

# He Tohu He Whakaputanga

## The Declaration of Independence 1835

*Introduction by Vincent O'Malley*

## Notes for Teaching History

*He Whakaputanga* | *The Declaration of Independence 1835* is one of three books developed to accompany the He Tohu exhibition at the National Library. He Tohu features three iconic New Zealand documents:

- He Whakaputanga | The Declaration of Independence 1835
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi | The Treaty of Waitangi 1840
- The Women's Suffrage Petition | Te Petihana Whakamana Pōti Wahine 1893.

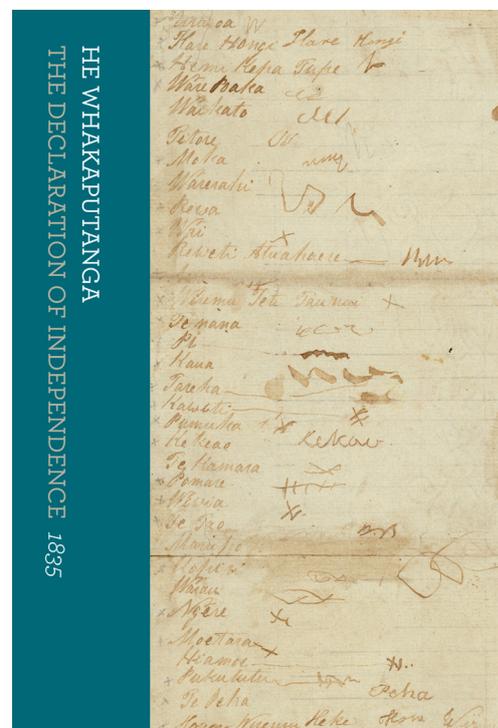
He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tireni / The Declaration of Independence of New Zealand was signed by fifty-two rangatira around the north from 1835 to 1839. The rangatira declared 'the Independence of our country, which is hereby constituted and declared to be an Independent State, under the designation of The United Tribes of New Zealand'.

He Whakaputanga was a powerful assertion of mana and rangatiratanga at a time when Māori were negotiating increasingly complex relationships with European newcomers. It also signalled a shift toward unified forms of governance among many different rangatira, their hapū and iwi.

He Whakaputanga was a visionary document – remarkable in its time and no less pertinent today. It forms a significant part of the historical narrative that precedes the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840.

### KEY FEATURES

- An introduction by Dr Vincent O'Malley, setting the historical context.
- Portraits of some signatories.
- A full-colour reproduction of He Whakaputanga, accompanied by a brief discussion of the document and its content.
- A map identifying the principal residences of He Whakaputanga signatories at the time of signing.
- Short biographies of the signatories and witnesses, many with extraordinary and fascinating detail.
- Texts of He Whakaputanga in both te reo Māori and English.
- The archival story of He Whakaputanga.



### ABOUT THE INTRODUCTION AUTHOR

Working for many years on Treaty claims in the Waitangi Tribunal process, Vincent O'Malley has written widely about Māori history. His most recent book, *The Great War for New Zealand: Waikato 1800–2000* (BWB, 2016) has been widely acclaimed.

## RELEVANT UNIT AND ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS

### Level 1

US5840 Analyse the Treaty of Waitangi and Māori–Pākehā relations in nineteenth century New Zealand  
AS91001 (1.1) Carry out an investigation of an historical event or place that is of significance to New Zealanders

### Level 2

AS91230 (2.2) Examine an historical event, or place, of significance to New Zealanders  
AS91232 (2.4) Interpret different perspectives of people in an historical event that is of significance to New Zealanders

### Level 3

AS91434 (3.1) Research an historical event or place of significance to New Zealanders, using primary and secondary sources  
AS91437 (3.4) Analyse different perspectives of a contested event of significance to New Zealanders

## USING *HE WHAKAPUTANGA* / *THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE 1835* IN YOUR HISTORY PROGRAMME

*He Whakaputanga* | *The Declaration of Independence 1835* can be used:

- as a source of primary and secondary material for inquiry into the Treaty of Waitangi
- to learn about the context in which the Treaty was later to be signed
- to examine the concept of a *constitution* and the kinds of documents and agreements it may entail
- to examine the differing perspectives of the signatories to *He Whakaputanga*
- to investigate cultural contact or race relations in New Zealand
- to explore how the physical history of a document might reflect changing perceptions of its meaning and significance.

Students might respond to *He Whakaputanga* by:

- re-presenting the biographical information about a particular signatory or witness in visual and/or oral form and sharing this with the class to build collective knowledge
- reading the note on sources (page 23) and discussing the different kinds of sources the editors used to learn about the signatories
- using the references and sources (pages 66–70) and those suggested in the Further Reading section below to find out more about specific individuals and how their personal life stories interwove with those of their communities and New Zealand as a whole
- comparing and contrasting the perspectives of a signatory and a witness
- imagining themselves as the unidentified witness and writing home to describe what they have seen and their responses
- writing an essay that examines or analyses the reasons for signing *He Whakaputanga*
- viewing the *He Tohu* videos to learn about what *He Whakaputanga* means for people today, and coming to their personal conclusions about its relevance to their lives.

## INDEPENDENT ENQUIRY IDEAS

This book is centred around a critical primary source – one of New Zealand’s founding documents. As indicated by the suggestions above, it offers a springboard for independent enquiry.

## CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS

### Social sciences and English

Use the National Library's He Tohu resource (see below) to support inquiry into the concept of *cultural interaction*. The resource features poems related to this concept and the concepts of *identity* and *names*.

### Technology

Students could read 'The Archival Story' and consider He Whakaputanga as a technological outcome. *What do we learn about the characteristics of the document itself, and how it has been stored? How has time and context, including social context, affected the handling of this important document? This was one of New Zealand's first constitutional documents. How might such a document be created today?* The students could investigate how this and the other documents were stored at National Archives (Archives New Zealand) and how they were transported to their current resting place. *What new technological knowledge and capabilities have made this possible?*

## FURTHER READING AND RESOURCES

### Print

Most of the books suggested below have been part of previous BiSL distributions. You can find teacher notes for most of them at <http://bwb.co.nz/teacher-notes>

Atholl Anderson, Judith Binney, Aroha Harris, *Tangata Whenua: A History*, Bridget Williams Books, 2015

Atholl Anderson, Judith Binney, Aroha Harris, *Tangata Whenua: An Illustrated History*, Bridget Williams Books, 2015

Claudia Orange, *The Treaty of Waitangi*, Bridget Williams Books, 1987

Claudia Orange, *An Illustrated History of The Treaty of Waitangi*, Bridget Williams Books, 2004

Claudia Orange, *The Story of a Treaty*, Bridget Williams Books, 2011

### Online

#### BWB Treaty of Waitangi Collection

This Treaty of Waitangi Collection includes digital versions of most of the texts listed above, and many more. These digital Collections are available to libraries through subscription access; for information, please contact [collections@bwb.co.nz](mailto:collections@bwb.co.nz).

#### Classroom ideas – Waitangi Day

[www.nzhistory.net.nz/politics/waitangi-day/classroom-ideas](http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/politics/waitangi-day/classroom-ideas)

#### Constitution: Te Ara

<https://teara.govt.nz/en/constitution>

He Tohu: <https://natlib.govt.nz/he-tohu>

The National Library has built a website with a package of resources to support teaching and learning around He Tohu. These include videos representing a range of contemporary perspectives on the three documents, and resources to support social inquiry into gender equality and cultural interaction. The Library encourages class visits and offers free hour-long programmes that are designed for students in years 5–10 but can be adapted for students at other levels.

#### Hītori Māori | Māori History

<http://maorihistory.tki.org.nz>

NZC Update 16: The New Zealand Curriculum Treaty of Waitangi Principle

<http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-resources/NZC-Updates>

#### Treaty Education

<https://podcasts.otago.ac.nz/nzpeace-ed/treaty-education/>

### **Treaty of Waitangi**

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/politics/treaty-of-waitangi>

### **Treaty of Waitangi Education Kit**

<https://ako.aotearoa.ac.nz/ako-hub/ako-aotearoa-northern-hub/resources/pages/treaty-education-kit>

### **Waitangi Tribunal**

[www.justice.govt.nz/tribunals/waitangi-tribunal/resources/teaching-aids](http://www.justice.govt.nz/tribunals/waitangi-tribunal/resources/teaching-aids)

#### **The BWB Publishing Trust: Books in School Libraries**

Books in School Libraries sets out to enrich school library collections and enhance New Zealand students' understanding of their country. The project allows supporters to sponsor titles from the Bridget Williams Books catalogue for donation to secondary school libraries.

#### **The Freemasons Foundation**

We thank the Freemasons Foundation for their generous support for *He Whakaputanga | The Declaration of Independence 1835* in the Books in School Libraries Programme.