



The Bicentenary of the First Proclamation of the Christian Gospel in Aotearoa New Zealand at Oihi, Bay of Islands, on Christmas Day 1814

VISION STATEMENT

Neligan House – 12 St Stephens Ave, Parnell
P O Box 37 944, Parnell, Auckland
Telephone (09) 3027287; Email: mctb@xtra.co.nz

***Our aim is to celebrate the bicultural nature and Christian heritage of
this nation in a way that brings fresh hope to all as we embrace
the unique opportunities that surround us.***

1. To celebrate God's continuing presence in mission in Aotearoa, and to see 2014 as an opportunity for making known the bicultural nature of this nation and its Christian heritage, symbolized by the partnership forged by Ruatara and Marsden in 1814, and to deepen these commitments for the future.
2. To see Christian communities proclaiming 'glad tidings of great joy' to all people, living the Gospel afresh and bringing hope to each generation in a way that embraces the opportunities and challenges of our unique national story.
3. To commemorate the events leading up to Samuel Marsden's arrival with Ruatara at Oihi in 1814, the first proclamation of the Gospel at Christmas 1814 at Oihi, the developing interaction of Maori and missionaries and the subsequent history from those first beginnings up to 2014.
4. To find and encourage appropriate ways for this history to be made known widely throughout Aotearoa New Zealand in 2014 by way of worship and commemorative events, and the production of written and audio-visual material that may be used widely in churches, schools and the community at large.
5. To plan appropriate commemorations at Oihi both on Christmas Day 2014 as well as throughout the nation during 2014.
6. To be ecumenical and inclusive in approach, recognizing the crucial role played by the CMS, partnerships with other Christian groups, the involvement of family groups who came with Marsden (eg the Hansens and the Kings), and the inclusion of the nation at large. We wish to emphasise that 2014 is not just a year for the churches, but one that recognizes that 1814 has a crucial and ongoing part in the life of the nation.

This aim has been drafted by the Marsden Cross Bicentenary Committee, being an ecumenical group of churches and other Christian groups in Aotearoa/New Zealand. The committee is co-chaired by Bishop Te Kitohi Pikaahu (Tai Tokerau) and Bishop Ross Bay (Auckland). Contact may be made via the secretary, Mrs Lesley Anderson, details above.