

## A Report from the NATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE ON BICULTURAL ISSUES

A Committee of the New Zealand Psychological Society

The National Standing Committee on Bicultural Issues (NSCBI) was established at the Annual General Meeting of Society in August 1991. The establishment of the NSCBI followed the report of the Kaupapa Maori Working Party, which was presented to Council in 1990.

The first meeting of NSCBI was held at the University of Waikato on 5 September 1991. The following people attended: Linda Waimarie Nikora (interim Convenor), Jim Ritchie, Taotahi Pihana, Ray Nairn, Richard Sawrey, Pam Oliver, and David Thomas. Hineuru Timutimu-Thorpe and Keri Lawson have also joined the Committee.

### The Committee's Brief

The initial brief for the NSCBI was contained in the recommendations made by the Kaupapa Maori Working Party. Some of the key recommendations were:

- (a) Defining helping in bicultural settings and how psychologists should act in terms of such a definition.
- (b) Preparing an affirmative action policy relevant to Maori people being recruited into psychology, and publicizing and promoting the policy.
- (c) Preparing guidelines for curriculum review of the teaching of psychology and discussing these with university psychology departments.
- (d) Asking university psychology departments to initiate an ongoing curriculum review, especially for first year courses and professional training programmes in psychology, and report progress to the Standing Committee.
- (e) Reviewing the operation of all aspects of the New Zealand Psychological Society to ensure development of bicultural policies and practices.
- (f) Liaison with, and reporting on the operation of, the Psychologists Board in relation to bicultural matters.

Initial discussions concerning the NSCBI's objectives focused on the need for it to act not only as a monitoring body for the progress of biculturalism within the Society, but also on the importance of educative and promotional roles in enhancing biculturalism in all aspects of psychological practice, including teaching and theorizing.

Specific tasks which were allocated at the first meeting of the Committee included:

- \* Publishing a statement of the Committee's establishment, objectives and intended functions in the Society's Bulletin.
- \* Establishing contact with iwi authorities throughout New Zealand, with the Maori Congress, and with other Maori organizations.
- \* Prompting the Society, by a submission to Council, to recognize its commitment to biculturalism.
- \* Requiring each branch or division to include within their 1992 annual report a report on progress towards bicultural practice.
- \* Promoting ways by which biculturalism in psychology can and should be practised. To be done initially through articles to the Bulletin.
- \* Working for changes to the Psychologists Act and to establish legislative monitoring mechanisms which place an onus on psychologists to practise biculturally.
- \* Networking with other members of the Society, especially within branches and divisions, to encourage the implementation of programmes which will enhance biculturalism.
- \* Establishing contact with the NZ College of Clinical Psychologists to work together with them to promote a consistent approach to biculturalism in psychology.

### Progress to date

Some developments since the initial meeting have been as follows:

- \* Pam Oliver has joined the NZPS Council as the representative of the NSCBI.
- \* Ray Nairn has joined the Consultative Committee on Amendments to the Psychologists Act.
- \* Jim Ritchie and Linda Waimarie Nikora made submissions in relation to the revision of the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act.
- \* Contact has been made with Professor Mason Durie, Secretary of the New Zealand Maori Congress.

\* Discussions have been held with Brian Dixon regarding revision of the NZPsS Code of Ethics.

### Further developments

A meeting of the NSCBI was held on 14-15 May 1992. Matters arising from this meeting will be reported in a future edition of the Bulletin

*Readers of the Bulletin are invited to submit ideas, topics for discussion, and feedback on progress towards biculturalism, to the NSCBI. Contributions can be addressed to:*

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### Publication

**Becoming Bicultural, by James Ritchie.**  
Huia Publishers and Daphne Brasell Associates Press. Paperback \$29.95 (GST incl.). 200 pages 210 x 135 mm.

Becoming Bicultural is the record of Professor Ritchie's involvement in Maori communities over a period of 40 years. James Ritchie's adult life has been almost totally committed to fashioning a bicultural future for this country. His latest book not only documents his experience but also offers a credo of the ideals which have guided his work.

Professor Ritchie is a Life Member of NZPsS

## **PSSST !** Have you heard about the social programme at this years NZPsS Conference?

*Why? Is it worth knowing about?*

They've really gone over the top this time.

*Come on then, what have they got planned for us in Dunedin?*

Well, it goes without saying there's a happy hour each night - a chance to unwind, talk about the day's sessions, and get ready for an evening of fun.

*So good, so far, but what else is happening?*

O.K., on the Sunday evening they've got a jazz nite planned - but it doesn't stop with the music. They pick us up from Knox College (conference venue) and take us to the Uni. Union where they treat us to a courtesy drink, a great supper as well. What's more, they'll deliver us back to Knox when it's all over.

*I'm starting to get interested. What's next.*

What comes next is even better. Did you know it's the 25th anniversary of the NZ Psychological Society? And we're going to celebrate in style! They've gone and booked New Zealand's only castle for the event. Talk about a fairy tale

conference dinner.

At 6.30 p.m. the coach arrives to pick us up for a magical ride along the cliffs to Larnach's Castle. Once we reach our destination a lone Piper guides us into a welcome of canapes and champagne cocktails - not to mention a piano player to keep us entertained.

Then the piper calls us again and leads us into the great ballroom for an evening of exquisite food, good wine, and dancing. Once we've eaten and drunk our fill it's time for the after dinner waltz, the post port swing, and for those trying to undo the damage of dinner a little bit of rock'n'roll. Then just a little after the witching hour our coach arrives signalling the end of our fairy tale evening.

*Boy, this Otago crowd really knows about having a good time.*

Hey, it doesn't end there. They're planning to avoid that flat feeling that comes at the end of a great conference with a bubbly and seafood brunch.

**People are not going to forget this conference.**