

Tena ano koe,

'Te Paepae o te Rātū: He whāinga takahanga waewae nō tuawhakarere' ia a refershing read for a bracing day. I unreservedly recommend the publication and wider distribution of this report. The author, Te Waitohioterangi, lays out an all too often underrepresented perspective on James Cook's arrival and interactions with tangata whenua, first peoples of Aotearoa; finally, a perspective not only from the shore but formed and birthed of the whenua itself reflecting the complexity and fullness of Māori life worlds. The finer details including the arresting pencil sketch on the coverpage and the puna kōrero, the strength-giving words of Rev Tawehi Wirihihana on the inside cover coalesce with the intricate structural integrity of the report itself mapped by maramataka, aligned with the phases of the moon, its tides and influence. The pain of reading the contents of this report was eased by its overlaying on the cyclic surety of the maramataka. Ka takoto te aroha indeed. Framing is everything in an ill world where Māori and New Zealand lives in general have been defined for so long by Pākehā, where Cook & Co saw 'poverty' in a land of plenty, and where legitimate attempts to communicate were met with aggression, and the present day pervasiveness of white aggression against black and brown bodies in Aotearoa New Zealand world lives healthily on. This report contains salient lessons for all New Zealanders, causes for lament, sources of shame, moments of pride and perhaps most importantly a call for serious reflection, growth and intellectual development.

Tanith Te Waitohiotenrangi demonstrates considerable interdisciplinary skill and personal fortitude in bringing a report such as this to life. His textual analysis of primary and a wide selection of key secondary source texts into conversation with whakapapa, whaikōrero, kōwhaiwhai and actively searching for and incorporating the recollections and memories of Rongowhakaata tūpuna is deeply impressive and rather singular. Lyrically penned, engaging, powerful. Rigorous. There is much to commend this work. E mihi ana te iti nā Mōtai nei ki a koe e te ringatuhi, e te mokopuna a Hiraina Riria Pere, tēnā rā koe.

I note some minor orthographic errors and the like which need to be corrected but otherwise I support publication and wider dissemination in whatever format the author and iwi deems acceptable.

Heoi anō,
Arini