



A reconstruction of the signing of the Treaty at Waitangi in the Bay of Islands. Leonard C. Mitchell, 1901 – 1971. By courtesy Archives New Zealand.

What is The Treaty of Waitangi?

The Treaty of Waitangi is an agreement between Māori hapū (subtribes of Māori people) and the New Zealand Government.

The Treaty of Waitangi:

- was signed on the 6th of February 1840 at Waitangi
- was signed by Māori chiefs and representatives of the British Crown
- is a starting place of discussion for Māori and Government
- safeguards the development of Māori culture, resources and way of life
- maintains Māori as the ancestral people of Aotearoa (the Māori name for New Zealand).



The Treaty House as it is today at Waitangi in the Bay of Islands. In 1840 it was owned by James Busby, the British Government's official New Zealand Resident who was involved in drafting the Treaty. It was on the lawn in front of this house on the 6th of February 1840 where the ceremony of the first Treaty signing took place. Photography by Werner Forman.