

24/7 Youth Update

Hi, My Name is Antonio Sardella, and as you may know I work in Waimea College as a 24/7 youth worker (as well as for Church on the Hill with Youth and 10:30 worship).

Each year the 24/7 youth work organisation holds a training conference for all the 24/7 youth workers around New Zealand to get together and learn more about our role in our schools. This year's Training was held just a couple of weeks ago in Waitangi.

After being welcomed by the local Marae we were able to select and attend two elective courses which covered a whole variety of information covering topics like: Different age groups, History of Aotearoa and the Churches influence on New Zealand. Everything we learned was really informative and relevant. They are definitely things we can apply in our schools and our churches.

The next day we were taken for a tour around the Bay of Islands to the Marsden Cross. While there, we began to pray and worship and a leader read aloud the Spiritual Declaration of Aotearoa. While this was going on, the clouds very suddenly opened up and began to pour on us, thunder roared and lightning clashed, the torrential rain turned into hail. As we listened to the Spiritual Declaration as the rain poured on us, you could tell that this was an act of God, that He was pleased with us and acknowledged us.

On our final day, we walked to the top of the hill where the treaty was signed to watch the sun rise. When the sun had risen, we gathered around the huge flag pole marking the spot where the treaty of Waitangi was signed and watched the New Zealand flag being raised as we sang the National Anthem. It was a fantastic end to a fantastic trip.

Going to Waitangi, I didn't really know a lot about the treaty or even how much the church had to do with New Zealand's first steps. But after being there and seeing with my own eyes, it opened me up to it all. We are a part of this nation, and we are a part of the story that is playing out. So since we are a part of it, shouldn't we know where it began?

I loved learning about how much the Church actually played a part back then. The church helped bring the two nations together, and when the treaty fell apart, they were there to help pick up the pieces. Even though the church has been and are continued to be phased out in our country, we are still there. We are behind the scenes helping and caring about our country and its people, bringing our nation back together.

And that's what 24/7 youth work is all about. We are Christians employed by our churches to go into our local schools and care for and help our future generations as much as we can. We are the connection between our churches and our schools; we are the Church in the school.



BACK TO THE FUTURE **THE JOURNEY THROUGH TIME**

CALIFORNIA
OUTATIME

QUIZ NIGHT

7.00pm Friday 25 July
St Barnabas Church Stoke

Great Prizes ★ Food and Wine ★ Auction
★ Fancy Dress - A Character From Time ★

\$100 table of eight • Reserve your table at St Barnabas • Phone 547 5631 • Email: office.stbarnabas@xtra.co.nz

All proceeds in support of St Barnabas Stoke Community Projects

LOOKING BACK

LOOKING FORWARD

Saturday 2 August
All Saints 30 Vanguard St
5.30pm beginning with a shared meal

Speaker Mark Grace
'200 years: Looking Back & Looking Forward'
All Welcome