et-tah Harry!"



Murihiku Māori Wardens with whānau and attendees at the Blue Light Conference in Queenstown.

■ MĀORI WARDENS AND POLICE, MAHI TAHI

Invercargill-based Constable Simon Kairau, Kaitakawaenga Iwi Liaison Officer has worked alongside the Murihiku Māori Wardens on various occasions. Simon shares with *Aroha ki te Tangata* his appreciation for the support and assistance his community has received from Wardens.

The Māori Wardens assisted and guided our Māori community in Murihiku on the Matariki Hikoi through Invercargill's Otepunui Gardens. They ensured all 150 tamariki and pakeke in the hikoi made it to the end of their walk safely.

One of the participants commented: "The Wardens were absolutely lovely and a real credit to an organisation that will go from strength to strength in Murihiku."

In another incident recounted by Simon, three youths were killed in a car crash in the central city in July. Our Wardens happened

to be in the area and went to the scene to offer assistance.

As news about the crash got out, friends and whānau arrived at the scene. The Wardens assisted in traffic control so emergency services could deal with the initial scene.

The wardens looked after friends and family of the deceased. They continued to give their support at the scene over the following nights when more people arrived to pay their respects to the deceased.

Simon also acknowledged how the Murihiku Wardens travelled to Queenstown (in their new van) to awahi the opening and pōwhiri of the National Blue Light conference. The conference was attended by Police Commissioner Howard Broad and around 150-200 people involved in youth work from throughout New Zealand and Australia.

MEET THE MĀORI WARDENS

The title is self-explanatory, but in each edition of *Aroha ki te Tangata*, we profile a Warden and learn a little bit about them.

Waea mai on the Māori Warden call-free number 0800 991 882 to nominate a Warden you would like to see featured in this column.

Clifford Joseph

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Region | • Dargaville – Kaipara |
| Iwi | • Ngāti Maru, Ngāpuhi |
| Hapū | • Te Hikati |
| Marae | • Oturei |
| Age-ish | • 65 years |
| Years with Māori Wardens | • A while ... |
| Best part about the job | • Mahi-ā-Iwi, awahi whānau, tiaki tamariki |
| Worst part about the job | • No negatives for me |
| What's the main mahi you do? | • Co-ordinator and administrator for our region |





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AWHI A ROHE, MĀORI WARDEN PROJECT REGIONAL CO-ORDINATORS

Wayne Seeley (Ngāpuhi) is the Regional Co-ordinator for the Whanganui-Taranaki region and is based in Whanganui City. His region covers the Whanganui, Taranaki and Rangitikei rohe. He has been a Māori Warden for 22 years and previously has worked with the District Māori Council.

As Regional Co-ordinator Wayne says he is happy to "finally be doing something for Māori Wardens" in his region. He wants to see more Māori Wardens do professional development as community demand grows. "I'd also like the Māori Wardens to be paid for what they do. Remuneration would really boost the morale and give them confidence that what they are doing really is a wonderful service to the community".



Wayne Seeley

FINAL WORD – MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

Matariki rising signals the beginning of the Māori New Year, this time also marks the end of and the beginning of a new financial year for the Project Team.

These new beginnings are exciting because it means a time for reflecting on the year past, setting goals and planning to achieve challenges for the year ahead. In setting our goals for the next year, the Project Team aims to continue building on the performance of the past two years. Specifically, our focus will be providing a quality service to Māori Wardens and history has shown that you will let us know when we don't hit the mark!

More than 200 uniform packs have been delivered to those Wardens who have successfully completed the Police foundation training delivered by our very own Paddy and Wayne. The uniforms are an integral component of the resources provided to Wardens and

builds on the training programme, the vehicles and other resources for Māori Warden use. We have and continue to receive very positive feedback from Māori Wardens such as "I never thought it would happen in my lifetime", "Perfect fit" and "I keep looking at myself in the shop windows as I patrol. They just look great".

I am pleased to report that the first Police foundation training for the new round was held in Dunedin, 19-22 July. This represents the first dedicated training for Māori Wardens operating in Te Waipounamu and I hope that this signals the beginning of growth for Māori Wardens in Murihiku.

What is your challenge for the year?

Te Rau Clarke

Manager, Māori Wardens Project Team

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