



TE KOTAHITANGA

CELEBRATING WAITANGI TOGETHER

FEB 2026

This event brought our communities together in a respectful and educational way. It truly reflected Kotahitanga."

Building Understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi Through Community Engagement, Cultural Exchange, and Inclusive Participation

TE KOTAHITANGA



6 February 2026



Te Atatū Peninsula Community Centre.

The event took place on Waitangi Day itself, directly aligning with national commemorations of the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in 1840. Holding the event on this significant date allowed our community to meaningfully reflect on the Treaty's importance while participating in a local celebration connected to nationwide observances.



EVENT ACTIVITIES & IMPLEMENTATION

How the Event Was Conducted

The event was designed to commemorate the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi by placing its history, principles, and ongoing relevance at the centre of the programme. The day commenced with a traditional karakia led by Māori representatives, followed by a formal welcome and acknowledgment of the Treaty's significance as the foundation of New Zealand. Participants attended educational storytelling sessions that explored the circumstances surrounding the signing of the Treaty in 1840 and examined its guiding principles of partnership, protection, and participation.

Throughout the day, attendees engaged in a variety of learning experiences, including workshops, cultural presentations, and interactive discussions facilitated by Māori educators and community leaders. Traditional Māori practices such as pōwhiri, karakia, and waiata were incorporated into the programme, allowing participants to experience Māori tikanga firsthand. Speeches delivered by local leaders and elected representatives highlighted the continuing importance of the Treaty in promoting inclusion, governance, and nation-building within modern Aotearoa New Zealand. Cultural performances and presentations from diverse communities further enriched the event and encouraged meaningful dialogue among participants from different backgrounds.



EVENT IMPACT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The event had a significant educational and cultural impact on participants by increasing their understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori heritage. Through workshops, storytelling sessions, guided discussions, speeches, and cultural demonstrations, attendees gained valuable insights into the history and importance of the Treaty. The opportunity to participate in Māori cultural practices such as pōwhiri, karakia, and waiata enabled participants to develop a deeper appreciation for Māori traditions and customs.

Local Māori cultural advisors and community leaders shared stories and perspectives that reflected the identity and history of the local rohe. These narratives helped participants connect with the cultural and historical significance of the land while fostering a stronger understanding of the Treaty's role in contemporary New Zealand society. The impact of the event was assessed through participant feedback, reflections, community leader observations, and engagement levels throughout the programme. Feedback indicated that attendees left the event with greater knowledge, awareness, and appreciation of Māori culture and Treaty principles.



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Approximately 200 participants attended the event. Attendance was recorded through venue headcounts and community engagement records. The participant profile demonstrated strong representation from Māori, Pacific, refugee, migrant, MELA, and wider local communities, highlighting the event's success in fostering broad community participation and intercultural engagement.



“This was my first time understanding the real meaning of the Treaty of Waitangi. I now feel more connected to New Zealand.”

“The pōwhiri and waiata were powerful. Experiencing Māori culture directly made the history feel real and meaningful.”

“I appreciated how different cultures were included while still centering Māori leadership and the Treaty.”

“The speeches and workshops helped me understand why Waitangi Day is so important for everyone living in New Zealand.”

“This event brought our communities together in a respectful and educational way. It truly reflected kotahitanga.”



Total Attendance

Approximately 200 participants

Participant Diversity

Māori, Pacific communities, MELA communities, Refugees, Migrants, Wider local community members

CONCLUSION

The Te Kotahitanga: Celebrating Waitangi Together event successfully commemorated Waitangi Day by bringing together approximately 200 participants from diverse cultural backgrounds. Through Māori-led ceremonies, educational sessions, cultural performances, and community dialogue, attendees gained a deeper understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its relevance in modern New Zealand.

The event strengthened intercultural understanding, promoted social cohesion, celebrated Māori heritage, and fostered meaningful connections among Māori, migrant, refugee, and wider community groups. Participant feedback demonstrated increased awareness, appreciation, and respect for the values of partnership, protection, and participation embodied in the Treaty, highlighting the event's positive educational and community impact.





THANK YOU

Thank You for Being Part of This Journey

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."



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