

Pauline Tangiora's VP report for the March 09, 2024: WILPF AGM

Tena Koutou wahine ma,

My apologies for not being online for this meeting. This year for me has been very busy, as you will see the reports I have submitted. The climax was going to Waitangi. Having not attended Waitangi for many years, I was surprised to see thousands of people turn up to voice their concerns. To share their concerns about the repealing of so many of the laws, which are in place for the benefit of humanity.

The repealing of the Smokefree Legislation and putting in place what the coalition partners think is best for us is completely against the wishes of most of Aotearoa. As I walked around between Paihia and Waitangi I did not see anybody smoking and even in contrast to many years ago in Waitangi. There were once so many people smoking away. There were hundreds of families enjoying Waitangi and the crowds were all smokefree.

The other angry element that I found at Waitangi was the taking of the Iwi Forum with the government away, to be held in Kerikeri. Many of the speakers over the four days, made it clear that Iwi does not speak for Hapu. Hapu can speak for themselves. Annette Sykes' concerns about the taking of this forum off the treaty grounds was despicable. Thousands of people were there, travelling by horseback, boats, cars, and planes but it appears that government didn't listen, or does not want to listen. The article that appeared in the *Gisborne Herald*, Saturday Dec 16, 2023, of which WILPF has a copy. This article was redistributed throughout the hui. We were asked to present it formally at one of the open Forums.

The motel where we stayed was generous to print out more of the article and additionally the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which is still to be ratified. Mr Seymour has already implied that he will cancel this document. In the evening, the owners of the motel came to discuss these documents, they displayed these in their office for visitors and clients to see. They had never heard of a lot of this information and wanted to share with the public their new understandings. The impression we got from people that we spoke to was, that all this information should be shared with the people of Aotearoa.

All the work that has been done in the past years at WILPF who ran the Pakeha Workshops around the country on the Treaty, I believe should be continued through delivering these inspiring workshops. A small group of us have been fundraising for the two wars in Ukraine and Palestine. We must continue the pressure on the international front to bring these wars to an end.

Noho ora mai,

Pauline E Tangiora