



Waitangi day or New Zealand day? United Future calls for a change **January 28, 2007**

New Zealand political party, United Future, has called for Waitangi day to be changed back to New Zealand day, as it once was.

Waitangi day is on February 6, each year and celebrates the Waitangi signing of New Zealand's founding document, the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi).

Honourable Peter Dunne, leader of the United Future party, has said that the recent celebrations of Australia day has shown that New Zealand really does need its own celebrations of that kind. "Across the ditch, Australians celebrate a day that is about one thing only – the celebration of their country and of being a citizen of that country."

However co-leader of rival political party, the Māori party, Doctor Pita Sharples has said to 3 News, that Waitangi day is very important, and if we need to have a New Zealand day, then that needs to be something different.

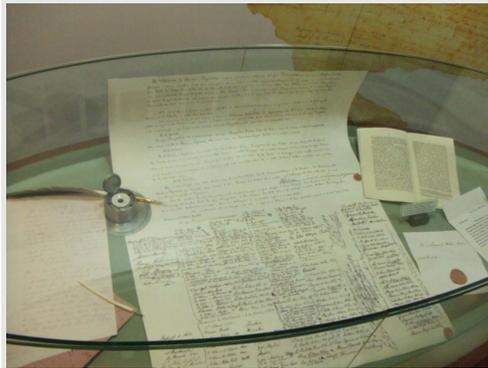
Dr Sharples has also called for more respect in terms of what the foundation of Waitangi day is and educating the public that the Treaty of Waitangi is a positive thing for New Zealand.

However, Peter Dunne said: "There is no doubt the Treaty of Waitangi has an important place in New Zealand's

history, but having the Treaty the centre and indeed holding the naming rights for our day of national festivities, just politicises the day and invites unnecessary racial tension."

Sharples also says that there is no point in looking across the Tasman at what Australia is doing because we have our own identity, own founding document, our own nation. Thus, we should go forward together.

Peter Dunne said: "The timing is right for New Zealand to actively and positively advance our national identity – starting with a new national day." He claims quite a lot of support for a change to the name in 2008.



Treaty of Waitangi version in the museum on the Waitangi grounds

Suspended letterbox for sale on New Zealand auction site **January 29, 2007**

Kerry "maxduck" is trying to sell his letterbox on the popular New Zealand auction site, TradeMe, after his street was suspended from post being delivered to by New Zealand Post.

Earlier last week New Zealand Post announced that it would temporarily stop delivering mail to three streets in Hamilton due to gang violence. The three streets includes 120 houses on Tennyson Road, Dryden Road, and Emerson Place, all the streets are located in Fairfield. Fiona Mayo, spokeswoman for New Zealand Post, said that if they had allowed posties to continue with services then they wouldn't be acting responsibly as an employer.

Ms Mayo said that most residents living within the banned streets have understood why the ban was put in place. She adds that Kerry "has a good sense of humour."

New Zealand Post have said that they will review the ban tomorrow.

Kerry said: "This letterbox is still in good condition, has survived a couple of tags, ash from Ruapehu volcanic eruption and more recently the well publicised 'GUN BATTLE' of Hamilton."

As of writing the current bid is at NZ\$25.00, made by Kelley "superwiner".

Postal suspension lifted in Hamilton, New Zealand **January 30, 2007**

The two-day postal delivery suspension placed on three streets in Hamilton, New Zealand has been lifted by New Zealand Post and the posties are back to work delivering mail.

The suspension of deliveries applied to Tennyson Road, Dryden Road, and Emerson Place, which are located in Fairfield. New Zealand Post came to the decision on Friday to put the ban in place because of recent gang violence/conflict. Along with the New Zealand Police, New Zealand Post reviewed the current situation, and also drove along the streets, they came to the conclusion that the situation has now "cooled down," according to New Zealand Post spokesperson, Fiona Mayo and postal delivery general manger, Matthew Nant.

The residents on those streets came out to greet the postie, who was accompanied by business leader Brendon Coker, as she delivered the residents mail. Martha Rollo, Tennyson Road resident for 13-years, said that she was thrilled that her mail was once again being delivered after the "senseless" gang violence had temporarily stopped post. "Why should the rest of the locals suffer because of the gangs. We don't need this hassle." Ms Rollo said that the gang activity has only recently happened.

Vicky Roughan and Kevin Roughan, 12-year residents of Dryden Road, said that the post suspension, vandalism, and gang activity has been a problem for them. Mr Roughan claims that children from the age of nine and up are drinking late at night. "You don't know what the hell's going to happen."

Mr Nant has apologised to the affected, inconvenienced residents.

New Zealand Post state they are going to continue to monitor the situation, however and also have on-going discussion with the local council and police "to make sure we're abreast of any developments in the area."

The gang violence/activity New Zealand Post are referring to is, on the previous Thursday the Armed

Offenders Squad was called out where they raided three homes following a shooting, eight people were arrested, and a large number of firearms were seized.

Despite post not being delivered, newspapers were still being delivered, waste collection was still happening, and electricity meter readers were also going around house to house, checking the meters.

Māori Party co-leader, Doctor Pita Sharples, has said that gangs are again starting to imping on on society like in the 1970's. He says we should include gangs into society, instead of disrupting them.

Wikinews previously reported on a letterbox for sale on New Zealand internet auction site, TradeMe, which has now reached a bid of \$26.03 by Eliz "polysstew".

Wikinews exclusive: 'speed not behind New Zealand's road toll'
January 30, 2007

Rachael Ford, co-ordinator for New Zealand's Candor Trust reveals in a Wikinews exclusive what Candor asserts is the hidden cause of deaths on New Zealand's roads.

Candor Trust is an organisation based in New Zealand that helps educate New Zealanders about the dangers of driving under the influence of drugs.

Candor Trust says that the message that "Speed kills" is the "number one road safety threat".

In 2000, the number of road accidents causing injuries was 7,447. Last year, this rose to 10,738 - the highest since 1995. Statistics provided by the Ministry of Transport show that in the same period, the number of hospitalisations too rose by about a quarter (25%), to 7,427.

Saying that the general level of safety on New Zealand's roads has "gone down the gurgler", According to the Trust, the "unjustified emphasis" on speed, which it says is far from the greatest factor in fatalities, only serves to distract from bigger issues."

Candor Trust urges a rethinking of the "Speed kills" message, pointing out that it does not predict that record numbers of hospitalisations accompanying the record numbers of speeding tickets issued.

The Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) and Land Transport New Zealand (LTNZ) both say that a one percent decrease in the mean speed will cut the death toll by four percent and the injury rate by two percent.

Dr. Patrick Meffen has told transport officials from the Ministry of Transport that factors other than the drop in average speeds are responsible for the drop in the death toll.

Provisional figure for 2006 show a four percent decrease of the mean speed from 101 km/h to 97 km/h coinciding with an increase of people being seriously injured. The number went up by 330, a 15% increase from the 2000 figure of 2,243.

Candor Trust says that it is incredible that other agencies, including LTNZ, are continuing to spread the message that speed kills, even when an experiment to show what happened when users took party pills and then drove was stopped when no fatalities occurred, just concern over adverse effects.

Candor Trust said: "The survival of road users depends on the goodwill of planners who need to come clean and admit the 'reduced harm correlates to reduced average speeds' hypothesis is disproven in the present NZ context."

Ms Ford said: "It is not OK that the

damning Breen report [a review of road safety to 2010 strategy] expressed concerns [that] our road safety policy is not sufficiently evidence based, and yet we carry on doing as we've always done." She said that because of this, the road victim disability services are overloaded and unable to meet the needs of the victims.

The speed theory is based on a formula called 'Ashtons formula'. Ashtons formula is based on demonstrated association, which is said to need the weakest scientific evidence, but Candor Trust says that it does not account for variables such as the vehicle standards.

Dr. Meffen told the LTNZ that it is not true if a crash occurred at 95 km/h and another at 105 km/h, the slower one would be more survivable. He said that the media releases are misleading people, making them believe in a false sense of security. "An important spin off from the misuse of these statistics has been the concept promoted by media of survivable accidents at or near open road speeds. In reality the chances of surviving around the open speed limit are low and purely random."

Candor Trust said: "Speed control must stop dominating policy - over limit speed is only present at 18% of fatal crashes. Safety has nothing to do with legality, and putting all our eggs in the speed basket as it's easily 'enforceable' has been a mistake." Over half of all fatal crashes the speed is under 60km/h, and fatal side-on crashes occur at speeds usually below 40 km/h.

In 2005 and partly 2006, \$2,385,000 NZD was spent on advertising to prevent speeding, the majority of the advertising budget. Speeding teenagers, who are of the most concern, do not make up the bulk of the toll.

Candor Trust said the most important issue that could end up saving lives is the use of 1990-dated imports in cars that are being used by the under 25-year-olds on New Zealand roads, or as Candor Trust described the roads, "State Goat Tracks."

Candor Trust calls for an immediate review and reconstruction of how the police deals with crashes, and want information on inattention and drug intoxication to be collected following a crash. A police source told Candor Trust that there are often times when crash investigators argue with the police when the police try to tick the speed box, because they are "overly keen". Candor Trust want a better and more effective road safety policy, especially when it comes to speed.

Also in the latter half of this month, January, 19 fatal crashes occurred and 16 of those were the result of a centreline cross, which usually occur because a driver is fatigued or otherwise impaired, and they move the steering wheel; or "run off road events." Ministry of Transport statistics shows that a head-on collision in which one of the cars is travelling 80 km/h or more will most likely result in a fatality. Research conducted in America also showed that mobile phones are not a major cause of deaths when compared to other causes. In the 3 seconds before a crash, 80% of drivers are inattentive and local studies implicate fatigue or drug abuse as the main risk factors for that.

New Zealand exam insulter revealed January 25, 2007

The person who left rude remarks on at least five students' returned NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement) exam papers has been identified as a temporary New Zealand

Post worker, and ex-student of Cashmere High School, the same school the students went to.

The insulter said that the remarks, which one included a positive remark congratulating a merit, were meant to be joke on the students he knew at his old Christchurch-based school.

The comments he placed on different papers included "GOOD ONE DICK!!", "You useless sack of poo," and the positive comment was "NICE ONE MATE."

The former New Zealand Post employee was employed to process mail, but had left New Zealand Post about a week before the insulting comments were discovered.

Dave Turnbull, principal of Cashmere High School, said that it is regrettable and disappointing that an ex-student of Cashmere High School was the offender, "even if they thought it was a joke." "I am pleased the NZQA and NZ Post have pursued this issue and resolved it quickly. It was not a joke for the students concerned."

Peter Fenton, chief executive of the postal services, said that he does not see what is funny about the remarks. He has apologised to NZQA (New Zealand Qualifications Authority), the authority that manages NCEA; and will also send a letter apologising to the affected students.

Mr Fenton said that the damage the temporary worker has done to New Zealand Post's reputation is concerning.



A pile of returned and marked NCEA exam booklets. Photograph by Gabriel Pollard.

Two Prime Ministers banned from Fiji

February 2, 2007

The Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand, John Howard and Helen Clark, have been banned from travelling to Fiji following the discovery of Ms Clark's and Mr Howard's names on an immigration list by Fiji Television.

The Immigration Department list bans people from entering Fiji, and bans some people from leaving Fiji. The list also contains the names of civil and political activists, businessmen, politicians, and trade union officials.

Ms Clark says that self-appointed Fijian Prime Minister Voreqe "Frank" Bainimarama is only digging himself a bigger hole and that it would be unwise to listen to anything that Mr Bainimarama had to say.

Mr Bainimarama said that if he can't visit their countries, then they shouldn't be allowed to visit his country.

Both Australia and New Zealand had already put a ban in place preventing high ranking politicians and officials from entering either country because of their disapproval of the recent Fijian coup which Mr Bainimarama led. The two countries have also imposed other sanctions.

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